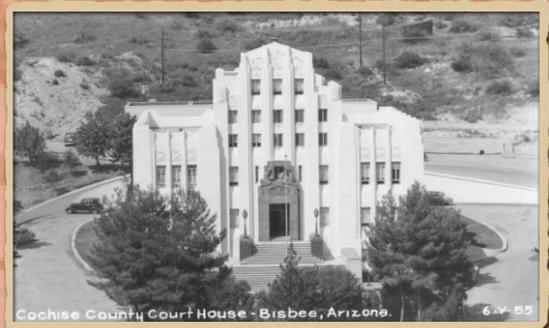


# COCHISE COUNTY Legacy Project



Board of Supervisors

HISTORY  
1881-2015



Public Programs...Personal Service

Carved out of the eastern portion of Pima County by the 11th Territorial Legislative Assembly, **Cochise County became the eighth County in the Arizona Territory, on February 1, 1881.** Elections were not held until November 1882 so the first Supervisors were appointed by Arizona Territorial Governor John C. Fremont. **The three Supervisors were M. E. Joyce, Joseph Tasker, and Joseph Dyer.**

**M.E. Joyce**, from Tombstone, leased the bar and restaurant concession at The Oriental from Jim Vizina, who became a Supervisor with Joyce after the resignation of Joseph Tasker. Joyce and Doc Holliday were sworn enemies after an altercation that left Joyce with a gunshot through his hand.

Born in New Hampshire, **Joseph Tasker** arrived in Tombstone by way of San Diego and operated a general grocery and produce market on the corner of Allen and Fifth. He resigned from the Board on June 5, 1882 and was replaced by J.M. Vizina.

**Joseph Dyer**, who moved to Bisbee from Wyoming, resigned from the Board of Supervisors on November 14, 1881 after financial shenanigans were revealed and

thousands of budget dollars had been squandered. He was replaced by M.W. Stewart on November 15, 1881. Stewart remained in office until his resignation on May 13, 1882. His term in office was completed by Heyman Solomon.

**The Board of Supervisors met for the first time on April 1, 1881** and appointed **R. J. Campbell** as **Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.** It is interesting that the first Clerk of the Board also testified in the preliminary hearing in the Earp-Holliday case when Sheriff Behan wanted to try Earp and Holliday for murder in the wake of the Gunfight at the OK Corral.

On April 7, 1881, the Supervisors ran an ad in the Tombstone Nugget asking for bids for building a courthouse, not to exceed \$30,000. From 1881 to 1887, the Board of Supervisors minutes show bids for services including feeding prisoners and providing indigent sick care and bids, contracts and specifications for building the County jail, courthouse and hospital. Correspondence and petitions are presented to the Board concerning creating and building roads and bridges.



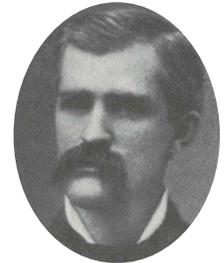
1881 1882 1883 1885 1887 1888 1889 1891 1893 1894 1895 1897 1899 1901 1903 1905 1907 1912 1915 1917

## Supervisors at Large

**M.E. Joyce** February 1 • 1881 – December 31 • 1882  
**Joseph D. Dyer** February 1 • 1881 – November 14 • 1881  
**Joseph Tasker** February 1 • 1881 – June 5 • 1882  
**M.W. Stewart** November 15 • 1881 – May 13 • 1882  
**Mr. Solomon** May 14 • 1882 – December 31 • 1882  
**J.M. Vizina** June 7 • 1882 – December 31 • 1882  
**L.W. Blinn** January 3 • 1883 – December 31 • 1884  
**Theodore Frelinghuysen**  
**(T.F.) White** January 3 • 1883 – June 30 • 1887  
**John Montgomery** January 3 • 1883 – December 31 • 1886  
 January 2 • 1889 – December 31 • 1892  
 March 18 • 1895 – December 31 • 1900  
**James Pinkerton (J.P.)**  
**McAllister** January 1885 – December 1886  
 January 3 • 1893 – January 11 • 1893  
 July 5 • 1893 – July 12 • 1893  
**J.E. Durkee** January 3 • 1887 – June 9 • 1887  
*vote held over until July 1 • 1887*  
**Theo J. White** January 3 • 1887- December 31 • 1890  
**David Cohn** June 30 • 1887 – April 16 • 1888  
*voted out of office*  
**Frank Moore** June 30 • 1887 – December 31 • 1888  
**J.M. Phillips** April 16 • 1888 – December 31 • 1888  
**B.S. Coffman** January 2 • 1889 – December 31 • 1890  
**Scott White** January 3 • 1891 – January 12 • 1893  
**G.W. Bryan** January 5 • 1891 – December 31 • 1892  
 July 12 • 1893 – August 31 • 1893  
**W.K. Perkins** January 3 • 1893 – July 5 • 1893  
 September 9 • 1893 – March 18 • 1895  
**Frank Hare** January 12 • 1893 – July 4 • 1893  
**Edgar A. Nichols** January 12 • 1893 – July 4 • 1893  
 September 9 • 1893 – June 5 • 1894  
**James Reilly** July 5 • 1893 – August 31 • 1893  
**C.S. Clark** September 11 • 1893 – April 2 • 1894  
**L.C. Shattuck** April 3 • 1894 – December 31 • 1894  
**G.W. Ferrington** June 5 • 1894 – December 31 • 1894  
**John S. Williams** January 2 • 1895 – December 30 • 1896  
**N.A. Gilman** January 2 • 1895 – July 7 • 1897  
**J.H. McPherson** January 4 • 1897 – December 31 • 1898  
**Thomas Allaire** July 19 • 1897 – December 31 • 1898  
 December 30 • 1899 – January 2 • 1901  
**M.C. Benton** January 3 • 1899 – January 2 • 1901  
**Robert W. Barr** January 3 • 1899 – December 23 • 1899  
**P.J. Delahanty** January 2 • 1901 – December 31 • 1902  
**George B. Reay** January 2 • 1901 – December 31 • 1902  
**Thomas R. York** January 2 • 1901 – December 31 • 1904  
**John J. Bowen** January 5 • 1903 – February 14 • 1912  
**William Pritchett** January 5 • 1903 – December 31 • 1904  
**C.A. Taylor** January 2 • 1905 – December 31 • 1906  
**William M. Riggs** January 2 • 1905 – December 31 • 1908  
 February 14 • 1912 – December 31 • 1914  
**G.J. McCabe** January 3 • 1907 – February 14 • 1912  
**Jacob Sheerer** January 3 • 1907 – February 14 • 1912  
**August Hickey** February 14 • 1912 – December 31 • 1914  
**John Rock** February 14 • 1912 – December 31 • 1918  
**Vance M. Johnson** January 2 • 1915 – December 31 • 1918  
**J.M. Sparks** January 2 • 1915 – December 31 • 1920  
**C.M. Roberts** January 2 • 1919 – December 31 • 1920  
**I.C.E. Adams** January 2 • 1919 – December 31 • 1922



M.E. Joyce



M.W. Stewart



J.M. Vizina



T.F. White



John Montgomery



J.P. McAllister



James Reilly



John J. Bowen



William M. Riggs

1921 1923 1927 1929 1931 1933 1935 1939 1941 1943 1945 1947 1951 1957 1969 1977 1981 1993 2001 2005

## Supervisors by District



**Pat Call**

### Regional Cooperation

- Established County recycling committee and sat as the Board of Supervisors liaison to the committee
- Regional Solid Waste and Landfill Operations
- Joint Planning with Cities and Towns
- Joint Traffic enforcement
- County liaison to the Huachuca 50
- Established Cochise County's Business Friendly Task Force, liaison to the Board of Supervisors

### Sierra Vista Area Services

- Fry Town site task force with Sierra Vista
- New Superior Court Division in Sierra Vista
- New Justice of the Peace Court in Sierra Vista
- New Sheriff's office in Sierra Vista
- New and enlarged County Planning and Zoning office in Sierra Vista
- Expanded County Health Services in Sierra Vista
- Graffiti abatement agreement with Sierra Vista
- Joint law enforcement efforts

### Water

- Chair of the Upper San Pedro Partnership Advisory Commission
- Member, Upper San Pedro Partnership Executive Committee
- Member Arizona's Water Resources Development Committee (WRDC)
- Co-Chair, Legislative Recommendations Group, WRDC
- Created the Sierra Vista Sub-watershed overlay district

### Representing Cochise County

- Member of the Arizona Water Resources Development Committee
- President and current member of the US/Mexico Border Counties Coalition
- Governor's appointee to the Arizona Growing Smarter Oversight Group
- Governor's appointee to the Southern Regional Area Council, Arizona Department of Homeland Security
- National Association of Counties
- Arizona County Supervisors Association
- Past board member and member of Arizona Town Hall

### Community Service

- Board of Directors, Rotary Charities, Inc.
- Past Board of Directors, C.A.N.T.E.R.
- Board of Directors, Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Board of Directors, Cochise Community Foundation (affiliate of the Arizona Community Foundation)
- Member, Sierra Vista Rotary
- Chief Pyrotechnician, Sierra Vista 4th of July Fireworks
- Member of the Greater Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce since 1981, past member Board of Directors, past Chair of the Chamber's Legislative Affairs committee and current member
- Producer and host for the Friday Report, a weekly talk show dedicated to local issues and people.

### Personal Information

- Married: Trish
- Children: Ryan, 25 Ed, 23
- Education: BS Biology
- Hobbies: woodworking and road/mountain biking
- Currently serving third term as District One, Cochise County Supervisor

## District 1

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Vance M. Johnson</b>  | 1923-1926    |
| <b>Harlie Cox</b>        | 1927-1932    |
| <b>Henry M. Wirtz</b>    | 1933-1934    |
| <b>Harlie Cox</b>        | 1935-1939    |
| <b>John H. Wood</b>      | 1939-1940    |
| <b>James Allison</b>     | 1941-1955    |
| <b>Austin Jay</b>        | 1955-1956    |
| <b>Bert B. Watkins</b>   | 1957-1968    |
| <b>Sam Balich</b>        | 1969-1974    |
| <b>A.J. Gilbert, Jr.</b> | 1974-1976    |
| <b>Judith A. Gignac</b>  | 1977-1988    |
| <b>Gene Manning</b>      | 1989-1992    |
| <b>Tony Saracino</b>     | 1993-2000    |
| <b>Patrick Call</b>      | 2001-Present |



**Judith A. Gignac**



**Gene Manning**

1921 1923 1927 1929 1931 1933 1935 1939 1941 1943 1945 1947 1951 1957 1969 1977 1981 1993 2001 2005

## Supervisors by District

### District 2

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| John B. Hart       | 1921-1928    |
| John Hild          | 1929-1935    |
| H.A. Wimberly      | 1935-1936    |
| S.P. Lewis         | 1937-1950    |
| Joe Good           | 1951-1952    |
| Charles Stewart    | 1953-1956    |
| Joe Good           | 1957-1968    |
| John F. Glass      | 1969-1976    |
| Marlin Bohmfalk    | 1977-1980    |
| Everett Jones, Jr. | 1981-1984    |
| Ann English        | 1985-1992    |
| Mike Palmer        | 1993-2000    |
| Paul Newman        | 2001-2008    |
| Ann English        | 2009-Present |



Ann English

- Cochise County Board of Health, Public Safety Retirement Board, Correction Officers Retirement Board.
- Southeast Arizona Governments Organization Representative
- Superintendent, Elfrida Elementary School District, 1999-2006. Retired, 2006.
- Administrator at Douglas High School; Youth Fair Chance, School-to-Work & Vocational programs, 1995-1999.
- Graduate of Northern Arizona University, Masters in Educational Leadership, 1994.
- Cochise County Board of Supervisors, District 2, 1985-92. Two terms.
- President of Arizona Supervisors, 1991.
- Arizona Criminal Justice Commission – Appointed by Gov. Rose Mofford.
- Realtor for Sulphur Springs Realty and Bisbee Realty, 1981-1984.
- Taught school in Coolidge, Elfrida and Douglas, Arizona. 20 years.
- Graduate of New Mexico State University, B.S. in Home Economics, 1963. (With Honors)
- Graduate of Marshall High School, Marshall, Arkansas. 1959.
- Born in Searcy County, Arkansas, 1942.
- Married to Pat English, parent of three adult children and grandparent to four precious young grandchildren.



Mike Palmer



Paul Newman



Everett Jones, Jr.

1991

At a Board meeting on September 9, 1991, Supervisors Ann English, Gene Manring, and Kim Bennett considered a No Smoking policy for the County Administration building. The ban on smoking passed with two votes, Bennett casting the opposing vote, saying that there should be a policy for employee break times before a smoking ban was enacted.

1921 1923 1927 1929 1931 1933 1935 1939 1941 1943 1945 1947 1951 1957 1969 1977 1981 1993 2001 2005

## Supervisors by District



**Richard Searle**

Richard Roddis Searle was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2004 as the District 3 representative.

He was re-elected in 2008 and is currently serving his second term in office.

District 3 is the largest of the three supervisory districts in Cochise County and includes all the northern half of the County. Communities in District 3 include Huachuca City, Whetstone, St. David, Mescal-J6, Benson, Pomerene, Cascabel, Dragoon, Pearce/Sunsites, Cochise, Sunizona, Dos Cabezas, Willcox, Bowie and San Simon, Fort Huachuca, a

small portion of Sierra Vista west of 7th Street, and Parker Canyon Lake.

Supervisor Searle grew up on his family's ranch in the Dragoon Mountains near Pearce. He graduated from Valley Union High School in Elfrida and has a degree in business from Western New Mexico University in Silver City, N.M.

He was a banker in the area for 14 years before taking the office of Supervisor.

In addition to his normal County duties, Searle has also actively represented Cochise County in several organizations including the Arizona/New Mexico Coalition of Counties, the Coronado Resource & Conservation District, the Arizona County Supervisors Legislative Policy Committee, and the South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization.

Searle also serves on the Valley Union High School Board of Education, where he has been a member since 2001.

### District 3

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>D.A. Adams</b>       | 1921-1928    |
| <b>M.P. Walker</b>      | 1929-1931    |
| <b>J.F. Murphy</b>      | 1931-1932    |
| <b>P.P. Page</b>        | 1933-1952    |
| <b>Clarence Post</b>    | 1952-1952    |
| <b>William R. Moore</b> | 1953-1972    |
| <b>V.L. Thompson</b>    | 1973-1988    |
| <b>Kim Bennett</b>      | 1989-1992    |
| <b>Leslie Thompson</b>  | 1993-2004    |
| <b>Richard Searle</b>   | 2005-Present |



**Clarence Post**

**1991**

August 19, 1991, the Clerk of the Board was presented with a petition to let the voters of Cochise County decide if they would have three Supervisors or five Supervisors. A special election was held on December 17, 1991. Of the votes cast, only 19% were for expanding the Board to five members. The other 81% of the voters were against expanding to a five member Board. The reasons against expansion were the increased expense of two more Supervisors and the fact that the extra two districts would be from the Sierra Vista area, giving less power to the rural areas of the County.



**Leslie Thompson**



**V.L. Thompson**

1881 1882 1883 1885 1887 1888 1889 1891 1893 1894 1895 1897 1899 1901 1903 1949 1962 1991 2006 2015

## Clerk of the Board

The Clerk of the Board is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The responsibilities of the position are set down in the Arizona Revised Statutes. Although changes in the statutes have occurred over the years, the Clerk's primary purpose is to set and hold meetings according to the Open Meeting Laws and to memorialize the meetings with minutes. Many Clerks have created programs that have revolutionized the way the Boards business is conducted.

**R.J. Campbell** April 4 • 1881 – November 14 • 1881  
*First Clerk*

**Richard Rule** January 2 • 1882 – December 31 • 1882

**J.V. Vickers** January 3 • 1883 – April 6 • 1885  
January 5 • 1886 – December 31 • 1886

**A.O. Wallace** April 7 • 1885 – January 4 • 1886

**Allen R. English** January 3 • 1887 – May 23 • 1887

**A.H. Bayless** May 24 • 1887 – June 29 • 1887

**William Donald** June 30 • 1887 – December 31 • 1888

**Monmonier** January 5 • 1891 – January 3 • 1893

**Fred Castle** January 2 • 1889 to January 4 • 1891

**Nathaniel E. Hawke** January 4 • 1893 – July 4 • 1893  
September 9 • 1893 – January 1 • 1895

**A. Wentworth** July 5 • 1893 – September 8 • 1893

**William A. Harwood** January 2 • 1895 – January 4 • 1897

*Deputy Clerk First to hold Position:*

January 5 • 1897 – April 4 • 1898

**M.J. Brown** January 5 • 1897 – January 3 • 1899

**Frank Hare** January 3 • 1899 – April 1 • 1900

**James F. Duncan** April 2 • 1900 – May 31 • 1903

*Deputy Clerk:* January 1 • 1898 – April 1 • 1900

**James N. Gaines** June 1 • 1903 – December 31 • 1906

**H.E. Berner** January 10 • 1907 – December 31 • 1911

**R.S. Maclay** February 14 • 1912 – December 31 • 1912

**A.C. Karger** January 2 • 1913 – December 31 • 1918

**L.F. Kuchenbecker** January 2 • 1919 – September 19 • 1921

**M.C. Hankins** October 3 • 1921 – December 31 • 1922

**W.E. Clark** January 2 • 1923 – February 7 • 1949

*Died in office, founding member of the Arizona Supervisors Association*

**James R. Henderson** March 1 • 1949 – April 15 • 1951

**Harriet Hiester** May 1 • 1951 – July 2 • 1962

August 26 • 1966 – January 2 • 1969

*Acting Clerk:* July 5 • 1966 – August 15 • 1966

*First woman Clerk*

**Frances Lippert** July 12 • 1962 – October 1 • 1962

*Died in office; served as a County Treasurer*

**Jean M. Place** November 5 • 1962 – May 23 • 1966

*Deputy Clerk:* July 2 • 1962 – November 4 • 1962

**Madeline M. Corrin** January 6 • 1969 – June 14 • 1982

*Acting Clerk:* January 2 • 1969 – January 5 • 1969

**James D. Alterstadter** *Acting Clerk:* June 21 • 1982 – December 31 • 1982

**Henry F. Nowak** *Acting Clerk:* January 17 • 1983 – March 11 • 1985

*From 1985 to 1991 the County Administrator also held the position of Clerk of the Board*

**Nadine M. Parkhurst** January 7 • 1991 – March 6 • 2006

**Katie A. Howard** January 30 • 2006 – May 3 • 2013

**Arlthe G. Rios** September 1 • 2013 - present



J.V. Vickers



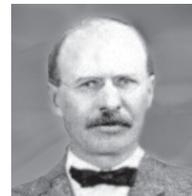
William D. Monmonier



Nathaniel E. Hawke



A. Wentworth



James N. Gaines



M.C. Hankins



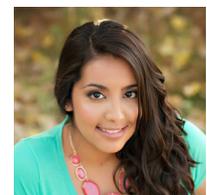
Frances Lippert



Nadine Parkhurst



Katie A. Howard



Arlthe G. Rios



## County Administrator

The County Administrator manages the day-to-day operations of the County; implements policies and programs approved by the Board of Supervisors; acts as a liaison between the Board Of Supervisors and the external departments (i.e. Judicial System, Treasurer, Assessor, etc.) and has direct supervision over the internal departments (i.e. Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, etc.) One of the main functions of the County Administrator is to develop and implement a \$130 million budget.

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>James D. Altenstadter</b> | December 14 • 1981 – December 31 • 1982<br><i>County Administrator/Clerk of the Board</i>              |
| <b>Ron Maxwell</b>           | January 3 • 1983 – March 11 • 1985<br><i>County Administrator/Clerk of the Board</i>                   |
| <b>Henry F. Nowak</b>        | March 25 • 1985 – April 29 • 1985<br><i>Acting County Administrator/<br/>Acting Clerk of the Board</i> |
| <b>Dave S. Hunt</b>          | April 29 • 1985 – December 21 • 1990<br><i>County Administrator/Clerk of the Board</i>                 |
| <b>Dennis R. Tinsberg</b>    | March 7 • 1991 – January 4 • 1993  |
| <b>Jody N. Klein</b>         | January 7 • 1993 – July 16 • 2007  |
| <b>Michael J. Ortega</b>     | July 2 • 2007 – Present  |



**Michael Ortega**

Michael J. Ortega has served as Cochise County Administrator since July 2007. He was the City Manager for the City of Douglas from June 1995 to June 2007, with a brief break in September 2004 when he worked for the Arizona Department of Transportation as State Engineer – Assistant Director, where he was responsible for

leading the Intermodal Transportation Division. Prior to working for the City of Douglas, Mike worked as an engineering manager for Pima County and various consulting firms.

Michael graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and later earned a Master's in Business Administration from the same institution. He has been an active member, serving in leadership positions and on the boards, of the Arizona-Mexico Commission Border Issues Committee, Arizona Town Hall, Arizona City/County Management Association, the Douglas Unified School District and the Good Neighbor Environmental Board.

Michael and his wife Pat have four children and live in Douglas, Arizona. In his spare time, he coaches soccer and baseball and volunteers as a 4H Club leader. Mike and his son, Nick, both enjoy spending time in their woodshop crafting beautifully functional wooden objects. He stays fit by walking, hiking and swimming.



**Jody Klein**

1881 1882 1883 1885 1887 1888 1889 1891 1893 1894 1895 1897 1899 1901 1903 1949 1962 1991 2006 2015

## Deputy County Administrator

**James E. Vlahovich** December 7 • 2005 – Present

Jim Vlahovich has served as the Deputy County Administrator since January 2006. Prior to that, he worked as the Planning Director, Building and Zoning Administrator and Planner in the Cochise County Planning Department, starting back in 1988. Before coming to the County, Jim was a graduate student at Northern Arizona University, worked as a parts and service zone manager with the Ford Motor Company in Waltham, Massachusetts and was a Marine Corps Officer serving in various billets in the United States and abroad.

Jim graduated from the US Naval Academy with a bachelor's degree in American Political Systems in 1977 and later earned a Master's Degree in Forestry from NAU in 1987. He is a member of Arizona Town Hall and the Arizona City/County Management Association.

Jim and his wife Chrissy, who are both Bisbee natives, live in Bisbee and have a daughter, Eliana.



James Vlahovich

## Clerk of the Board



Arlethe Rios

Clerk of the Board since September 2013, Arlethe G. Rios joined the Board of Supervisors Office staff in July 2008. Arlethe holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Before joining the County Team, Arlethe served in the US Army as a medic from July 2002 to February 2007, performing a tour in Iraq from January 2004 to January 2005.

Born in Mexico in 1984, Arlethe and her family came to the United States in 1989 where Arlethe received her Resident Alien Card at the age of four. Arlethe learned to speak English in school when she participated in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes from kindergarten up to junior high school. Although proficient in both Spanish and English by the time she graduated from high school, it was her stint in the Army that rounded out Arlethe's linguistic education with in-depth knowledge of colorful dialogue. Arlethe was a member of the US Army when she became a US Citizen in December 2005.

Arlethe is a volunteer in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program and the Vietnam War Commemoration Committee at the County. She also volunteers on her son's baseball and soccer teams and is an active member of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America organization.

Arlethe and her fiancé Larry live in Sierra Vista with their two children.

# Board of Supervisors — Locations

1881-1929



1881-1929: The Board of Supervisors' had a tough first task, once elected they had to move forward with building the County's first courthouse, where the courtroom and jail would be, but would also house the County Recorder, County Treasurer, County Clerk, Board of Supervisors' Office, Judge, and County Surveyor.

1929-1976



1929-1976: After County residents voted to move the County Seat to Bisbee, the Board of Supervisors' as well as the other officers had to move to the Bisbee Courthouse.

## Cochise County Seat Moved to Bisbee

1929

After the Tombstone mines flooded in 1890, thousands of people packed up and left Tombstone, some selling their worldly possessions for the price of a stagecoach ticket. Others loaded up their small homes on horse-drawn wagons, and moved on to the next mining boomtown such as Pearce, Courtland, Gleason or Bisbee.

Tombstone held its breath, hoping for a revival of mining and prosperity. By 1900 Tombstone's population was 700, less than ten percent of Cochise County's nearly 10,000 residents.

The Tombstone Consolidated Mining Company was organized in 1900 to extract the tons of silver remaining in the flooded mines. Huge pumps were installed, pumping over 2 million gallons of water per day from the mines. The price of silver dropped to 50 cents per ounce, and silver mining in Tombstone became economically infeasible.

Meanwhile, the City of Bisbee, built by corporate copper mining interests and located 26 miles south of Tombstone, was booming. Demand for copper soared to supply the world with copper wiring needed for electricity and telephones. By the date of Arizona Statehood on February 14, 1912, Bisbee was the biggest, liveliest city between St. Louis and San Francisco.

In 1929 an election was held, and Cochise County residents voted to move the County Seat to Bisbee. Tombstone fought hard politically and through the State Supreme Court to challenge the vote, and lost. By 1931, the last of the County offices had moved to the new Art Deco style courthouse in Bisbee.

# Board of Supervisors — Locations

1976-1993



1976-1993: The Board of Supervisors' and staff move to the Administrative building as the County services and staff continue to grow.



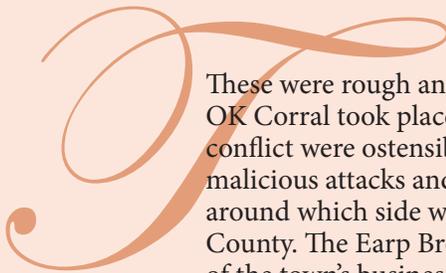
1993-2004: In order to accommodate the many services the County offers a new complex is built on Melody Lane.

1993-2004

2004-Present



2004 – Present: In 2004 the Board of Supervisors' moved into its current building, which holds offices for the Supervisors and Staff, as well as a large hearing room and two conference rooms.



These were rough and tumble times in the Old West. The Gunfight at the OK Corral took place at 3:00 p.m. on October 26, 1881. Both sides in the conflict were ostensibly looking for revenge for what they perceived as malicious attacks and insults, but on a larger level, the conflict revolved around which side would control the fate of Tombstone and Cochise County. The Earp Brothers and Doc Holliday tended to protect the interests of the town's business owners and residents. In contrast, Sheriff Johnny Behan was generally sympathetic to the interests of the rural ranchers and cowboys.



Ike Clanton

## And Don't Call Me a Cowboy!

In 1881 in Cochise County, the term "cowboy" generally meant an outlaw, a thief, and a cattle rustler. Legitimate cowmen were referred to as cattle herders or ranchers.



Thomas McLaurie

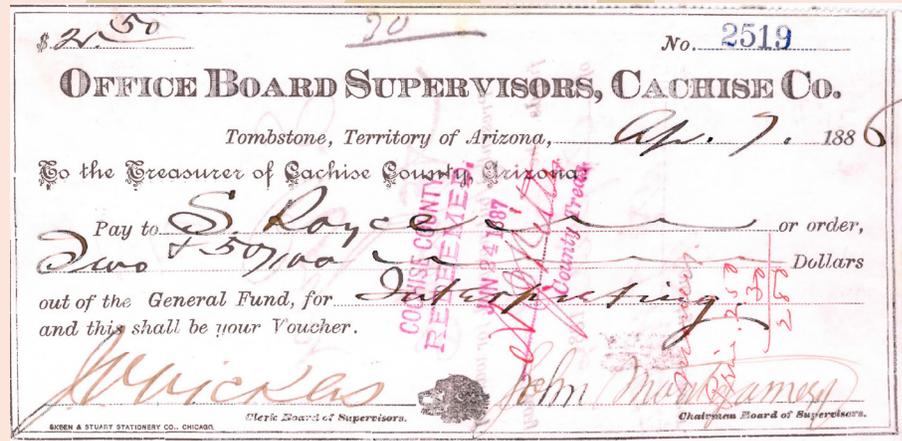


Wyatt Earp

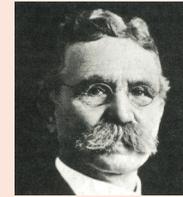
# Cachise or Cochise

Cochise County was named for the great Apache leader, Cochise. But back in 1881, people had not come to an agreement on how to spell Cochise. According to Cochise County historian, Doug Hocking, the Apache language was indecipherable to most white men and therefore we had different pronunciations and different spellings for the same word. The First checks issued by the new County said "Cachise" County. The Arizona Business Directory and Gazetteer, published in 1881, also contained a section on "Cachise" County. The dual spellings lasted until the 1890s when "Cochise" became the common spelling and "Cachise" faded away in usage.

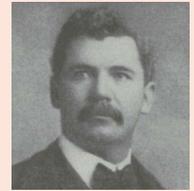
- 1881 - Cochise County Population Centers**
- Tombstone – County Seat
  - Benson
  - Bisbee
  - Charleston
  - Contention City
  - Dos Cabezas
  - Galeyville
  - Hereford
  - Willcox
  - Military Posts: Fort Bowie and Camp Huachuca



**In November 1892** W.K. Perkins and J.P. McAllister were elected to serve as supervisors for Cochise County. Mr. Scott White was the long-term supervisor who would continue to serve alongside them. No one could imagine what the chemistry of this new board would mean for Cochise County.



J.P. McAllister



Scott White

Mr. White and the two newly elected members convened the first meeting of the year.

After the roll call was taken Mr. McAllister promptly accuses Mr. White of being the Sheriff and warns him not to vote on any items as a supervisor.

Mr. White says that he was never qualified as Sheriff or taken that oath and was elected as Supervisor in 1890 and is occupying that position lawfully.

Mr. McAllister asked the District Attorney (DA) for his opinion on the matter and the DA agrees with him and notes that any action involving Mr. White will become null and void.

Mr. White and Mr. Perkins ignore what they deem to be nonsense and continue with the meeting.

After withholding his vote for two actions, Mr. McAllister leaves the meeting.

Mr. White and Mr. Perkins convene a regular meeting.

Mr. McAllister is also present and during the approval of the minutes from the prior meeting interrupts Mr. Perkins, who is now Chair of the Board, and says he does not agree with these minutes.

Mr. Perkins and Mr. White vote to approve the minutes with Mr. McAllister voting no.

At this point the DA formally recognizes Mr. White as a lawful member of the Board since he was properly elected to that office.

Full Board is present at the meeting.

After the first action item is read, Mr. McAllister asks that he not be recognized or identified as member of the Board of Supervisors for Cochise County and notes that he is present as a citizen and tax payer.

JANUARY 3

After the regular meeting was convened several critical actions had to be taken.

Mr. White and Mr. Perkins voted to appoint Mr. Edgar A. Nichols as the replacement for Mr. J.P. McAllister.

After a petition of more than 30 voters was filed asking for Mr. White's resignation, he officially resigned as a Supervisor.

Mr. Perkins and Mr. Nichols then voted to appoint Mr. Frank Hare as the replacement for Mr. Scott White and the Board was ready to continue in full capacity.

JANUARY 4

Board convenes with Mr. Perkins and Mr. Nichols present.

9:30 a.m.

The Clerk of the Board makes the announcement that Mr. McAllister has filed a suit to the District Court of the First Jurisdiction District of the Territory of Arizona against the Cochise County Board of Supervisors asking to be recognized as a member of said Board. Until the appeal is resolved the Board shall continue with business and any actions made by Mr. McAllister in the name of Cochise County are invalid.

10:00 a.m.

Mr. J.P. McAllister and Mr. James Reilly attend the Board meeting and demand to be recognized as members of the Board of Supervisors, after a long discussion with then Chairman W.K. Perkins they took over control of the Board for two months, even appointing a new Clerk of the Board when Mr. Nathaniel E. Hawke refused to recognize them as members of the Board. Although their time spent as Board members was short, they are officially part of the history of Cochise County.

JANUARY 5

Mr. Perkins and Mr. Nichols, return as the official Board members after the District Court ruled in their favor and recognized them as such.

They vote to appoint Mr. C.S. Clark as the replacement for Mr. Frank Hare.

JANUARY 12

JULY 5

SEPTEMBER 9

## Population Data — 2012 estimates

### **BENSON** ♦ Population 5,071

Founded in 1880 when the Southern Pacific Railroad came through southern Arizona, Benson became a thriving travel and business hub. It was also a stopping point on the Butterfield Overland Stage route, a vital conduit for the US Postal Service to bring news from the east coast. Today Benson, the Home of Kartchner Caverns State Park, offers visitors and residents a bounty of diversions to explore in the southeastern Arizona desert.

### **BISBEE** ♦ Population 5,466

Once known as “the Queen of the Copper Camps”, this Old West mining camp proved to be one of the richest mineral sites in the world, producing nearly three million ounces of gold and more than eight billion pounds of copper, not to mention the silver, lead and zinc that came from these rich Mule Mountains. By the early 1900s, the Bisbee community was the largest city between St. Louis and San Francisco. Today, to stop in Bisbee is to stop in time. Nestled in the mile-high Mule Mountains of southern Arizona, Bisbee has maintained an Old World charm seldom found anywhere in the United States.

### **DOUGLAS** ♦ Population 16,673

Founded in 1901, and later incorporated in 1905, Douglas was first established as a smelter site for the prosperous copper mines in Bisbee, Arizona. The town is named after mining pioneer James Douglas. Two copper smelters operated at the site. The area also has a history of cattle ranching and agriculture dating back to the 1800s that survives to this day. Douglas is a crossroads of culture and industry where Hispanic, Anglo and Native American cultures have mixed for hundreds of years.

### **HUACHUCA CITY** ♦ Population 1,816

Like Benson and Willcox, Huachuca City started out as a rail stop on the Southern Pacific Railroad. With the opening of Fort Huachuca in 1954, the area began to grow and it finally settled on the name Huachuca City and incorporated in 1958. Today, Huachuca City is a small town located at the north exit of Fort Huachuca. The Fort is the major employer for the town, however with retirees moving in and tourism starting to become a major business, because of the close proximity to Tombstone and Kartchner Caverns State Park, Huachuca City is a growing area.

### **SIERRA VISTA** ♦ Population 45,794

Sierra Vista was incorporated in 1956. The city is the economic and commercial center of Cochise County, and northern Sonora, Mexico. Sierra Vista annexed Fort Huachuca, a U.S. military base, one of the largest employers in Arizona, and the adjacent community, in 1971. Fourteen species of hummingbirds migrate through the Sierra Vista area from spring to autumn, which is why Sierra Vista is known as the “Hummingbird Capital of the U.S.”

### **TOMBSTONE** ♦ Population 1,350

Tombstone, “The Town Too Tough to Die,” was founded by Ed Schieffelin in 1897. It was one of the last wide-open frontier boomtowns in the American Old West. From about 1877 to 1890, the town's mines produced USD \$40 to \$85 million in silver bullion, the largest productive silver district in Arizona. Its population grew from 100 to around 14,000 in less than seven years. In 1881, it became the county seat of the new Cochise County. Today, Tombstone is a Registered National Historic District and visitors are invited to walk in the steps of the Earp brothers, Doc Holliday and the Clantons.

### **WILLCOX** ♦ Population 3,674

Willcox, originally named Maley, was founded in 1880 as a whistle stop on the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1889, the city was renamed in honor of General Orlando B. Willcox who arrived on the first train in 1880. Agriculture has long been important to the local economy and today Willcox is home to Arizona's upcoming wine country. Willcox is also known as the birthplace of Rex Allen, “The Arizona Cowboy”, who wrote and recorded many songs, and starred in several westerns during the early 1950s.

## Cochise County Historical Population

| CENSUS    | POP.    | %±     |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| 1890      | 6,938   | —      |
| 1900      | 9,251   | 33.3%  |
| 1910      | 34,591  | 273.9% |
| 1920      | 46,465  | 34.3%  |
| 1930      | 40,998  | -11.8% |
| 1940      | 34,627  | -15.5% |
| 1950      | 31,488  | -9.1%  |
| 1960      | 55,039  | 74.8%  |
| 1970      | 61,910  | 12.5%  |
| 1980      | 85,686  | 38.4%  |
| 1990      | 97,624  | 13.9%  |
| 2000      | 117,755 | 20.6%  |
| 2010      | 131,346 | 11.5%  |
| Est. 2013 | 129,473 | -1.4%  |

# *F*ast Facts and a Few Legends about Cochise County

**District 1 Supervisor, Sam Balich (1969-1974)** was instrumental in adding air conditioning to the Cochise County Courthouse. Sweltering employees applauded his efforts.

**Supervisors** were elected to two year terms from 1882 until 1964. In 1964, the law was revised and Supervisors were elected for four year terms.

Cochise County encompasses **6,218.77 square miles**. This is about the size of the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

**Double Adobe** was the site of the first electric power cooperative located in Cochise County.

**Fort Huachuca** is Cochise County's largest employer.

**Raul Castro** was the first Mexican American Governor of Arizona. He grew up in Pirtleville, near Douglas.

There are no known photographs of the legendary **Chiricahua Apache leader, Cochise**, for whom the County is named.

After World War II, the **Willcox Playa** was used as a practice bombing range. But vibration from explosions cracked the walls of buildings in Willcox. Complaints ended the bombing, but the military kept using the playa as a gunnery range, however, that practice was ended when ricocheting bullets killed cows three miles away.

**Patrick Murphy** accidentally bombed the town of Naco, AZ in 1929, trying to help Mexican rebels by bombing Naco, Sonora.

**Pancho Villa** is said to have ridden his horse up the marble staircase inside the Gadsden Hotel in Douglas.

**Warren Earp**, youngest of the Earp brothers, is buried in Willcox.

**Tiffany's** is known as the creator of the famous windows in the Douglas Service Center and the Gadsden Hotel. The stained glass desert mural in the lobby of the Gadsden is also said to be created by Tiffany's.

The television program, **The Sheriff of Cochise County (1956 to 1958)** was a contemporary police drama set in Cochise County, AZ.

There are six **Service Centers** in the County located in Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista (2 locations), and Willcox.

Ownership of land in Cochise County is roughly **40% private land, 35% state land, and 22% federal (USFS & BLM) land.**

## Credits

[www.tombstoneweb.com](http://www.tombstoneweb.com)  
[legendsofamerican.com](http://legendsofamerican.com)  
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**Cochise County Stalwarts,**  
**Volumes I and II**  
**Kevin Pyles and Lydia Flores,**  
**Treasurer's Office, Archives**  
**Christine Rhodes, Recorder**



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