



COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA

CSA Weekly Update

March 24, 2017



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

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New Supervisors Spotlight: Supervisor Richard Lunt, Greenlee County

With the county elections that occurred across Arizona in 2016, 18 new supervisors were elected to office. With the large number of new faces added to the roster of county supervisors, we would like to take the opportunity each week to introduce one of them, in alphabetical order by county, then district number.

Name: Supervisor Richard Lunt

County: Greenlee County

District: 3

Birthdate: August 14

Education: He holds a dual bachelor's degree in agriculture education and animal sciences from the University of Arizona. He also holds a master's degree in education administration from Northern Arizona University.

Occupation (other than supervisor): For most of his life, Supervisor Lunt served as an owner and herdsman of Lunt's Dairy, one of the largest businesses in the county, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2016.

Family: He and his wife, Colleen, were high school sweethearts and have been married for almost 41 years. They have six beautiful children (all boys and only one girl), and 16 grandchildren.

Length of time in Arizona: Supervisor Lunt is a proud Arizona native, having been born and raised in Duncan. Though he left to attend university, he returned to Greenlee County because of his affection for the county and the community.

Civic organization involvement: Supervisor Lunt has been involved with an extensive number of organizations over the years, which includes almost 30 years as a Scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America. He also served as a board member of the National Cattleman's Beef Association and the Arizona Department of Agriculture, he spent nine years on the National Association of Counties Organization Public Lands Steering Committee, and has been a board member and leader with a number of other national, state, and local committees and organizations.

Best piece of advice received: The best pieces of advice he remembers receiving is to let your actions do your talking, be true to yourself, and don't try to be something you are not. He also stated that he has learned that it is alright to disagree with others as long as it is done in a kind and respectful manner, and that it is important to be quicker to praise and slower to criticize.



Inspiration to run for county supervisor: Supervisor Lunt is steadfast in his passion for service, and though he laughed about it sounding cliché, his main motivation for running again was his enthusiasm to give back to his community and make a positive impact on the lives of his fellow Greenlee County residents. Most of all, he did it out of love.

Favorite place in Greenlee County: If you've ever met Supervisor Lunt, you know that his favorite description of Greenlee County is that "it is as close to heaven as you can get without being there." Besides the well-known fact that he loves and cherishes his county and community, Supervisor Lunt's favorite place to be is at home with his family.

Most admired Arizona political figure: When asked this question, he stated that he most admires statesmen like Jack Brown, Jake Flake, and William "Bill" Konopnicki. He explained that these particular former elected Arizona officials did the right things for the right reasons, and influenced him a lot personally because they worked for the good for the whole, not necessarily for the few. In particular, Supervisor Lunt admired Bill Konopnicki for his dedication to community service, and his belief that if one makes truly good policy, it will not only be good today, but also ten years from now and beyond.

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JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights for March 2017

Monthly Fiscal Highlights for February 2017 were released this week by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) promoting monthly General Fund revenues of \$406.6 million, an increase of 2.2% over the prior year. JLBC noted that February marks the beginning of the tax processing season which often results in volatile returns year to year. This year was modest in comparison as \$11.1 million and \$14.6 million year-over-year declines in Individual and Corporate Income Tax, respectively, were offset by Sales Tax, Lottery and miscellaneous revenue gains. General Fund revenues are now up \$5.7 million over forecast year-to-date (YTD), a 0.1% surplus. Total YTD General Fund revenue collections are now \$5.88 billion.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections were \$115.7 million for the month, a 1.7% increase compared to February 2016. YTD collections are up 3.8% over prior year.

February General Fund spending totaled \$603.6 million with YTD spending of \$6.91 billion. This represents a \$77.5 million increase compared with February 2016 and a \$(3.8) million YTD decrease from FY2016.

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Session Snapshot

Today marks the 75th day of the 53rd Legislative Session.

This was the final week of regular hearings in both chambers to hear the remaining bills that originated in the opposite chamber. Next week the House and Senate Appropriations committees will hold their final hearings. Of the 1,057 bills introduced this year, the legislature has already passed 120 bills, and Governor Ducey has signed 52 of them. At this point, in addition to pushing the remaining bills through the process, the legislature still needs to pass a state budget before they can adjourn the session sine die.

As always, our staff will continue to analyze and monitor each bill as it moves through the process and we will determine if it has an impact on our counties.

For more information on legislative deadlines, please [click here](#).

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National Agriculture Day

March 21 marked National Agriculture Day which, along with the Agriculture Council of America, was established in 1973 as a way to increase public awareness of the importance of agriculture, and to recognize and celebrate the critical economic and food security role it plays in the lives of every citizen across the United States. On this day, people are encouraged to spend a little time to better understand agriculture, learn about how food is produced and distributed, and to prompt people to explore careers in agriculture.

Farming and agriculture have been critical to the development of Arizona long before statehood. Together they form the second largest source of revenue for the state today, contributing over \$10 billion to the state's economy. There are approximately 15,000 farms and ranches across the state, of which more than 90% are family operated. Dairy leads the way as the state's top agricultural product while the cattle industry also continues to boom. The climate of Arizona helps to drive the success of the



agriculture industry, and has solidified Arizona's status as a top producer of a variety of fruits and vegetables across the nation, with Yuma County claiming the title of America's winter vegetable capital.

Though National Agriculture Day has come and gone, it is never too late to give thanks and show your appreciation to the local farmers and ranchers for all their hard work.

Visit [here](#) for more information about National Agriculture Day, and to plan your celebration for next year.

Sources: [Arizona Experience](#), [National Ag Day](#)
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It's Official!

The Saguaro Cactus Blossom. The Ringtail Cat. Copper. The Palo Verde. Turquoise. The Arizona Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake. What do all of these have in common? They are all official Arizona state symbols, and we can now add wulfenite to that list. On March 22, Governor Doug Ducey signed the bill naming wulfenite as the official state mineral. Wulfenite is characterized by its orange to yellow color and square-shaped crystals, and it is one of the most abundant minerals found in the state of Arizona.



To learn more about wulfenite, you can view [this presentation](#) by Jan C. Rassmussen (Curator at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum), or you can visit the Arizona Geological Society [website](#).

Image Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

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Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, March 28, at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [House Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, March 29, at 2:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1.

For all committee listings, please [click here](#).

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