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



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Secretary of State Hobbs Meets with CSA Board



On Thursday, Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs joined the CSA Board of Directors meeting to share her current priorities including: improving government transparency and accountability; improving relationships between the Secretary of State's Office and counties; and completing an updated elections procedure manual. Secretary Hobbs plans to visit every county in the coming months, seeking to understand elections equipment and security needs in each of the counties.

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Gila Valley Leadership Class Visits State Capitol



This week the Gila Valley Leadership class participated in a series of lectures exploring issues relating to state and local government. They heard a presentation from Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kathy Hoffman and Arizona State Treasurer, Kimberly Yee. CSA's Executive Director, Craig Sullivan spoke with the class on the important role that Arizona's counties play in providing efficient constituent services. The class had a busy two days touring the state capitol and learning more about the legislative process.

The [Gila Valley Leadership Class](#) brings together leaders from the Gila Valley area to enhance leadership skills, learn about area issues, and expand their professional network. Each year, the class convenes once a month to gain more in-depth knowledge of important community issues including agriculture, mining, law enforcement, state and local government, and more.



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University of Arizona County Initiatives

During the CSA Board of Directors meeting, Buchanan Davis, Senior Director of the University of Arizona (UofA) Municipal and County Strategic Initiatives, spoke about the current UofA county initiatives, including statewide shortages in veterinarians and primary care physicians. Buchanan noted the UofA is working on its new veterinarian school, which will hopefully convene its first semester in the fall of 2020. The university is also looking at ways that they can incentivize students to stay in Arizona and practice after graduation.



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NACo Federal Update



The CSA Board of Directors received an update from the National Association of Counties (NACo). Jonathan Shuffield, Associate Legislative Director of NACo for Public Lands and Liaison to the Western Interstate Region reported that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) is being fully funded at \$500M. There was a small increase in hazardous fuel reduction spending for the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to help the agencies prepare for fire season.

Mr. Shuffield also noted that last Thursday the EPA and Army Corp of Engineers released their new versions of the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). NACo is working on a comprehensive analysis and will hold a briefing at the NACo Office to discuss WOTUS and answer any questions on Friday, March 1st. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the National City-County Leadership Center on the first floor of NACo's Headquarters located at 660 North Capitol Street NW, Washington DC, 20001.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please RSVP by emailing Zach George at zgeorge@naco.org. For more information regarding the proposed WOTUS rule, please [click here](#).

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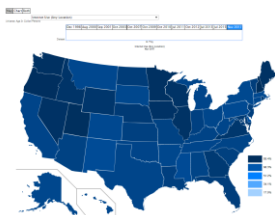
JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

This week, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) staff released their monthly fiscal highlights for January. This was the second month in a row that individual income tax (IIT) revenues underperformed expectations, with year-to-date collections down (2.9) percent from the JLBC Baseline forecast and (1.2) percent from January 2018. The state's other major revenue source, sales and use tax's year-to-date revenues were 7.0 percent above January 2018, in line with the baseline forecast. Bringing the state's general fund revenue (1.4) percent below the baseline forecast year-to-date. JLBC staff noted that the drop in IIT payments could mean lower than anticipated revenues in FY2019 if the drop was due to poor economic performance. However, if it was due to a technical timing issue – like individuals changing when they file due to the individual income tax changes made at the federal level – then the state may recoup some of the losses in April.

Year-to-date general fund expenditures are \$6.91 billion, and the state's Budget Stabilization Fund has a balance of \$438.6 million. Year-to-date Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) revenues are \$880.4 million, which is 5.3 percent above January 2018 and 1.9 percent above forecast.

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BroadbandUSA Webinar



This week BroadbandUSA held their monthly webinar, Measuring the Digital Divide: Review of Recent Surveys and Data. The first presenter was Rafi Goldberg, with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Office of Policy Analysis and Development. Goldberg discussed the three major federal data sources which are the NTIA Internet Use Survey, the American Community Survey, and FCC Form 477. Goldberg also highlighted Data Central on the NTIA website. Data Central includes the Digital Nation Blog, Data Explorer, and Research Center. By using the Data Explorer (pictured left) on NTIA's website, you are able to see computer and internet usage overtime from 1998 to 2017.

Ryan Dolan and Gerson Vasquez from the U.S. Census Bureau then presented, Highlighting the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. The 5-Year Estimates are collected on an ongoing basis from 578,000 geographic areas and new data is released every year. The data is pooled across 60 months, weighted to produce estimates, and controlled for age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. To learn more about the American Community Survey Data please, [click here](#).

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Legislative Session Snapshot

The 54th Legislature, First Regular Session marks its 40th day of the legislative session today. 1289 bills and 96 memorials/resolutions have been introduced this session.

The last day to hear bills in a committee of their originating chamber is today, February 22nd with the exception of the Appropriation Committees we expect next week to have a lot of floor activity as both houses work to prepare bills for action in the opposite chamber.

To view more important dates for the legislative session, please click on the following links:

- [Senate deadlines](#)
- [House deadlines](#)

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CSA Legislative Update

The status of CSA's legislative agenda package is as follows:

- 1) CSA Legislative Budget Priorities
 - [SB 1140 county contributions; committed youth; repeal](#) (*Leach*), Passed the Senate with unanimous support and has been sent to the House.
 - [SB 2429 appropriations; EORP contributions; counties](#) (*Thorpe*), passed out of House Government with a vote of 10 ayes and 1 nay and House Appropriations unanimously.
 - [SB 1293 appropriations; EORP contributions; counties](#) (*Gowan*) passed Senate Thursday with a vote of 28-2.
- 2) ~~[HB 2143 Water Basin Advisory Councils](#)~~ (*Cobb*)/S/E [HB 2467 west basin water users; committee](#) (*Cobb*) A striker was added to on to allow for study committees within the Mohave and La Paz County Water Basins. The bill passed out of Natural Resources, Energy and Water committee on Tuesday with a unanimous vote.
- 3) [HB 2316 junk vehicles; removal; counties](#) (*Campbell*), held pending committee assignment.
- 4) [HB 2277 indigent defense funds](#) (*Biasiucci*), passed out of House Judiciary with unanimous support and was scheduled to be heard in House appropriations this week, but it stricken from the calendar we have heard it is being held up due to the budget impact.
- 5) [HB 2702 TPT; marketplace facilitators; nexus](#) (*Toma*), passed out of the Ways and Means Committee with a vote of 8-2.
- 6) [SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien](#) (*Borrelli*), Passed the Senate with unanimous support and has been sent to the House.

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Next Week: Committee Agendas

The [Senate Rules Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 25th, at 1:00 pm in Senate Caucus Room 1

The [House Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 25th, at 8:00 am in House Hearing Room 1

The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 26th, at 11:00am in Senate Hearing Room 109

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County Supervisors Association of Arizona

1905 W. Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85009

www.countysupervisors.org

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