OVERVIEW
Cities and towns in Arizona are home to nearly 80% of the state’s residents and more than 90% of the state’s business activity. They are the level of government closest to the people, most accessible to them and most responsive to their needs. They provide the vast majority of first-responder—police and fire—services and are national leaders in business development, government efficiency and quality-of-life amenities. Arizona’s cities and towns are an essential part of the continuum of government in our state.

CORE PRINCIPLES
The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is guided by two core principles:

1) Preserve local decision-making; and
2) Protect shared revenues

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
The League supports legislation respecting the role of municipal government and its core principles and opposes measures that undermine them. The following policy priorities were developed with input from our members and will ensure that cities and towns can maintain the high-quality municipal government services that businesses and citizens rely on.

EFFICIENT AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT
Cities and towns work to meet citizens’ expectations that their local government provides streamlined business processes and the best customer service at the lowest possible expense. Revenue streams, including shared revenues, must be protected and remain sustainable to support efficient delivery of services to our citizens. These concepts contribute to the effort of achieving this objective:

• Explore potential modifications to the impact fee statutes to ensure new development pays for the associated demand of new and expanded infrastructure
• Seek a remedy to the inequitable treatment for tax collection on retail sales by remote sellers
• Explore policies that permit current Public Safety Personnel Retirement System members to voluntarily convert to a defined contribution plan, providing increased flexibility to members and cost savings to the plan
• Support the creation of a housing tax credit to increase affordable housing and reduce the costs of and demand on public services as a result of a lack of housing
• Permit the use of unspent monies from legacy volunteer fire department profit sharing plans to reduce unfunded liabilities in the PSPRS

TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Tourism is a major sector of our state’s economy and that of many cities and towns. Our state’s climate and natural resources attract tourists from all over the world, representing a multi-billion dollar industry that generates tax revenues and creates jobs. Cities and towns support policies that enhance tourism and the ease of travel into our state.

• Support federal efforts that increase international tourism into Arizona.

SAFE COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS
The protection of citizens, communities and neighborhoods is a core function of local government. It is essential for cities and towns to have the tools necessary to address nuisances without a one-size-fits-all state-level policy that intervenes in citizens’ quiet enjoyment of their neighborhoods. It is equally important to ensure vital public safety and emergency services are accessible and able to respond quickly to residents’ needs.
• Allow for local regulation of short-term home rentals to protect the residential character of neighborhoods

• Support the appointment of a local government representative on the State Liquor Board to ensure a local perspective on Board decisions

• Support legislation that balances the safety of children in school buildings near airports with the preservation of airports’ long-term viability and economic benefits

• Examine and explore resources to adequately fund the statewide 9-1-1 system

• Support a non-discrimination policy that includes gender identity and sexual orientation

LOCAL ELECTIONS
Cities and towns support policies that allow leaders with municipal government experience to seamlessly transition to higher office.

• Seek equity in state law for city and town elected officials to transfer campaign funds to a legislative or statewide office

Population Breakdown of Arizona’s 91 Cities and Towns

The majority of Arizonans live in one of the state’s 91 incorporated cities and towns.

More than 70% of statewide public safety personnel are provided by city and town employees.

Where Local Revenue Is Spent

On average, cities and towns spend over 50% of their budgets on public safety-police and fire departments.

- Public Safety | 52%
- Public Works | 17%
- Administration | 11%
- Community Services | 8%
- Community & Economic Development Services | 7%
- Parks and Recreation | 5%

- 52% of Arizona’s cities and towns have a population of less than 10,000
- 11% have a population of 10,000 - 25,000
- 15% have a population of 25,000 - 50,000
- 14% have a population of 50,000 - 100,000
- 7% have a population of 1,000 - 5,000
- 6% have a population of less than 1,000
- 16% have a population of 5,000 - 10,000

Population Breakdown of Arizona’s 91 Cities and Towns

City/Town
Unincorporated County
