Legislative Overview

Although the legislative session has yet to start, this week we saw the inauguration of the state’s top elected officials. Douglas Mayor Robert Uribe served as master of ceremonies for the inauguration of Doug Ducey to his second term as governor, as well as the statewide offices of secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and mine inspector.

During Governor Ducey’s inauguration speech and more recently at the Arizona Chamber of Commerce Legislative Forecast Luncheon, he identified several areas of focus. This session we’ll see efforts to adopt the state’s Drought Contingency Plan, an issue of paramount importance and requiring final action not later than January 31, 2019. Other issues include federal tax conformity, education funding, and saving for a rainy-day fund. We expect to see significantly more information next week during the State of the State (Monday) and in the governor’s budget, which is expected next week.

While only 111 bills have been dropped, as with every session, the League expects to address legislative issues on multiple fronts this year including tax equity for Arizona businesses (Wayfair), short term rental, food for home consumption, digital goods, and distracted driving.

Of the bills that have been dropped that the League is monitoring, there are no scheduled meetings on these issues in the coming week.

Session Deadlines

Every session has deadlines pertaining to bill submissions and hearings. This year, the schedule is as follows:

**January 2019**
Monday, 1/14 – First day of session
Thursday, 1/17 – House 7-bill Introduction Limit Begins (5 p.m.)
February 2019
Monday, 2/4 – Senate Bill Introduction Deadline (5 p.m.)
Monday, 2/11 – House Bill Introduction Deadline (5 p.m.)
2/18 - 2/22 – Last week to hear bills in the chamber of origin

March 2019
3/25 – 3/29 – Last week to hear bills in the opposing chamber

April 2019
Friday, 4/19 – Last Day for Conference Committees
Tuesday, 4/23 – 100th Day of Session

Monday Legislative Update Calls

The League will continue to host a weekly teleconference to report on the status and impact of various legislative bills in the 2019 session. The calls are scheduled for Monday mornings promptly at 10:00 a.m. However, because of Opening Day and State of the State Address, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the first call will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22. Mayors, managers and other city or town officials and staff who are interested in legislative activities are invited to participate. Call-in numbers and a brief agenda will be sent out prior to the calls. If you would like to receive the Monday agendas, please contact league@azleague.org and request to be added to the distribution list for the Monday teleconference.

Legislative Bulletin

The League will electronically distribute the Legislative Bulletin every Friday during the legislative session. The Bulletin serves as a way for the League to communicate to elected officials, staff and other interested parties about activities at the Legislature that are relevant to cities and towns. If you know of any municipal official or staff member that would like to subscribe to the Bulletin please have them send their name and email to league@azleague.org and request to be added to the Legislative Bulletin distribution list.

The Bulletin will highlight the bills or topics of interest. Other legislation that the League is actively engaged on will still be monitored and updated; however, that information will be available on our Legislative Bill Monitoring page on the League website. The Bulletin will link to the legislation that has been updated in our Legislative Bill Monitoring Section. This format should make it more convenient for you to keep up to date on the latest legislative activities, while still providing a resource for more detailed information.
Legislative Intern

The League is pleased to welcome Faith Ballor as our 2019 APS Legislative Intern. Ballor is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Business Law at Arizona State University’s W.P. Carey School of Business. Upon graduating, she plans to attend Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law to earn her Juris Doctor and become a corporate attorney. Ballor has previously worked as a legal assistant in Phoenix but will now be assisting the League’s legislative staff for the duration of the Spring semester. You can reach her by email at: fballor@azleague.org.

Your Voice at the Capitol

The 2019 edition of Your Voice at the Capitol, our listing of state senators and representatives, is available here. Please use this document to access contact information for your delegation. Also included is a document listing the House and Senate committee assignments for 54th Legislature. Early contact with your legislators is strongly recommended to establish a relationship with the elected officials representing your district. Maintaining good communications with your legislators provides them with valuable insight as to how proposed legislation may impact the communities in their districts.

Additionally, you can contact our legislative division at (602) 258-5786 or email using the information below:

Nick Ponder, Legislative Director: nponder@azleague.org
Tom Savage, Legislative Associate: tsavage@azleague.org
Alex Vidal, Legislative Associate: aividad@azleague.org
Faith Ballor, Legislative Intern: fballor@azleague.org