

# JOHN GILES

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Good Causes, LLC

Community and Government Relations, 2024–Present

- Assist good causes in overcoming local, regional, state and national challenges

### City of Mesa

Mayor, 2014-2024

- Elected three times as mayor of the 35th largest city in the US with a population of over 520,000
- Led the city during record economic and population growth and the COVID-19 pandemic
- Launched successful initiatives including Mesa K- Ready, Mesa College Promise, ASU @ Mesa City Center, Merry Main Street, Mesa Cares, Together Mesa, adoption of the city's first nondiscrimination ordinance, Homeless Action Plan, Mesa Climate Action Plan and the Trees Are Cool challenge to plant one million trees

### Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Adjunct Professor, 2019–Present

- Teach "State and Local Government Law" to law school and Barrett Honors College students

### Giles & Dickson, P.C.

Attorney, 1994-2014

- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating

## EDUCATION

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### Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Juris Doctorate, 1987

- Pedrick Scholar

### Brigham Young University

B.A., International Relations, 1984

- Student Body Vice President
- Varsity Track Team



## PROFILE

An experienced, effective leader known for his thoughtful, nonpartisan approach. Skilled in working in diverse environments to solve problems and effect positive change.

## CONTACT

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## AWARDS

United Nations, "Sustainable Development Goals Innovation Award," 2024

Latino Leaders Network, "Champion Award," 2024; "Chairman's Award," 2019

Arizona Forward, "Mayors Environmental Excellence Award," 2024

Arizona Housing Coalition, "Housing Champion," 2024

Mesa-East Valley MLK Committee, "MLK Humanitarian Award," 2024

Friends of Transit, "Friends of Transit Award," 2024

One Community, "Common Good Award," 2024; "Unity Agent Award," 2021

Maricopa Community Colleges District, "Heroes of Education Award," 2023

International Economic Development Council, "Leadership Award for Public Service," 2023

Phoenix Magazine, "The Great 48," 2022

Arizona Capitol Times, "Leader of the Year," Government 2020, Transportation 2019

East Valley Partnership, "Dwight Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award," 2018

Benedictine University, "Redhawk Community Award," 2017

Mesa Community College, "Alumni Achievement Award," 2016

Mesa Citizen of the Year Association, "Mesa Man of the Year," 2013

J. Ruben Clark Law Society, "Jesse A. Udall, Distinguished Service Award," 2009

City of Mesa, "Historic Preservation Award," 2006

Mesa United Way, "Volunteer of the Year," 2005

Arizona Dental Association, "Public Health Award," 1999

## MEDIA

Multiple op-eds in *The Arizona Republic*, *Arizona Capitol Times*, and *East Valley Tribune*

Multiple guest appearances and interviews for CNN, FOX, MSNBC, PBS, NPR, New York Times, Washington Post, Deseret News and more

The Show, KJZZ, ["For outgoing Mesa Mayor John Giles, 10 years flew by. Here are some of his favorite accomplishments."](#) 2025

## ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

### Electric Vehicle Working Group

Member, 2023-Present

- Appointed by the US Secretaries of Transportation and Energy to a two-year term on a 25-member board to make recommendations on opportunities for and barriers to national adoption of electric vehicles

### Maricopa Association of Governments

Regional Council Chair, 2021-2022

Regional Council Board Member, 2014-Present

Transportation Policy Committee Chair, 2016-2017

- Chaired the regional planning agency for 27 cities and towns, 3 Native American communities, Maricopa County, and parts of Pinal County
- Led a diverse regional system to unanimous adoption of a regional transportation plan and successfully lobbied the Arizona Legislature to submit the plan to voters
- Led the council to unanimous adoption of the region's first Strategic Homeless Action Plan

### US Conference of Mayors

Trustee, 2017-Present

Advisory Board, 2016-2017

Veteran's Homelessness Task Force, Co-Chair, 2015-2018

Immigration Reform Task Force, Chair, 2018-Present

- Elected to the 15-member bipartisan Board of Trustees that leads the national organization of mayors

### Arizona League of Cities and Towns

Executive Committee, 2014-Present

- Help lead and set policy for the official organization advocating for 91 cities, towns, and tribes in Arizona
- Successfully sponsored bylaw changes to increase inclusivity in leadership

### Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable

Chair, 2020-2023

Board Member, 2014-Present

- Lead a statewide organization of diverse, bipartisan mayors advocating at a state, regional, and local level for education system changes

### Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority

Chair, 2016-2017, 2021-2022

Board Member, 2014-Present

- Successfully led a diverse regional council during the pandemic and record airport growth
- Successfully lobbied Congress and Federal Agencies for new legislation that resulted in the funding and construction of a new control tower and airport terminal

### Mayors and CEOs for Housing Investment

Co-Chair, 2020-Present

- Lead a diverse, bipartisan national organization advocating for systemic changes to address homelessness

### Mayor's Alliance to End Childhood Hunger

Chair, 2021-2023

- Helped create and lead a national organization of bipartisan mayors focused on improving food security

## PROFILES

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The Arizona Republic, [“Marathon man: John Giles leaves Mesa mayor’s job with a long legacy after decade in office.”](#) M. Dominguez, 2025

The Mesa Tribune, [“John Giles reflects on decade as Mesa’s mayor.”](#) C. Chan, 2024

ASU News, [“Arizona’s newest ‘college town’ says farewell to Mayor John Giles.”](#) A. DeGraw 2024

The Arizona Republic, [“Who is John Giles?”](#) M. Dominguez, 2024

Deseret News, [“The Wrestle in the West.”](#) S. Benson, 2024

The Christian Science Monitor, [“A Republican mayor talks about the border – and why he supports Harris.”](#) F. Keifer, 2024

The Boston Globe, [“Republican Mayor of an Arizona City wants to stop Trump; thinks rescuing the GOP may be a lost cause.”](#) S. Brodey, 2024

Politico, [“This Mayor Could Help Harris Win Arizona. And It Might Cost Him.”](#) B. Crane, 2024

The Chicago Tribune, [“John T. Shaw: During a dark presidential campaign, glimmers of statesmanship shined through.”](#) J. Shaw, 2024

## SELECTED SPEECHES

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AZ League of Cities and Towns, 2024, *“Disagreeing without Being Disagreeable”* launching [Disagree Better Arizona](#)

Texas Tribune Fest, 2024, *“Taking the Politics Out of Climate”*

[Democratic National Convention, 2024, Primetime Speaker](#)

[Harris-Walz Arizona Rally, 2024, Guest Speaker](#)

Aspen Institute, 2024, *“Creating a World with People on the Spectrum;”* 2019, *“Housing as a Social Determinant of Public Health”*

South by Southwest, 2024, *“City Government’s Role in Divisive Politics;”* 2018, *“Local Regulation of Electric Vehicles”*

Yale CEO Summit, 2024, 2022, 2019, *Panelist and Participant*

Bloomberg City Lab, 2023, *“Surge and the City: Facing the Challenge and Opportunity of Migration Locally”*

US Conference of Mayors *Panelist, Presenter, Facilitator*, 2014-Present

Harvard Bloomberg Mayors Institute, 2019, 2017, *Panelist and Participant*

### East Valley Partnership

Board of Directors, 2014-Present

- Collaborate with a diverse regional advocacy group comprised of leading business and civic organizations

### Mesa United Way

Board of Directors, 1996-2004, 2007-2016

Campaign Chair, 2007-2009, 2016

Board Chair, 2000-2002

- Lead city-wide fundraising
- Advocated for and protected the interests of Mesa in a regional dispute resulting in a peaceful resolution

### Arizona Brainfood

Board of Directors, 2018-Present

- Engage in advocacy and fundraising for underserved children

### Arizona Interfaith Movement

Executive Committee, 2006-2015

Golden Rule Banquet Committee, 2012-Present

- Help lead a diverse regional group advocating for religious diversity, equity, and inclusion

### Mesa Public Schools Employee Benefit Trust

Board of Trustees, 2004-2014

- Set policies and oversaw fiscal management of health insurance and benefit plan

### Banner Desert Medical Center, Community Advisory Board

Chair, 2001-2007

- Raised general funds and engaged community support for the new children’s hospital

### Mesa City Council

Vice Mayor and Councilmember, 1996-2000

- Successfully advocated for the Mesa Arts Center, adoption of a non-smoking ordinance, and fluoridation

### East Valley Bar Association

President, 1992-1993

- Organized legal education and community law fairs

## PERSONAL

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Creator and Host, *“It’s Always Cool in Mesa”* Podcast, *“Lunch with the Mayor”* YouTube

Completed 2 full Ironman Competitions, 20 marathons and 4 Boston Marathons

Speak Korean

Native of Mesa, Arizona