



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

In the December 9, 2016, CSA Weekly Update:

- [State Retirement Update](#)
- [Courts Brief County Managers](#)
- [CSA Holds County 101 for Legislative Staff](#)
- [2016 General Election Results Canvassed](#)
- [Hearing Held on Expanding Presumption of Compensability](#)
- [Surface Transportation Funding Task Force: \\$20B Needed for Roads](#)
- [Sunset Review of AZ State Fair](#)
- [Study Committee on Incompetent, Nonrestorable and Dangerous Defendants](#)
- [This Week in Arizona History...](#)
- [Interim Committee Agendas](#)
- [Calendar](#)

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## State Retirement Update

Today, Jared Smout, Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Administrator, and Dean Scheinert, PSPRS Board of Trustees member, presented an update on state retirement systems to the County Managers.

Topics addressed include:

- The status of the Hall Case: Last month the Arizona Supreme Court issued an opinion that reverted contribution rates back to pre-SB1609 rates, reinstated the permanent benefit increase calculation (PBI) for those hired before July 20, 2011. Additionally, December 27, 2016 is the deadline to file a motion for reconsideration and just 15 days later, the Supreme Court is expected to issue a mandate, terminating the appeal and returning jurisdiction to the superior court for any unresolved issues.
- The impact of the Hall Case on the state retirement plans:
  - PSPRS - It would have increased future liabilities by an estimated \$1.2 billion system-wide, but instead Prop 124 mitigated that and only increased liabilities by approximately \$725 million.
  - Corrections Officers Retirement Plan (CORP) – Increases liabilities an estimated \$377 million.
  - Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP) – Increases liabilities an estimated \$86 million.



Mr. Smout also discussed the Cortex Study, which looks at risk pooling and local board consolidation; the Board of Trustee Transition; and implementation of pension reform.

For more information on PSPRS, please [click here](#). For more information on the Hall Case, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

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## Courts Brief County Managers

Dave Byers, the Arizona Office of the Courts (AOC) Director briefed the County Managers on a variety of court initiatives and proposals for the coming year.

Issues discussed include:

- The status of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and potential for agency reforms
- County juvenile justice reform efforts
- [The AOC Fair Justice for All Initiative](#)
- Enhanced court security program development and potential legislation



For more information on AOC, please [click here](#).  
[Top](#)

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## CSA Holds County 101 for Legislative Staff

This week CSA conducted its annual County 101 presentation and roundtable with legislative staff.

CSA Executive Director, Craig Sullivan, kicked off the event by sharing his perspective on county government, the role of CSA and the invaluable work of legislative staff at the state legislature.



CSA staff then guided the presentation and discussion on the importance of county government and CSA's legislative package for 2017.

Attendees included staff from both the House and Senate.

[Top](#)

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## 2016 General Election Results Canvassed



On November 8, 2016 Arizonans went to the polls to vote for a variety of officials, including the President of the United States, U.S. congressional candidates, state-wide officers, and local and judicial officials.

On December 5, 2016, Secretary of State Michelle Reagan [canvassed](#) the results. For more information please visit the [Secretary of State Website](#).

To view the list of newly elected county supervisors from all 15 counties, please [click here](#).

To view the final election results, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

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## Hearing Held on Expanding Presumption of Compensability

On Tuesday, December 6, the Senate Commerce and Workforce Development and House Insurance Committee of Reference met to consider a proposal that would establish a presumption of compensability for cardiovascular disease for firefighters and peace officers, and expand the cancer presumption of compensability for firefighters and peace officers.

In 2001, Arizona joined 33 states in creating a presumption cancer law intending to make workers compensation benefits easier for first responders to obtain. The Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona Association have been seeking to expand upon the current presumptions.

After testimony from both sides of the issue, the joint-committee asked that a comprehensive review of any causal relationship between the firefighter profession and cancer and cardiovascular disease be conducted. Additionally, the committee acknowledged that current research and information available does not provide clear evidence for an expansion of the presumption of compensability for peace officers, only firefighters. The committee is asking that the Industrial Development Authority craft a proposal that includes scientific evidence and financial impacts to counties and cities that would result by expanding the presumption of compensability.

Committee members include: Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford; Senator David C. Farnsworth; Senator Steve Smith; Senator Kimberly Yee (Co-Chair); Senator Robert Meza; Senator Bob Worsley; Representative Karen Fann (Co-Chair); Representative Doug Coleman; Representative Jonathan Larkin; Representative Phil Lovas; Representative Lisa Otondo

[Top](#)

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## Surface Transportation Funding Task Force: \$20B Needed for Roads

On Wednesday morning, December 7, the Surface Transportation Funding Task Force (Task Force) reported that it will take \$20 billion to meet the state's transportation needs; however, that figure does not include another \$40 billion for other road projects.

The Task Force is expected to finalize their recommendations later this month. One of the anticipated recommendations is a proposal to increase the gasoline tax. The state's gas tax has remained untouched at 18 cents per gallon since 1991 even as the price of gas has gone up and there has been an increase in fuel efficient vehicles.

Senate Bill 1490, sponsored by Senator Worsley, established the 9-member Task Force to review transportation needs and revenue sources in Arizona and recommend specific revenue proposals for dedicated funding sources for specified transportation-related items.

The Task Force is required to cooperate with the Department of Administration to conduct a statewide study to identify vacant or underused buildings owned by the state that could be sold to provide funding for transportation projects. Additionally, they are required to issue progress reports every three months to the Governor and the Legislature and to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2016. The Task Force will meet every two weeks and CSA plans to offer a county perspective at an upcoming hearing.

Committee members include: Alan Maguire; Jim Rounds (Rounds Consulting); Kevin McCarthy (ATRA), Mary Peters (Mary Peters Consulting Group); Grant Nulle (Arizona Department of Revenue); Julie Pastrick (Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce); John Ragan (AZ Chamber of Commerce and Industry); Michael Tully; David Williams.

[Top](#)

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## Sunset Review of AZ State Fair

On Tuesday, December 6, a Legislative Committee of Reference met to discuss the sunset review of the Arizona Exposition and State Fair. During the hearing representatives of the State Fair testified that the Fair gets approximately one million visitors annually and has \$12.3 million in annual revenue. Moreover, the Fair represents all of Arizona's counties and enables numerous school bands and choirs to perform.



Jim McPherson of the Arizona Preservation Foundation and G.G. George of the Phoenix Historic Neighborhood Coalition (pictured) spoke in support of the Fair. They want the Fair to stay in its current location, and they also would like to see the historic Works Progress Administration building on the fairgrounds preserved.

The Fair's eight year continuation recommendation passed.

[Top](#)

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## Study Committee on Incompetent, Nonrestorable and Dangerous Defendants

The Study Committee on Incompetent, Nonrestorable and Dangerous Defendants met this week to discuss Arizona's policies for addressing the cases of some of the state and counties' most challenging defendants. Defendants who are found incompetent due to mental illness, mental impairment, extreme substance abuse issues or other reasons, cannot be criminally tried in Arizona. State law requires the state and counties to attempt to restore these individuals to competency so they are able to stand trial, though some cannot be restored.



According to committee member and Deputy Pima County Attorney Kathleen Mayer (pictured), some of the nonrestorable defendants fall through the cracks, resulting in untreated people who may pose a risk to public safety. Dr. Michael Shafer of Arizona State University, who is conducting research on behalf of the Committee, testified that during the past few years, 747 defendants have been referred to Restoration to Competency (RTC) programs from ten counties (not including Maricopa County). 728 defendants were discharged from RTC programs. 85% were restored to competency and 608 were found to be nonrestorable. Among the nonrestorable defendants in Maricopa County, 23% had been charged with assault and 55% were mentally ill, 13% had an intellectual

disability and 11% suffered severe substance abuse or alcoholism. According to Dr. Shafer the nonrestorable defendants had committed the full "range" of crimes, from homicide to simple assault.

The Committee adopted recommendations to encourage counties to adopt standard reporting procedures and to continue studying this issue. The committee also discussed introducing a bill that would standardize reporting procedures and other facets of the state and county response to nonrestorable defendants.

[Top](#)

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## This Week in Arizona History...

On December 9, 1918, the citizens of Mesa started a movement for separation from Maricopa County. They wanted to form a new county taking in Chandler, Gilbert and Tempe.

Needless to say, the movement failed and almost 100 years later, Mesa is still firmly a part of Maricopa County.



[Top](#)

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## Interim Committee Agendas

- [The Joint Border Security Advisory Committee 2011](#) will meet on December 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- [The House Ad Hoc Committee on Gold Bonds](#) will meet on December 12, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 4.
- [The Senate Commerce and Workforce Development and House Commerce Committee of Reference](#) will meet on December 13, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- [The Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Prosperity Districts](#) will meet on December 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- [The Joint Legislative Budget Committee](#) will meet on December 14, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- [The Joint Committee on Capital Review](#) will meet on December 14, 2016 Immediately Upon Adjournment of the JLBC Meeting in Senate Hearing Room 109.
- [The Career and Technical Education Task Force](#) will meet on December 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 109.

For a complete list of updated agendas, please [click here](#).

[Top](#)



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