



# COMMISSION NEWS

## Arizona Corporation Commission

### Public Information Office

Heather Murphy, Public Information Officer  
Phone (602) 542-0844 FAX (602) 364-0925  
e-mail [hmurphy@azcc.gov](mailto:hmurphy@azcc.gov)

For Immediate Release  
December 27, 2006

## **COMMISSIONERS TO TAKE OATHS ON JANUARY 2**

PHOENIX – At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, Commissioners Kris Mayes and Gary Pierce will take their oaths of office to serve on the Arizona Corporation Commission. The Honorable James B. Sult of the Arizona Court of Appeals will administer the oath of office for Commissioner Mayes. Commissioner Pierce will be sworn in by the Honorable Philip Hall, also of the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Commissioners Mayes and Pierce were elected to new four-year terms in the November general election. Biographies of Mayes and Pierce are featured below. Chairman Jeff Hatch-Miller along with Commissioners Bill Mundell and Mike Gleason round out the five-member panel. Hatch-Miller, Mundell and Gleason are serving four-year terms that end in January 2009. Biographies of the Commissioners and information about issues of interest to each official are posted on the Commission website at: [www.azcc.gov](http://www.azcc.gov).

Gary Pierce was chosen by the Arizona Republican Party to run on the statewide ballot in place of Marc Spitzer. Spitzer was named to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in July 2006. Governor Janet Napolitano appointed former legislator and attorney Barry Wong to fill the vacancy on the Arizona Corporation Commission. Wong is serving out the remainder of Spitzer's term which expires in January 2007.

“Commissioner Wong served the state well since his appointment in July. He has been a steady and active participant on all the cases before the Commission. I am grateful for yet another example of Barry's willingness to serve the people of Arizona. On behalf of the entire Commission, I am grateful for his work here.”

Chairman Hatch-Miller went on to say, “I look forward to the installation of Gary Pierce as Arizona's newest Corporation Commissioner and look forward to serving with him and my returning colleagues Commissioners Mundell and Gleason and the recently re-elected Commissioner Mayes. I expect that the state will continue to enjoy the results of a stable and hard-working Corporation Commission.”

Few state offices affect the daily lives of Arizonans as much as the Arizona Corporation Commission. Most states have a Public Service Commission or a Public Utility Commission to regulate and set the rates for public gas, electric, water, sewer and telecommunication utilities. The Arizona Corporation Commission fulfills these duties but has additional responsibilities granted by the Arizona Constitution. The Commission also registers corporations and limited liability companies (LLCs) doing business in Arizona, regulates the sale of securities or investments, registers investment advisers and sales representatives and enforces railroad and pipeline safety statutes.

The Commission oversees railroad safety by enforcing federal and state safety statutes, conducting inspections and investigating crashes and derailments. Similarly, the Commission’s Pipeline Safety staff enforces state and federal statutes governing natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines and investigates violations of the Arizona Underground Facilities laws.

By virtue of the Arizona Constitution, the Commissioners function in an executive capacity; they also adopt rules and regulations, thereby functioning in a legislative capacity; and they act in a judicial capacity by making decisions in contested matters.

The Commission is required by the Arizona Constitution to maintain its chief office in Phoenix and it is required by law to conduct monthly meetings. For the convenience of the public, Open Meeting agendas and Hearing Calendars are posted on the Commission website. For a schedule of Open Meetings, see <http://www.azcc.gov/meetings/index.htm>. For the calendar of upcoming or recent evidentiary hearings, click on <http://www.azcc.gov/hearings/index.htm>.

For more information about the Arizona Corporation Commission, please visit the agency's main website at [www.azcc.gov](http://www.azcc.gov). For specific information about the Utilities Division or for help resolving a utility matter, the following shortcut will take you to Utilities website:

<http://www.azcc.gov/utility/index.htm>.

**Arizona Corporation Commission (Main Office)**

1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Southern Arizona Office (Staffed to assist with corporate filings, hearings and utility issues)**

400 West Congress Street  
Tucson, AZ 85701

**Important phone numbers:**

Commissioners' Offices: 602-542-2237.

Listen Line (Live Audio Feed of Commission Open Meetings or Hearings): 602-542-0222.

Toll-Free Listen Line (for callers in the 520 and 928 area codes): 800-250-4525.

Utilities Division Consumer Services: 602-542-4251 or 800-222-7000.\*

Corporations Division Consumer Services: 602-542-3026 or 800-345-5819.\*

Securities Division Consumer Services: 602-542-4242 or 1-866-VERIFY-9.\*

Southern Arizona Office 520-628-6554 or 800-535-0148.\*

\*Toll free numbers work outside the Phoenix metro area or Tucson area respectively.

**Biography of Kristin Mayes**

Commissioner Kris Mayes was born and raised in Prescott, Arizona. After graduating from Prescott High School and winning the prestigious Flinn scholarship, Mayes attended Arizona State University. While attending ASU, she served as editor in chief of the State Press, one of the nation's largest college newspapers and completed an internship with the Johannesburg Star in Johannesburg, South Africa. In addition, Mayes won the Truman Scholarship, the nation's top scholarship for public service, was a national finalist for the Rhodes scholarship and graduated valedictorian from ASU with a degree in political science. Also in college, Commissioner Mayes' love for politics was fostered when she interned in Washington D.C. for Congressman Bob Stump.

Mayes immediately went to work as a general assignment reporter for the Phoenix Gazette, and later as a political reporter for the Arizona Republic, covering the Arizona State Legislature. Mayes left her post at the Republic to attend graduate school at Columbia University in New York, where she earned a Master of Public Administration. While at Columbia, Mayes wrote her thesis on electric deregulation.

Following graduate school, Mayes returned to the Arizona Republic, where she was assigned to cover the 2000 presidential campaigns of Sen. John McCain, former Vice President Dan Quayle, publisher Steve Forbes and then-Governor George W. Bush. During this time Mayes co-authored

a book entitled *Spin Priests: Campaign Advisors and the 2000 Race for the White House*. After the presidential campaign, Mayes attended ASU College of Law and graduated magna cum laude.

Commissioner Mayes was appointed to the Corporation Commission in October 2003. She has devoted much of her time since the appointment to pipeline safety, renewable energy and natural gas issues.

Mayes considers reading about politics and jogging her chief hobbies, and spends a considerable amount of time in Prescott, visiting her mother Karen Mayes, who still resides in the Mile High city. Mayes has a sister, Kimberly, who is a child life specialist in California, and a brother, Kirk, who is an accountant in Boston.

### **Biography of Gary Pierce**

Commissioner-elect Gary Pierce was born in Illinois and raised in Mesa, Arizona. He graduated from Mesa High School. A track scholarship took him to Mesa Community College then transferring to Arizona State University, he graduated in 1974 with a Bachelors Degree in Education.

Pierce taught at Mesa's Taft Elementary School with a career in the automobile business following his teaching experience. After managing dealerships for four years in Sierra Vista, he moved to Yuma and became a Honda and Nissan dealer. Pierce also owned a Shell Gas Station and Budget Rent-A-Car franchise. Upon selling his businesses, he was twice elected to the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. The Pierce family moved back to Mesa 1998.

Pierce served in the Arizona House of Representatives for District 19 (North/East Mesa) from 2001 thru 2006. In 2005 and 2006 he served as Majority Whip. He served on a number of legislative committees including Environment; Natural Resources and Agriculture; and as Chairman of Transportation. He previously served on the Arizona Housing Commission, the Maricopa County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation Advisory Board.

In January of 2004, Representative Pierce sponsored HB2456, which authorized Maricopa County to call an election for a twenty year extension of the half-cent sales tax to fund transportation. The Regional Transportation Plan was placed on the November ballot, as Proposition 400. That measure passed, ensuring the resources to continue construction of our freeways with the goal to build a complete transportation system in Maricopa County.

Pierce has been married to Sherry, a Mesa native, for 33 years and they have four sons, three daughters-in-law, three grandchildren with a fourth due in February.

Pierce served as an Assistant Scoutmaster with his son's Boy Scouts of America troop and all four of his sons are Eagle Scouts.