



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



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The 2018 Legislative Session Begins Monday

The 53rd Arizona State Legislature, Second Regular Session will convene on Monday, January 8, 2018 with Governor Ducey delivering his fourth state of the state address before a joint session of the House and Senate.

While session technically does not start until Monday, so far 152 bills and five memorials/resolutions have been introduced. This number will increase exponentially as the legislature has not introduced fewer than 900 bills since 1993. Though, in 2017 1,079 bills were introduced, which was a significant decrease from the 1,247 bills that were introduced in the 2016 legislative session.

To view important dates for the upcoming legislative session, please click on the following links:

- [Senate deadlines](#)
- [House deadlines](#)

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New State Senator Appointed in Legislative District 13



Dairy farm owner Sine Kerr has been appointed as the new State Senator for Legislative District 13. On Thursday, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint her during a special meeting. Senator Kerr will replace Republican Steve Montenegro, who recently resigned from the Senate to run for an open U.S. Congressional seat. District 13 encompasses a wide swath of the state stretching from western Maricopa County southwest to Yuma.

Senator Kerr has spent nearly 40 years running a family-owned business. The dairy farm she owns with her husband has grown from 15 cows to 1,100 milking cows. Over the past decade, she has also held leadership positions on various boards and councils related to food and agriculture.

"Sine Kerr knows this area, she knows the issues that affect business, and she will bring a practical and focused approach to solving problems that affect LD-13 and the entire state," said District 4 Supervisor Clint Hickman, whose supervisorial district encompasses the legislative district.

As required by law, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisor selected Senator Kerr from a list of three candidates submitted by the Legislative District 13 Precinct Committeemen. Kerr will serve through 2018. The next election for seats in the Arizona Senate will be the 2018 primary.

"I am honored to represent the area where I've grown a family and a business," Senator Kerr stated. "The people in this community matter to me and I know what matters to them. I plan to be a strong voice for District 13 in the Arizona Senate."

Source: Maricopa County

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State Senate Committee Membership Changes

Senate President Steve Yarbrough recently announced Senate Committee membership changes that took effect prior to the start of the new legislative session. To view the original announcement, please click [here](#).

The following changes were made due to the impending resignation of Senator Debbie Lesko and the recent resignation of Senator Steve Montenegro:

- Senator John Kavanagh is the new Appropriations Committee Chair and Senator Warren Petersen will become the Vice-Chair.
- Senators Karen Fann and Sonny Borrelli will be added to the Appropriations Committee, to replace Senator Lesko and former Senator Montenegro.
- Senator Borrelli will become the Chair of the Government Committee and Senator Kavanagh will move to Vice-Chair.

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Vacancy Information in Arizona

Recent events have raised the prospect of vacancies occurring at the national, state and local level. In Arizona there are a variety of processes in place for replacements in various public offices. In order to provide some additional detail on these processes we created the following reference document that outlines the applicable statutory procedures: [Filling Elected Officials Vacancies in Arizona](#).

You can also find this document under the [Elections](#) section of the *Research & Publications* section of the CSA website.

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Effect of Desalination on Future of Arizona's Water Stability Conference

On Thursday Representative Becky Nutt, was joined by multiple legislators, staff and industry experts, for a conference: ***Exploring the Effect of Desalination on Future of Arizona's Water Stability***.



Presentations were given by experts from across the country and across the globe, including presenters from Israel. Discussions explored the feasibility, importance, and challenges associated with water management in desert areas and in particular the presentations examined the feasibility of desalination technologies to support water supply sustainability.

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NACo Webinar: Advancing Safety & Justice

On January 25, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. EST, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled [County Roles and Opportunities in Advancing Safety and Justice through Collaboration](#). This is one of a three-part webinar series that will focus on key areas of local criminal justice systems that affect counties and offer strategies counties can employ to address these issues, make their justice systems work more effectively and efficiently, and ultimately lead to safer and healthier communities. This webinar will highlight ways counties can develop and enhance collaboration to improve information sharing within the justice system.

To register for the webinar, please [click here](#)

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