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



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Legislative District 6 Roundtable

On Thursday, Representative Blackman from Legislative District 6, held a roundtable meeting with supervisors from Coconino, Gila, and Yavapai counties. The meeting focused on county fiscal year 2020 state budget priorities, the public safety fee, retirement costs, transportation needs, and the taxation of online sales.

Representative Blackman expressed support for the 15 county solution to eliminate the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections fee, as well as the rural county EORP relief, while also discussing his plan to bring focus to criminal justice issues in 2020, including addressing earned release credits for drug offences and reinvesting savings into other community programs to increase overall resiliency. He encouraged the supervisors to reach out on issues facing counties that can be addressed through future legislation and looks forward to a continued partnership with the counties.



We appreciate Representative Blackman's thoughtful approach and his willingness to engage in a constructive dialog on the issues facing rural counties.

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County Managers Meet



On Friday, Deputy Secretary of State, Allie Bones and Deputy State Elections Director, Janine Perry from the Secretary of State's Office provided an update to the County Managers/Administrators Association on the improvements to the Arizona Voter Identification Database (AVID), including a run-through of the new system and examples of what counties and the public will experience after logging in. Perry noted AVID will provide enhanced security, a user-friendly interface and increased functionality for the public.

CSA staff noted the Administrative Office of the Courts is forming a study committee to further look at existing court recording issues that will meet over the summer, provided updates on CSA's transportation infrastructure survey and hemp zoning requests. After several months of lower than expected revenue growth, staff also addressed the decrease in growth of local excise tax and shared TPT revenues, pointing out that growth in most counties fell short of their average growth rate in the month of March. Other updates included a legislative report and discussion regarding a statewide food-code standardization effort.

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Budget Update

On the heels of last week's leaked draft Senate budget, legislative leadership this week shared with the Governor the budget proposal that excludes the 15 county Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) fee repeal. This confirms all three parties are now in communication regarding a budget. However, it is unclear how the Governor responded to the changes from his executive budget released in January.

The draft budget proposal released last week suggests the 15 county priority to eliminate the ADJC fee may be in jeopardy.

In 2015, the state shifted 25% of the cost of ADJC to the counties to patch a state budget shortfall, even though counties already pay millions locally for juvenile justice costs. Thankfully, for the past three years, state lawmakers have provided one-time relief to counties, while acknowledging that the county taxpayer should not be funding the state agency.

This year, the Executive budget plan recommended elimination of the fee, which would save the county general fund \$11.3 million. Senator Leach sponsored an ADJC fee repeal bill, [SB 1140](#), that passed unanimously out of the Senate as well as the House Appropriations Committee. However, the released spreadsheet showed that the needed \$11.3 in ADJC relief had been reduced to \$2.8 million, eliminating any relief to the two largest counties.

Counties continue to urge the legislature to enact the local taxpayer relief contained in CSA's 15 county budget solution, ending recession-era policies that have tapped local dollars to fund the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections ([SB 1140](#)) and providing partial relief to rural counties related to 162% increase in EORP costs ([SB 1293](#)).

To view CSA's Budget Priorities document please click [here](#).

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CSA Legislative Update

Today, May 3rd marks the 117th day of session. This week, the House and Senate passed an additional 33 bills to the Governor, to reach a total of 244, with a total of 19 memorials/resolutions as well, and a total of 6 vetoed bills.

We continue to inch closer to the end of the session, budget negotiations are heating up negotiations with various legislators tying their support of the budget to other causes, including education, KidsCare and an expansion of the ability for victims to file claims of sexual assault. Floor action was once again relatively slow this week, with only a handful of bills discussed each day and a couple of conference committee hearings. Also happening this week, CSA scored a victory in the passage of one of our legislative priorities, *SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien*, with the Governor signing the bill Wednesday evening.

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

- 1) CSA Legislative Budget Priorities
 - [SB 1140 county contributions; committed youth; repeal](#) (*Leach*), is waiting in Rules as the budget is negotiated.
 - [SB 1293 appropriations; EORP contributions; counties](#) (*Gowan*), is waiting in Rules as the budget is negotiated.
 - [HB 2702 TPT; marketplace facilitators; nexus](#) (*Toma*), pending action by the House Rules Committee, but is not expected to move forward and will need to be part of budget negotiations or part of a comprehensive tax package.
- 2) [HB 2467 NOW: committees; west basin water users](#) (*Cobb*), was moved through COW and is pending 3rd Read in the Senate.
- 3) [SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien](#) (*Borrelli*), was signed by the Governor, Laws 2019, Chapter 193.

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Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The [Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#) will meet on Monday, May 13, at 10:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Government Committee](#) will meet on Monday, May 13, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 3

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NACo Webinar: Counting All Children in the 2020 Census

Together with the Count All Kids Campaign, NACo will be hosting the "Counting All Children in the 2020 Census: What Counties Need to Know And What They Can Do" webinar. The undercount of children has been growing over the last 40 years, and research shows that one in 10 young children were missed in the 2010 Decennial Census. If each of those children would have been counted correctly, it would have amounted in states receiving over half a billion dollars more each year in funding from federal programs.

This webinar will discuss why counting children helps them thrive, which children are at risk for being missed in the Census, why those children are being missed, what tools the Count All Kids Campaign is developing to improve the count of children, and what steps counties can take now and in 2020 for the Census count. To learn more about the Count All Kids Campaign, please click [here](#). The webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at 11:00 am. For more information and to register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

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NACo Webinar: Veterans and Homelessness

On May 22nd, NACo will be hosting the webinar "Veterans and Homelessness: County Solutions for Ensuring Veterans Have an Affordable and Healthy Home." This webinar will discuss barriers that veterans encounter when trying to find affordable housing and health services. The webinar will have input from housing and health care experts, a personal account from a veteran who has faced these barriers, and also from a county that is currently working to eliminate the barriers that these veterans face on a local level.

This webinar will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd at 11:00 am. For more information and to register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

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County Supervisors Association of Arizona

1905 W. Washington, Suite 100

Phoenix, Arizona 85009

www.countysupervisors.org

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