



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Engaging Elected Officials at the City And County Level

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Local Government Structures: Cities & Towns and Counties

- In your experience, how are Cities and Town governments organized?
- How are County governments organized?
- Where do these local government get their authority?
- Who is the Mayor and who is your council member?
- Who is your County Supervisor? Who is the County Administrator?



Local Government Structures: Cities and Towns

- Cities and Towns Authorized by Constitution in Article 13
- Cities can adopt a Charter, adopted by citizen vote
- 19 Charter cities in Arizona – all others are “General Law”, operating under the A.R.S.
- A.R.S. 9-303 Authorizes Cities/Towns to adopt council-manager government and Wards
- Municipal governments in Arizona are non-partisan except Tucson



Local Government Structures: Counties

- Counties Authorized by Constitution Article 13
- County Government Functions as a Delivery System for State Government Functions
- Can Exercise Only the Authority Granted by Statute
- Elections, Jails, Property Tax, Courts, Healthcare
- Restricted in Administrative Flexibility
- Subdivisions Called Districts

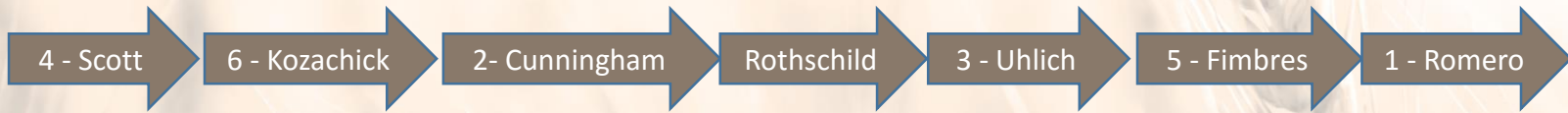


Understanding the Political Environment

- How would you characterize the political party of the Tucson Mayor and Council?
- How would you characterize the political party of the Board of Supervisors?



Understanding the Political Environment





Understanding the Political Environment





Emphasis on the Relational





Practice Through Role Play

- Set Up – Instructions
- Conduct the Activity
- Evaluate the Activity
- Next Steps



Tips for Engaging with Local Elected Officials

- Establish a Relationship with Individual
- Establish a Relationship with Staffers
- Schedule Meetings in Advance
- Start and end on time
- Have an Meeting Agenda
- Small groups, each participate
- Be clear about the ask
- Always thank the member for their time



Don't Forget About Other Opportunities to Engage

- School Boards
- City and County Commissions
- Community Advisory Groups
- Partnerships and Coalitions
- Non-Profit Boards
- Others...



Thank you