



ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 6, 2011

From the Executive Director

Next Monday, January 10th is the first day of the State of Arizona's 50th Legislature, and it will be one for the history books. Nearly half of the members of the House and Senate are freshmen-new to the legislative process, and they face another year of severe budget shortfalls and challenging policy decisions. Governor Jan Brewer has been inaugurated for a full four-year term, and Senator Russell Pearce will be the new President of the Senate. Rep. Kirk Adams will return for his second term as Speaker of the House.

This will be a pivotal year for the State of Arizona, and for its 91 cities and towns. There are some reasons for optimism-the economy of the state seems to be slowly recovering from a multi-year recession, but on the other hand most one-time state revenue sources have been tapped dry. And, despite the fact that we are being showcased on the national stage for the BCS National Championship Football game in Glendale on the same day as the beginning of the legislative session, the state faces numerous obstacles in the coming months.

At the League, we are fortunate to have the leadership and involvement of the members of our Executive Committee, and a great team of legislative advocates on staff. And, we are counting on each one of you to make our voice heard at the Legislature on matters that impact cities and towns.

The Executive Committee has made a strong statement this year with a resolution calling for collaboration between local and state government in solving budget issues. The text of the resolution is included in this issue of the Bulletin.

Cities and towns will always need to carefully monitor the many bills introduced into the legislative process. We must be sure our voice will be heard whether we are in support of a bill or opposed to it. At the League we will review every bill that is introduced (typically 1,200 to 1,400 per session) and will work with the Governor, leadership, committee chairs, members and staff to do our best to keep cities and towns strong and successful-and in turn to help the state be strong and successful.

We ask that you take the time to read the Legislative Bulletin each Friday during the session and take every opportunity to communicate with your Senators and Representatives about our issues. More than 85 percent of the people of Arizona live in a city or town, and we are where people and businesses call home. We have a strong voice, and we must be heard at the state legislature. You are in the best position to have an impact with your local delegation, and we count on your involvement.

Please let us know when you have questions or ideas, or when you hear about an issue that we may not know about yet. We look forward to working with Governor Brewer and the Legislature-and to partnering with you to have a positive impact on the state in the year ahead.

Ken Strobeck

League Resolution

At the December 16, 2010 meeting of the League Executive Committee, a resolution was authorized that calls for a commitment from Arizona's municipalities to work in positive collaboration with the Governor and the Legislature in order to address the state budget crisis. [The entire Resolution can be viewed here.](#)

Legislative Know-How

At the start of the session, we thought it would be helpful to provide you with some tips on how to have influence down at the Capitol.

Before, during and after the session:

- Build a relationship with your legislative delegation. Invite them to municipal events. Get to know them. It's far easier to get their ear when they know who you are.
- You share a constituency. What's good for your citizens is good for their district. Remind them of this often.
- Email is good, phone calls are better, but face time is the best.

When lobbying:

- Keep it simple and be brief. Be specific; know the facts and the impact of the legislation on your community. Share stories about your own specific community situation. If the League has talking points on an issue, use them to stay on-message.
- Legislators rely on others all the time for information - you are the expert on your city or town.
- If you don't have an answer to their question, say so, tell them you will find out and get back to them, and make sure you do.
- Ask for their vote, and even if it's uncomfortable--don't go away without their answer.
- Always thank them for their time.

When testifying:

- Be prepared, come early, and be sure you are registered on the Request to Speak system (the League can help with this).
- Always direct your comments through the chair and then to the members of the committee.
- Thank the chair and the committee for allowing you the opportunity to address them.

We at the League are always here to help. Let us know if you need anything at all.

Your Legislative Team:

League Office
(602) 258-5786 Phone
(602) 253-3874 Fax



Jim Ogsbury
Legislative Director
jogsbury@azleague.org



Dale Wiebusch
Legislative Associate
dwiebusch@azleague.org



Rene Guillen, Jr.
Legislative Associate
rguillen@azleague.org

Schedule a Legislative Day!

If your city or town would like to meet with your legislators in a comfortable, small group setting, please contact Dale at the League about scheduling a Legislative Day. This is a great opportunity to discuss issues unique to your community with your delegation over lunch. The League will host the meeting and provide lunch, and is also available to assist in contacting your legislators, provide session updates and other information to make your meeting more productive.

Your Voice

The 2011 edition of *Your Voice at the Capitol*, our listing of senators and representatives, is [available here](#). Please use this document to access your delegation.

Legislative Bulletin is published by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

Forward your comments or suggestions to league@azleague.org.