

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



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County Managers Association Meeting

Today, CSA gave our pre-legislative summit briefing to the County Managers Association. Discussion occurred on the CSA financial and legislative proposals, including the following:

- Eliminate the mandated county payments to support the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
- Fully restore Highway User Revenue Funds
- Eliminate additional cost shifts

Additionally CSA staff presented reports on the following areas:

- Arizona Department Of Corrections Inmate Housing Proposal & Pilot Program
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Rule-Making for MS4 Storm water Discharge Permits
- Corrections Officer Retirement Plan Reform Stakeholder Meeting
- TPT Prime Contracting Reform



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Surface Transportation Funding Task Force Holds 3rd Meeting



On Wednesday, the Surface Transportation Funding Task Force (Task Force) held their third meeting.

Brian Ross with Mott MacDonald Group, an engineering management consulting firm, presented the Task Force with a general background on how public private partnerships (P3) work. He reported that several states are looking to use P3s to fund various transportation projects.

Tom Belshe, Deputy Director of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, shared with the Task the importance of the Highway User Revenue Fund to Arizona's cities and towns. Mr. Belshe reiterated past comments that HURF funds should be protected from future fund sweeps.

Senate Bill 1490, sponsored by Senator Worsley, established the 9-member Task Force to review transportation needs and revenue sources in Arizona and recommend specific revenue proposals for dedicated funding sources for specified transportation-related items.

The Task Force is required to cooperate with the Department of Administration to conduct a statewide study to identify vacant or underused buildings owned by the state that could be sold to provide funding for transportation projects. Additionally, they are required to issue progress reports every three months to the Governor and the Legislature and to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2016. The Task Force will continue to meet every two weeks.

Committee members include: Alan Maguire; Jim Rounds (Rounds Consulting); Kevin McCarthy (ATRA), Mary Peters (Mary Peters Consulting Group); Grant Nulle (Arizona Department of Revenue); Julie Pastrick (Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce); John Ragan (AZ Chamber of Commerce and Industry); Michael Tully; David Williams.

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Attorney General's Federalism Unit Interim Meeting

This week the Federalism Unit of the Attorney General's (AG) office briefed Legislators and staff on the unit's progress on current cases and what the unit expects going forward.

The AG's office discussed efforts to counter frivolous lawsuits, Environmental Protection Agency actions, identity theft, and changes to the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rules. The AG's office is also working on cases regarding overtime rules for white collar workers and the Obama Administration's recent pronouncements on transgender bathroom use. The AG's office argued that many of the federal government's programs and initiatives were intrusive and burdensome.

The AG's office, either singularly or in coordination with other states, is currently litigating with a number of federal agencies. Among those efforts, they are litigating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding ozone restrictions. The AG is arguing that EPA ozone rules are unrealistic because in many places, the combination of natural ozone and ozone that blows in from other places nearly exceeds the EPA's maximum limits. The AG is also fighting new WOTUS rules that they argue are a substantial intrusion on states' traditional rights. As with much of the Federalism Unit's litigation, this lawsuit was brought jointly with a number of other states as a cost-sharing and mutual reinforcement measure.

Also of interest was the AG's activity regarding the Mexican Gray Wolf and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to increase the wolf's Arizona population. The AG is joining a multistate amicus curiae brief to influence a case that deals with the wolf.

For more information about the Federalism Unit's activities, please [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

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Election 2016: Registrations Up & Early Ballots are Out

With the general election just 24 days away, Arizona's Secretary of State Michele Reagan announced the unofficial voter registration totals earlier this week. A detailed Voter Registration Report will be issued later this month.

Since the last report on August 22, statewide voter registration has increased by 119,270 individuals with all recognized parties seeing an increase in membership. The Democratic Party increased by 35,564, Republicans rose 30,671, Libertarians 1,744 and the Green Party added 431. The state's "independents" or those who have not designated a recognized party grew by the largest margin of 50,860.



Early ballots were sent out on October 12 and voters across the state are able to cast their ballots at early voting sites within their county around the state.

For more information on the ballot initiatives and the candidates that will be on ballots across the state, please [click here](#) and [here](#).

Source: [Arizona Secretary of State](#)

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This Week in Arizona History...

October 13, 1909, President William Howard Taft visited the Arizona Territory on a transcontinental tour. On his visit, which included a stop at the Grand Canyon, he promised to do his best to bring statehood to the territory.



On February 14, 1912, his promise became a reality and Arizona achieved statehood, becoming the 48th state and last of the contiguous states to be admitted to the Union.

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Interim Committee Agendas

- The [Senate Government and House Government and Higher Education Committee Of Reference for the Sunset Review of the Governor's Regulatory Review Council](#) will meet on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- The [House Ad Hoc Committee on Mandatory Auto Liability Insurance](#) will meet on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in House Hearing Room 3.

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