



# Make It Better

## CASA GRANDE

It's time to get out and vote! This is how change is made for a better community. We asked the local candidates one question:

# If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

Golden Corridor  
**LIVING**  
MAGAZINE

## Candidate Bio

Through my business, charity and life experiences I have learned to listen, analyze, discuss, encourage and build trust and teamwork. I believe I have the leadership skills to help run any organization. I can and will:

- Provide Leadership, encourage people and promote progress
- Work to increase Quality of Life in Casa Grande
- Collaborate with and encourage businesses to build new, expand and remain in Casa Grande
- Continue to support Casa Grande's infrastructure and Economic development
- Represent Casa Grande in the greater AZ community as the face and voice for CG



**Craig McFarland**  
*Running for Mayor*

## FAMILY

- Married to Nancy McFarland for 39 years
- Two grown children, Kelly (35) graduate of U of A and Scott (34) graduate of ASU and Loyola Law School
- Five grandchildren, Dillan (7), Keira (5), Connor (5), Leila (3), Brady (1)

## PERSONAL TIMELINE

- Born and raised in California
- Graduated College, Cal State University Fresno (1976)
- Employed by Anheuser-Busch, Inc. moving 10 times, 6 different States over the course of 26 years
- Employed by Golden Eagle Distributors in Jan 2005 to run their Casa Grande Branch operation
- Lived in Casa Grande over 11 years
- Retired from Golden Eagle Jan 2015 after 10 years (after a total of 36 years in Beverage business in Sales Management and Operations)

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

A survey I conducted shows top CG concerns; jobs and economy, schools and education, crime and public safety, roads and city infrastructure. I promise to work towards making Casa Grande Better . . .

- Making it Easier for business to do business in CG
- Marketing & promoting CG to AZ & the World
- Workforce development, training, build a workforce ready to fill jobs, have a better understanding of the Millennial workforce, seek help from CAC, CGESD, CGHSD, CAVIT
- Promote our School's successes
- Make CG Safer . . . support Fire and Police needs
- Support current Casa Grande infrastructure and Economic development
- Build the proposed community recreation center and bike path system

Making Casa Grande better entails more than just providing quality of life features – somebody has to pay for it! In order to do that it takes growth in housing, growth in business and growth in the employment base. CG is positioned for that growth as we have key infrastructure elements like I-8, I-10, I-11, shovel ready industrial parks, CG Airport, and the CG Waste Water Treatment Plant.

I believe I am the best candidate for Mayor of Casa Grande. I am a collaborator, consensus builder, and will work to encourage businesses to build new, expand existing and remain in Casa Grande. I have the time, passion, training, experience and leadership skills to help Make Casa Grande Better!



## Candidate Bio

I moved here in the early 1970's, attended elementary school and high school in Casa Grande. I have observed first hand significant changes to Casa Grande. After graduating, I earned a BS degree at ASU. My work experience includes time with the Xerox Corporation, Arizona Governor's Office, Shearson Lehman Brothers in New York City and, more specifically, at Pepsi-Cola Company (Phoenix) for 10 years. Upon returning to Casa Grande

**Lisa Fitzgibbons**  
*Running for City Council*  
*Incumbent*

to raise my family, I worked for United Way of Pinal County and Fidelity National Title. Almost ten years ago, I became Director of Marketing and Business Development for Fitzgibbons Law Offices. In April 2010, I was selected to serve on the Casa Grande City Council to fill a vacancy. In 2011, I ran for, and was elected to, my first term on council. I love this community and try to make it better by service on various Boards, including; Latino Familia Initiative Board (past President); Community Action Human Resource Agency (CAHRA); St. Anthony's School Advisory Board (Past President); Hispanic Leadership Institute (Founding Member/Facilitator); Celebrating Women of Today and Tomorrow (executive committee); Cesar Chavez Memorial Committee and the CGUHS site council. In 2010, I received the Latino Advocacy Award from Valle Del Sol, a state wide organization that honored my leadership in the Latino community. I have been married for 26 years and have 3 daughters.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

I would be honored to continue to serve the citizens of Casa Grande. As I said many times previously: before we can be a great city, we must first be a safe city. I would work with our fire personnel and police to continue the progress we have made in making Casa Grande a safe place to live and raise a family. Additionally, I would work hard to continue to bring jobs to our community. I would like to better advertise the qualities that make Casa Grande attractive: it's people, leadership, location and workforce. After we are safe and attracting new business, a related priority for Casa Grande is quality of life issues. In that regard, I would continue to promote the Community Center construction, increase hiking/biking trails, maintain and improve our City parks, and work in conjunction with the school districts who also own large tracks of land in our neighborhoods with potential community recreational features. Of course, we do all these things to make Casa Grande better with an eye towards being fiscally conservative so that the City books are balanced. During my time on council, during the lean financial years, we did extensive infrastructure to be ready for new industry and new development. We are poised for a very bright future.



## Candidate Bio

I am a thirty three year veteran of the Casa Grande Police Department. I have lived in Casa Grande since 1966. I am married to Doria Garza who has been involved in real estate in Casa Grande for over thirty years. Doria and I are Christians and are proud members of CrossRoads Church in Casa Grande.

**Bob Huddleston**  
*Running for City Council*

I started my career with the Police Department in 1980 as a patrol officer; became a Detective in 1983, and was promoted to Sergeant in 1986. I was promoted to Lieutenant in 1989 and took charge of the Patrol Division. In 1999, after a National recruitment, I was appointed Chief of Police. I held that position until retirement in 2013. I am the longest serving Police Chief in our City's history.

I have served as a Board Member on the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. I have served for seven years on the Board of Directors of Horizon Health and Wellness, currently the Board Secretary. I also served many years as a board member and past president of the Pinal County Law Enforcement Association. I also served many years with the Mayor's Reading Club, visiting all Casa Grande Elementary Schools to read to children and talk about Public Safety.

I am currently retired from Law Enforcement, and serve as a Judge Protem in the Pinal County Justice Court system.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

I am a fiscal conservative, and as such I believe Making it Better, includes objectives of Financial Stability in Government, and a focused effort to reduce, or at least not raise taxes.

I would ask our citizens and voters; what are their expectations of an elected council member? I believe many do not want more amenities, with the associated increase in taxes, but would prefer to have the core responsibilities of local government, Cleanliness (Sanitation and Sewer) and Public Safety (Police and Fire) delivered in an exceptional Manner.

For those wishing added amenities, I would insist that taking on debt for such projects would require voter approval. I am supportive of the new Recreation Center because the voters approved the project in a General Obligation Bond election. I am angry about the addition of the Grande Sports World, as the Council (with only one dissenting vote) placed us twenty million dollars in debt, without voter approval.

In short: "Make it Better" through fiscal solvency, and require that ANY additional City amenities or services be based on Citizen's desires, and their willingness to pay for the project, through General Obligation Bonds, or Sales Tax or Property Tax Initiatives.



## Candidate Bio

I am incredibly excited about running for re-election to City Council, having lived in Casa Grande for most of my life. Upon my election to the council in March of 2007, I started Kortsen Legal Document Preparation where I work as a paralegal and certified document preparer assisting clients with the preparation of LLCs, Wills, Trusts and Deeds. Prior to this, I worked for law firms in Mesa for approximately 20 years.

### Mary Korsten

*Running for City Council  
Incumbent*

My husband, Dan Kortsen, and I have three children, Jennifer, Jimmy and Amy. Dan is a retired farmer and third generation Arizonan. My father, Dr. William Ford, was a family doctor in Casa Grande for over 40 years. I continue to meet up with people who were patients of my dad. He was a wonderful man and I learned so much from him.

I was proud to serve on the Casa Grande Regional Hospital Board for over 15 years, eight years on Stanfield School board and two years on Main Street board. My dad taught me that being in public service is exactly that, serving the public, not yourself.

Folks often ask me about Kortsen Road. It was named after my husband's grandfather, James "Papa" Kortsen, who emigrated from Denmark and farmed in the Stanfield area.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

If I am fortunate enough to be re-elected there are several items on my "TO DO" list to make Casa Grande even better. Of utmost importance is the design and completion of the community/recreational center. I'm very passionate about providing a center where our children, families and others can gather, play and take part in healthy activities. It is long overdue. I'm relieved the struggle to get "it done" is done!

Continuing economic development efforts is crucial. We cannot rely only on retail for employment opportunities. We must continue to attract employers who pay above minimum wage, offer benefits and opportunity for advancement. We have been fortunate with the companies that have located during my tenure: Tractor Supply Distribution Center, Ehrmann's Dairy, Franklin Foods, Tractor Supply Retail; Estimated annual payroll: \$11 million.

This does not happen overnight. It takes the knowledgeable efforts and experience of city council, city staff and community members.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated police force. The addition of Chief McCrory is going to make the safety of our community even better. For example, he recently provided training for officers on dealing with the mentally ill. This will protect our officers and our citizens.

I promise to continue to look for every opportunity to make Casa Grande better for our residents and their families.



## Candidate Bio

Donna McBride is a community activist who has been serving her community for over three decades. In addition to her duties as a Program Administrator for the Pinal County Juvenile Court, Donna spends her time as an active member on numerous committees and boards including the BlackBox Foundation, Casa Grande Alliance, Elementary School Capitol Improvement Committee, and is Vice Chair of Pinal

### Donna McBride

*Running for City Council*

County Town Hall.

As a former advisor to the Casa Grande Youth Commission and National Director for SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Donna has mentored many youth leaders on a local, state and national level. Her own leadership has not gone unnoticed, being invited to participate in the Casa Grande Leadership Council and the University of Arizona's Center for Rural Leadership (Project CENTRL). Donna has also been appointed to the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism & Service Learning.

Donna takes her civic duties seriously, having served on Casa Grande's Parks & Recreation and Police Advisory Boards, Block Watch, and as a volunteer for the Mayor's Reading Program. Donna has the support of her husband of 36 years, Mike, their two boys, Jereme and Justin, and her mother, Tess. Also rooting for her are her three grandchildren Colin, Cylee, and Madison.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

I am asking the community of Casa Grande for the opportunity to serve on your city council. If elected, I have several recommendations to "make it better". I want to be proactive in engaging our community to get more involved at city hall. With nearly 55,000 residents in Casa Grande, it is hard to understand how we cannot fill seats in our 19 boards and commissions.

These boards and commissions guide activities, policies and issues. Engaging volunteers is key to keeping the lines of communication open with staff and our council. Citizens have a right to be heard - but you have to be willing to give an hour or two a month for the effort. The city and staff need your positive, constructive and professional input. Volunteerism is key to our community.

When we have good, hard working staff in Casa Grande, they represent a valuable investment to our community. It takes a great deal of money to hire someone, train them efficiently and guide them to serve our community. When people leave - so does our investment. Whether it be police and fire or administrative and maintenance, these employees create good customer service that reflects how the community feels about our city. We need to continue to find ways to support staff in their leadership growth so they also want to live, work, and play in Casa Grande.

Investing in our future is essential. I would like to expand on the opportunities to bring our youth and business community together. Creative partnerships can benefit our city, small business owners and make way for new leaders, employees and active citizens.



## Candidate Bio

Hello everyone. My name is Gilberto Mendez, a 21-year-old Arizona State University student. I graduated from Casa Grande Union High School in 2012. I attended Central Arizona College through the Promise for the Future Scholarship, and in 2015, I transferred to Arizona State University. With the help of the Latina Familia Initiative's Hispanic Leadership Institute and the Casa Grande Leader-

### **Gilberto Mendez** *Running for City Council*

ship Academy, I realized the civil responsibly that I have for my community as well as the desire to serve as a public official. The following week, I applied for the Casa Grande Police Advisory Board and shortly after, I was voted onto the board by City Council. That following week, I was voted to become the Vice Chairman of the board. In May, I was selected to become a board member of the Boys and Girls Club. Personally speaking, however, my most cherished title, which I hold closest to my heart, is my position as a youth leader for Redemption Church in Casa Grande. On a weekly basis, I am blessed with experiencing radical change in the lives of this diverse and dynamic youth group. Through this youth group, I have the opportunity to share and partake in a positive life-changing experience, serving as a tutor, a friend, and most importantly, a spiritual big brother.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

As an Economics major at Arizona State University, I find it essential to address this issue from an economy-centered point of view. As it stands, I find two viable potential solutions: pro-consumerism and the incentive for new business. Basic economics have taught us of the law of supply and demand. Having more jobs in Casa Grande would increase the supply of its goods and services. For these jobs to be sustainable in the long term, there would need to be an increase in the demand of said goods and services. It's my personal belief that in order to increase demand in our city, we would need to increase disposable income. How so? By decreasing the cost of living in Casa Grande through a reduction of cost and fees regarding services such as electricity, waste disposal, etc. Renewable energy like solar energy and wind power, as well as shipping our waste to outside facilities can serve as possible solutions. Additionally, I find a great need to attract new businesses into the city. I believe this can be accomplished by presenting Casa Grande in a fashion that attracts the gaze of CEOs of various companies, seeking new locations. Ultimately, a modernization-focused vision for the city can help introduce new business to Casa Grande. That is how I believe Casa Grande can be made better.



## Candidate Bio

A quick bio on me. Karl Montoya, currently on Casa Grande city council and serving as Mayor Pro Tempore. While finishing my second term plus one year, I am seeking a third term. As native of Casa Grande I have seen the many changes in the community and watched it grow.

### **Karl Montoya** *Running for City Council Incumbent*

Having graduated from Casa Grande Union High School in 1981, and going on to Central Arizona College, I am currently employed at Fertizona as a sales consultant and reactor specialist and working in the agriculture field for over 30 years. I currently serve as an advisor to the Casa Grande Youth Commission, I also have served as president for Casa Grande Silent Witness for the past decade, and I am currently a lieutenant in the Pinal County Sheriff's Posse. I also serve as the city liaison for the Emergency Assistance of Ministry. Having served in the past with the Casa Grande Little League, and past member of the Casa Grande Police Advisory Board.

I continue to help with my volunteerism and show my two children Jake and Kara the many ways of giving back to the community.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

If re-elected I would keep doing what the council has been doing, since being elected in 2007 the city has gone seen many changes and as learned from previous councils the foresight to plan and keep up with demands from the citizens which has made the job challenging and fun. While there are a few major topics such as economic development, transportation, and infrastructure we continue to be aggressive in these areas, and continue to plan for the future. The current council has been able to attract businesses provide jobs and currently has a positive rating for its roads. We continue to plan by looking ahead and adding infrastructure that has contributed to landing business to the area. The council has done this while being protective of the taxpayer's money, as we continue to have 6 months of operating money in the bank. As the recession hit our area we were able to stay ahead by having our "rainy day" funds available, keeping our levels of service at a high and not having lay off employees in the process. We also saw our bond rating go up "AA" rating.

Personally I will keep working on making Casa Grande a better place by continuing my volunteerism and working with others to keep the community spirit and traditions alive and healthy while promoting Casa Grande as the place to locate and do business.

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## Candidate Bio

Dedication. Faithfulness. Honesty. Integrity. Character. Traits which we all aspire to and which most of us would say we see in ourselves to varying degrees. The introspection required to write one's condensed biography can be a magnifying glass both for our flaws and our assets. The newspaper referred to me as "Average Joe" Redwine, a term which I probably used as a summary description of how I view myself.

### **Peter Redwine** *Running for City Council*

I began full-time at Bethel University in Minnesota when I was 16. As a 17 year old sophomore, their computer lab hired me to be the LAN administrator for the first wired dorm on campus.

Kelsey and I were married in 1998. Life hasn't been perfect, but it's been an awesome adventure, including two daughters, cross-country moves, motorcycling and, most recently, foster parenting.

I'm a CenturyLink technician and 18 year member of the Communication Workers of America union. I work in almost every neighborhood, apartment complex, mobile home park, business and alleyway in this town. I've met thousands of you over the past nine years.

I'm a staunch pro-life conservative who believes in small government, halting federal overreach and acting responsibly with every tax dollar in the city coffers. I'm also pro-labor, opposed to NAFTA, the TPP and other job-killing trade measures. I'm a common sense problem solver, but I know I don't know everything.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

A big part of making Casa Grande better is implementing things we haven't done before. Sometimes growth requires growing pains. So it is with our minor sprawl and growing population of both teenagers and people who can no longer drive. I would like to see the city help a private company open and operate a small transit company, along the lines of the CART system. This help could take the form of expediting permits, allowing for designated stops, etc. and would not have to necessarily include any tax-exemption status or other financial incentive. I have lived in metro areas and would prefer to not have any flavor of that life find it's way into Casa Grande, but we do have a growing population of teenagers and others who do not drive, but need to get to work, the doctor, Old Town, etc. These would NOT be the loud, polluting busses found in Phoenix and it's suburbs.

"Safer" is another word for "better." Mission Royale residents need Casa Grande to step up and make their lives safer. The response time from the nearest firehouse, which is at Peart Rd just north of Florence Blvd, is atrocious by fire department standards. Building a new firehouse on Hacienda would alleviate this problem.



## Candidate Bio

My name is Marty Schmidt and I was born and raised in Santa Barbara, California. After graduating high school I enlisted in the United States Navy from 1989-1992. I am a proud veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. I am married to Rebekka, a fifth grade teacher at Mesquite Elementary. We have two kids, Jacob (14) and Jenna (10). Jacob was born with Neurofibromatosis Type I, a genetic disorder. We

### **Marty Schmidt** *Running for City Council*

have spent countless hours raising money to help find a cure for Neurofibromatosis. I relocated to Casa Grande from Illinois in 2007. This is where my family and I now call home. I work at the Frito Lay Plant here in Casa Grande. Part of what I love about my position is the ability to donate product to non-profit organizations in our community. I am an avid golfer and participate in local charity golf events whenever possible.

I have earned an Associate of Arts degree in Sports Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice while working full-time. I am a graduate of the 2013 Casa Grande Leadership Academy. My military, education, and work experience assisted me in exceling in collaborative settings. One of my best qualifications is that I am not a career politician.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to 'Make It Better'?

I have lived here almost 10 years and I have seen growth, economic slowdown, and now businesses closing. My goal is to help Casa Grande grow responsibly and I encourage my fellow residents to buy locally to help our small businesses continue to thrive. I want to give back to the city that I love and in doing so; I pledge to donate 100% of my City Council salary back to our community. I will donate 50% to local non-profit organizations and the other 50% to establish scholarships for those students who attend our local Central Arizona College. If elected, I will focus on transparency, job growth, sustainability, traffic safety, and homelessness. I want to bring creative and innovative solutions to the challenges facing Casa Grande.

If you are pleased with where Casa Grande is now, then I am not your candidate, I am a new voice with a new direction. I am not displeased with the job that our current City Council has done, but we need a fresh start and we should expect more. It would be my honor to represent our city and be a voice for the community. In this election, every vote counts!

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## Candidate Bio

David Snider was first elected to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors in November 2004 and took office on January 1, 2005 – he served two terms, leaving office at the end of 2012. Prior to his election, Snider worked for the City of Casa Grande for 26 years as Library Director as well as Interim and Acting City Manager on occasion. He was an elected member of the Casa Grande Elementary School District Govern-

### **David Snider**

*Running for City Council*

ing Board (1992-2004) and served as its President for seven of those years – and returned as a member of CGESD’s Governing Board on 1/1/2015.

Snider has been a member of the Latino Familia Initiative since 2004 and is currently a Board member. He also serves as Vice Chair of the Groundwater Users Advisory Council (Pinal Active Management Area) and has been Chair of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority since 1996. He has served on numerous state-level water commissions and boards.

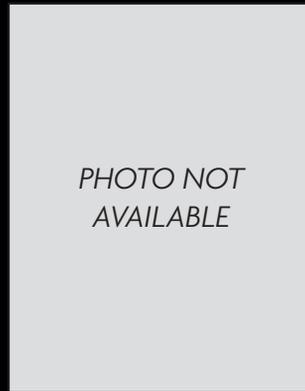
Snider is also Secretary of the Board of Directors of Against Abuse, Inc., serving since the 1980s. He is currently: a member of the Arizona Town Hall Research Committee and the Local Drought Impact Group (drought preparedness) for Pinal County. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the American University of Beirut (Lebanon) and earned his Master of Science in Library Science degree from Wayne State University.

## If elected, what are your plans for Casa Grande to ‘Make It Better’?

Casa Grande has been my home since 1977 – we have enjoyed a remarkable history of quiet development, thanks to solid leadership from elected officials and staff. But we’re in a new century with its own challenges. Street improvements, the community center, and workforce development are just some of our challenges.

We also need to continue to focus on economic development: new jobs that lead to other industries coming here and higher wages across the board. I have both experience and time to play an active role in support of our efforts at the local, regional, and state level. Casa Grande needs to continue to be an active ‘player’ at all levels in the areas of transportation, natural resources (especially water), land use, economic development, regional infrastructure, etc. That means having the strongest possible presence at the tables where critical decisions are being made that will impact our future. We cannot allow others to determine where and how we will grow in the future.

Casa Grande needs to step up to the plate and take an active role in recognizing and serving our military veterans. Community members have done an incredible job in organizing annual events and other efforts to serve veterans; the City should be a partner in those efforts – our neighbors have done so. Can Casa Grande do any less?



### **Marcus Foerster**

*Running for City Council*

**Candidate  
did not submit  
requested  
information.**