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



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CSA Board Thanks Supervisor Russell McCloud for a Successful Year



On Thursday during the CSA Board of Directors meeting, Yuma County Supervisor Russell McCloud handed over his gavel after completing a successful year of service as CSA's President.

"Thank you for allowing me to serve in as CSA President over the last year; it has been a wonderful experience and such a privilege to serve this great organization. I can't thank all of you enough for your support and the advocacy work you did over this past year. I encourage you keep it up it because it is a critical component of this organizations ongoing success" Supervisor McCloud said. "I want to thank Craig and the staff for doing such a wonderful job. The combined advocacy you all provide and the hard work of staff make this organization a tremendous value to counties and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to serve as president over the last year."

Incoming CSA President and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Rudy Molera praised Supervisor McCloud for his leadership and commitment to strengthening the organization. He said, "When you join this organization certain people take you under their wing, Russell was one of those individuals. He encouraged all of us to participate in CSA's advocacy and to stay in contact with our legislators, since it is such an integral part of achieving our legislative goals and strengthening state and county partnerships. I know I speak for all of us when I say how incredibly grateful we all are to have had Russell at the leading the organization over the past year."

Supervisor McCloud will continue to serve on the CSA Executive Committee through 2020 as the CSA Immediate Past President.

Thank you Supervisor McCloud!

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New CSA President Rudy Molera & Executive Committee Elected



On Thursday, the CSA Board of Directors elected the six Executive Committee Officials to lead the organization during the coming year. Santa Cruz County Supervisor Rudy Molera was unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as the President of CSA.

Also elected to serve with President Molera on the executive committee are:

- Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Gallardo
- Mohave County Supervisor Jean Bishop
- Navajo County Supervisor Jason Whiting
- Pinal County Supervisor Todd House
- Yuma County Supervisor Russell McCloud (Immediate Past Pres.)

"I want to thank all of you for your support, CSA is an incredible organization and I'm deeply honored to serve as CSA President." Supervisor Molera said. "We have had so many amazing inspirational leaders over the years, it is a big responsibility, and I plan to give this position the upmost respect."

Outgoing CSA President and Yuma County Supervisor Russell McCloud offered his congratulations, stating, "Supervisor Molera is a friend and dedicated public servant to his community and Arizona. His selection as president reflects his fellow supervisors' immense confidence in his ability to represent Arizona counties."

CSA's executive committee helps to develop plans and implement strategies for strengthening Arizona counties in state and federal policymaking.

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ADOA Briefs Supervisors on Cyber Security and Procurement Efforts

On Thursday, Director of the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) Andy Tobin spoke to the CSA Board of Directors on the importance of improving cyber security statewide. ADOA State Compliance and Privacy Officer, Owen Zorge, provided a thorough overview of the types of cyber security threats facing public entities and resources available to local governments to address cyber security issues.

Additionally, Ed Jimenez, State Procurement Administrator at ADOA, provided a look into the state's new procurement system, the Arizona Procurement Portal, and the offices' efforts to streamline procurement for the state.

To learn more about ADOA's cyber security efforts please click [here](#); for ADOA's procurement office please, click [here](#).



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79th Annual Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) Conference



The 79th Annual Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) Conference was held on Thursday in Scottsdale to discuss major tax issues facing the state and what to expect for tax policy discussions in the upcoming legislative session.



Director of the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting Matt Gress presented a report on the current status of the economy and the State's fiscal picture. Generally, Gress's view is that the economy is strong and that things are looking up for the state, considering the General Fund has the largest ever cash reserves in history and revenues continue to be strong each year. Although Gress indicated existing revenue growth is unlikely to continue at its existing rate indefinitely, data suggests 2020 will be a strong year with continued growth thereafter. Finally, Gress stated that the Governor's budget is expected to be nearly completed as of Friday, the earliest ever, with intentions of passing the budget quickly this session.

Additionally, House Speaker Rusty Bowers, Senate President Karen Fann, and Senate Minority Leader David Bradley participated in a legislative roundtable, discussing what challenges the Legislature is facing and what to expect from the upcoming legislative session. The panel indicated that budget discussions are already underway and that the hope is for a quick budget passage and overall session. President Fann stated the preliminary Senate budget is well under way, and the expectation is that the budget would be voted on and completed during the week bills transition from their originating chamber to the other (typically around the end of February). She also stated that, if the budget cannot be completed that week, the intention is to halt all other business until the budget is completed.

Other discussion at the conference included an update on major tax policy issues by ATRA staff, as well as an update on pending tax cases impacting Arizona taxpayers and policymakers.

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Interim Legislative Meetings

Senate and House Commerce Committee of Reference (Committee)



The Committee met to discuss the sunset review of the Arizona Department of Gaming (Department). The Arizona Office of Auditor General (OAG) completed their initial sunset review and performance audit in August of 2018. The audit evaluated the Department's compliance statutory requirements for regulating the Arizona Tribal-State Gaming Compact (Compact) and horse racing licensure.

Since the initial audit the Department has implemented seven of the twelve recommendations, is in the process of implementing three recommendations, and two recommendations are not yet applicable. The OAG will conduct an 18 month follow up with the Department on any recommendations not yet fully implemented.

The Committee made a recommendation to continue the Department for 4 years to align with the expiration of the existing Compact and to align the Department's new statutory requirement to regulate boxing, mixed martial arts, and racing.

To view the OAG report, Department response and May 2019 follow-up please, click [here](#).

House Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adult (Committee)

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 the 13-member Committee met to discuss potential recommendations to be included in a report accompanying the findings from the Governor's Abuse and Neglect Task Force. Some of the issues addressed included the implementation of an oversight group, statutory changes to define abuse including protection from emotional abuse, trauma informed investigations, and creation of a whistleblower statute.



The Committee is set to meet again on December 17th where they will review a draft of the report and recommendations.

House Ad Hoc Committee on Groundwater Supply in Pinal County (Committee)



On Wednesday, November 13, 2019 the 7-member Committee charged with studying the supplies of available groundwater and the renewable supplies in Pinal County met.

The Committee heard testimony from the Pinal AMA Water Supply Stakeholder Group (Pinal Stakeholder Group) created by the Committee in October. The Pinal Stakeholder Group recommended expanding membership to include local government, local utilities, local communities, agriculture developers, economic organizations, the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Pinal Indian Community and noted they will have a kick-off meeting in December.

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Minimizing Contaminant Risk & Exposure for First Responders (Committee)

On Thursday, November 14, 2019 the Committee met to hear testimony regarding cancer screening and prevention for first responders.

Captain Crogan and Captain Figgins from the Mesa Fire and Medical Department shared some best practices to reduce the transfer of carcinogenic materials to first responders, methods of cancer prevention, and types of cancer screening procedures currently used by his department.

The Committee is set to meet again in December where they will be discussing possible recommendations.



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

Upcoming Legislative Committee hearings:

- [Towing Safety Task Force](#) Tuesday, November 19, 2019, House Hearing Room 4

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County Spotlight - Cochise County Library District Receives State Recognition



On November 8th, the Arizona Library Association recognized a team of four volunteers from Elfrida Library, a branch of the Cochise County Library District as the 2019 Volunteer of the Year, beating out several competitors from across the state. The volunteers were nominated by the library's branch manager Stephanie Fulton. Fulton stated that the volunteers are essential to the success of the library. During the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, Elfrida Library circulated 10,000 books, had 4,642 visits and held 42 library events. The Library District Director Amadee Ricketts said the volunteers are a key factor in running a library in a rural community.

For more information 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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