



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

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## CSA on the Road



This week, CSA Executive Director, Craig Sullivan, continued his visits to the various counties across the state to brief county supervisors, administrators, and staff on the recently adjourned legislative session and CSA's efforts throughout the year in support of the counties. As CSA visits each of the counties, we will be taking a little time to feature each county and share some interesting local information.

### Yuma County

Yuma County was one of four original Arizona counties created by the 1<sup>st</sup> Arizona Territorial Legislature. The county boundaries remained the same until 1982, when La Paz County was created from its northern half. The original county seat was the city of La Paz; in 1871 it was moved to Arizona City, which was later renamed as Yuma in 1873.

Yuma County is noted for its weather extremes. Of any populated place in the contiguous United States, Yuma is the driest, the sunniest, and the least humid, with the lowest frequency of precipitation and the highest number of days per year—175—with a daily maximum temperature of 90 °F or higher.



### La Paz County

La Paz County was established in 1983 after voters approved separating the northern portion of Yuma County, making it the only county to be established after Arizona became a state in 1912, and currently the second youngest county in the United States (behind the consolidated city-county of Broomfield, Colorado, which was established in 2001). The name of the county is the Spanish word for "the peace," and is taken from the early settlement (now a ghost town) of La Paz along the Colorado River.

Our next set of outreach meetings will take place on July 19 and July 26 in Santa Cruz and Pinal counties. Over the course of the summer, we will visit each of the 15 counties to brief them on the recent legislative session and our work going into 2018.

Sources: [Wikipedia](#), ["State & County Quick Facts"](#)

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## JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

The June Monthly Fiscal Highlights report for the month of May 2017 was released this week by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC). Monthly general fund revenues were \$725.1 million, an increase of 6.7% over the prior year. Individual income tax revenues for the month of April were \$101.7 million below forecast with JLBC speculating that timing of processing tax returns could be to blame. This proved somewhat, but not wholly, true as May was \$44.4 million above forecast. General fund revenues are down \$40.3 million below forecast year-to-date (YTD), a 0.5% shortfall. Total YTD general fund revenue collections are \$8.2 billion.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections were \$114.8 million for the month, a 3.9% increase compared to May 2016. YTD collections are up 3.4% over prior year.

May general fund spending totaled \$636.6 million with YTD spending of \$8.88 billion. This represents a \$9.4 million decrease compared with May 2016 and a \$163.9 million YTD increase from FY2016.

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

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## PSPRS Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

This week the legislature established the Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committee on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The committee will study the following:

- An overview of PSPRS and a historical overview of employer contributions over the last 20 years.
- The impact of various actuarial and investment assumptions by the PSPRS board and other regulating entities, as well as other statutory provisions enacted in state law.
- The result of recently enacted PSPRS reforms and other legislative changes.
- The impact to cities, towns, and fire districts across the state due to increasing pension contributions rates.
- The concerns and proposals of stakeholder organizations and taxpayers.

The first meeting will take place next week on June 28, 2017 in Flagstaff.

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## This Week in Arizona History

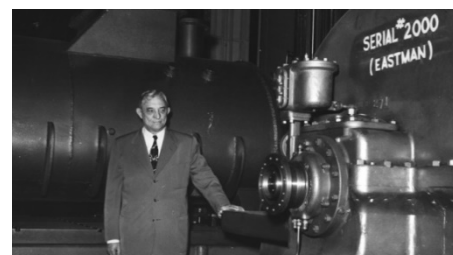
This week marked the first official day of summer, as well as the summer solstice, where those of us living in the northern hemisphere experience the longest days of the year. To kick off summer 2017, Arizona weather brought upon us record breaking temperatures and extreme heat warnings that live up to the hype of summer in the southwest. When fighting for shaded spots in parking lots becomes an everyday occurrence, and when the “breeze” outside feels more like you’re in a convection oven than it being refreshing, we can all agree on one particular invention we are most grateful for: air conditioning.

The use of evaporative cooling techniques has been an important survival custom for thousands of years, even dating back to ancient Egyptian times when it was common practice to employ slaves to fan large, porous clay jars filled with water, or to hang wet reeds and mats from windows and doors to catch breezes from outside, thus creating cooler room temperatures. Wealthy Romans often used water from local aqueducts and circulated it through the walls of their homes to maintain cooler temperatures, and even during the medieval times, the first man-made evaporative cooling towers were developed and constructed to keep homes and other structures cool.

Luckily, the use of these “home-made” cooling systems continued to evolve. Arizona holds its own claim to fame due to A.J. Eddy of Yuma, Arizona who, on June 21, 1936, invented the first evaporative coolers for homes, helping Phoenix become known as the “swamp” cooler capital of the world. But the true summertime hero is Willis Haviland Carrier who invented the very first modern electrical air conditioning unit in the United States in the early 1900’s. Though it was first developed for industrial plants and factories, by 1931, individual room air conditioners were available for purchase, but could only be afforded by the wealthiest of people due to its extreme price tag, costing the equivalent of \$120,000 to \$600,000 in today’s economy. Finally, by the 1950’s, having an air conditioner in your home became the next best way to “keep up with the Joneses” and as they say, the rest is history.

So while many people’s summer goals revolve around spending a minimum number of minutes basking outside in the summer sun, let’s all take a moment to give thanks and bask in the gloriousness of modern air conditioning.

*Image “Having an air conditioner was the next big thing and by the end of World War II, they were making their way into every home.” The Carrier Company*



Sources and Image: [AZ Family](#); [Popular Mechanics](#); [Phoenix New Times](#)

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## NACo Webinar: Stepping Up

On June 29, 2017 from 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm (EST) the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled, *Stepping Up: Conducting a Comprehensive Process Analysis and Inventory of Services for People with Mental Illnesses in Jails*.

This is the fourth webinar in the “Six Questions” series, which will feature key strategies for conducting a comprehensive process analysis and inventory of services for people with mental illnesses in county jails. In every county, there are multiple points along the arrest-to-release continuum where an individual with mental illness could be identified and connected to services. Completing a comprehensive process analysis can help county leaders identify points within their systems where information can be better shared and individuals can be better connected to services to help reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. During the webinar, a national expert will provide an overview of key strategies for conducting this type of analysis and how to use the results to identify opportunities for and gaps in connecting individuals to the services they need. Then, county officials will share how they have conducted such analyses and how they are using this information to inform their Stepping Up efforts.

The webinar will be followed up by the [Stepping Up Network Call](#) for a deeper dive on the same topic on July 6, 2017, at 2pm ET.

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

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