



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Issue 1 – January 12th

Legislative Overview

Governor Ducey unveiled his budget today, and we have done a preliminary review of the documents for the impact to cities and towns.

The Governor's budget continues the practice of sweeping the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF). The amount of the sweep, \$99.4 million, represents a slight change from the prior year and is shared among municipalities, counties and the State Highway Fund. However, as with last year's budget, a portion of this sweep is offset by a \$30 million transfer from the Highway Extension and Expansion Loan Program (HELP).

The Governor's budget includes two new proposals that begin to address concerns that have been expressed regarding Department of Revenue (DOR) audits and collections. These should result in some increases in revenues for cities and towns. The first program expands fraud prevention efforts by engaging a private data analytics company to identify the underpayment and non-payment of Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT). This expands on the success of a program from last year to increase collections of income taxes.

An additional \$2 million is appropriated to DOR to fund 25 TPT auditors and collectors which is expected to recover \$25 million to the General Fund

Here is a [link to the Governor's proposal](#).

HB 2032 partisan offices; cities; towns

This bill is sponsored by Represent Jay Lawrence (R- Scottsdale, LD 23). It requires cities and towns to print the party designation for all candidates for the offices of mayor and city council on the ballot. It also repeals the statute allowing cities and towns to determine election winners based on the primary results. It would require every city and town to hold both a primary and general election regardless of the number of candidates running or the outcome.

The Arizona Supreme Court has upheld municipal authority to govern their elections. Municipal issues are nonpartisan. However, if a city or town currently wanted to include party affiliation, they can already do so. This is a mandate that is completely unnecessary and likely unconstitutional.

The bill will be heard in the House Local and International Affairs Committee on Tuesday, January 16 at 9:00 a.m. Please call your representatives and express your opposition to this legislation.

Session Deadlines

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

January 2018

Monday, the 8th - First day of session

Thursday, the 11th - House 7-bill Introduction Limit Begins (5 p.m.)

Monday, the 29th - Senate Bill Introduction Deadline (5 p.m.)

February 2018

Monday, the 2nd - House Bill Introduction Deadline (5 p.m.)

Friday, the 16th - Last day to hear bills in the chamber of origin

March 2018

Friday, the 23rd - Last day to hear bills in the opposing chamber

April 2018

Friday, the 7th – Last Day for Conference Committees

Tuesday, the 17th - 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 2018 session. The calls are scheduled for Monday mornings promptly at **10:00 a.m.** However, because of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, next week's call will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 16.** 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 John Herrick as our 2018 APS Legislative Intern. While he currently is pursuing a major in Political Science at Arizona State University, Herrick's work history is largely in the field of journalism. His last internship was with The Miami Herald in the business-news section. Prior to that, he held other internships in various business-news outlets and worked as the opinion editor of his college newspaper. John will be assisting the League's legislative staff for the duration of the spring semester. You can reach him by email at: jherrick@azleague.org.

Your Voice

The 2018 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. Early contact with your legislators is strongly recommended in order 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 affect their communities.

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

Patrice Kraus, Legislative Director: pkraus@azleague.org

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