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

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Joint Legislative Budget Committee

On Wednesday, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) met to hear reports from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Department of Child Safety (DCS), the Arizona Department of Administration, the Department of Economic Security, the Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System, the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Department of Corrections, the Attorney General, the Arizona Commerce Authority and the Department of Environmental Quality.

JLBC staff discussed the recent audit of DCS and their current financial situation. DCS Director Greg McKay presented to the committee regarding the recent progress his agency has made on the ongoing backlog of uninvestigated cases of child abuse and neglect. He shared that the number of open inactive cases is at its lowest number since January 2010. Open inactive cases are below 5,500 from a previous all-time high of over 16,000 in February 2015.

For more information on the status of DCS, please [click here](#).

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Joint Committee on Capital Review Hearing

The Joint Committee on Capitol Review (JCCR) met on Wednesday to hear reports from the Arizona State Parks Board, the Arizona Department of Administration, Northern Arizona University, the State Department of Corrections (ADC), the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). Most of the discussion during the hearing centered on concerns about the Maricopa Community Correctional facility.

During the last legislative session, the state budget included authorization for ADC to establish a Maricopa Community Correctional facility, which would serve as a halfway house for inmates who have been released from state prisons. In early August, ADC opened the facility on the grounds of the ADJC Adobe Mountain facility, which is on state property next to the Adobe Mountain School for youth offenders.

State legislators, including Representative Heather Carter and Representative John Allen, testified in opposition to the Maricopa Community Correctional facility, raising concerns about the location and asking for it to be moved.

Senator Kavanagh, a member of the committee, expressed his perspective that "This [facility] needs to be in downtown, central Phoenix, where there are services, affordable housing and jobs."

Discussion during the hearing also addressed the status of the Adobe Mountain property and whether it should be sold, since the population of juveniles has steadily declined in recent years. Adobe Mountain was built to house approximately 600 juveniles, but today there are only 191 juveniles in residence.

For additional information on the Maricopa re-entry center from the ADC, please [click here](#).

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Governor Ducey Signs Proclamation Honoring Conservationists

Governor Doug Ducey recently signed a proclamation to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day for this Saturday, September 24. The proclamation recognized the role that the state's hunting and angling community plays as an economic driver.

Hunters and anglers have made countless contributions over the decades to the conservation of fish and wildlife through sound, science-based management.

More than 786,000 Arizona hunters and anglers are doing their part to keep the state in the black, spending more than \$1.2 billion annually and supporting 18,220 jobs, according to the latest report (2011) by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. As a result, \$132 million in state and local taxes, and another \$155 million in federal taxes, are collected annually.

As part of National Hunting and Fishing Day, the Arizona Game and Fish Department will be hosting a free public fishing event as part of "[Verde River Days](#)" at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. For more information, please [click here](#).

For more information, including a listing of additional free public fishing events statewide in October, please [click here](#).

Source: [Arizona Game & Fish Department](#)

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August JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

This week, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) released the monthly fiscal highlights for August 2016. Total General Fund collections in August totaled \$759.3 million, 12.7 percent above the collections in August 2015. These collections were \$37.5 million above the enacted budget forecast. However, \$16 million of that increase is associated with a delay in the processing of the July Insurance Premium Tax, which shifted the recording of those collections to August.



The increase in collections last month follows up the disappointing collections in July which were below forecast.

The primary reasons for the improvement occurred in two revenue categories, Individual Income Tax and Insurance Premium Tax:

- The Individual Income Tax forecast overage was driven by an increase in withholding, which grew by 14.8 percent over August 2015. This gain appears to be related to a technical timing issue, as August 2016 had one more processing day than August 2015.
- The Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) revenues were also aided by technical issues. In the August Monthly Fiscal Highlights, JLBC staff noted that the significant decline in IPT's July collection was caused by a delay in processing, with \$16 million of deposits being recorded in August that would have otherwise occurred in July. With these collections being shifted to August, the Insurance Premium Tax category grew by 74.9 percent and was \$15.2 million above forecast.

Sales Tax (preliminary) collections of \$368.2 million were 4.3 percent above August 2015 and \$4.9 million above the forecast for the month. Year-to-date collections have increased by 4.6 percent and are \$13.1 million above the enacted budget forecast.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections of \$111.3 million in August were up 2.7 percent compared to August of last year and were \$1.2 million above forecast. Year-to-date collections are 4.3 percent above last year.

For more information on August General Fund Revenues, please [click here](#).

For more information on HURF Monthly Revenue Trends, please [click here](#).

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Research Update: Aggregate Impact Sheets

CSA has recently updated our website. We have included a variety of new research products and reports.

Please click on the following link to view the updated Aggregate Impact Sheets detailing the financial impact of select state actions on county resources: [CSA Website: Budget & Taxes](#)

The sheets detail the county by county impact of \$504.4 million in state cost shifts incurred since 2009 and the current impact of \$34.4 million. This year's total impact would have been \$53.1 million if it had not been for the one time fiscal relief included in the state budget this past session. Absent action in the next legislative session counties will have to bear the full costs of the impacts.

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This Week in Arizona History...

On September 22, 1554, Spanish conquistador and explorer, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, died in his vain search for the fabled Seven Cities of Gold, called "Cibola."

The Seven Cities of Gold is a myth that led to several expeditions in the 16th century. It is also featured in several works of popular culture. According to legend, the seven cities of gold could be found in the Sonoran Desert, Arizona.



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Upcoming NACo Webinar

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar and interactive discussion series: [County Official's Role in Reforming Criminal Justice Fines and Fees](#).

This two-part series on county official's role in reforming criminal justice fines and fees will explore the administration and enforcement of criminal justice fines and fees. The second part of the series will be an [interactive virtual discussion](#) with the presenters to dive deeper into their strategies and allow participants to ask questions. Participants are encouraged to register and attend both parts of the series.

Interactive Discussion: County Official's Role in Reforming Criminal Justice Fines and Fees

- Date: Thursday, September 29, 2016
- Time: 2pm – 3pm EDT
- [Register Here](#)

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