



**County Supervisors Association**  
*2010 County Legislative Proposals Tip Sheet*

Below are some suggestions for county personnel to keep in mind as they begin developing potential legislative proposals for the Sixth Annual CSA Legislative Summit this fall in Graham and Greenlee Counties.

CSA staff is available to answer any questions and to offer on-going support in your efforts to vet your thoughts and proposals.

**Define the problem you want to solve.**

- Describe your proposal as simply and comprehensively as possible and its impacts on other counties and the state in clear and concise terms.
- Clearly expressed ideas can be easily understood by the CSA Board and translated into actionable items by CSA staff for the legislature.

**Discuss the proposal with your colleagues.**

- Do they all agree about the problem?
- Do they agree that your legislative proposal will solve the problem?
- Will your solution have any adverse effects to normal county operations?

**Talk about the proposal with other affected parties to see how they see the issue.**

- Have you discussed the problem and solution with other elected officials, private sector constituents and other professional and special interest associations?
- Who are the potential allies and opponents to your proposal?

**Consider a long-term approach to your legislative proposal.**

- If the goal is unattainable in one session, are there incremental things that we can achieve now that will at least move us forward to that goal?
- If the legislation failed to pass, would the counties be in worse shape? (Codifying current practice may not always be a good idea)

**Remember that political capital is a limited resource.**

- How will others feel about spending political capital on the legislation?
- Is there another solution that would not require legislative action, like administrative fixes or intergovernmental agreements?
- Is a long-term strategy, i.e. educate legislators this session and advocate legislation next session, one possible strategy to solving a county issue?

**Getting consensus is a key to success.**

- CSA has relied on consensus to determine the organizations priorities each year.
- How will the measure rank when considered by all fifteen counties?
- Proposals should be broad enough to impact a large group yet specific enough that we can easily point to the problem we're trying to solve.