

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



In the September 20, 2019 CSA Weekly Update:

- [CSA Board Discusses PSPRS and State Travel ID](#)
- [Greenlee County Appoints New County Administrator](#)
- [Small and Medium County Caucuses Meet](#)
- [La Paz County West Basin Water Users Study Committee](#)
- [Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Statewide Emergency Communications](#)
- [House Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults Meets](#)
- [CSA on the Road](#)
- [NACo Webinar: SLLC Supreme Court Preview](#)

## CSA Board Discusses PSPRS and State Travel ID



The CSA Board of Directors (Board) met this week and received a briefing from PSPRS Board of Trustees Chairman, Will Buividas on the current status of the system and recent actions by the PSPRS Board. Chairman Buividas also discussed key PSPRS goals and initiatives for the future and provided recommended practices for employers under PSPRS to better understand the severity of their unfunded liability and how it may be resolved. CSA staff also briefed the Board on current issues that exist within PSPRS's structure for repaying existing plan debt. Increased contributions to PSPRS, CORP and EORP will be necessary to ensure that current plan debt does not continue to accumulate. Staff noted that while these changes are necessary to protect future county taxpayers, there are a number of restrictions in place on county revenue streams and expenditures that make this goal difficult to accomplish. For more background information on public safety pension funding, check out the CSA video series on the topic [here](#).

The Board also received an update on state travel ID requirements from the Transportation and Technology Innovation Policy Advisor to Governor Ducey, Ben Blink. Blink informed the Board that, due to federal rules, any individual that shows up at airport security without a travel ID or some other form of federal ID will be turned away and be unable to fly beginning October 1, 2020. A travel ID is simply a standard driver license with a star in the top right corner, affirming that an individual has been approved by the federal government to board an airplane. Any driver license presented to airport TSA without the star will not be accepted. The Governor's office along with Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego recently kicked off the "Don't Get Grounded" campaign to spread awareness and to encourage Arizonans to update their license before it's too late. If you would like to avoid long lines, you can make an appointment at MVD or a third-party and fill out all required papers online before your appointment [here](#).



The Board also considered and voted to adopt a resolution dealing with increased investment in Arizona fish hatcheries and received a briefing regarding the CSA Legislative Policy Summit, including an overview of the Summit process, a breakdown of the county-submitted legislative proposals and other issues that will be of discussion when the Summit begins on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

[Top](#)

## Greenlee County Appoints New County Administrator



On Wednesday, September 4, 2019 the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Derek Rapier as the new Greenlee County Administrator effective immediately. Rapier had been serving as the Deputy County Administrator and HR Director. Rapier served as the Greenlee County Attorney for more than 20 years and in his position he was certified as an Election Officer.

A native of Morenci, Arizona, he attended Eastern Arizona College followed by Brigham Young University where he earned a degree in Finance and a Law Degree. After law school Rapier moved back to his hometown where he was in private practice and also served as the Greenlee County Attorney.

CSA extends a warm welcome and congratulations to Derek!

[Top](#)

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## Small and Medium County Caucuses Meet



The Medium County Caucus hosted Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) Senior Vice President of Economic/Rural Development Keith Watkins to discuss various issues affecting rural counties. Watkins briefed the Caucus on the ACA's effort to strengthen the forestry industry in Arizona by recruiting more companies into the state, while also ensuring that the existing industry in Arizona that may not have the capacity to handle existing issues, is still able to grow. Watkins also discussed the rural issue of access to broadband and the market gap that exists between rural and urban counties. In an effort to incentivize investment in broadband infrastructure in rural areas, the ACA will be accepting applications for a \$3 million grant to any county, municipality, tribe, non-profit organization or carrier that is looking to help spread access to broadband across the state.

Graham County hosted the Small County Caucus meeting on Wednesday night to discuss various items, including the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's proposal to develop a statewide Clean Water Act permitting program and Arizona's regional haze planning progress. The Caucus also received an update on CSA's legislative proposals and discussed local issues and events occurring in each county.



[Top](#)

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## La Paz County West Basin Water Users Study Committee



The La Paz County West Basin Water Users Study Committee (Committee) convened on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the House of Representatives. CSA-backed HB 2467 created the Committee during the 2019 session, along with a complementary committee investigating water issues Mohave County. The Committee is tasked with analyzing groundwater withdrawal data and providing recommendations regarding programs and policies for the basin to the Director of the Department of Water Resources, the Governor and the Legislature.

Discussion at the hearing included a historical overview of the La Paz County water basins by La Paz County Supervisor Holly Irwin. Jeff Inwood with the Hydrology Division of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) also provided a report regarding the water levels and the status of the five water basins within La Paz County. His report addressed the drop in well water levels in Butler Valley, McMullen Valley, Ranegras Plain, Harquahula INA and Tiger Wash.

Representative Cobb stated that this particular meeting was intended to be informational and future meetings would be open to discussion about concerns or suggestions.

[Top](#)

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## Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Statewide Emergency Communications

On Tuesday, September 17, 2019, the Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Statewide Emergency Communications (Committee) met to discuss the status of emergency communication in Arizona. The Committee is charged with examining emerging technologies in the area of emergency and crisis communications, investigating solutions for shared data across agencies and departments, gathering input from professionals in the field, and developing recommendations for future legislation, policies and procedures.



Committee discussion included current emergency communication technologies, how other states compare, and the general need for greater interoperability amongst emergency communication systems in Arizona.

The Committee consists of Co-Chairs Representative Kevin Payne, and Senator David Gowan, serving alongside Representatives Daniel Hernandez and Shawna Bolick, and Senators Sonny Borelli and Sean Bowie.

Future meeting dates for the Committee are tentatively set for October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. The next hearing is expected to include various government agency descriptions of their current systems, with the third hearing to include more testimony from the private sector.

To view an archived recording of the meeting, please click [here](#).

[Top](#)

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## House Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults Meets



This Tuesday, the 13-member House Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adult (Committee) met. The Committee is charged with reviewing and identifying best practices for the reporting and investigative processes to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults.

The Committee heard testimony from a variety of stakeholders, including members of the Abuse and Neglect Prevention Task Force, Arizona Developmental Disability Planning Council (ADDPC), Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council (APAAC), Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman and The Area Agency on Aging, Region One (AAARO). The stakeholders discussed several topics including improving the Adult Protective Service Registry, creating a multi-disciplinary training protocol and increasing funding for LTC Ombudsman.

Members of the Committee included Chairwoman Representative Jennifer Longdon and Vice-Chairman Representative Timothy M. Dunn, along with various professional representatives of the state agencies and organizations that serve the elderly and vulnerable adult population.

The committee will meet again on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm and October 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm

To view an archived recording of the meeting, please click [here](#).

[Top](#)

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## CSA on the Road



CSA staff enjoyed traveling to Yavapai County this week to meet with the Board of Supervisors and professional staff. As the summer comes to a close, CSA staff is looking forward to meeting with Maricopa County on October 7<sup>th</sup>, wrapping up CSA's summer county tour.

Thank you all for the warm hospitality. We have enjoyed visiting all of the counties over the over the summer.

[Top](#)

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## NACo Webinar: SLLC Supreme Court Preview

On Tuesday September 24th, from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM MST, NACo will be hosting the webinar, "SLLC Supreme Court Preview." It is rare for the Supreme Court's docket to be so interesting before the term has even started! Join Michael Dreeben, former Deputy Solicitor General and currently visiting lecturer at Georgetown Law. Joe Palmore and Morrison Foerster who will argue a case this term on the interplay between state tort law and the Superfund statute, and Todd Ruger, legal affairs staff writer at CQ Roll Call. These experts will be discussing some of the most interesting and important cases of the term for states and local governments. Some of the many topics that will be highlighted include: guns, DACA, Bridgeway, copyrighting statutory annotations, school choice.

For more information and to register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

[Top](#)



## County Supervisors Association of Arizona

1905 W. Washington, Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85009

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