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



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## State & Counties Combat Wildfires

County leaders and resources have deployed to protect public safety in communities threatened by wildfires. There are currently two wildfires and two prescribed fires burning throughout Arizona, which include:

- Rattlesnake Fire, Apache County – The Rattlesnake Fire, burning 25 miles South West of Alpine has consumed nearly 21,513 acres as of Thursday. Crews are removing unburnt fuels from previously constructed fire lines, unburnt fuels within the interior of the fire and have plans in place to mitigate the effects of smoke along Highway 91 to the east of the fire.
- Indian Meadow Fire, Coconino County – The Indian Meadow Fire, burning 34 miles North of Williams is nearly 550 acres and currently 95% contained as of Thursday. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire and all evacuations and pre evacuation orders have been lifted.



For up to date information on wildfires, please click on the following links:

[Arizona Interagency Wildfire Prevention](#)

[Arizona State Forestry Division](#)

[Federal: Active Fire Maps](#)

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## Senate Proclamation Recognizing 2018 as the Year of Naaltsoos Sáni

On Wednesday, April 25, Senator Peshlaki and President Yarbrough signed a Senate proclamation acknowledging 2018 as the Year of Naaltsoos Sáni. The Navajo Nation is commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Naaltsoos Sáni, the Treaty of 1868 with the United States that secured the Dine peoples return to their homelands and the recognition of their inherent sovereignty by the United States.

The original copy of the historic treaty will be on display in an exhibit opening on June 1, 2018 at the Navajo Nation Museum.

For more information about the commemorations, please [click here](#).



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## Legislature Selects Lindsay Perry for Appointment as the Auditor General

The Arizona House of Representatives and Senate introduced identical concurrent resolutions [HCR 2047](#) and [SCR 1039](#) approving the appointment of Lindsey Perry as the Auditor General of the State of Arizona and held public meetings on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Perry is a certified public accountant and prior to her appointment she was the Manager of the Special Investigations Unit for the Arizona Office of the Auditor General.



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## April JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) outlined their Monthly Fiscal Highlights for March 2018 with General Fund revenue collections of \$531.1 million, a decrease of (5.5)% over March 2017 figures. JLBC attributed most of the mediocre numbers to a sharp decline in Insurance Premium Taxes due to a timing issue that is expected to be resolved in April. Year-to-date (YTD) General Fund revenue is \$261.7 million above budget forecast, a 3.7% surplus and 6.2% above prior year.

The Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) met April 11 to update its revenue forecast. The 13-member panel of economists revised their January forecast for FY 2018 increasing expected growth from 4.3% to 5.6%. The forecast revision would result in an additional \$51 million in State General Fund revenue.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections of \$117.8 million in March are 1.1% higher than March 2017 but \$(1.1) million below March forecast. YTD collections are up 3.6% over last year.

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## Legislative Session Snapshot: Red for Ed & Budget Ahead?

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session marks its 110<sup>th</sup> day of the legislative session today.

A total of 1,166 bills and 122 memorials/resolutions have been introduced, of that 291 bills have passed, 267 have been signed into law and 16 have been vetoed.



With the 100 day mark in the rearview mirror, both chambers of the legislature voted to extend the legislative session before they adjourned for the weekend. Legislative leadership is still seeking to close out the legislative session quickly. They have until Thursday, May 10th before they reach the 120 day mark when their per diem rate will drop from \$35 a day to \$10 a day for Maricopa legislators and will drop from \$60 down to \$20 for out-of-town legislators.

Since Governor Ducey proposed a significant pay raise for teachers a few weeks ago, state legislators have been debating his request and working on how to address it within restricted fiscal parameters. That task has been challenging, but negotiations have been making progress over the course of the week. The situation was improved by the passage of [HB2166 vehicle fees; alternative fuel VLT \(Campbell\)](#), which increases vehicle registration fees and helps free up general fund revenue that would have been used to fund the Department of Public Safety.

For the most part, legislators have not seen specific details and their briefings were focused on adjustments to revenue projections and the details of the teacher pay plan. There may be some county relief being considered related to certain county priorities.

Negotiations are expected to continue and we expect an introduction of a budget plan early next week.

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## CSA Legislative Agenda

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

- 1) [HB 2190 county improvement districts; repayment agreements \(Mitchell\)](#) - Passed the House 57-0. Passed Senate 29-0, and signed into law, **Chapter 80**.
- 2) [HB 2274 county contributions; hospitalization; medical; repeal \(Thorpe\)](#) - Passed the House 58-0, transmitted to the Senate. Referred to Senate Health & Human Services and Appropriations.
- 3) [HB 2413 public road maintenance; primitive designation \(Cook\)](#) - Passed the House 58-0, passed the Senate 29-1 and signed into law, **Chapter 16**.

- 4) [HB 2415 juvenile dependency proceedings fund](#) (*Cobb*) –Passed the House 51-7, transmitted to the Senate. Passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 7-0, passed Senate Appropriations, awaiting Rules.
- 5) [HB 2439 county contributions: committee youth: repeal](#) (*Thorpe*) –Passed the House 55-3, transmitted to the Senate. Passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 6-0-1, passed Senate Appropriations, awaiting Rules.
- 6) [SB 1038 state land payments: payment method](#) (*Griffin*)-Passed the Senate 30-0, passed the House 57-1-2 and was signed into law, **Chapter 18**.
- 7) [SB 1113 zoning violations: notice: service](#) (*Fann*)-Passed the Senate 23-5, passed the House 51-8, passed Senate Final Read 22-6, **Chapter 213**.

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## New Videos, Webpage Illustrate CORP Changes

The Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) of Arizona has released two of three videos designed to help teach the pending reforms to the corrections and detention community, including all of the human resources, payroll and management employees who help provide these vital services. The [first video](#) covers the basics of the upcoming changes, while the [second video](#) dives deeply into the details of the 401(a) Defined Contribution plan for Tier 3 corrections/detention officers.

Additionally, a new [PSPRS webpage](#) dedicated to the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP) is now live, and it offers a [how-to-guide](#) for employers, a [matrix](#) that summarizes the benefits among each employee tier and a benefits [brochure](#) for prospective Tier 3 probation and surveillance officers of the AOC.

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