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



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JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

On Monday, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) staff released their monthly fiscal highlights for the state's September revenues and expenditures. September saw strong revenue growth, with monthly collections 12.5 percent higher than September 2018. Year-to-date General Fund revenues are 8.7 percent above FY 2018 and 6.2 percent above the enacted forecast. This growth puts revenues \$178.6 million above the enacted budget forecast, and \$246.5 million above FY 2018.

Sales tax continued to grow due to strong retail, restaurant and bar, and construction category collections, growing at 7.4 percent, 10.5 percent and 21.3 percent respectively. Individual and corporate income tax continued to post more than 9 percent gains above 2018 collections. However, JLBC staff noted that the reforms to the income tax code during the 2019 legislative session are likely to cause income tax collections during the spring filing season to be lower, adding that tax reform causes uncertainty in forecasting income tax revenues.

The state's Budget Stabilization Fund currently has a balance of \$1.01 billion.

The Highway User Revenue Fund's (HURF) collections slowed somewhat this month, with growth over September 2018 at 0.4 percent, (0.2) percent below the JLBC forecast. HURF year-to-date revenues are \$375.1 million, 1.4 percent above the previous year, but (0.7) percent below JLBC's forecast.

To access the full report please, click [here](#).

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ACDESHA

On Wednesday, the Arizona County Directors of Environmental Health Services Association (ACDEHSA) met with state agency partners at the Maricopa County Environmental Services Northern Office. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and members of ACDESHA discussed food safety, an update on rabies and mosquito-borne diseases. ACDESHA spoke to the Arizona Department of Environmental Services (ADEQ) regarding county delegation agreements, the ADEQ appeals process, and composting toilets.

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County Spotlight – Yavapai County Housing Rehabilitation Grant



Yavapai County was awarded a grant from the Arizona Department of Housing for an Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program. The funds will be used to help make the homes more accessible, bring the home up to code, or address public health and safety hazards. The funds will be administered through a partnership between the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) and Yavapai County. The grant stipulates maximum income requirements and requires that at least fifty percent of the funds be allocated to individuals that are physically disabled and at least seventy percent of the recipients be seniors.

To view the press release please, click [here](#).

To view the NACOG website please, click [here](#).

Image Source: Yavapai County

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Interim Legislative Meetings



On Monday, October 21, 2019 the 9-member Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners (Committee) met. The Committee is charged with studying and gathering input in order to develop a recommendation on reform, which would allow additional credits for prisoners in the earned relief credit system.

Deputy Director of the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office Cathryn Whalen discussed how people accused of a crime are sent to prison, noting that only 2% of cases go to trial, with the majority of cases decided by a plea agreement. Executive Director of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, Andrew Lefevre discussed the growth in male prison populations in Arizona, up from 3,270 prisoners in 1978 to 37,131 in 2016, noting Arizona has a higher imprisonment rate than the United States average for both male and females.

The last Committee meeting will be held on December 2nd and the Committee will publish a report and recommendations. To view an archived recording of the meeting, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Legislative Committee hearings:

- [Joint Ad Hoc Committee on the Impact of Short-Term Rentals on Arizona Communities](#), Wednesday, October 30th at 5:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- [Study on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), Tuesday, October 29th at 10:00 a.m. MT in Tuba City, Arizona.

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NACo Webinar: Outreach Solutions for Counties to Reach HTC Communities

On October 28, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. MST, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is hosting a webinar titled Census 2020: Outreach Solutions for Counties to Reach HTC Communities

The webinar will discuss the value that our solutions bring to local governments in reaching their hard to count populations, take a look at the work of one our current Census partners, and explore the outcomes that we hope to achieve with available tools.

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

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