



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

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CSA Welcomes New Research & Budget Analyst

CSA is pleased to welcome the newest member of our team, Robin Hillyard. She will be serving as our new Research and Budget Analyst.

Robin joins us from the Arizona State Senate where she served two years as non-partisan research analyst supporting the Government Committee and one session as a research intern on the Appropriations Committee. She earned her bachelor's in Non-Profit Leadership and Management from Arizona State University and will graduate with an MPA this December. However, Robin is not new to CSA, you may recall she spent a semester interning with us in 2015.

CSA is thrilled to welcome Robin back to our team!

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State Officials Talk Water Policy



Hunter Moore, the Natural Resources Policy Advisor for the Governor's Office and Tom Buschatzke, the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources gave an overview of the Governor's Water Solutions Stakeholder Process during the September County Supervisors Association Board of Directors Meeting. Moore indicated that since taking office the Governor has been impressed with the water management laws and practices in Arizona and is interested in hearing voices from around the state.

Buschatzke also talked about important policies related to Colorado River and groundwater management.

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County Financial Data Collection Project

On Thursday, CSA staff presented to the Board of Directors on various projects and issues they have been working on during the summer months.

CSA staff began with a presentation on county financial and demographic data collection. They detailed a variety of issues, including economic growth metrics, historical county revenue performance, recent uncontrollable cost drivers, and looming fiscal impacts in FY 2018 and beyond.



CSA staff also reviewed specifics about major State General Fund financial issues for 2018, including the ongoing Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections cost shift, the Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP) funding crisis, the preservation of county in-lieu lottery monies, and increasing transportation investment.

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Ad Hoc Committee on Tax Treatment of Digital Goods & Services

The Ad Hoc Committee on Tax Treatment of Digital Goods and Services held its second meeting this week. The Committee is charged with looking at the current tax treatment of digital goods and services both in Arizona and other states and to discuss potential statutory or regulatory actions to address this nuanced topic.

During the hearing there were three presentations from stakeholder groups: the Arizona Tax Research Association, the Arizona Department of Revenue and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. Each of these presentations touched on current practices in Arizona and also in other states, and possible legislative solutions.



To read the Committee's charge, [click here](#). To watch the hearing, [click here](#).

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JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) released their Monthly Fiscal Highlights report for the month ended August 2017 with monthly General Fund returns of \$707.6 million, an decrease of (6.2)% below prior year. The losses in August eliminated July's positive revenue making the current year collections on par with forecast. JLBC attributed the poor performance across most revenue categories to technical timing that stems from shortened collection months. Total YTD General Fund revenue collections are now \$1.49 billion.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections were \$114.3 million for the month, a 2.7% increase compared to August 2016. YTD collections of \$233.5 million are up 1.5% over prior year.

August General Fund spending totaled \$785.2 million with YTD spending of \$3.13 billion. This represents a \$(50.2) million decrease compared with August 2016 and an \$81.3 million YTD increase from FY2017.

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CSA on the Road



CSA Executive Director, Craig Sullivan, continues his outreach to the various counties across the state to brief county supervisors, administrators, and staff on the recently adjourned legislative session and CSA's efforts throughout the year in support of the counties. As CSA visits each of the counties, we will be taking a little time to feature each county and share some interesting local information.

Apache County: Window Rock



While St. Johns is the county seat of Apache County, Window Rock is the legislative home to the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Council Chamber houses the 88 council members representing the 110 Navajo Nation chapters that serve over 300,000 people.

Recognized as a National Historic Landmark, the Council Chamber was completed in 1935, due in part to the help of President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs. The structure and framework of the building are meant to mirror the look of a monumental Hogan, a traditional Navajo dwelling. The building includes traditional Navajo structural designs such as a main entrance facing east and a windowless north wall.

The Council Chamber holds the distinction of being the only legislative

headquarters in the United States owned by an American Indian tribe which has been continuously in use by that tribe.

Sources: [National Register of Historic Places](#); [Discover Navajo](#); [Navajo Nation Government](#); Photo: [Ben FrantzDale, 2006, Wikimedia Commons](#)

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EPA to Hold WOTUS Hearings

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of the Army will hold ten teleconferences to hear from stakeholders regarding recommendations to revise the definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The teleconferences will run throughout the fall on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

To learn more about the hearing schedule, including how to sign up for the teleconferences, please [click here](#).

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