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



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County Managers Meet



Today, at the County Managers and Administrators monthly meeting, CSA staff briefed the managers on a variety of topics, including pensions, transportation, ALTCS, and PTSD and workers' compensation issues, in addition to an overview of CSA legislative proposals.

The managers received an update regarding ongoing analysis and conversations with the PSPRS Board of Trustees about the actuarial assumptions used by the plan. The group discussed the on-going funding problems associated with PSPRS/CORP/EORP, potential paths forward, and how to better educate policy makers about the problem.

The group discussed needs in the area of transportation, including a long overdue increase to the gas tax and greater parity between alternative fuel and gasoline-powered vehicles. In addition, the managers received a presentation on PTSD and cancer presumptions for first responders in the workers' compensation system in anticipation of potential legislation in the upcoming session.

Other topics of discussion included expenditure limitations, ALTCS contribution increases, cable licensing updates in the state budget forecast and the CSA legislative proposals to be considered at the Legislative Policy Summit at the end of the month.

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JLBC Updates State Budget Forecast

The Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting was held on Thursday to review the state's revenue forecasts for the budget and consider the future economic outlook. The FAC usually convenes three times each fiscal year and is made up of private and public sector economists who present their views on the United States and Arizona economies over the current budget window. The FAC also serves as one of the inputs to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee's (JLBC) four-sector consensus budget forecast.

JLBC's four-sector forecast does not include a recession in the FY 2021 to FY 2023 budget window. The forecast takes into account the changes made to the tax code during the 2019 legislative session, including allowing for the taxation of remote online sales, and changes made to the state income tax code to offset the effects of conforming to the federal tax law changes. With those changes, the forecast anticipates 2.4% growth in FY 2020, 3.8% in FY 2021, 3.4% in FY 2022 and 4.1% in FY 2023. This is on top of the previously reported 10.2% that was realized in FY 2019.

With the strong revenue performance in FY 2019 and the moderate growth in the coming fiscal years, JLBC anticipates that the state will have an ending balance of \$694.3 million in FY 2021, with a structural balance of \$324.5 million. Of that \$694.3 million, JLBC staff anticipates that \$170 million is available for new ongoing spending initiatives, and \$475 million for one-time initiatives.

JLBC staff noted that the budget forecast does reduce FY 2021 expenditures by \$172 million of items that were labeled as one-time in the FY 2020 budget, but appear to be ongoing in nature. This includes the \$8 million in one-time relief provided to Maricopa and Pima Counties on the statutory Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections fee. Along with the other items that appear to be ongoing in nature, JLBC staff noted that if reauthorized, these items would take up a large part of the ongoing or one-time capacity in the FY 2021 budget.

Overall, the panel of economists noted that the Arizona economy appears to be performing well. However, they did note that a recurring Wall Street Journal poll reported that 77% of economists polled believed there would be a recession by the end of CY 2021. However, all of the participating panelists indicated that they believed it would be a mild slowdown or recession that was quickly recovered from.

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County Spotlight – Pima County Animal Care Center



Image Source: [Pima County](#)

The Pima County Animal Care Center (Center) in Tucson, housing more than 1000 pets each month, is the largest open-admission animal shelter in the community. The Center houses and finds homes for homeless animals, while also protecting public safety and educating Pima County pet owners about responsible pet ownership. In the month of August alone, the Center rescued 1,650 pets and found loving homes for 1,184 dogs and cats, all with a live release rate of over 93%.

Last year, the Center opened its own on-site pet store in collaboration with [Friends of PACC](#), the Center's official nonprofit partner organization. With items such as bones, toys, collars, treats, bowls and puppy and kitten food, the store caters to residents at the shelter adopting a new pet or anyone in the community that would like to shop for their own family, or even for pets within the shelter. 50% of all sales at the pet store stay within the facility and help save the lives of pets in need.

If you are interested in adopting a new family member, the Center is hosting a dog adoption through PetSmart this weekend. For more information on the adoption, please click [here](#).

To learn more about the Pima County Animal Care Center, please click [here](#).

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Interim Legislative Meetings

On Monday, October 7, 2019 the 9-member Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners (Committee) met. The Committee is charged with studying and gathering input in order to develop a recommendation on reform, which would allow additional credits for prisoners in the earned relief credit system.

The Committee welcomed presentations from the Policing and Diversion Subcommittee (Subcommittee), Arizona Department of Corrections, American Civil Liberties Union, The Phoenix Dream Center, and Maricopa County Adult Probation Office Committee. Ms. Merissa Hamilton, Chair of the Subcommittee, provided an overview of deflection programs in Arizona that allow police officers the discretion to divert individuals with identified behavioral health issues for a clinical assessment for treatment prior to arrest for nonviolent and victimless crimes.



The committee plans to meet again on October 21 at 10:00 AM. To view an archived recording of the meeting, please click [here](#).

Next week's Legislative Committee hearings:

- Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Statewide Emergency Communications, Tuesday, October 15th in HHR 3. To view an agenda for the hearing, please click [here](#).
- House Ad Hoc Committee on Abused and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults, Tuesday, October 15th in HHR 1. To view an agenda for the hearing, please click [here](#).
- Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Minimizing Contaminant Risk and Exposure for 1st Responders, Thursday, October 17th in SHR 109. To view an agenda for the hearing, please click [here](#).

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CSA on the Road



CSA staff visited with Maricopa County this week in the final stop on our summer county tour. Thank you all for the warm hospitality. We have enjoyed visiting all of the counties over the over the summer and look forward to beginning our next legislative county tour next year!

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Flu Season is Here: Get Your Flu Shot!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccination as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. It is strongly recommended that everyone 6 months old and older get a flu shot each year.

The following groups should get a flu vaccination because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they live with or care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications, including:

- Pregnant women
- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- Children with special healthcare needs
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
 - Health care workers
 - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
 - Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)



Flu symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, cough, congestion, runny nose, headaches and fatigue. Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes and can cause death.

For more information on where to get your flu shot, please [click here](#).

To view information from the Arizona Department of Health Services on flu vaccine options please, click [here](#).

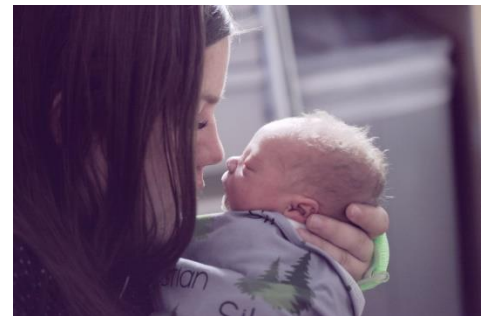
Sources: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

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NACo Webinar: Local Strategies for Improving Maternal Mental Health

On October 24, 2019, from 11:00 pm – 12:30 pm MST, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled, Local Strategies for Improving Maternal Mental Health.

With one in seven new moms affected by serious mental health issues like postpartum depression and anxiety, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs) negatively affecting the mother and her child's long-term physical, emotional, and developmental health. On this webinar, Mathematica expert Kara Zivin will shed light on a new mathematical model that was used to quantify the societal costs of untreated PMADs, which reached \$14.2 billion in 2017. And, participants will also hear from Pritzker Fellow Hoda Shawky who will share how First Five Orange County is integrating strategies to address maternal mental health and improve outcomes for young children. The session will include peer-to-peer discussion and an opportunity for questions.



To register for the 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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