

Lea Márquez Peterson, MBA, IOM

Arizona Corporation Commissioner and former President/CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



Lea served as Chairwoman of the Arizona Corporation Commission, the state's energy and water regulatory board from 2020 until 2022. She continues as a Commissioner on the Board which regulates the electric, water, gas and wastewater industries, incorporates the businesses in the state and tackles securities fraud. Additionally, the Commission manages railroad and pipeline safety.

In this capacity, she serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)'s nuclear subcommittee and is the co-vice Chair of the Water Committee. She has been appointed to serve on the Advisory board for EPRI, a global energy research and development organization and the NARUC/NASEO Nuclear States Collaborative. As a Commissioner, she has financial impact on close to 400 privately owned utilities with over \$4 billion in annual revenue.

Lea has also been an entrepreneur for many years and served as the President/ CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber from 2009 until November of 2018. The Tucson Hispanic Chamber serves the business community in the bilingual, bi-cultural region of the Arizona-Sonora border and was recognized as the Hispanic Chamber of the Year in 2013 by the U.S Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She earned her Institute for Organizational Management designation from the U.S Chamber during her tenure.

She ran for Congress in Arizona Congressional District 2 in 2018 and won a competitive primary race, and previously served as the Executive Director for Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) and owned and operated a Business Brokerage Firm and a chain of six gasoline stations / convenience stores with fifty employees in the Tucson region.

Lea was appointed by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey to co-chair the Arizona Zanjeros (2015 - 2017), a business leadership group formed to ensure the state continues to flourish economically by driving business growth and promoting Arizona's extraordinary assets. She was selected to serve on Governor Doug Ducey's Transition Team in 2014 and co-chaired the subcommittee on Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade. She has also been appointed to serve on the Arizona Judicial Council which advises the Arizona Supreme Court, and the Arizona Finance Authority, the state's bonding authority.

She previously chaired the board of directors for Tenet-owned St Joseph's and St Mary's Hospitals and is the Chair of the SBA's national Small Business Development Council. She is the Past President of the National Association of Women Business Owners in the greater Tucson area.

She formerly served on the Boards of the United States Hispanic Chamber, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the University of Arizona Foundation. She formally served as the Chairwoman of the Southern Arizona Business Roundtable, the Past Chair of the Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Alliance, the Founder and Past Chair of the Pima County Small Business Commission, and as the Chairwoman of the University of Arizona Hispanic Advisory Council. She was appointed by the Obama Administration to the National Women's Business Council where she served for three years.

Lea has been recognized with several awards including the 2022 U.S Hispanic Chamber Business Woman of the Year, a 2021 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business Award by AZ Big Media and the 2021 Jack Jewett Award by Arizona Center for Civic Leadership.

She received her undergraduate degrees in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from the University of Arizona, and her Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. She is married with two children.

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