



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

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9th Annual CSA Legislative Reception Honoring the State & County Partnership



On Wednesday evening, January 18, county supervisors and elected officials from across the state were joined by nearly 50 state legislators to honor the state and county partnership at the annual CSA Legislative Reception. Supervisors were delighted to see so many legislators expressing their commitment to counties throughout the state.

CSA President and Gila County Supervisor Tommie Martin expressed her appreciation for all those who attended, "In our positions as both legislators and county officials, we are partners in serving the same people, the citizens of Arizona. We are grateful to the legislators and elected officials who work with us on issues important to the constituents of our state."

To view a Facebook album of reception photos, please [click here](#).

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CSA New Supervisors Orientation



On Wednesday, January 18, CSA welcomed 18 newly elected county supervisors from across the state for a "New Supervisors Orientation." Every four years, CSA sets up an opportunity for newly elected supervisors from all 15 counties to learn from their colleagues, other elected officials, and a variety of experts about what is involved with serving as a county supervisor, as well as CSA's role with counties.

CSA President and Gila County Supervisor, Tommie Martin, kicked off the day's events. Supervisor Martin, Graham County Supervisor Palmer, Navajo County Supervisor Whitesinger, and CSA President-Elect and Pinal County Supervisor Smith, all provided a wealth of knowledge and wisdom as veteran county supervisors and leaders in their communities. CSA's Executive Director Craig Sullivan, and City of Sedona Attorney Robert Pickels presented on County Basics and Governance Authority, with additional guest speakers providing information on a wide variety of topics including Open Meeting Law 101, Public Records Law, Working with the Media, and information about the Arizona Counties Insurance Pool (ACIP).

To view a Facebook album of the orientation, please [click here](#).

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Governor's Budget Released: County Impacts

Last Friday, Governor Ducey released his Fiscal Year 2018 Executive Budget, coupled with a public stakeholder briefing by the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB). A majority of the dollars requested for funding initiatives focused on education, as expected after his State of the State address. The Governor published a \$9.8 billion spending plan calling for \$176 million in new initiative spending that maintains a structural balance for what the Executive hopes is the second consecutive fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2017 is expected to end with a State General Fund cash balance of \$119 million and a structural surplus of \$5 million).

Highlights of the new initiatives include:

- \$13.6 million in "across-the-board" teacher pay raises with an additional \$6.4 million targeted as signing bonuses for new teachers in low-income school districts and charter schools
- \$10 million for full-day kindergarten at low-income schools where more than 90% of students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch
- A results-based funding model rewarding the top 10% of schools based on AzMerit scores; \$225 per pupil at qualifying schools and \$400 per pupil for the top 10% of low-income schools
- \$22 million in school facilities and infrastructure with \$5 million being used as a state match to leverage federal E-rate monies for expanding broadband to high-need, rural and tribal schools

As a baseline, the Governor's Budget continues a number of ongoing impacts to counties, including financial support for four state agencies: the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR), the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Arizona State Hospital (ASH). The following are additional budget impacts to counties:

- To assist the three state universities, the Governor recommends making capital, research and development investments. State shared revenue is impacted through a sales tax recapture scheme allowing universities to keep the sales tax revenue associated with their purchases, which would likely negatively impact counties by \$2.6 million.
- A small state investment in home and community based services for the elderly is recommended that may result in a small reduction in Arizona Long Term Care System cost for the state and the counties.
- Language that allows counties under 200,000 in population the financial flexibility to move money around is recommended to continue as well as an appropriation of in-lieu lottery funds to the ten smallest counties in the state.

The Governor's Budget and video of the rollout briefing can be viewed in full [here](#).

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Governor's Office of Tribal Relations Presents to CSA Board

Kristine FireThunder of the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations spoke at the CSA Board Meeting on January 19. FireThunder described the purpose of the Office on Tribal Relations and the outreach efforts the Office has been conducting. The purpose of the Office, which was established in 1953, is to encourage understanding and cooperation between Native American tribes in Arizona and the state government. The Office facilitates dialogue between the tribes and State government so that Native Americans are consulted on issues and initiatives that the State takes up.



The Office on Tribal Relations also provides cross-cultural training to State employees, protects Native American burial sites and recruits Native Americans for state boards and commissions. FireThunder also described the American Indian Town Halls the Office conducts, in which information about specific topics, such as veterans' issues, is offered with a focus on their relevance to Native communities. The Office also offers entrepreneurship classes for Native American youth and oversees over forty-five tribal liaisons who provide a two-way conduit of information between Arizona's state government and its tribes.

To learn more about the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations, please [click here](#).

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Salt River Project Presents to CSA Board on Navajo Generating Station



The Salt River Project's (SRP) Manager of State and Local Government Relations, Jason Baran, also spoke to the assembled CSA Board of Directors. Baran discussed SRP's Navajo Generating Station, which is a coal-fed power plant located on the Navajo Reservation near Page, Arizona. The plant has 460 employees and the nearby Kayenta Mine, which provides the coal to fuel the plant's power generation, has around 500 employees. SRP is considering whether to shut down the Navajo Generating Station or switch its operations to natural gas. According to Baran, the decision has not been made, but SRP is talking to various stakeholders and experts to determine the best way forward.

In responding to a question about how changes at the plant would affect electricity rates, Baran said that it is difficult to judge because many factors influence rates, and switching to another fuel source would not necessarily increase the efficiency of the power generation process. Currently, the Navajo Generating Station's boiler converts about 35% of the British Thermal Units (BTU) found in coal to electricity.

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CSA Legislative Update

CSA's legislative agenda continues to move forward. Please see below for a list of our bills:

- 1) [HB 2065 waste tire disposal: continuation](#) (Coleman) will be heard on Tuesday, January 24, in the [House Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee](#).
- 2) [HB 2230 intergovernmental public transportation authority: taxation](#) (Shooter)
- 3) [HB 2258 county contributions: hospitalization: medical: repeal](#) (Thorpe)
- 4) [HB 2332 property tax valuation appeals](#) (Campbell)

- 5) [HCR 2011 motor vehicle fuel taxes](#) (Campbell)
- 6) Folder #326 speed limits; unpaved roads (John)
- 7) Awaiting Folder # public road maintenance and primitive designation (Griffin)

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Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The [House Education Committee](#) will meet on Monday, January 23rd, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Military, Veterans, & Regulatory Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Monday, January 23rd, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.
- The [Senate Commerce & Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Monday, January 23rd, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- The [Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee](#) will meet on Monday, January 23rd, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [House Appropriations Health and Welfare Subcommittee](#) will meet on Tuesday, January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 5.
- The [House Commerce Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.
- The [House Federalism, Property Rights, & Public Policy Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 4.
- The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [Senate Transportation & Technology Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, January 24th, in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- The [House Agricultural, Land, and Rural Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, January 26th, in House Hearing Room 3.

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