

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



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## Maricopa County & NACo Host Stepping Up Peer Exchange



This week county elected officials and staff from across the country, including Mohave County Supervisor Jean Bishop, Yavapai County Supervisor Jack Smith, and Yuma County Supervisor Darren Simmons, traveled to Maricopa County to attend the first National Association of Counties (NACo) *Stepping Up Peer Exchange*. The [Stepping Up Initiative](#) was established in 2015 to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails.



Maricopa County Supervisor and Board Chair Denny Barney kicked off the meeting by thanking everyone for their support of this important initiative. The two day peer exchange explored a variety of issues and



areas, including the development of Maricopa County's reform efforts, the program at Connections AZ Urgent Psychiatric Care Center, programming to arm law enforcement with tools to combat mental illness on the streets, assessment tools to identify diversion potential, the opioid crisis, and reducing recidivism.

As part of the Stepping Up Initiative county elected officials were asked to pass a resolution locally. Arizona holds the distinction of being the only state in the country where every county has passed a resolution locally.

For more information on the Stepping Up Initiative, please [click here](#).

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## Civil Deputies Meet

On Friday, the State Civil Deputies (Deputies) met to discuss topics impacting counties including an increase in Title 36 cases in some counties, the opioid epidemic and conflicts within statute. The Deputies shared best practices and offered opinions to provide clarity.



They will meet next in February 2018.

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## Study Committee on Private Land Acquisition

On Wednesday, the Study Committee on Private Land Acquisition (Committee) met to discuss the loss of property to government acquisition or conservation easements and the impact on the tax base.

The Committee includes Senators Gail Griffin, Sylvia Allen, and Robert Meza; State Representatives Brenda Barton, T.J. Shope and Rosanna Gabaldón; and Maricopa County Assessor Paul Petersen.

The Committee reviewed the requirements set forth in [Laws 2015, Chapter 188](#) establishing the Committee; county compliance with the requirements of [Laws 2016, Chapter 168](#) that require counties to identify property with a conservation easements and establish a digital registry; and [S.B. 1247 \(2017\)](#) that established an in lieu of taxes on the reduction of value of a parcel that was vetoed by the Governor.

The Committee recommended the adoption of legislation to extend the Committee an additional two years beyond the October 2018 sunset date and require the full disclosure of conservation easement records, including the property owner, easement holder and the property value or appraisal prior to acquisition.

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## AOC Probation Division Receives Sunset Review

Co-chairs Senator Judy Burges and Representative Anthony T. Kern oversaw the Senate Judiciary and House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee of Reference's sunset review of the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board and the performance audit of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Adult Probation Division.

Rebekah Browder, Chief Council of the Arizona Civil Rights Division of the Arizona Attorney General's office and the Executive Director of the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board, presented an overview of the board. The committee chose to recommend that the advisory board be continued for another 8 years.

Robin Hakes with the Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) office presented the audit findings from the review of the of AOCs Adult Probation systems. These included AOC's efforts to assist the fifteen county-based adult probation departments in implementing evidence-based practices. The OAG's office also found that the number of reentry probationers that are charged with multiple crimes and are sentenced on the same day to jail and probation has been increasing rapidly over the past five years. The report highlighted the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department's plan which addresses this growing population of probationers. Kathy Waters, Director of the Adult Probation Division, presented the division's response to OAG's findings and answered committee questions regarding the division's policies and general probation trends.

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## JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) produced their Monthly Fiscal Highlights for the month ending October 2017 with General Fund revenues of \$741.5 million, a decrease of (0.1) percent over October 2016 figures. The monthly collections are only \$(1) million below forecast. Sales Tax gains were modest with offset losses in Corporate Income Tax. Year-to-date (YTD) General Fund revenue is \$18.8 million above budget forecast, a 0.6 percent surplus, and up \$95.6 million, or 3.2 percent, from this time a year ago.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections of \$118.8 million in October are 3.1 percent higher than October 2016 and \$(0.4) million below monthly forecast. YTD collections are up 2.6 percent over last year.

October General Fund spending totaled \$722.6 million with YTD spending of \$4.5 billion. This represents a \$4.5 million increase from October 2016 and a \$196.3 million YTD increase from fiscal year 2017.

The State's Budget Stabilization Fund (or Rainy Day Fund) has a current balance of \$456.1 million.

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