

Mesa
Republican
Women



Happy Birthday Arizona!

As a native Arizonan with deep roots in the state, I am proud of my heritage and the resilience of those who came before me. Their sacrifices remind us that excellence requires commitment and action. With the 2026 election approaching, active participation is more important than ever. Each of us has a role to play—whether by speaking up, volunteering, or supporting Republican candidates by other means. Our collective efforts are essential to shaping Arizona's future. I am honored to work alongside my MRW colleagues to help ensure strong Republican representation in every office across the state.

Make Arizona Great Again!

**Lori King, President
Mesa Republican Women**



🔥 2026 Starts Now:

MRW's First Head-to-Head Candidate Debate 🔥

The 2026 election cycle is officially underway—and this is a **critical year** for Mesa. If you want a real voice in where our city is headed, staying informed **now** matters more than ever.

📍 **February's Mesa Republican Women meeting** will kick things off in a big way with the **first head-to-head debate of the year for Mesa City Council District 5.**

🗳️ **Alicia Goforth vs. Alek Vranicic**

This is your chance to see both candidates side-by-side, hear where they stand on the key issues shaping Mesa, and decide who is prepared to serve with impact on our City Council.

🎤 **Moderated by Mesa Mayor Mark Freeman**


Expect a focused, substantive discussion—not sound bites—designed to inform voters and elevate the conversation.

Even if you don't live in District 5, this race matters. The outcome will influence the **overall direction and effectiveness of the City Council** for years to come.

🏛️ **Special Guest: Meet Our New City Manager**

Following the debate, we'll welcome **City Manager Scott Butler** as he introduces himself to our membership and shares his vision for leading Mesa

alongside **Mayor Mark Freeman** and **Vice Mayor Scott Somers**.

 He'll discuss:

- **Why Mesa has a City Manager** and what the role is accountable for
- **Reducing the city's deficit**—where spending is being reviewed and how accountability will be enforced
- **City maintenance priorities** and upcoming infrastructure needs
- Planning for growth while **protecting taxpayers and keeping Mesa affordable**

 **This is a can't-miss meeting.**

Come to be informed. Leave empowered. Be part of the conversation that shapes Mesa's future.

Next Meeting - Monday, February 9th, 2025

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Doors open at 10:45 a.m.

Apache Wells Country Club

5601 E. Hermosa Vista Dr.

Mesa, AZ 85215

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

RSVP TODAY

Guarantee your seat when you RSVP by Wednesday, February 4th

Cancel at least 24 hours in advance

mrw@mesarepublicanwomen.com

[**Click here to RSVP and Pre-Pay**](#)

Meeting Fee = \$20/Member and \$22/Guest.

PAY OPTIONS:

1. Prepay via credit card using the links on your RSVP confirmation page (\$1 handling fee applies)
2. Pay the day of the meeting, at the door with cash or check
3. Pay at the door with credit card (\$1 handling fee applies)

MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

Councilmember Alicia Goforth



District 5 (Northeast Mesa)

Elected in August 2022, Alicia Goforth began her first term on the Mesa City Council in January 2023, serving through January 2027. Her priorities focus on community planning, economic development, and supporting sustainable growth across Northeast Mesa.

Alicia has lived in Mesa for 15 years with her husband and three children. She is an experienced attorney, previously practicing at Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP and later serving as in-house counsel for Cerner Corporation (Oracle Cerner), with expertise in corporate, finance, and software licensing matters. She is admitted to practice law in Arizona, Missouri, and Kansas.

A dedicated volunteer, Alicia has supported schools, intercultural programs, and local community initiatives, including AFS Intercultural Programs. In Las Sendas, she served on multiple committees, including Chair of the Community Planning Advisory Group, and held leadership roles on the Board of Directors for three years, helping guide long-term community planning.

On the City Council, Alicia serves as Chair of the Audit, Finance & Enterprise Committee and is a member of the Economic Development and Sustainability & Transportation Committees. She also serves on boards including the Arizona Museum of Natural History, Visit Mesa, and participates in state and national committees supporting cities and infrastructure development.

Aleks Vranacic



Candidate for District 5 (Northeast Mesa)

Aleks is a proud Mesa resident, successful businessman, devoted family man, and committed conservative. Born in former Yugoslavia, he immigrated to the U.S. as a child and graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University. The past 21 years he's served as Vice President of Sales and Technical Training at Vitelle Labs, A third-generation entrepreneur who has mentored professionals worldwide.

Five years ago, Aleks and his family left California for Arizona's freer, more family-friendly environment with stronger conservative values. They've made Mesa home, where he's been happily married 21 years to Anne and is raising three children—ages 18, 16, and 13.

Aleks got involved locally to understand city government, became a Precinct Committeeman, State Committeeman, and 1st Vice Chair of LD 10 until filing to run for City Council after being encouraged by the grassroots.

Aleks is devoted to fiscal responsibility, opposes wasteful spending and tax hikes, reducing regulations on businesses, and prioritizing public safety,

infrastructure, and conservative family values. Aleks is grateful to call Mesa home and is running to keep it safe and prosperous.

Mesa Mayor Mark Freeman



Mark Freeman, elected in 2024, is the 41st mayor of Mesa, Arizona. A lifelong resident, he exemplifies the values of family, hard work, and community. Mark previously represented District 1 on the Mesa City Council from 2017 to 2024 and served as Vice Mayor from 2019 to 2021.

As Mayor, Mark focuses on public safety, economic growth, and preserving Mesa's rich heritage while planning for a sustainable and prosperous future. Pledges to ensure every dollar is spent wisely, transparently, and in ways that truly benefit Mesa.

Freeman's connection to Mesa runs deep--his ancestors were some of Mesa's first families. Mark is still actively farming today.

Mark retired as a Captain Paramedic after dedicating 31 years to the Mesa Fire and Medical Department. His passion for community service extends to leadership roles in local organizations.

His leadership extends to committees addressing public safety, water resource management, and municipal issues at the state and local levels.

As Mayor, he is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents and ensuring Mesa continues as a vibrant and strong community.

Vice Mayor Scott Somers



District 6 (Southeast Mesa)

Scott Somers was elected to return to Mesa City Council to represent District 6 beginning in January 2023. His term runs through 2027. Somers served two-terms on Council from 2006 to 2015, including two years as Vice Mayor. During this time, Somers spearheaded efforts to prepare the District to become a hub for better paying jobs, as well as redevelop the former GM Proving Grounds into award-winning communities.

His priority for his new term is to work toward realizing the vision and expectations set for the District - ensuring our city is fiscally responsible; focusing on attracting quality jobs and economic activity; and building vibrant neighborhoods that are safe, sustainable, and facilitate social connections.

Somers quickly became a recognized regional and national leader representing Mesa on several organizations, including chairing the Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority, as well as serving on the Board of Directors for the Mesa Chamber of Commerce, Visit Mesa, the Mesa United Way, and Mountain Vista Medical Center. Somers chaired the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention steering committee and is currently serving his second term as a member of the committee. He also represented cities on the National Homeland Security Consortium and was twice appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to the National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Scott and his wife, Janell, moved to Mesa following their service in the US Air Force and raised their two children in the Superstition Springs neighborhood. They now live in Eastmark and have three grandchildren.

Scott Butler



Mesa City Manager

The City Manager, as the City's chief administrative officer, administers the functions of the City in accordance with the City Charter, Ordinances, and established policies.

The City Manager's Office provides centralized direction and leadership for the effective administration and operations of all municipal services for the City of Mesa as directed by the City Council and serves as the focal point for the management of the City staff departments.

The City Manager's Office prepares and submits to the City Council a balanced budget of municipal services in adherence with the policy goals and objectives by the City Council while employing such managerial techniques as needed to assure efficient and effective utilization of the City's resources.

Scott Butler was appointed in a unanimous vote by City Council to serve as Mesa City Manager effective June 1, 2025. He brings nearly 21 years of dedicated service to the City, most recently serving as Assistant City Manager since July 2022.

Throughout his tenure, Scott has overseen several critical departments including Police, Fire and Medical, Municipal Court, Transportation, Transit, Falcon Field Airport, Public Information and Governmental Affairs. His previous roles include Deputy City Manager from 2015-2022 and Director of Governmental Affairs from 2008-2015. He has led numerous transformative projects, including securing the Chicago Cubs' continued presence in Mesa, acquiring the Air Force Research Labs, developing State Route 24 and securing federal support for Mesa Gateway Airport's new air traffic control tower.

Before joining Mesa in 2004, Scott served in roles across local, state and federal governments, including as a policy advisor for the Georgia House of Representatives, senior advisor to the Georgia Secretary of State and outreach liaison at the White House Office of Scheduling and Advance. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Georgia and a Master of Public Administration from Arizona State University.



❤️ **We've Been Called to Protect Life.**
We Will Answer. ❤️

Arizona Life Coalition March for Life

The **pro-life** movement needs visible, united voices now more than ever—and this is one of the most important opportunities of the year to show exactly where we stand.

 **17** Saturday, February 28, 2026

 **Arizona State Capitol | Phoenix**

Mesa Republican Women will proudly join the **Arizona Life Coalition March for Life** to stand for the **most fundamental conservative principle of all: the right to life.**

This march is about **defending the unborn**, supporting mothers and families, and making it clear that **life is not negotiable.** Our presence matters. Our numbers matter. And our willingness to stand publicly for this belief matters.

Day-of Schedule

- **10:00 AM – Pre-Rally Gathering:** Arrive early to connect and prepare
- **10:30 AM – MRW Group Photo:** Wear a **RED** shirt so we are clearly visible 
- **11:00 AM – Rally Begins:** Hear inspiring speakers and key messages
- **12:00 PM – March Starts:** We will walk together, proudly representing **Mesa Republican Women**

Bring **pro-life signs** of your choosing and be ready to **stand shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow conservatives** for life, and represent our values with conviction—not quietly, not passively, but boldly.

 **Please RSVP via text by Tuesday, February 24th**

 **Frankie Bower: 480-703-1127**

(So we can organize our group and ensure a strong showing)

Let's show Arizona—and our city—**where we stand.**

For life. For families. For the future.

CASH PRIZE 50/50 RAFFLE



 — **You can win CASH!** 

Mesa Republican Women Club is gearing up for an incredible 2026 — It all starts with YOU!

Bring CASH so you can win CASH!

Did you renew your membership online?

Do you have fundraising ideas? We would love to hear from you!

Don't miss your chance to stay connected, make your voice heard, and start 2026 off as part of a strong, unstoppable network of conservative women making a difference across Mesa and beyond.

Click below to renew your membership today

**MEMBERSHIP FORM AND
PAYMENT LINK**

UPCOMING EVENTS



 **Get Your Raffle Tickets!** 

Stay tuned for some new and amazing prizes this year!

 Raffle tickets will be available: **\$5 each or 3 for \$10**

50/50 CASH DRAWING will be available:
tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5

Don't miss your chance to win and take home something special while supporting our club!

OUR NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to Mesa Republican Women!

Happy Birthday Arizona!
114 years of statehood.

Also it's Presidents' Day on Feb 16th

Be sure to stop by the membership table to get all the new info on our new meetups and opportunities for you to participate in Mesa Republican Women!

We would like to thank everyone who renewed their memberships and would also like to encourage you to invite other registered Republican friends to join us for our lunch meetings at Apache Wells.
Check out our website to sign up today or prepay.

Please stop at the membership table just inside the dining area and say hello and introduce yourself!

Tamera Bates
2nd Vice President Membership

Please welcome our new members!

Teresa Kerrigan
Doreen Shadley
Terrie Martinez

JANUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Beckwith	Maria	Feb	2
Brady	Cyndy	FEB	4
Shadley	Doreen	FEB	4
Teasdale	Therese	FEB	5
Whetstone	Melody	FEB	5
McWilliams	Jennifer	FEB	6
Standish	Tom	FEB	6
Klusmann	Elaine	FEB	9
Sokalick	Lois	FEB	9
Hamlet	Chris	FEB	12
Wilhelmsen	Jessica	FEB	16
Adams	Richard	Feb	17
Turner	Esther	Feb	18
St Cyr	Mary Lou	FEB	19
Conaty	Robert	FEB	20
Leach	Susan	FEB	21
Carl	Diane	FEB	22
Hook	Kim	FEB	23
Hess	Barbara	FEB	24
Jacobs	Kathleen (Kathy)	FEB	28

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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ANDRUZZI
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[Mesa Republican Women 2026 Officers](#)

President – Lori King | Loripenaking@hotmail.com
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Second Vice President/Membership – Tamera Bates | Tamerabatesdesigns@gmail.com
Third Vice President/Ways & Means - Helen Taran | HelenTaran8616@gmail.com

Treasurer – Jessica Wilhelmsen | mrwjessicaw@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary – Antonnette Andruzzi | FundfreedomLD10@gmail.com
Recording Secretary – Beverly Appleton | AppletonBeverly@gmail.com
Immediate Past President – Ashley Trussell | Trussell.ash@gmail.com

Mesa Republican Women Membership Form

[MRW Bylaws](#)

[MRW Standing Rules](#)

Find us on Facebook:



Mesa Republican Women is a chartered club affiliated with the Arizona Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

*You received this email because you are a Mesa Republican Women Member, Associate Member, Guest, or prospective Member
Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you at our next meeting!*

Mesa Republican Women
Meeting location address is:
Apache Wells Country Club
5601 E. Hermosa Dr.
Mesa, AZ 852135

Website: www.mesarepublicanwomen.com
Email: MRW@mesarepublicanwomen.com
[Unsubscribe here](#)

