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



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Thank you Veterans!

Today we observe the Veterans Day holiday. Veterans Day has its origins in Armistice Day, which was first acknowledged by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. The first anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, ending WWI, took place "in the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month." For that reason, Congress made Armistice Day a national holiday on November 11, 1938.

However, in 1968, the signing of the Uniform Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Many states did not agree with this and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates, causing confusion. Therefore, on September 20, 1975 President Gerald Ford signed legislation returning Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978.

In honor of all the men and woman who served and continue to serve our great country, thank you!

Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)
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Governor Ducey Expands Second Chance Hiring Opportunities

Earlier this week Governor Doug Ducey issued an Executive Order instructing all state agencies to adopt new hiring procedures intended to provide a second chance and increased employment opportunities to Arizonans who have served their time and been released. Under the new policy, known as the "Second Chance Box," state agencies will delay questions related to an applicant's criminal record until after the initial stages of interviewing, ensuring all individuals receive full and fair consideration for job openings.

Governor Ducey signed an [Executive Order](#) that states an estimated 1.5 million Arizona adults have arrests or convictions on their records. The order also points out that offenders who find employment following their release are less likely to end up back in prison, saving taxpayer resources and boosting Arizona's economy.

"All Arizonans—no matter their background or past mistakes—deserve the chance to make a living and a better life for themselves and their families," said Governor Ducey. "If you served your time and paid your debt to society, you should have the opportunity at a real second chance. This is not only right, it will mean more people with jobs, and fewer people returning to prison. I'm proud to make this change in state government and set an example that will lead to more employment opportunity for individuals throughout Arizona."

The Executive Order directs the Arizona Department of Administration to establish hiring procedures that will be used by all state agencies. Under the new policy, state agencies will not inquire about an applicant's criminal record until an applicant has submitted an application and received an initial interview.

Source: [Office of the Governor Doug Ducey](#)

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Pinal County Passes Regional Transportation Plan & Excise Tax

On Tuesday, citizens in Pinal County voted to successfully pass two ballot propositions related to the Pinal Regional Transportation Plan.

The propositions are as follows:

- **Proposition 416:** The Pinal Regional Transportation Plan which is a 20-Year Comprehensive Multimodal Regional Transportation Plan with various components including a 36-mile North-South Parkway Corridor between the US 60 in Apache Junction, and the Kortsen-Kleck roadway alignment in the City of Coolidge; a four mile East-West Parkway near San Tan Valley that connects State Route 24 at Ironwood Drive to the future alignment of the North-South Parkway Corridor; and approximately 50 miles of regional roadway improvements for connectivity and economic development, in addition to other improvements.
Passed with 56.96% of the vote.
- **Proposition 417:** The Pinal County Transportation Excise Tax which will allow for the levying of a transaction privilege tax for regional transportation purposes, including at a variable or modified rate, for twenty years to provide funding for the transportation projects contained in the Regional Transportation Plan.
Passed with 50.97% of the vote.

To read additional information on both propositions, please [click here](#).

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Arizona Capitol Times Hosts Women in Public Policy Event

On Tuesday, female leaders from across Arizona gathered to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing women in public policy. Panel speakers included former Governor Jan Brewer, Senator Kate Brophy McGee, Chair of First Things First, Nadine Basha, and the Vice President of Communications & Advocacy with Molera Alvarez, Lorna Romero. The panel was moderated by Jessica Pacheco the Vice President of State and Local Affairs for Arizona Public Service (APS).



Discussion addressed a variety of topics including, work life balance, career development, the importance of mentorship, and shared insights about their personal journeys in public policy. All the panelists expressed gratitude for the inspiration of groundbreaking women leaders in Arizona, and a few of the panelists noted the importance of the "Fab Five," which occurred back in 1998 when five women were elected to serve in the state's five most important government positions. Jane Dee Hull was elected governor, Betsey Bayless was elected Secretary Of State, Janet Napolitano was elected Attorney General, Carol Springer was elected Treasurer, and Lisa Graham-Keegan was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction. To this day, the "Fab Five" remain the greatest number of women to serve in a state's highest elected offices at any given time.

Source: [Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records](#)

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Senate Committees of Reference Meet to Discuss Sunset Reviews

Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water and House Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee of Reference

On Wednesday afternoon, the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water and House Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee of Reference (Committee) met for the sunset review of the Arizona State Land Department and the Arizona Beef Council.

The Committee includes Senators Gail Griffin, Sylvia Allen, Judy Burges, Andrea Dalessandro and Lisa Otondo; State Representatives Darin Mitchell, David Cook, Wenona Benally, Rosanna Gabaldón and Becky Nutt.

The Committee recommended an eight year continuation of the Arizona Beef Council. The Arizona State Land Department also received a recommendation for an eight year continuation however; the Committee requested an update on their strategic direction in four years.

Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water and House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee of Reference

The Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water and House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee of Reference (Committee) met on Wednesday afternoon, for the sunset review of the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

The Committee includes Senators Gail Griffin, Sylvia Allen, Judy Burges, Andrea Dalessandro and Lisa Otondo; State Representatives Brenda Barton, David Cook, Eric Descheenie, Kristen Engel and Michelle Udall. The Committee recommended an eight year continuation of the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Board.

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NACo Webinar: Stepping Up

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled [Stepping Up Network Call: Addressing Housing Needs of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails](#) on November 16, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (EST). This webinar on housing strategies will enable counties to join the conversation with national experts and local practitioners to learn about strategies for addressing housing needs for people with mental illnesses who have had contact with the justice system.

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

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