

## CSA PRINCIPLES

## ABOUT CSA

### PREVENT HARMFUL COST SHIFTS TO COUNTIES

Counties have acted rapidly to cut costs in response to significant revenue shortfalls. The challenge has increased due to the \$72 million impact to counties enacted in the state's FY08-09 budget.

Additional state cost shifts will increase the magnitude of existing county budget deficits and force deeper cost-cutting and service reductions. To the extent the state burdens local governments to balance its budget, impacts should be fair, one-time in nature, and counties must be granted flexibility to manage the impacts across all county-controlled revenue sources.

Since balancing budgets is priority #1 for all levels of government, counties must oppose any new legislative measures that require a county expenditure, regardless of the proposal's merit.

### IMPLEMENT COST-CUTTING MEASURES

Counties have all made difficult decisions and taken steps necessary to reduce expenditures, but many county operations are mandated by the state. This session, the CSA will request statutory changes to amend several mandates and allow counties to operate in a more efficient and less expensive manner. The following pages outline these cost-cutting proposals.

For more than 25 years, the CSA has served as a non-partisan forum for county officials to address important issues facing local constituents, providing a mechanism to share information and to develop a proactive state and federal policy agenda.

CSA membership includes the 55 elected supervisors from Arizona's 15 counties. The association's efforts are strengthened by the involvement of top-level county professional staff, who provide technical expertise necessary to inform policy decisions.

#### CSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Sharon Bronson, Pima
President-elect:	Elizabeth Archuleta, Coconino
First Vice-President:	David Tenney, Navajo
Second Vice-President:	Max Wilson, Maricopa
Third Vice-President:	Lenore Stuart, Yuma
Immediate Past-President:	Jim Palmer, Graham



County Supervisors  
ASSOCIATION

# CSA 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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## COST-SAVING PROPOSALS

### ESTABLISH COUNTY AUTHORITY OVER OFFICE AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

Counties are required to be open five days a week and lack the ability to modify their schedules to better serve their constituents or to save energy costs.

⇒ *Granting counties local flexibility to alter work schedules within certain limits will promote constituent services and save taxpayer dollars.*

### INCORPORATE ALTERNATE PROJECT DELIVERY METHODS FOR COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Counties can utilize Alternate Project Delivery Methods (APDM) for projects paid out of the county's general fund revenues, which has saved taxpayer dollars in numerous construction contracts. Without reauthorization, the APDM statute will sunset in 2010.

⇒ *Removing the sunset provision and permitting county special districts to utilize APDM as a part of their procurement cost-saving options will save additional taxpayer resources.*

### ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT FROM LIBRARY DISTRICTS

Most special districts are required to reimburse counties for administrative costs, but library district statutes do not reflect this practice.

⇒ *Permitting counties to recoup administrative costs from county library districts saves taxpayer dollars and utilizes resources designated for library services.*

### GRANT SUBSIDIZED RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE AS AN OPTION TO ALL COUNTIES

Large counties are permitted to subsidize pre-Medicare eligible retirees' health insurance premiums in order to reduce personnel costs by promoting timely retirement. Small counties (under 300,000 population) do not have this authority.

⇒ *Removing the population threshold that prohibits small counties from subsidizing these pre-Medicare eligible retiree health insurance costs will save taxpayer dollars while providing for county employees.*

### REVISE NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY BUDGETS

Counties are required to publish their budgets in a newspaper bi-annually, which incurs significant costs and does not reflect the methods in which most constituents obtain their information.

⇒ *Revising publication requirements to allow counties to publish a summary budget and address budget decisions in a regularly-scheduled board of supervisors meeting allows constituents easy access to important budget information without imposing significant costs to taxpayers.*

### ALLOW HEARING OFFICERS IN MERIT COMMISSION APPEALS

Employees dismissed by the county may request a hearing by the merit commission. Merit commissioners are volunteers, but lengthy hearings incur the use of county staff time and resources.

⇒ *Granting explicit authority to use hearing officers for merit commission hearings reflects current practices of other merit commissions and limits the impact to county taxpayers.*

## ADDITIONAL COUNTY PROPOSALS

### PLANNING AND ZONING

Reorganize, without making substantive changes, statutes that govern counties' planning and zoning functions.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

Amend community facilities districts to permit the creation of a renewable energy district to be used for the creation and maintenance of a renewable energy production facility on a local level.

### UNSUBDIVIDED LANDS

Grant counties additional lot split authority to set drainage improvement standards and to provide counties with authority to review all lot splits prior to subdivision, similar to the authority municipalities currently possess.

### EXPENDITURE LIMITS

Amend statute to increase county expenditure limits by allowing the inclusion of second-homeowners in expenditure limit population estimates.

### FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICTS

Permit flood control districts to acquire remainder parcels impacted by flood control capital improvement projects.

### PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT INSPECTION AND ABATEMENT

Grant counties authority to enter abandoned properties to eliminate a public health threat after posting a notice 24 hours in advance.