
A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.



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County Managers Honor Terry Cooper



This week, the County Managers Association (CMA) honored outgoing Graham County Manager Terry Cooper. Cooper served as part of the CMA for more than 20 years.

Cooper came out to Arizona from Iowa, while working for more than 20 years in the banking business, including time with First National Bank and several Arizona banks. Though he spent a couple years working in Missouri in the early 1990's, he returned to Arizona in 1993 to serve as the General Manager for the San Carlos Tribe for 3 years. In 1996 he was hired on by Graham County and never looked back. He went on to serve as the Graham County Manager for 22 years. He has been married to his wonderful wife Lynn for 35 years and they are parents to 5 kids and 19 amazing grandchildren.

Greenlee County Manager Kay Gale shared "It has been an honor to work with Terry for so many years. He has been an outstanding friend and colleague. His work in county government was invaluable and has left a wonderful legacy. Terry will be greatly missed."

CSA congratulates Terry Cooper on his retirement and wishes him the best.

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County Managers Welcome Dustin Welker

The Graham County Board of Supervisors appointed Dustin Welker to serve as the County Manager, to replace retiring County Manager Terry Cooper. Welker had previously served as the City of Safford Planning & Community Development Director.

Graham County born and raised, Welker has spent the last 10 years working for the city of Safford, serving the last five as the director.

Supervisor Danny Smith shared, "The stability and longevity that we get with Dustin is important. He's only the fourth manager Graham County will have had. I look forward to a long working relationship, and I'm very pleased to have him on board."

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Legislative Budget Discussions Intensify

This week pressures on the state budget negotiations intensified. Legislative leadership is seeking to close out the legislative session within the next two weeks, but two major issues related to the budget are dominating the attention of law-makers.

First, early this week, the Senate introduced [SB 1519 protective orders; schools; appropriations](#) (Smith), Governor Ducey's school safety plan, injecting another \$16 million request into the budget negotiation process. Second, just yesterday, Governor Ducey announced a plan to increase teacher pay by 20 percent between now and FY2021, which would require an additional FY2019 request of around \$250 million. The specifics remain unclear as to how this new proposal would be structured financially.

In addition to elevating conflict and competition for resources among legislators, both of these issues have the potential of substantially rearranging the budget puzzle that legislators have been crafting and upsetting previously agreed upon budget priorities.

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Finance Advisory Committee Meets

On Wednesday, the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) held its annual April meeting to discuss updated revenue projections and economic conditions. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) projects an additional \$51 million in revenues, with \$46 million of that being ongoing revenue. This is in addition to the already revised projections that increased combined FY2018 and FY2019 revenues by \$245 million. Members of the FAC anticipate continued steady growth in the Arizona economy, noting that Arizona was ranked fifth in economic momentum.

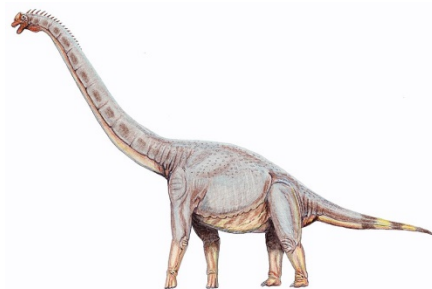
To access the full FAC meeting materials, please click [here](#).

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Arizona Gets a State Dinosaur

This week Governor Ducey signed a bill giving Arizona one very large new state symbol, a state dinosaur. Arizona already has everything from a state flower, the white blossom of the saguaro cactus, to official state neckwear, the bolo tie, but was missing a state dinosaur.

By signing [SB 1517 state dinosaur: Sonorasaurus](#) (Brophy McGee), Governor Ducey declared the Sonorasaurus the state dinosaur. It was first unearthed in 1994 in the Sonoran Desert and is related to the Brachiosaurus. This herbivore dinosaur roamed what is now a desert between 112 and 93 million years ago, and was estimated to be 49 feet long and 27 feet tall.



Sources: [Arizona State Library](#); [Wikipedia](#); [Wikimedia commons](#)

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Legislative Session Snapshot

The 53rd Legislature, Second Regular Session marks its 96th day of the legislative session today. A total of 1,166 bills and 119 memorials/resolutions have been introduced, of that 264 bills have passed, 194 have been signed into law and five have been vetoed. Today, April 13 is the final day for conference committees.

Most importantly, next Tuesday, April 17 marks the 100th day of the Legislative Session.

To view all of the deadlines, please click on the following links:

- [Senate deadlines](#)
- [House deadlines](#)

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CSA Legislative Agenda

The status of CSA's legislative agenda package is as follows:

- 1) [HB 2190 county improvement districts: repayment agreements](#) (*Mitchell*) - Passed the House 57-0. Passed Senate 29-0, and signed into law, **Chapter 80**.
- 2) [HB 2274 county contributions: hospitalization; medical; repeal](#) (*Thorpe*) –Passed the House 58-0, transmitted to the Senate. Referred to Senate Health & Human Services and Appropriations.
- 3) [HB 2413 public road maintenance: primitive designation](#) (*Cook*) - Passed the House 58-0, passed the Senate 29-1 and signed into law, **Chapter 16**.
- 4) [HB 2415 juvenile dependency proceedings fund](#) (*Cobb*) –Passed the House 51-7, transmitted to the Senate. Passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 7-0, passed Senate Appropriations, awaiting Rules.
- 5) [HB 2439 county contributions: committee youth; repeal](#) (*Thorpe*) –Passed the House 55-3, transmitted to the Senate. Passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 6-0-1, passed Senate Appropriations, awaiting Rules.
- 6) [SB 1038 state land payments: payment method](#) (*Griffin*)-Passed the Senate 30-0, passed the House 57-1-2 and was signed into law, **Chapter 18**.
- 7) [SB 1113 zoning violations: notice: service](#) (*Fann*)-Passed the Senate 23-5, passed the House 51-8, passed Senate Final Read 22-6, awaiting Governor's signature.

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New Videos, Webpage Illustrate CORP Changes

The Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) of Arizona has released two of three videos designed to help teach the pending reforms to the corrections and detention community, including all of the human resources, payroll and management employees who help provide these vital services. The [first video](#) covers the basics of the upcoming changes, while the [second video](#) dives deeply into the details of the 401(a) Defined Contribution plan for Tier 3 corrections/detention officers.

Additionally, a new [PSPRS webpage](#) dedicated to the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP) is now live, and it offers a [how-to-guide](#) for employers, a [matrix](#) that summarizes the benefits among each employee tier and a benefits [brochure](#) for prospective Tier 3 probation and surveillance officers of the AOC.

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