



# Maricopa County

Board of Supervisors

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Board of Supervisors  
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## Mary Rose Wilcox (D)

Maricopa County District 5 Supervisor

Mary Rose Garrido Wilcox, District 5 Maricopa County Supervisor, has played a major role in Maricopa County Government, embracing its diversity as an organization. Born in Superior, deep in the mining country of Arizona and a fourth generation native from a pioneer Mexican-American family, Wilcox is the first Hispanic women to serve on both the Phoenix City County and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. She is serving her fifth four-year term on the Board in Maricopa County – named “best run county” by Governing Magazine and Syracuse University.

Mary Rose has devoted her career to public service, championing the first Civil Rights Day in Maricopa County. She has been in the forefront in the push for comprehensive Immigration Reform. She serves on the National Association of Counties Immigration Task Force, the Arizona México Commission and is chairman of the Sports Youth Exchange Subcommittee. She has created numerous programs to strengthen families and communities, including leading the County's efforts to create a [homeless campus](#) to centralize services for the homeless in downtown Phoenix. Along with her husband, Earl Wilcox, she coordinates a tremendously popular annual [Late Night Basketball](#) tournament designed to keep kids off the streets.

Some of the highlights of Mary Rose's career include revitalizing downtown Phoenix through both county work and efforts as a member of the City Council. Mary Rose cast the deciding votes in favor of funding for the America West Arena and Chase Field Ballpark. She was one of the originating members of the “fight back movement” for neighborhoods and was instrumental in the development and revitalization of the South Phoenix and Laveen communities.

Mary Rose Wilcox has always been a fighter for her beliefs. She is a fearless, indefatigable advocate for her constituents, particularly those who have very little clout in government policy circles. She cares little for political calculations other than advancing her causes, employment, education, human services and equal opportunity. Wilcox was instrumental in Maricopa County being awarded \$63 million in [American Recovery Reinvestment Act \(ARRA\)](#) funding for a variety of county-run projects and programs.

Mary Rose has been involved in numerous boards and commissions, including her membership on the boards of the, Greater Phoenix Convention Bureau, Friendly House, Downtown Phoenix Partnership, ASU/U of A Medical School Advisory Board, the Arizona Hispanic Corporation (founding member 1983), ASU Latino Advisory Board and chairman and founding member of the Arizona Diamondback Ambassador Club. She also serves on the Maricopa Association of Governments' (MAG) Regional Counsel, MAG Air Quality Policy Committee, MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee and Ryan White Planning Council.

Wilcox is very involved with the local and national Hispanic community and has served as a past or current member of such organizations as [MALDEF](#) (Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund) and [NCLR](#) (National Council of La Raza). She also served five years as the Chair of the [NALEO](#) (National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials) Educational Fund. She currently serves as Vice President of the National Association of Counties (NACO) Human Service Committee.

Honors and recognition include: America's Charities Appreciation Award for Commitment to "Choice" in Giving, Maricopa County Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness "Community Leader of the Year", Maricopa Integrated Health System Dedication Award (1999), Maricopa County Democrats Service Award, Downtown Phoenix Partnership Board of Directors Service Award, Guadalupe Family Health Center Award of Appreciation (1996) and Mesa United Way Leadership and Service Award.

She and her husband, Earl, a former state legislator and justice of the peace, reside in downtown Phoenix and continue to stay involved in the community. For more than a decade, the Wilcoxes have been working to revitalize downtown's Grant Park neighborhood. They are the owners of El Portal, a local authentic Mexican restaurant. They also recently dedicated the Grant Park Boxing Club so neighborhood kids can box for free. For Mary Rose and Earl, their greatest source of pride is their daughter and five grandsons.