



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



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Wishing Everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the CSA Newsletter will not be sent out next week.

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New CSA President Anthony Smith & Executive Committee Elected

On Thursday the CSA Board of Directors elected the six Executive Committee Officials to lead the organization during the coming year. Pinal County Supervisor Anthony Smith was unanimously elected by his colleagues as the President of CSA.

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

- President-elect: Yuma County Supervisor Russell McCloud
- First Vice President: Santa Cruz County Supervisor Rudy Molera
- Second Vice President: Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Gallardo
- Third Vice President: Yavapai County Supervisor Jack Smith
- Immediate Past-President: Gila County Supervisor Tommie Cline Martin

"I am extremely grateful to my colleagues who selected me for this position," Supervisor Anthony Smith said. "This year I am looking to expand our supervisor to legislator outreach and communication. As supervisors being actively involved in the legislative process is the most valuable tool we have to further our objectives as an association."

"Supervisor Smith is a dedicated public servant whose experience and commitment to local government make him an exceptional representative of Arizona counties," declared outgoing CSA President and Gila County Supervisor Tommie Cline Martin. "His selection as President reflects the trust and confidence that his fellow supervisors have in him."

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

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House Speaker Shares Perspective with CSA Board

On Thursday, House Speaker, J.D. Mesnard joined the CSA Board of Directors to share his perspective on the upcoming 2018 legislative session.

Speaker Mesnard explained that the biggest issue this year will again be the state budget, as there is currently a rather significant cash shortfall which will limit opportunities to fund one time issues this year.

Speaker Mesnard shared his thoughts on the discussion around the national opioid epidemic. He said while they have not decided on the policy yet they are looking at options and some of the potential solutions the Arizona Department of Health Services has released. He also shared that they are keeping a close eye on federal legislation, both health care and tax reform could drive the need for significant changes in Arizona's laws if enacted.

Speaker Mesnard fielded questions from the CSA Board, sharing his perspective on CSA's budget and legislative priorities. He shared that they are working hard to get the Department of Public Safety out of the Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF), his belief in the importance of focusing on transportation issues and the value of restoring HURF in this year's budget.

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Arizona Department of Agriculture & Apache County Holds Food Access Workshop

On Monday, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) partnered with Apache County to hold a Food Access Workshop in St. John's, Arizona. AZDA is working to advance [Governor Doug Ducey's Food Desert Initiative](#), which has the goal of reducing food insecurity as well as diabetes and obesity throughout the state of Arizona.

The workshop addressed food access issues in Apache County and neighboring counties, with presentations from, AZDA Director Mark Killian, Apache County Supervisor Doyel Shamley, Keith Watkins from the Arizona Commerce Authority and Association of Arizona Food Banks, Angie Rodgers.



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CSA Board Adopts Resolution Opposing Water Transfers & Letter Urging Study of Electronic License Plates

During the November 16, 2017 meeting of the CSA Board of Directors a resolution outlining their opposition to transferring Colorado River water rights or allocations designated to the river counties in Arizona to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District for the use in the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District or any other entity was adopted.

In addition, they adopted a letter requesting the Arizona Department of Transportation evaluate implementing automatic identification and data capture technology on state registered vehicles.

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Committee of Reference Meets on Regional Transportation Projects



On Monday, the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committee of Reference met to review the performance audits conducted on the Maricopa Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Pima Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

The auditor, Kathy Brady, discussed the two transportation plans enacted in 2005 for MAG and 2006 for PAG, each with a ½ cent regional sales tax for the 20 year duration of the plans. Both plans are on or ahead of schedule with MAG's public transportation system out performing its peers in timeliness and PAG's RTA at

77% completion at the 10 year mark. The committee also heard from Jeremy Weber from the Auditor General's office regarding the progress the Department of Revenue has made towards improving its use of information technology and IT security systems.

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Committee of Reference Meets on Sunset Reviews & Continuations

On Thursday, the Senate Commerce and Public Safety & House Commerce Committee of Reference (COR) met to review the performance audits of the Arizona State Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts Commission and the Arizona Commerce Authority.

Daniel Bergin, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming gave a presentation on some of the work his department has done to evaluate current statute and establish recommendations for updates that will facilitate to draw in larger shows into Arizona. The COR recommended an eight year continuation.

In her presentation, Sandra Watson, President of the Arizona Commerce Authority explained that they were created as part of a 2011 public-private partnership and based on feedback from the Legislature they have updated their reporting structure to account for companies making a decision to expand or move in Arizona they are reporting them on their annual report. The COR recommended an eight year continuation.

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