

To celebrate Women's History Month we asked some of the female leaders at the County to tell us why they wanted to work for local government, what they enjoy most about their jobs, and to describe their biggest challenges.



Patricia Munoz
Chief Probation Officer

1. Once I started working for the adult probation department 25 years ago, it did not take long for me to realize I wanted to help others make positive changes in their lives.
2. I enjoy working with clients and employees. In the past two and a half years, I have really enjoyed working with our youth. Seeing clients succeed is very rewarding, and I am fortunate to serve the community that has given so much to me. I have a great team of employees who make a difference in the lives of so many.
3. My biggest challenges are not having enough resources - funding for adequate services for adult and juvenile clients in our rural county, and enough hours in the day!



Amy Hunley
Indigent Defense Administrator

1. For many years I worked in the private sector and my first experience working in public service was with the Superior Court Clerk's office, and after that I worked for the Attorney General's office. I found that working in public service made me feel like I was making a difference in a system that strives to help people in need.
2. I enjoy the people I work with! We have a great working relationship with the courts, attorneys and their staff, as well as other County departments.
3. My biggest work challenge is managing a department with limited resources. However, like most County Departments, we're always looking for better, more efficient methods to accomplish our work.



Anita Baca

Housing Authority Executive Director

1. I grew up in Cochise County and although I lived in several different cities as a young adult, this was always home. Eventually I wanted to return to my roots and give back to a community that has given so much to me. It's an honor and privilege to be an employee of an organization with a culture that sincerely cares about the needs of our population and employees.
2. Servitude is what I enjoy most about my job. My department offers rental assistance programs to low-income families. Being in the position of helping others is profoundly rewarding. I have worked with the homeless for some years now and have seen the full circle of people I met while homeless become more self-sufficient and obtain permanent housing through the collaborative effort of our community and organizations. It's humbling to have the opportunity of being a small part of that journey.
3. My biggest work challenges include looking at the bigger picture and planning for obstacles such as declining revenue that may affect optimal service. On the opposite end of the spectrum of what I enjoy most about my job is the thought of having to turn people away due to lack of resources. Being innovative when employing improved services and new funding sources is a must.



Ann English

Board of Supervisors Chair

1. Women need to be involved in all levels of government in decision making positions. I felt I had the maturity, the experience and the ability to help make decisions to benefit Cochise County residents.
2. I enjoy people and I enjoy helping people find solutions to problems.
3. Finding the money and personnel to accomplish our mandated services, limiting our financial liability, and creating a superior work force.



Lisa Marra
Elections Department Director

1. I want to make a positive impact in the place I call home – where I live and vote.
2. Being a resource to the public, learning new things every day, and being able to assist the public because government often times is complicated.
3. Always changing demographics and keeping abreast of statutory changes in state and federal election law.



Julie Morales
Human Resources Director

1. I didn't intentionally choose a career in County Government initially. I have an educational background in Psychology and wasn't considering a career in public service. I actually started working in the "Personnel Department" while on holiday break in what I thought would be a short-term, temporary capacity. It evolved into a rewarding career in public service that I will forever be grateful for. Ultimately, for me, it's about service. Service to the citizens of the County, service to all of the clients of Human Resources, service to County employees and their families.
2. I most enjoy being an integral part of making Cochise County Government a safe, fair, rewarding and fulfilling place to work for all employees.
3. It is becoming more and more challenging to find adequate time to devote to all of the important priorities in the workplace. The quest to be an "employer of choice" places constant demands on us to look for ways to improve and positively evolve. Despite the challenge, that evolution is necessary and exciting to be a part of.



Amadee Ricketts
Library Director

1. I love small and rural libraries, and think they are a critical resource. Working for Cochise County has given me the opportunity to work with small libraries in a wide range of communities, so it is pretty much my dream job.
2. I enjoy visiting libraries all over the county, getting to know the staff, volunteers, and patrons. I learn something new every day, and it is never boring!
3. Having our libraries so far apart poses some challenges, and it would be great to have more of everything – more staff, more money, and more time. But we have excellent community support, and I am really proud of the range of library service available to county residents.



Peggy Judd
Supervisor

1. For decades my family has been active in politics and government service on a grassroots level. My grandpa, Johnny Hidalgo led a movement, while I was a teenager, to create a new County from Northern Cochise County so we could have closer services. I was very excited about that. I volunteered and directed many local programs as my children grew up and served as Parks and Rec Commissioner for 10 years. I began my active political career by gathering people to learn about government and candidates and found I was good at it. I was asked to run for the state legislature in 2010 and won the race for State Representative. I am just one of the people in your neighborhood. I think like you and therefore represent you pretty well.
2. Making new friends. Serving people who really need help and helping them to get what they need. A big thank you must go to many people in the county who have helped make things happen and paid attention to those who needed it.
3. I take requests for assistance and answers from constituents regarding a very wide variety of services, some of which the county doesn't even handle. I am a servant leader and take every request seriously. I will never stop helping everyone and sometimes the sheer number of requests are mind-boggling. My biggest challenge is when referrals are not handled and when solutions or services are not provided in a timely manner. I still am waiting for many things and will continue to wait patiently with and plead for the people I serve.



Carrie Langley
Health & Social Services Director

1. After serving in the United States Army, I knew I wanted to continue a career of public service. With my background in public health, seeking an opportunity in my community was a best fit.
2. Everything! Really, being able to meet community members, seeing their passion for improving health in our community, it's an inspiration.
3. Time- there are so many really great things occurring in our diverse community, and I want to be part of all of them, but, I've got to prioritize my time in order to meet our core responsibilities. Sometimes this means I don't attend something I would really love to be part of.



Arlethe Rios
Clerk of the Board

1. After serving in the Army, I wanted to continue in public service and thought the County would be a great place to continue to serve and play a part in my community.
2. I love the records management aspect of my job and enjoy being able to see the different processes of county government.
3. Keeping up with technological advances while still being in tune with citizen needs is always a challenge. We want to provide information and be transparent, but want to insure our citizens can use our tools and feel like they are informed.