Town of Oro Valley

Community Academy - What is a Town & Oro Valley's Form of Government?

Chris Cornelison, Acting Town Manager

Town of Oro Valley

Framework of Local Government

- **"Town" vs. "City"** - Threshold 3,000 population; vote of people can change an incorporated "town" to a "city" designation
- **Non-partisan**

  (no official alignment with a political party)
- **Arizona General Purpose Governments**
  - No elementary or secondary education or public health services
  - Political subdivision of the state; semi-independent

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Framework of Local Government

Town of Oro Valley

Special Purpose Governments: Districts

- **Political subdivision of the state; semi-independent**
- Districts most common form of local government in state:
  - School districts - Provides general service across the state (elementary & secondary education)
  - Fire districts – Provides particular paid service for specified population
  - Irrigation districts - Provides specific paid service for limited population

Framework of Local Government

- **General Law Town**
  - Follows adopted Town or Zoning codes or general laws found within state statutes
  - Town Council must look to state for authority to pass local laws (ordinances) & govern locally

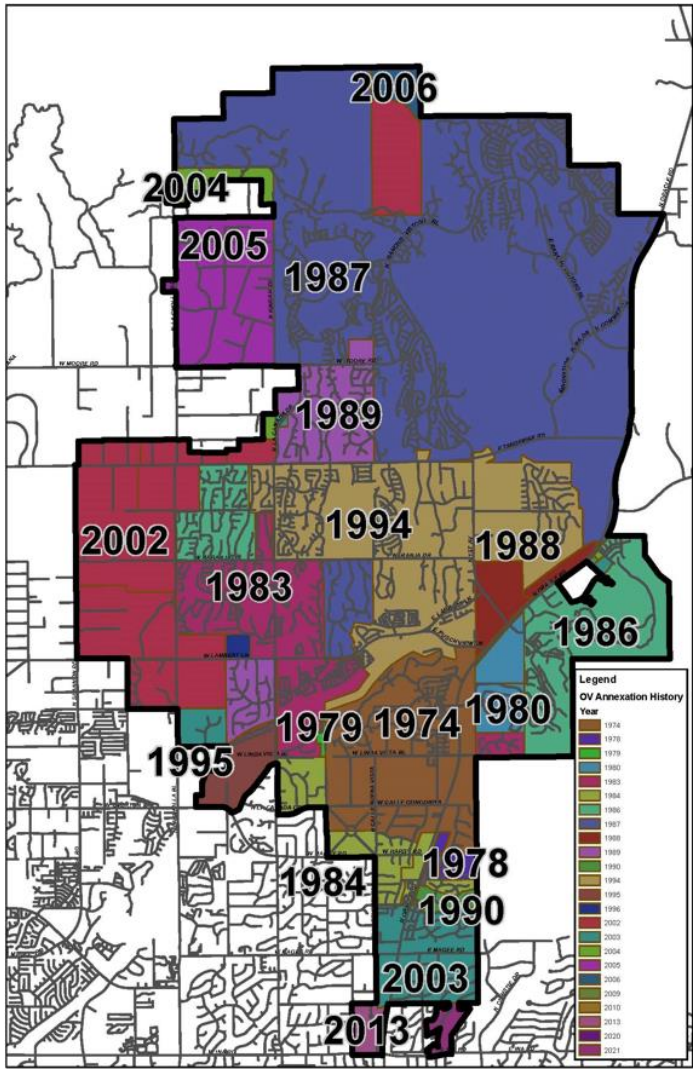
OR

- **Charter (Home Rule)**
  - Frames, adopts & amends own local affairs
  - Provides enabling authority for self rule & allows:
    - Determination of governmental structure
    - Number of Councilmembers terms (term limits)
    - Whether voter approval needed for levy of certain taxes
    - Structure of city or town administrative departments

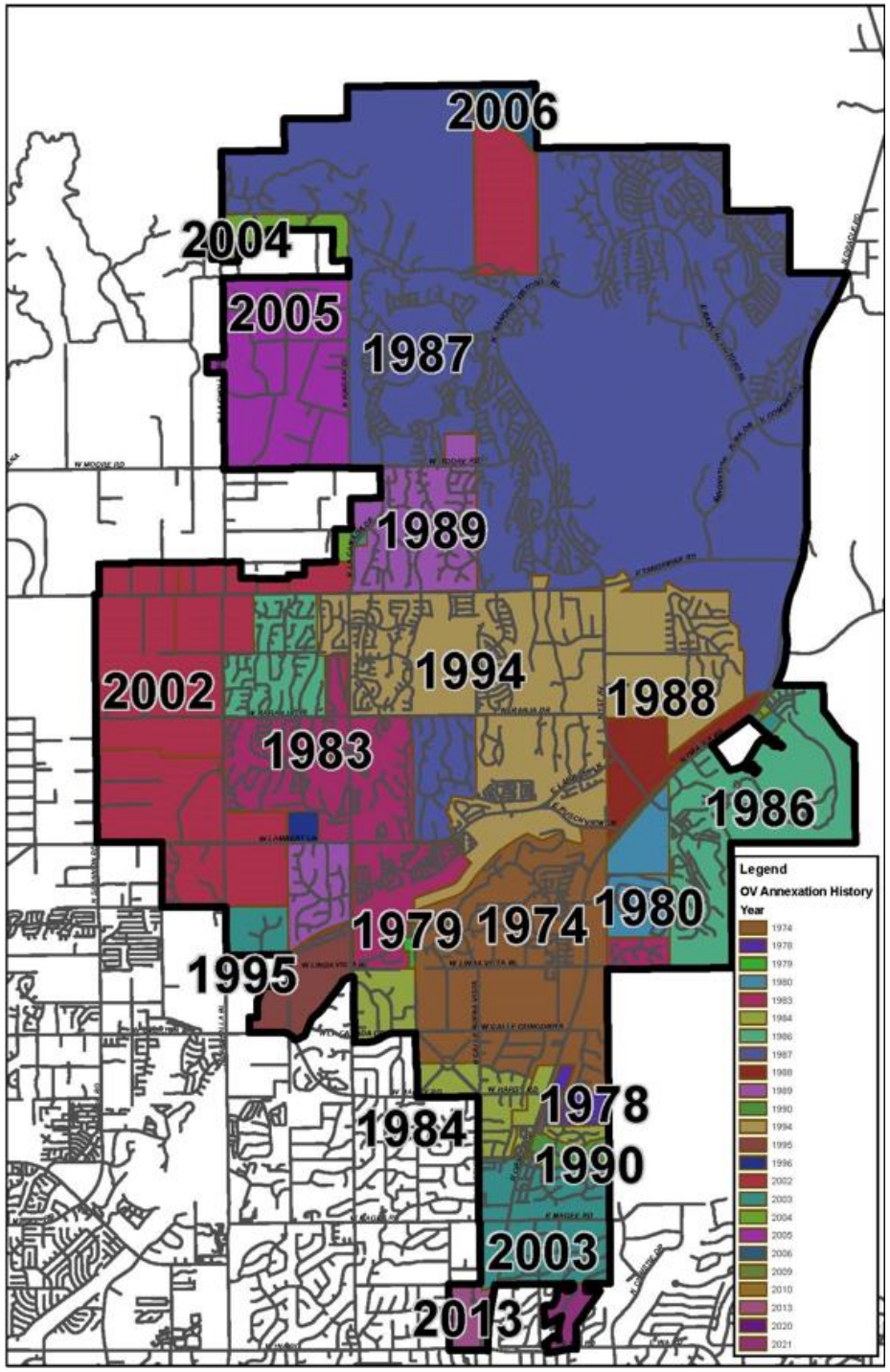
Oro Valley Town History

Town of Oro Valley

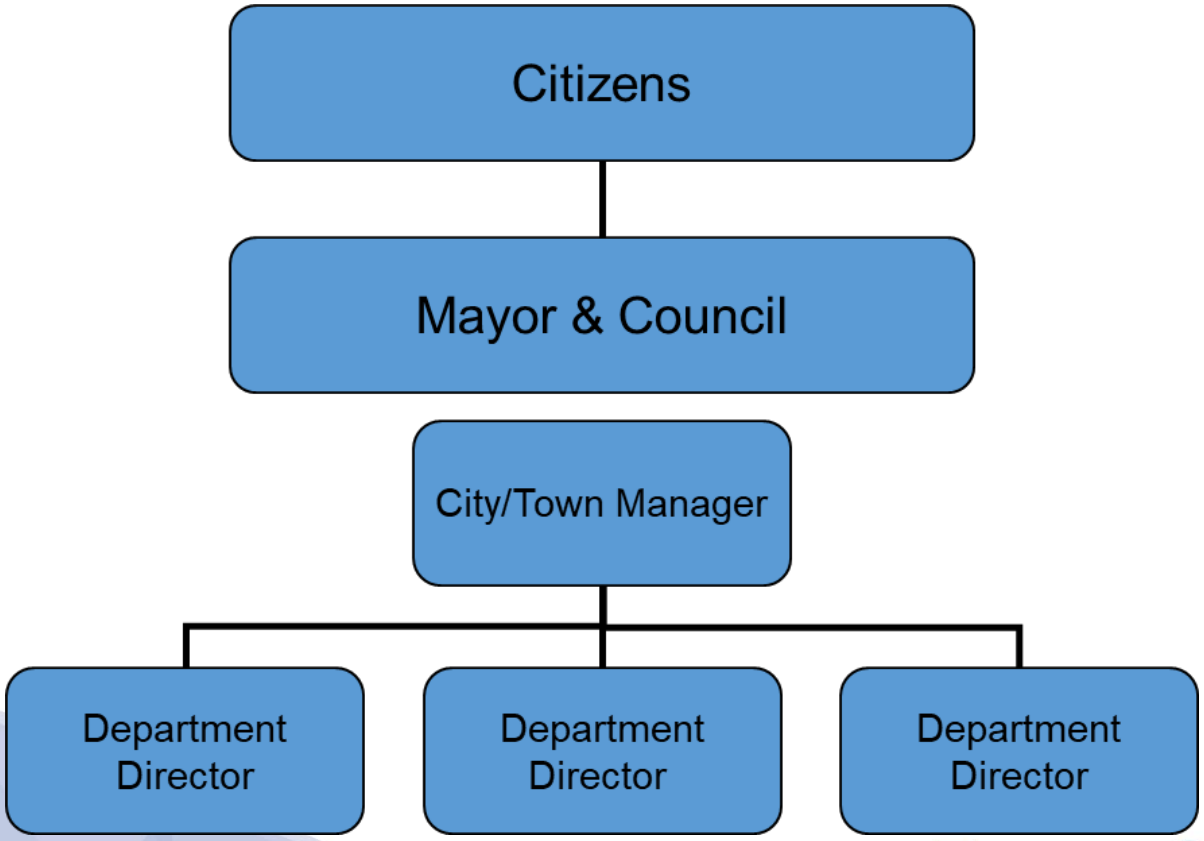
- **Incorporated: 1974** – Municipal Corporation
  - 2.5 sq. miles
  - Population 1,000
- **Town growth: 2021**
  - 36 sq. miles (through annexation)
  - Population 47,070



Annexation History
1974 - Present



Council-Manager Form of Government



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Council-Manager Form of Government

- Political Leadership of Legislative body (Council)
  - Establish policy
  - Pass ordinances
  - Approve appropriations
  - Set vision for and represent community
  - Appoint qualified manager to operate/implement

Mayor

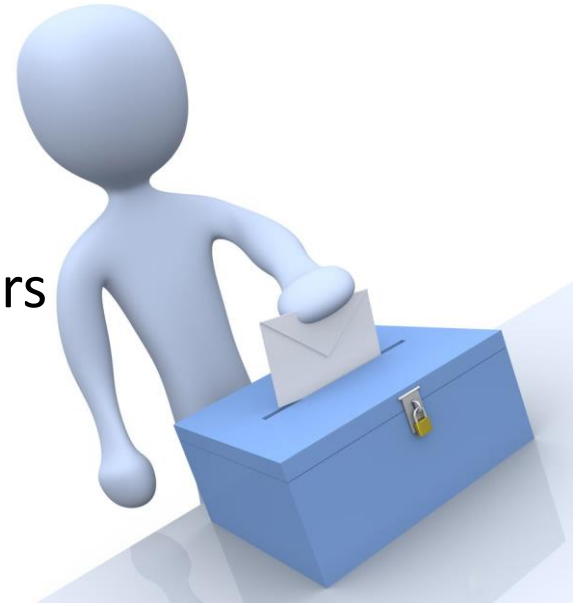
Town of Oro Valley

- Directly elected by popular vote
- Honorary & ceremonial duties representing Town
- Works with civic/business/citizen groups
- Provides policy leadership & interpretation
- Presides over council meetings, with voting rights
- No formal supervisory or administrative duties

Town Council

Town of Oro Valley

- Seven members (includes Mayor)
- Serve part-time,
  4-year staggered terms
- Elections held
  even-numbered years
- Elected in at-large, nonpartisan elections
- Mayor directly elected
  - Vice Mayor selected by Council from among its members



Town Council

- Standing Citizen Advisory Boards & Commissions
  - Board of Adjustment
  - Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z)
  - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
  - Storm Water Utility Commission
  - Water Utility Commission
  - Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
  - Municipal Property Corporation (MPC)
  - Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Board

- *Ad Hoc* Committees/Task Forces as needed

What to expect at a Town Council Meeting

Town of Oro Valley

- The Mayor and City Council hold regular Council meetings to take official action two times each month.
- Types of Meetings
  - Regular Sessions
  - Study Sessions
  - Executive Sessions
  - Special Sessions
- Town Council Meeting
- Yellow Cards

Council-Manager Form of Government

- Managerial Leadership of Executive CEO/CAO
  - Administrative experience
  - Financial, supervisory, legal, policy, performance management knowledge for day-to-day operations
  - Objective and thorough evaluations
  - Advise and implement decisions of elected body
  - Enforce laws and ordinances
  - ICMA/ACMA Code of Ethics

Town Manager

- Communications and Leadership
  - Organizational mission and purpose
  - Strategic plan
  - Streamline processes for process improvement and efficiencies
  - Team building and employee development / change management
- Intergovernmental Programs and Relations
  - Regional Partnerships:
    - Local, state and national elected officials and organizations
    - PAG/RTA (Pima Association of Governments and Regional Transportation Authority)
    - Multiple partner NGO's, such as Sun Corridor, SAHBA, MPA, etc.

Town Manager

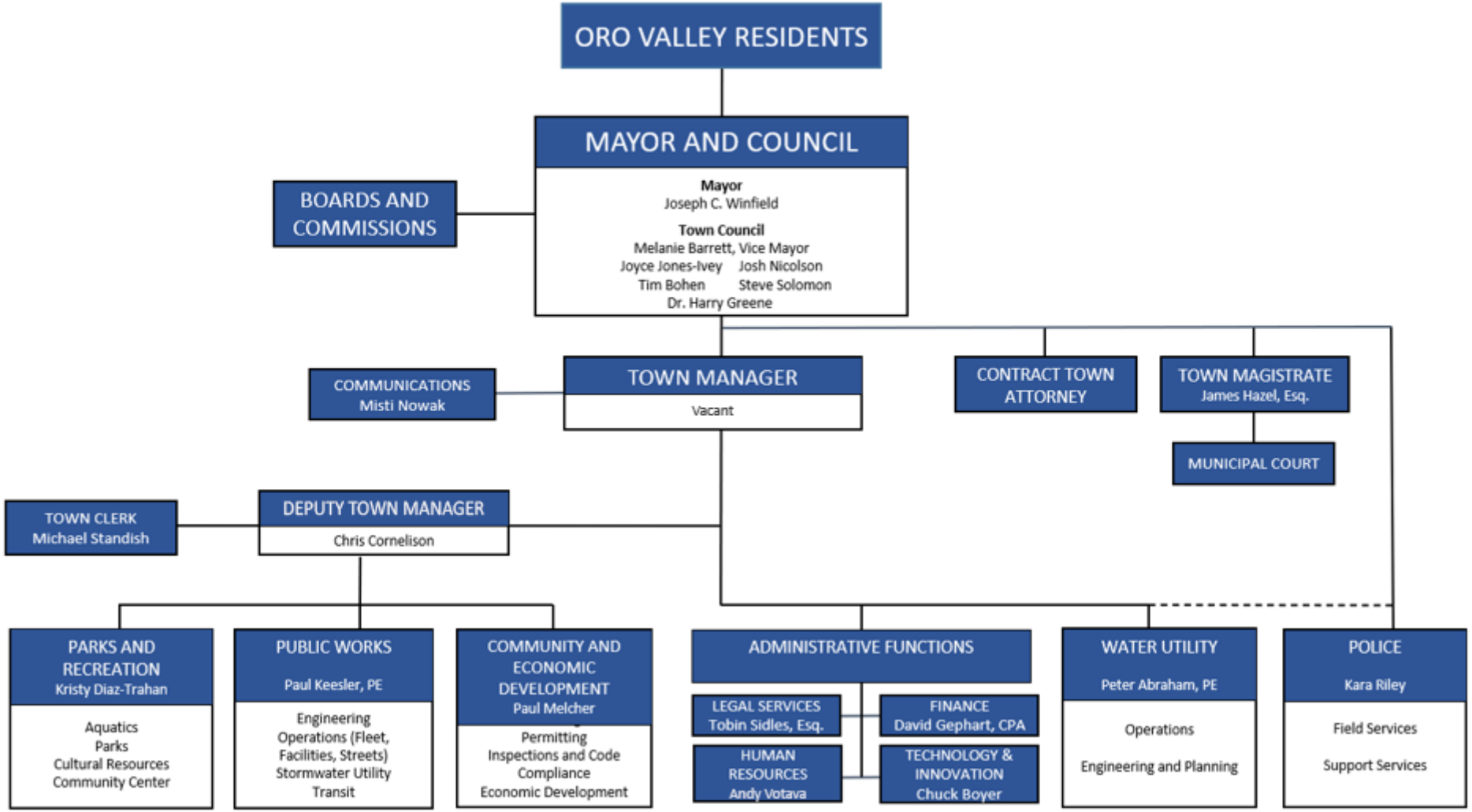
Town of Oro Valley

- Chief Administrative Officer
  - Appointed by the Mayor and Council
  - Held accountable through annual reviews
- Financial stewardship
  - Required to submit balanced budget annually
  - Oversight and management
- Hires Town staff

  (Except Council-appointed positions of Attorney, Magistrate & Police Chief)
  - Classification & Compensation plan
  - Employee Development, performance appraisals, discipline & grievances
  - Safety & Loss/Risk Management

Town Organization

Town of Oro Valley



Benefits of Council/Manager

- Financial Expertise
  - Short and long-term evaluations
  - Trend analysis
  - Raising the flag
  - Developing/presenting options

Benefits of Council/Manager

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- Constituent Response
  - Places expertise with experts
  - Rules/requirements applied fairly
  - Council elevates, staff responds
  - Ear of the community with Council

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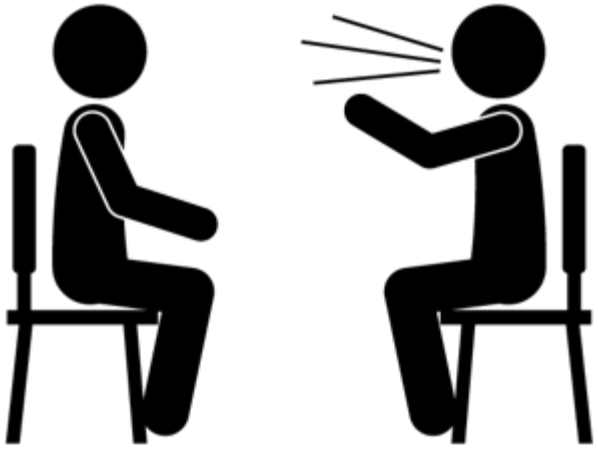
Benefits of Council/Manager

- Responding to Issues
  - Objective analysis
  - Access to innovative initiatives across US
  - Network of other professionals
  - Multiple faces to community
  - Community engagement
  - Community-wide focus



Benefits of Council/Manager

- Effective and Efficient Government
  - Tuned to trends and benchmarks
  - Performance management
  - Evaluate innovation
  - Leadership and Excellence
  - Cost effectiveness
  - Elevate local government to community

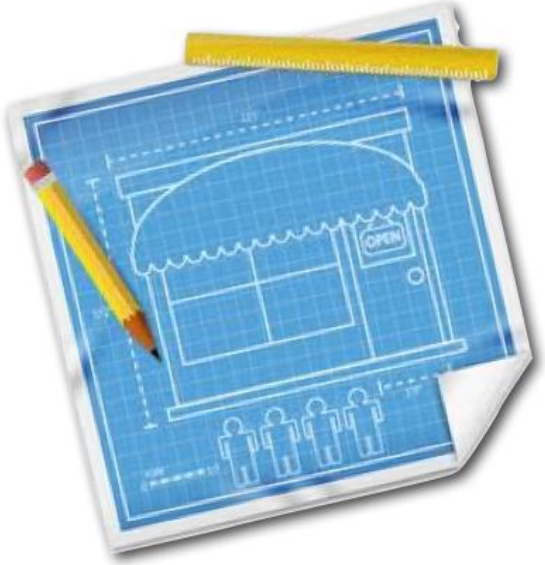
Benefits of Council/Manager

- ICMA Code of Ethics
  - All Council Members Equal
  - Transparency – Open Public Meetings
  - Non-partisan
  - Equity and Fairness
  - Good Government
  - Honesty and Integrity

Successful Municipal Operations

Town of Oro Valley

- Short and Long Range View
  - Planning and Growth
  - Capital Investments – New infrastructure and facilities, FIXING infrastructure and facilities, information technology, vehicles, etc.
  - Service Levels – Personnel, response times, quality of facilities, etc.
  - Revenues
  - Community Input
  - Vision for Future
- Strategic Planning Pyramid
  - Starts with the Your Voice Our Future General Plan
  - Town Council 2-year Strategic Leadership Plan
  - Departmental Strategic Plans
  - Performance Plans



How to get involved

Town of Oro Valley

- Boards and Commissions
- Town Council Meetings
- Neighborhood Meetings
- Follow Town Communication
  - Oro Valley Podcast
  - Social Media
- Town Calendar Events
  - Celebrate Oro Valley, 4th of July, Monster Mash, Oro Valley Festival of the Arts & Holiday Tree Lighting

Questions/Discussion

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Town of Oro Valley