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## Election preview

By **Ann Brown**

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The presidential contest between presumptive nominees Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., is the fall's marquee election, relegating Arizona and Pima County elections into supporting roles.

While the national election is critical, it should not totally overshadow the local primary and general elections, which offer some rich and nuanced races with a noteworthy cast of characters that will shape our county and state.

Early voting for the primary begins Thursday.

The deadline to register to vote in the Sept. 2 primary is Aug. 4.

### What's not on the ballot

The state's top officers — governor, secretary of state, attorney general — are in the middle of their four-year terms. With Democratic Gov. **Janet Napolitano** ineligible to run for another term, expect a boatload of contenders for her office in 2010.

And Napolitano's future? She's coy in her answers and has told us several times that she's focused on being governor of the state of Arizona.

If Obama wins the presidency, there may be a place for her in his administration. If McCain wins, there's an attractive Senate seat available. Napolitano would appoint a Republican to fill the vacancy, perhaps a placeholder who wouldn't run for a full term and leave the space open so she could run for it.

### U.S. Congress

In Arizona's 7th Congressional District, the Republican face-off is between **Gene Chewing**, a clergyman who ran unsuccessfully for state representative in District 27 in 2006, and **Joe Sweeney**, an anti-illegal-immigration advocate and perennial candidate who has run for Congress in every election cycle since 1982 and lost the 2006 primary to former Avondale Mayor **Ron Drake**. The winner will face incumbent Rep. **Raúl Grijalva**, a Democrat.

When **Jim Kolbe**, who represented Arizona's 8th Congressional District for 22 years, retired in 2006, there was a broad cast of candidates and a feisty primary.

### Candidate

#### Pima County

#### Board of Supervisors

##### District 1

Ann Day (R)

Joe Higgins (R)

##### District 2

Robert Robuck (D)

Ramón Valadez (D)

##### District 3

Donna Branch-Gilby (D)

Sharon Bronson (D)

Barney Brenner (R)

##### District 4

Ray Carroll (R)

##### District 5

Richard Elías (D)

There's no primary action this year. Incumbent **Gabrielle Giffords**, a Democrat, will face Republican **Tim Bee**, the state Senate president, in the general election.

### Pima County

It will be a smooth, very smooth, transition for several key Pima County officials who are running unopposed: Assessor **Bill Staples**, Recorder **F. Ann Rodriguez**, School Superintendent **Linda Arzoumanian** and Treasurer **Beth Ford**.

Board of Supervisors Republican **Ray Carroll** from District 4 and Democrat **Richard Elías** from District 5 have no opposition either.

The board seats representing Districts 1 and 2 will be decided in the primary. Incumbent Republican **Ann Day**, District 1, faces **Joe Higgins**; and in District 2, incumbent Democrat **Ramón Valadez** faces **Robert G. Robuck**.

The only board seat that will be up for grabs in the general election is District 3. Democratic incumbent **Sharon Bronson** has a primary contest with **Donna Branch-Gilby**.

The winner faces Republican **Barney Brenner**, who came close to winning the seat in 2000.

Sheriff **Clarence Dupnik**, a Democrat who's held the office since 1980, will face Republican **Harry Shaw**.

County Attorney **Barbara LaWall**, a Democrat, has competition from the Green Party's **Claudia Ellquist** and Republican **Brad Roach**.

### State Legislature

With two-year terms and a limit of four consecutive terms (or eight years) in either house, the state Legislature is a revolving door. A few races to watch:

In the District 26 Senate primary, moderate Republican state Rep. **Pete Hershberger** and outspoken conservative **Al Melvin** face off. After upsetting Republican incumbent **Toni Hellon** in the 2006 primary, Melvin narrowly lost the seat to Democrat **Charlene Pesquiera**, who decided not to seek a second term.

The winner of the primary will meet Democrat **Cheryl Cage** in the general.

Democrat **John Kromko** unexpectedly jumped into the District 27 state House Democratic primary with **Olivia Cajero Bedford** and **Phil Lopes**.

It's lots of fun to call rabble-rouser Kromko a gadfly. While he has off-the-wall — OK, wild — ideas, he is a former legislator who can be formidable. Cajero Bedford and Lopes, House minority leader, are more centrist Democrats.

The top two Democratic vote-getters will face Republican **J.D. "Duke" Schechter** and Green Party candidate **Kent Solberg** in the general.

The District 29 House race is like a mosh pit — so many names it's hard to keep track of them.

Incumbent Democrat **Tom Prezel-ski** has had one seat since 2003, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy.

Prezelski is slam dancing in the primary with **Eric Carbajal Bustamante**, **Ephraim Cruz**, **Gil Guerra**, **Matt**

### County Attorney

Claudia Ellquist (Green)

Barbara LaWall (D)

Brad Roach (R)

### Sheriff

Clarence Dupnik (D)

Harry Shaw (R)

### Recorder

F. Ann Rodriguez (D)

### Treasurer

Elizabeth Ford (R)

### Assessor

Bill Staples (D)

### Superintendent of Schools

Linda Arzoumanian (R)

### Justice of the Peace

#### Precinct 1 (Special Term)

Anne Fisher Segal (D)

Adam Watters (R)

#### Precinct 2

Jesus M. Aranda (Green)

Jose Luis Castillo Jr. (D)

#### Precinct 3 (Special Term)

None listed

#### Precinct 4

**Heinz, Daniel Patterson** and **Patricia Puig**.

**Linda Lopez**, who has the other District 29 House seat, is running unopposed for the Senate seat. On the House Republican side in District 29 are **Juan Ciscomani** and **Pat Kilburn**.

### What a difference a week makes

The primary election will be Sept. 2 — the day after Labor Day and amid the Republican National Convention.

Arizona's biennial primary was moved up a calendar week in 2006 at the request of Secretary of State **Jan Brewer**, who had proposed that it move from September to August.

The Star advocated for a switch in 2006, saying an earlier primary gave some breathing room between the two elections. Brewer wanted more time between elections to give challengers a chance to settle legal disputes before the general election in November.

With an election the day after Labor Day, when the post office is closed, we were concerned that early ballots mailed Friday or Monday wouldn't be received in time to count.

Pima County Recorder Rodriguez said she encourages folks to drop their ballot at the post office by Thursday, Aug. 28.

She added that the post office is exceptional about calling her office and letting her know when ballots arrive and should be picked up.

### Permanent mailing list

About 130,000 Pima County voters — more than a quarter of the registered voters — have requested vote-by-mail ballots for the primary. Most of those voters signed up for the permanent early voting list, Rodriguez said Wednesday.

The permanent-list process — available because of a proposal from Rodriguez that the Legislature approved in 2007 — enables those who prefer a vote-by-mail ballot to sign up once and automatically get a ballot by mail for every election they are eligible for in Pima County jurisdictions.

The Recorder's Office will mail notices of upcoming elections. If a voter does not want to receive a ballot for an election, he or she returns the notice.

Rodriguez also said early-voting- request data will be provided to campaign committees so that voters are not inundated with campaign materials.

Voters who have not yet signed up to be included on the permanent list may still do.

A form is available on the Recorder's Office Web site at **www.recorder.pima.gov** — click on the bright blue box in the center of the page.

### Candidate

#### Pima County

Carmen Dolny (D)

#### Precinct 5 (Special Term)

Keith Bee (R)

Wesley Robert Kent (R)

#### Precinct 6

John Bangert-Samples (R)

Paul Simon (D)

#### Precinct 9

Maria Lilia Felix (D)

#### Precinct 10

Jack Peyton (R)

#### Constables

#### Precinct 1

David Lester (R)

Matt Rockenback (L)

#### Precinct 2 (Special Term)

Frank Fontes (D)

#### Precinct 4

James W. Driscoll Jr. (Unknown)

Ralph Marmion Jr. (D)

#### Precinct 6

Bennett L. Bernal (D)

Robert Cox Sr. (D)

#### Precinct 7

Ray C. Brown (R)

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**District 2**

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**County Attorney**

Claudia Ellquist (Green)

Barbara LaWall (D)

Brad Roach (R)

**Sheriff**

Clarence Dupnik (D)

Harry Shaw (R)

**Recorder**

F. Ann Rodriguez (D)

**Treasurer**

**Precinct 8**

Mary C. Dorgan (D)

**Precinct 9**

Colette Philip (D)

**Precinct 10**

Vince Roberts (R)

**State Senate**

**District 25:**

Manuel Alvarez (D)

Mary Ann Black (R)

**District 26:**

Cheryl Cage (D)

Pete Hershberger (R)

Al Melvin (R)

**District 27:**

Jorge Luis Garcia (D)

Bob Westerman (R)

**District 28:**

Paula Aboud (D)

**District 29:**

Linda Lopez (D)

**District 30:**

Georgette Valle (D)

Jonathan Paton (R)

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Elizabeth Ford (R)

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Richard Boyer (D)

Patricia Fleming (D)

Timothy Davies (R)

David Stevens (R)

**District 26:**

Don Jorgensen (D)

Nancy Young Wright (D)

Trent Humphries (R)

Vic Williams (R)

Marilyn Zerull (R)

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Phil Lopes (D)

John Kromko (D)

J.D. "Duke" Schechter (R)

Kent Solberg (Green)

**District 28:**

David Bradley (D)

Steve Farley (D)

**District 29:**

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Patricia Puig (D)

Gil Guerra (D)

Pat Kilburn (R)

Juan Ciscomani (R)

**District 30:**

Andrea Dalessandro (D)

Frank Antenori (R)

Sharon Collins (R)

Doug Sposito (R)

David Gowan (R)

**Ballot propositions**

During last-minute scurrying in late June, the Legislature decided to forward a constitutional amendment to the voters that would ban gay marriage. It will be among a hefty selection of measures on the Nov. 4 ballot.

While several of these issues still have a "to be determined" ballot status on the secretary of state's Web site, here's what you can expect to see on the ballot.

**100 — Protect Our Homes**

This preemptive strike with a pull-at-the-heartstrings title would amend the Arizona Constitution to prevent the creation of a "real-estate transfer tax" — a fancy-schmancy phrase for a sales tax — on the purchase of a home or other real estate. Arizona

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doesn't have a real-estate transfer tax; however, that idea has been hovering about.

**101 — Medical Choice for Arizona**

This initiative, dubbed the "Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act," would prohibit the state from requiring residents to buy health insurance.

**102 — Marriage**

The highly contentious amendment to the Constitution that would define marriage.

**104 — Conserving Arizona's Water and Land**

This measure would conserve and protect approximately 580,000 acres of Arizona's State Trust Land.

**104 — Arizona Civil Rights Initiative**

The proposed constitutional amendment would eliminate preferential treatment or discrimination by state government entities based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

**105 — Majority Rules**

Pause here for a moment and read carefully. This proposed constitutional amendment would require an absolute majority of all registered voters to approve voter-initiated measures that raise taxes — not merely a majority of

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**200 — Payday Loan Reform Act**

This initiative would add some consumer-oriented niceties and restrictions to Arizona's payday-lending laws. If this one fails, payday loans go away in 2010.

**201 — Homeowners' Bill of Rights**

This measure would require a 10-year warranty on new homes and the right to demand corrections of construction defects or compensation.

**202 — Stop Illegal Hiring**

This initiative is a crackdown on unethical businesses who hire illegal immigrants and pay under the table in cash.

**203 — Transportation and Infrastructure Moving Arizona's Economy ("TIME") Act**

The initiative would create a 1-cent sales tax to pay for transportation projects. It's projected to raise \$42 billion over 30 years and would be divided among state highway, rail and transit projects, and local projects.

**300 — State Legislator Salaries**

This recommendation from the Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers would increase legislator salaries to \$30,000 from



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#### **Missing the cut**

What you won't see on this ballot: An initiative that would have outlawed payday lending in Arizona, which is unfortunate.

For more information on propositions, go to the secretary of state's Web site, [www.azsos.gov/](http://www.azsos.gov/)

#### **Dates to remember**

Primary Election

Early voting starts Thursday

Voter registration deadline Aug. 4

Last day to request vote-by-mail ballot Aug. 22

Last day to vote at an early voting satellite Aug. 29

Election Day Sept. 2

General Election

First day to request an early ballot Aug. 4

Early voting begins Oct. 2

Voter registration deadline Oct. 6

Last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot Oct. 24

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Open primary

Arizona's open primary law, passed by voters in 1998, enables voters with no party designated, independents or those affiliated with a party that is not having a primary election to select a ballot for a major political party in the primary election in state and local races. These voters can pick the ballot at the polls or indicate it when requesting an early ballot. Selecting a major political party ballot for a primary election does not change the voter's registration or permanently affiliate the voter with a party.

**Did you know**

Arizona is among a handful of states with initiative and referendum processes that put propositions on the ballot.

Citizens — and most often lobbyists and special interest groups — draft changes to state statutes or the Constitution and circulate petitions which are submitted to the secretary of state. If an adequate number of signatures are verified, the measure is placed on the ballot.

Signature collecting is an enterprise: Many of the folks circulating petitions are being paid

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The Legislature refers amendments to the Constitution to the voters and our state has the right of statutory reform by citizen petition. Most Legislature- enacted laws go into effect 90 days after the legislative session adjourns. During that waiting period, citizens can launch a statutory reform and with enough signatures the law remains on hold until the next election.

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