



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

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Local Officials Urge Increased Investment in Roads

County and city officials convened in Lake Havasu this week for the annual Rural Transportation Summit (Summit). Leaders from across the state shared powerful stories of degrading roads, the inadequacy of existing HURF revenues to meet local needs, and the consequences of this under investment on economic development, public safety and quality of life.

At the Summit, several legislators, as well as representatives from the governor's office, joined local elected officials to talk about increased investment in infrastructure and the compelling need for state-level action.

The infrastructure funding deficit is well documented. From the county perspective alone, a recent report projected revenues to fall \$2.2 billion short of local needs over the next ten years. When shortfalls in the State Highway Fund and municipal resources are added the problem grows massively.

The policy options are well known. In 2016, the legislatively created [Surface Transportation Funding Task Force](#) studied the issue and offered a series of recommendations to enhance revenues, including raising the gas tax.

Critical to addressing the problem is the leadership of state law-makers. For the past few years, the Governor and legislators have worked hard to restore HURF funding to local governments. This past session, [H.B.2166](#) (Representative Campbell) established a dedicated vehicle license fee to fund the Arizona Department of Public Safety, finally moving the agency's funding source out of the HURF system and restoring additional resources for roadway investment. These recent actions are important, but much more needs to be done.

CSA holds increased transportation investment as a policy priority and will continue to work with stakeholders and elected leadership to advance the issue next legislative session. For more details or to read CSA's policy resolution, please [click here](#).

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JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) released their [Monthly Fiscal Highlights](#) for September 2018 with General Fund (GF) revenues of \$1.04 billion, an increase of 15.8 percent over September 2017 and \$92.1 million above the enacted budget forecast. Consistent with previous months in FY 2019, this revenue growth was spread across the state's main revenue sources: sales tax, individual income tax and corporate income tax. Individual income tax growth was estimated to be 11.7%, largely driven by rapid growth in withholding collections, and sales tax revenues grew by 8% over the prior year. Corporate income tax exceeded the enacted budget forecast by \$36.6 million, and JLBC attributes that mostly to the large increase in payments. Excluding the one-time transfers and Urban Revenue Sharing, GF collections grew by 10.5% over the prior year. These large revenue growth figures were discussed at the October meeting of the Financial Advisory Committee, and caused an upward revision in JLBC's Consensus Baseline revenue forecast, as previously noted.

Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) collections of \$127.7 million in September are 5.9 percent higher than September 2017 and 0.5 percent above the budget forecast. September GF spending totaled \$686.1 million, up \$30.3 million over September 2017. Fiscal year-to-date GF spending for FY 2019 totals \$3.99 billion. The State's Budget Stabilization Fund (or Rainy Day Fund) has a current balance of \$435.8 million.

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Summit Keynote Speakers Senator Fann and Representative Campbell with Supervisor Ryan and Craig Sullivan

Election Season Update

The 2018 General Election will take place on November 6. With just over a week to go until the general election, please see below for the general election charts for both candidates and ballot initiatives:

- [Federal, State & Legislative Candidates](#)
- [Proposed Ballot Initiatives](#)

For more information on the 2018 elections, please visit the [Secretary of State's](#) website.

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Funding Opportunity for Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a \$300 million funding opportunity for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program. The NSFLTP Program was established by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation ([FAST](#)) Act in 2015 with the goal of providing federal funding towards the construction or rehabilitation of transportation facilities that provide access to federal or tribal lands.

Eligible projects must have an estimated construction cost of at least \$25 million and projects with an estimated cost of at least \$50 million will be given priority. Under the NSFLTP Program the federal share is up to 90 percent of the project cost. The FHWA will be accepting grant applications through December 17, 2018, and must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#).

To learn more, please [click here](#).

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NACo Legislative Conference

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting their [2019 Legislative Conference](#) (Conference) from Saturday, March 2, 2019 through Wednesday, March 6, 2019. The Conference brings together elected and appointed county officials from across the country to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties. The Conference offers opportunities for educational policy sessions and meetings with the state's congressional delegation and federal officials.

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

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NACo – 2019 Achievement Awards

NACo is now accepting applications for the 2019 Achievement Awards Program, recognizing innovative county government programs that fall within one of eighteen categories that range from criminal justice and public safety to county resiliency. The awards are non-competitive and each application is judged on its own merit with one county program from each of the categories selected as the "Best in Category". Applications must be received by March 25, 2019, to get more information about the program, please [click here](#).

To view the past Achievement Award Winners, please [click here](#).

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