An Introduction to Our Leadership

The City Council is the governing body for Scottsdale. The council consists of the mayor and six council members who are elected to represent the city at large and serve overlapping, four-year terms. In November 2020 elections will be held for the mayor and three City Council members, with the winners starting office in January 2021. These seven citizens oversee city government and set policy, approve programs, appropriate funds, enact laws, select charter officers and appoint residents to serve on advisory bodies. The mayor is the chair of the Scottsdale City Council and presides over its meetings, which are typically held on Tuesdays in the City Hall Kiva Forum located at 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. in Old Town Scottsdale. The City Council hires six officers to advise them on policy issues and run day-to-day operations. They are collectively known as the charter officers because their positions are spelled out in the City Charter, a voter-approved document which describes the organization and authority of city government in Scottsdale. These positions are the city attorney, city auditor, city clerk, city manager, city treasurer and presiding city judge.

Note: The City Manager is the chief administrator responsible for nearly nine out of 10 employees.
Mayor David D. Ortega began his term of office in January 2021. He is focused on safeguarding public health and safety; maintaining Scottsdale’s family-friendly neighborhoods; protecting the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and strengthening Scottsdale’s world-renowned reputation. As mayor, he is committed to equal rights for all, responsive city government and adoption of citizen-driven General Plan 2035 to support economic vitality. Mayor Ortega is a registered Arizona architect and designed many landmark buildings in Old Town Scottsdale. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona and was an apprentice architect to Bennie Gonzales FAIA, the award-winning designer of Scottsdale City Hall, Civic Center Library and Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. Throughout his life, Mayor Ortega has served on numerous city, county and state commissions, and on many civic and nonprofit organizations including serving as a Scottsdale City Councilman from 2000 to 2004, on the Scottsdale Downtown Architectural Guidelines Committee, Scottsdale Development Review Board, the State of Arizona School Facilities Board and the Governor’s Latino Advisory Council. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, Scottsdale Leadership and Friends of the Scottsdale Library. He is a past president of the Scottsdale Sunrise Rotary Club. Mayor Ortega and his wife, Rosemary Gannon, have been married for 40 years. They live in the Park Scottsdale neighborhood near Saguaro High School where they raised their children Alexandra and Luke.

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Councilwoman Caputi began her first term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2021. She has lived and worked in Scottsdale for over 20 years. She is the president and owner of Yale Electric West, Inc, a company she founded in Scottsdale in 2001. Councilwoman Caputi holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts and a Master of Business Administration from Simmons University in Boston. Councilwoman Caputi is a Fellow with the Flinn-Brown Arizona Center for Civic Leadership and Leading for Change and current chair of the Scottsdale Coalition of Today and Tomorrow (SCOTT), an organization dedicated to promoting, enhancing, and improving Scottsdale's quality of life and economic vitality through community education and involvement in public policy issues. Councilwoman Caputi along with her husband, Steve, enjoys many outdoor activities and physical pursuits. They have three young daughters who attend local public schools.

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Councilmember Durham began his first term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2021. He grew up in a small town in Iowa and attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude in 1977, with majors in philosophy and history. After graduating from Cornell College, he attended New York University Law School. He then joined international law firm Mayer Brown, where he specialized in tax controversy, representing the firm’s clients in audits, trials, and appeals of local, state, and federal tax cases. During his time at Mayer Brown, he was recognized by Chambers USA as one of the top 25 tax controversy lawyers in the nation. Councilmember Durham retired from Mayer Brown in April 2015 and soon thereafter became a full-time resident of the city of Scottsdale. He served as treasurer of the Protect Our Preserve political action committee and has also volunteered as a mock trial coach at a local high school, teaching trial skills, teamwork, and the rules of evidence. His wife Martha serves as an Episcopal Deacon at a local church and they have two sons.

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Councilwoman Whitehead began her first term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2019. She came to Scottsdale in 1996 from San Diego for ‘just six months’, fell in love with everything Arizona and never went back. Councilwoman Whitehead graduated from the University of Florida where she earned a degree in electrical engineering. She is an accomplished businesswoman, currently working in the real estate field. She served 10 years as executive director of the Environmental Fund for Arizona and in that capacity was named Arizona Wildlife Federation’s “Arizona Conservationist of the Year” in 2009. Councilwoman Whitehead is a former Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commissioner, proudly helped lead the monumental effort to pass Proposition 420 in November 2018 and provided funding for the initial 3D Printer Lab at Scottsdale Community College. She and her husband Mike have three grown children and spend a lot of time outdoors.

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Linda Milhaven began serving on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2011 and was re-elected to a third term that began in January 2019. She has served in numerous volunteer capacities including Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Scottsdale Cultural Council, Chair of the Board of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Board of the Better Business Bureau. She was a member of Class VIII of Scottsdale Leadership and in 2009 earned their Frank B. Hodges Alumni Achievement Award. As part of her 30 year banking career, she was a community bank president in Scottsdale from 1993 to 2005. Councilwoman Milhaven graduated from Paradise Valley High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and a Masters in Business Administration from Columbia University in New York.

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Kathy Littlefield began her second term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2019. She has 25 years of financial and management experience. She co-founded (with her husband Bob Littlefield, who served three terms on the Scottsdale City Council from 2002 to 2015) and continues to manage a successful Scottsdale-based computer company, NetXpert Systems, Inc. Her previous professional experience includes working in the Budget Office of the City of Plano, Texas, as an office manager for a local greetings company, and as the finance director for Girls Ranch, a nonprofit organization formerly in Scottsdale. She served as president of her Civitan Club (an organization that helps developmentally disabled and underprivileged children), where she was chosen “Civitan of the Year” for her efforts. Councilwoman Littlefield is a Scottsdale native. She attended the Scottsdale Unified Schools Ingleside Elementary and Arcadia High and graduated with distinction from Arizona State University in 1970 with a bachelor’s degree in business education.

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Councilwoman Janik began her first term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2021. She was born and raised in Chicago and earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Illinois Chicago. After college, she was employed by GD Searle, where her primary research concentrated on dissolving blood clots – an endeavor which was awarded in international publication. Thereafter she took time off to start a family. She taught math and science for nearly 10 years at both the middle school and high school levels in the Denver area. After relocating to Scottsdale, she has served in many volunteer roles including as the past treasurer of Protect Our Preserve and past president of the Board of the Coalition for Greater Scottsdale. She and her husband, Joe, a pediatric surgeon (now retired), have been married for 48 years. They have three grown children, all physicians, and eight delightful grandchildren.

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Councilwoman Solange Whitehead

Councilwoman Kathy Littlefield

Councilwoman Betty Janik

Councilmember Linda Milhaven
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Scottsdale Successfully Shifts to a New Way of Providing Simply Better Service

Service may look different right now, but the results of Simply Better Service are the same and Scottsdale remains committed to supporting the community in safe and innovative ways:

- While public meetings cannot safely be held in person, all City Council, board and commission meetings are conducted electronically and remotely and are broadcast live on Scottsdale Video Network and streamed live online to allow residents to watch the live proceedings.
- The Scottsdale City Council approved over $29 million of Federal CARES Act funding to support the community in the form of care for vulnerable citizens, emergency response, public safety, business assistance and more.
- Scottsdale launched a COVID-19 update page for residents to stay up-to-date and informed on the rapidly changing situation.

For the latest COVID-19 information, visit ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “coronavirus”

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