

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



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## NACo Legislative Conference



This week, CSA President and Pinal County Supervisor, Anthony Smith, and AACo President and the Cochise County Treasurer, Cathy Traywick, led a delegation of Arizona county officials to participate in the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference and to interact with federal officials regarding issues critical to Arizona counties.

During the trip, Arizona county officials met with Senator Flake as well members of the Arizona United States House of Representatives delegation to discuss federal policies impacting county constituent services. Topics included technology, public lands, criminal justice and public safety, transportation, the opioid epidemic, combating multigenerational poverty and public health impacts of natural disasters.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo serves the nation's 3,069 counties.

For more information on the conference events, please [click here](#).

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## Water Wise Wednesday

On Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, Senator Otondo hosted Water Wise Wednesday, a legislative round table conversation that focused on a wide range of water issues facing counties.

Patrick Cunningham, General Counsel to Highground Public Affairs Consultants discussed counties role in water noting that most counties do not run their own water systems, with the exception of Mohave County that runs five, but all counties work with a number of Domestic Water Improvement Districts and hear a lot of concerns from citizens during public meetings. He shared that the decision by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District's Board to move forward with a purchase agreement to acquire water rights from seven farms in the Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District



continues to be a major area of focus. Cunningham also noted that Central Arizona Project (CAP) has asked the judge to vacate the decision in a previous case regarding sovereign immunity since it is of intense interest to them in the future and if they receive sovereign immunity that would limit the ability to litigate water issues against CAP.



Pinal County Supervisor Steven Miller discussed the work being done regarding the Pinal active management areas and extinguishment credits. He noted that there has been a lot of collaboration between the interested parties to work towards a solution that would allow the agricultural community to maintain their water credits, allow for the

credits to be transferred with the sale of agricultural land for agricultural use but establish requirements for water replenishment once the land is converted to residential housing.

La Paz County Supervisor Holly Irwin discussed the concerns from her residents over unrestricted access to groundwater aquifers within the McMullen Valley and Renegras Plain. She noted, citizens are concerned over wells going dry, air quality and land subsidence due to an increased draw from the basins noting that the issue is compounded by the fact that the basins do not recharge.

There was additional discussion regarding the need for encouraging water recharge and the potential need to remove the 2025 sunset for waste water credits.

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## Governor Ducey's COO Talks with County Managers



Today, Gilbert Davidson, Governor Ducey's Chief of Operations shared insights on his position and work with the County Managers Association.

Davidson shared that his main responsibility is overseeing all of the state agencies and is one of just a handful of individuals throughout the country that hold such a position. His main focus has been to change the culture of state government, transforming it to deliver better services, through the implementation of the Arizona Management System.

Davidson identified a couple issue areas that have greatly benefited from implementation of the Arizona Management System, the increased focus on how employees are being trained to identify issues that complicate efficiencies, the passage of the Opioid Omnibus legislation and the criminal justice recidivism project that is working to improve opportunities for individuals who are existing our state

prison system.

For more information on the Arizona Management System, please [click here](#).

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## Arizona Town Hall Discusses Partnership with Counties

Mary Grier, an attorney who works with the Arizona Town Hall, presented to the County Managers Association this morning.

Grier discussed Arizona Town Hall working to partner with counties to increase civic engagement throughout the state, by promoting civil discourse. She went on to share that the board of the Arizona Town Hall has transitioned from a couple large meetings per year to multiple smaller meetings in local communities to reach more people.

Grier also highlighted their work on improving education funding, criminal justice reform and recidivism.

For more information on the Arizona Town Hall, please [click here](#).



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## Legislative Session Snapshot

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session marks its 61<sup>st</sup> day of the legislative session today. A total of 1,165 bills and 115 memorials/resolutions have been introduced.

Some upcoming legislative deadlines are as follows:

- Friday, March 23 is the last day for House consideration of Senate bills and Senate consideration of House bills, leaving just two weeks to hear bills in the opposite chamber.
- Friday, April 13 is the final day for conference committees.

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

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

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## CSA Legislative Update

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, transmitted to the Senate. Passed Senate Natural Resources Energy & Water Committee, awaiting Rules and Caucus.
- 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 Committees.
- 3) [HB 2413 public road maintenance; primitive designation](#) (*Cook*)- Passed the House 58-0, transmitted to the Senate. Passed Senate Government Committee, Rules and Caucus. On Consent Calendar, awaiting Third Read.
- 4) [HB 2415 juvenile dependency proceedings fund](#) (*Cobb*) –Passed the House 51-7, transmitted to the Senate. Referred to Senate Appropriations and Judiciary Committees.
- 5) [HB 2439 county contributions; committee youth; repeal](#) (*Thorpe*) –Passed the House 55-3, transmitted to the Senate. Referred to Senate Appropriations, and will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, March 15 in Senate Hearing Room 109 at 9:00 a.m.
- 6) [SB 1038 state land payments; payment method](#) (*Griffin*)-Passed the Senate 30-0, transmitted to the House. Passed House Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee 8-0, Rules and Caucus. On Consent Calendar, awaiting Third Read.
- 7) [SB 1113 zoning violations; notice; service](#) (*Fann*)-Passed the Senate 23-5, transmitted to the House. Passed House Local & International Affairs, Rules and Caucus. Awaiting COW.
- 8) [SB 1410 transient lodging tax; rural counties](#) (*Borrelli*)- Referred to Senate Finance.

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## NACo Webinar: Stepping Up-Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails

On March 15, 2018, from 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm EST, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled, [Stepping Up: Communicating About Your Efforts to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails](#).

More than 420 counties have joined the national Stepping Up initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in their jails. Although counties have made progress toward addressing this issue, many still struggle with how to effectively communicate about their work with the public and the media. During this webinar, county leaders will learn from



national experts and their peers about strategies for engaging the public and media around Stepping Up efforts, including key messaging points and how to engage individuals with mental illnesses and their families to gain support for these efforts. Participants will also hear an update about the national Stepping Up Day of Action and how to get involved in hosting their own local events.

To register for the webinar, please [click here](#).

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## Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The [House Banking and Insurance Committee](#) will meet on Monday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 5.
- The [House Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Monday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.
- The [House Education Committee](#) will meet on Monday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Monday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- The [Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee](#) will meet on Monday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [House Commerce Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.
- The [House on Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy](#) will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 4.
- The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [Senate Transportation and Technology Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Local and International Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 9:00 a.m. in House Hearing Room 5.
- The [Senate Finance Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 9:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Ways & Means Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Judiciary & Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 4.
- The [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.
- The [Senate Government Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [Senate Health & Human Services Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [House Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, March 15, at 10:00 a.m. in House Hearing Room 3.

To view the most up to date committee agendas, please [click here](#).

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