





DAILY INDEPENDENT APACHE JUNCTION

PARADISE VALLEY PEOF

TION CHANDLER
PEORIA PHOENIX

FLORENCE FOUNTAIN HILLS

QUEEN CREEK SCOTTSDALE

GILBERT
SUN CITY

GLENDALE G
SUN CITY WEST

GOODYEAR ST SURPRISE

LITCHFIELD PARK
TEMPE

MESA

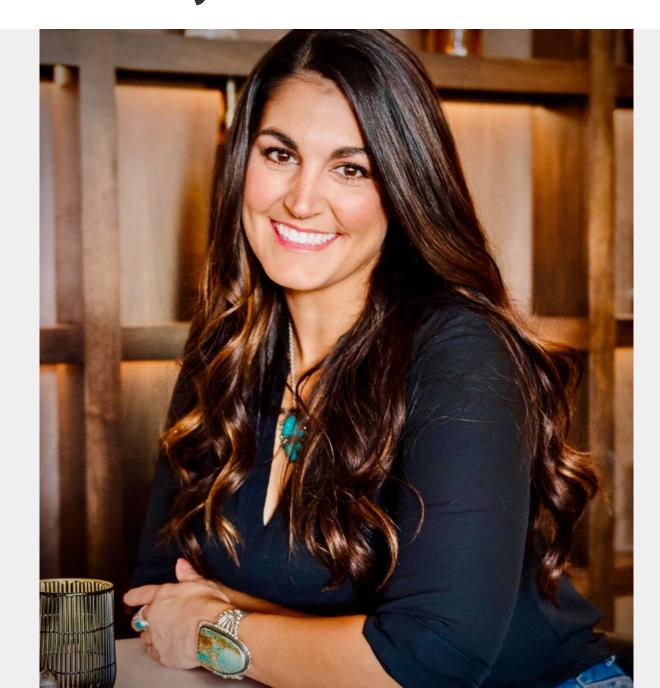
Local News

Opinions with Civility ▼ Things To Do ▼ Valley Favorites ▼

ECTIONS

ELECTIONS

Natalie DiBernardo joins Gilbert mayoral race



COURTESY NATALIE DIBERNARDO

Natalie DiBernardo has begun the process of collecting signatures on nominating petitions to run for mayor of Gilbert.

Posted Thursday, February 29, 2024 9:15 am

GOVERNMENT

Gilbert's teen violence subcommittee making early progress, members say

GOVERNMENT

Peterson dropping out of Gilbert mayoral election

RELATED

Town veteran Scott Anderson voted in as Gilbert vice mayor

By Tom Blodgett

Mail I

X: @sp_blodgett

The Gilbert mayoral race has a third entrant.

Natalie DiBernardo, a business owner and Realtor who is a lifelong Gilbert resident, has pulled papers to run for mayor. DiBernardo previously ran for the Arizona House of Representatives in 2022 as a Republican.

DiBernardo will join Vice Mayor Scott Anderson and political neophyte Shane Krauser in the race, assuming they collect the

necessary nominating petition signatures. Petitions are due April 1. The primary is July 30.

DiBernardo only recently considered a run but said she was hesitant to do so before deciding to do

it based on what she saw as a void in leadership through the town's recent problems, particularly with teen violence.

"Nobody understands how to deal with this kind of traumatic environment because it's so unique and it's so complex and it requires a leader that's going to be able to follow through," she said. "When the cameras are gone, when the outrage dies down, when charges, if charges get filed, some of that pressure is going to go away. But that pressure doesn't go away from me because I'm invested.

kind of violence with their own family, and we need to attack it on every level over a long period of time."

"I've experienced that kind of violence with my own family. I've watched my friends experience that

DiBernardo's stepdaughter was murdered by the stepdaughter's boyfriend in 2017. He then killed himself.

But DiBernardo said the issues go beyond teen violence.

"Before the teen violence, everyone's complaints were the cost and what it's costing us to live here, traffic, parking," she said. "Schools are a big deal. I know the school boards have their own thing going on and all of that, but it's important and it is something we need to be on top of."

But the spate of teen violence in the past months has changed a dynamic for the community, making everyone feel unsafe, she said.

"I feel like this is the most unified the people in the town have been and asking for what they want," DiBernardo said. "I feel like the town is asking for leadership to make them feel safe."

Her message to voters is to get involved, she said.

"The police have quarterly meetings, get involved," DiBernardo said. "The school boards have meetings, get involved. It often happens when people are upset. They get involved for a short period of time, but no change happens in a short amount of time. Get involved. Stay involved."

But beyond that, DiBernardo called on the community to treat others with respect and model the behavior they want to see from others, calling that a missing piece in expressing recent concerns.



"Don't wait for someone else to do it," she said. "You do it. Peace, safety, connection, law and order — all that happens first in our own homes and in our own immediate communities. So we're not doing that in our own immediate circles."

DiBernardo said she "adores" living in Gilbert as do her children.

"I am passionate about preserving the lifestyle that brought us here to begin with," she said.

We would like to invite our readers to submit their civil comments, pro or con, on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Tom Blodgett can be reached by email at tblodgett@iniusa.org or follow him @sp_blodgett on X.



tblodgett@iniusa.org

Raised in Arizona, Tom Blodgett has spent more than 35 years in journalism in Arizona and joined Independent Newsmedia in July 2022 to launch the Gilbert edition. He is a graduate of Arizona State University, where he served as an instructional professional in the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication from 2005-19 and remains editorial adviser to The State Press, the university's independent student media outlet.

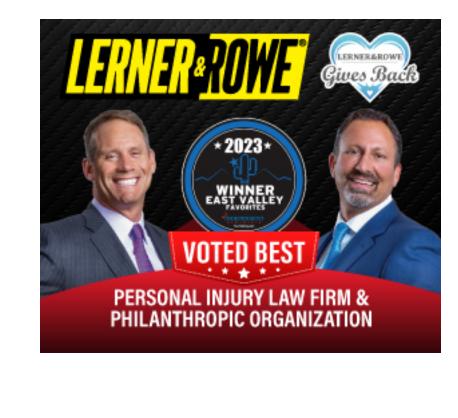
Subscribers make this story possible.

Support the journalists of Independent Newsmedia.

Keywords

Natalie DiBernardo, Gilbert mayoral election







Enewspaper Read the latest print edition here.

View this issue

Browse other issues





MOST RECENT

Natalie DiBernardo joins Gilbert mayoral race

The Gilbert mayoral race has a third entrant. Natalie DiBernardo, a business owner and Realtor who is a lifelong Gilbert resident, has pulled papers to run for mayor. DiBernardo ...

Gilbert Public Schools back to training on ELA curriculum

Meet Your Business: Klimczaks own 2 Sunmed CBD stores in Mesa

HD South set for 12th annual Night at the Museum Gala

Daboba USA comes to Gilbert

Actors Youth Theatre begins two-week run of Singing in the Rain Jr.

SHOP LOCAL

VIEW ALL | ADD MY BUSINESS





BOOKING FOR FUTURE + Good Shot
Photography, LLC GLENDALE We offer photography services for the consumer and B2B. We offer family portraits, individual ...

BOOKING FOR FUTURE + Travels By CP
SURPRISE Discover the World with Travels by CP: Your Local
Gateway to Luxurious Adventures Based in ...

WE'RE OPEN + Bridlewood Insurance/One



Source Medicare MESA Free Consultation!

Are you approaching 65 and have questions or need help understanding your ...

Charming Moments

VIRTUAL + Think Goodness from Arlene FOUNTAIN HILLS Think Goodness is a brand collective featuring Origami Owl personalized jewelry; Willing ...



DAILY INDEPENDENT

Tweets from @AzNewsmedia



Nothing to see here - yet

up here.

When they Tweet, their Tweets will show

View on Twitter



N E W S M E D I A Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities YourValley.net 623-972-6101

azdelivery@iniusa.org

OUR SERVICES

Our History
Copyright Terms of Service
Work for Us
Our Vision & Values

Print With Us

Advertising

Privacy Policy
Public Notices
About Us
Start a digital subscription to
YourValley.net

Contact Us

OUR COMMUNITIES

Florence
Mesa
Goodyear
Gilbert
El Mirage
Surprise
Sun City
Queen Creek
Town of Paradise Valley

Apache Junction

Youngtown
Litchfield Park
Gold Canyon
Buckeye
Anthem
Fountain Hills
Scottsdale
Peoria

Glendale