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
• Cites 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

4 - Scott
6 - Kozachick
2 - Cunningham
Rothschild
3 - Uhlich
5 - Fimbres
1 - Romero
Understanding the Political Environment

1 - Miller
4 - Christie
3 - Bronson
2 - Valadez
5 - Elias
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