

2026 Deputy Clerk of the Year Candidate

Mara Maher, Deputy Clerk

City of Ironwood

Mara Maher has served as the Deputy Clerk for the City of Ironwood since November 2017. Ironwood Clerk Jennifer Jacobson described Mara as the "glue" that holds city operations together. Mara manages a vast array of responsibilities that extend far beyond standard clerical duties, making her an invaluable asset to both the municipality and its residents.

With nearly a decade of dedicated service, Mara manages a scope of work that far exceeds standard expectations, frequently stepping in to assist with "all other duties as assigned" to keep the city running smoothly. Mara created and implemented a new, user-friendly purchase order system that maintained high levels of administrative accountability while remaining easy for staff to manage. She is instrumental in the maintenance of the 100-year-old Ironwood Memorial Building, troubleshooting issues ranging from leaky toilets and boilers to electrical concerns.

Mara is a deeply engaged member of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) and is committed to the continuous improvement of the profession. Mara actively promotes the Clerk's profession by mentoring summer youth staff, sharing knowledge of municipal operations and best practices to build their confidence. She serves as a vital resource for all city departments—including Finance, Public Safety, and Utilities—providing guidance on records management, election processes, and compliance.

Mara's impact is felt well beyond the walls of the Clerk's office, earning her the deep respect of community leaders and administrative staff. She serves on the board of the Northwind Natural Food Co-op and has been a long-term volunteer for the HOPE Animal Shelter. Mara is a vital behind-the-scenes contributor to the Sisu Ski Fest, Ironwood's largest annual event, and assists with bi-annual community clean-up days.

Mara's performance is defined by her desire to help others and her willingness to take on any task. She models professionalism in all public-facing interactions, ensuring every resident feels respected.

