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



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County Budget Priorities Update



This week county financial priorities took important steps in the process.

Senator Leach's, SB 1140 passed the Senate 30-0. The bill eliminates a recession-era law that requires counties to pay a portion of the state's obligations to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. This will save county taxpayers \$11.3 million annually. The bill now awaits assignment to committee in the House.

Also, Representative Thorpe's HB 2429 passed the House Government Committee 10-1. This legislation provides essential relief to rural counties for the drastic increase in Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP) liabilities. State actions and court decisions caused EORP to become significantly underfunded and on the brink of insolvency. Though the plan is now closed to new participants, existing contractual obligations must be paid. Last year, the court ordered the legislature to stabilize the fund, which was accomplished by increasing employer contributions to the plan. That policy change resulted in a 162% increase in EORP costs borne by the county taxpayer. HB 2429 provides partial relief from the increased liability for rural counties.

Next week, HB 2429 will be before the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. On the Senate side, Chairman Gowan will be hearing his SB 1293 on the same topic in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

CSA is very grateful to Mr. Leach, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Gowan and all the members of the legislature who have been supporting these critical priorities.

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Superintendent of Public Instruction Presents to House Education Committee

This week in the House Education Committee meeting, newly elected Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman gave a presentation on her main priorities this year. Superintendent Hoffman stressed the need for collaboration and communication between the Department of Education and the legislature, and the importance of forging bipartisan partnerships. Superintendent Hoffman stated that she supports Representative Udall and Senator Boyer's bills that reduce the restrictions of the four hour ELL (English Language Learner) block. Superintendent Hoffman also explained that the Department of Education has already begun a top-to-bottom audit and that they will also be working with an expert partner to conduct an internal capacity review.



Superintendent Hoffman also outlined some of her other priorities, including:

- Advancing teacher recruitment and retention
- Competitive pay and benefits across the board
- Holding all schools accountable in transparency, governance, and procurement
- Valuing multilingualism and celebrating diversity

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African American Legislative Day



The House and Senate held a joint floor session for the 17th Annual African American Legislative Day on Thursday, February 7, 2018 celebrating the achievements and contributions of African Americans. Representatives Reginald Bolding and Geraldine Peten kicked off the event. Representative Peten focused on the Democratic Caucus' goal of improving the total educational system and the need to modernize the education funding model.

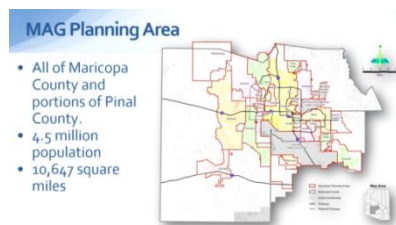
The Honorable Cody Williams, Justice of the Peace, South Mountain Justice Court discussed the need for bipartisan efforts at the legislature to achieve the best results for all Arizonans. He said that "if we are willing to work together and understand that we all care more about if the water turns on" and "that our children are educated than a whole lot of the minutiae that we can get caught up on here."

Jerri Williams, Police Chief, Phoenix Police Department outlined some of the changes her department has focused on including: 1) authorizing body camera systems for the Phoenix Police Department; 2) modifying hiring practices to hire the right individuals for the job; and 3) increasing their focus on training officers in crisis intervention and mental health.

Jeffery Glover, Chair of the Arizona Commission on African American Affairs (Commission) thanked all of the legislators for their work putting this event together noting that, "black history is American history and should be celebrated every day." The Honorable Claves Campbell shared that the Commission was created to ensure African Americans have a voice at the capitol. The Commission reaches out to communities across the state to understand the needs of all Arizonans and to ensure that the African American community's needs are reflected in the legislation moving through the Arizona Legislature.

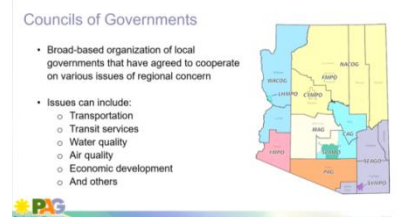
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MAG & PAG Overviews



This week in the Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting, Eric Anderson, Executive Director for the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and Jameson Brown, Planning and Public Affairs Administrator for the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) presented on their respective organizations. MAG is comprised of mostly mayors around Maricopa County, in addition to a representative from the City of Maricopa, Town of Florence, Pinal Board of Supervisors, and Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. Anderson stated that MAG has federal, state, and regional responsibilities as a planning agency. Lastly, Anderson went over the lack of funding for basic highway and street needs in Arizona. He noted that since the last gas tax increase in 1991, 70% less revenue is being generated for the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF).

During the PAG presentation, Jameson Brown discussed the purpose and function of PAG, how they interact with their member agencies, and the regional transportation authority (RTA). According to PAG's 2045 Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan their full list of projects and programs for roads totals \$29 billion by 2045, but as of now they can only afford \$12.8 billion of that amount. Brown also went over the transportation funding options at the local and regional level including: a county-wide half-cent sales tax, additional use of P3s, or increasing the local RTA excise tax.



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Legislative Session Snapshot

The 54th Legislature, First Regular Session marks its 26th day of the legislative session today. As of today 1206 bills and 87 memorials/resolutions have been introduced.

Today was the last day for the House to request bills and Monday is the bill introduction deadline. The last day to hear bills in their house of origin is coming up on February 22nd.

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 this week 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 is scheduled to be heard in House Appropriations next Wednesday.
 - [SB 1293 appropriations; EORP contributions; counties](#) (*Gowan*) is scheduled to be heard in Senate Appropriations next Tuesday.
- 2) [HB 2143 Water Basin Advisory Councils](#) (*Cobb*), pending committee assignment.
- 3) [HB 2316 junk vehicles; removal; counties](#) (*Campbell*), pending committee assignment.
- 4) [HB 2277 indigent defense funds](#) (*Biasiucci*), is scheduled to be heard in House Judiciary next Wednesday.
- 5) [SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien](#) (*Borrelli*), Passed the Senate this week with unanimous support and has been sent to the House.

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Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The full schedule for the House and Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearings can be found [here](#).

Monday

- The [Senate Rules Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 11th, at 1:00 pm in Senate Caucus Room 1
- The [House Education Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 11th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 1
- The [House Regulatory Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 11th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 5
- The [House Military & Veterans Affairs Committee](#) on Monday, February 11th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 3
- The [Senate Government Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 11th, at 2:05 pm (or upon adjourning of the Ethics Committee) in Senate Hearing Room 3
- The [Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 11th, at 2:05 pm (or upon adjourning of the Ethics Committee) in Senate Hearing Room 1

Tuesday

- The [House Commerce Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 12th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 3
- The [House Elections Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 12th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 12th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 12th, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 109
- The [Senate Education Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 12th, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 1

Wednesday

- The [Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 8:30 am in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [House Judiciary Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 3
- The [House Technology Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 5
- The [House Ways & Means Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 9:00am in House Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 109
- The [House Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 1
- The [House Federal Relations Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House State & International Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th at 2:00pm in House Hearing Room 5
- The [House Transportation Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 3

- The [Senate Finance Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 2:00pm in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 13th, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 109

Thursday

- The [House Health & Human Services Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 14th, at 8:30am am in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House Government Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 14th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 1
- The [House Land & Agriculture Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 14th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 3
- The Senate Commerce Committee will meet on Thursday, February 14th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 14th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 109
- The [Senate Water and Agriculture Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 14th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 3

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NACo Webinar: “Stepping Up” Your Efforts to Reduce Mental Illness in Jails

On February 14, NACo will host a webinar along with partners from the Stepping Up Initiative. Stepping Up is a national effort to divert people with mental illness from jails and into treatment. During the webinar, participants will hear from Stepping Up partners Kathryn Crouthers, Clinical Director of the Chilton Shelby Mental Health Center in Shelby County, Alaska and Corrections Chief Deputy Jamie Clayton of the Imperial County Sheriff’s Office in Imperial County, California, about how to best leverage the resources available to each county through the initiative and how to meet county goals.

The webinar is scheduled for Thursday, February 14 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time.

To register for the webinar, please click [here](#). To learn more about the Stepping Up Initiative, please click [here](#).

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