

2013 MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT



CORE PRINCIPLES

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns, a voluntary association of the 91 incorporated municipalities in Arizona, is governed by two core principles: to protect shared revenues and promote local decision-making authority.

LOCAL CONTROL

Decentralized government at the local level represents a fundamental principle of American democracy, recognizing that when it comes to community governance, one size does not fit all.

The League calls upon the Legislature to respect the authority of cities and towns to govern their communities in the best interests of their residents. During the 51st Legislature, the League will endorse legislation that supports and sustains the principle of local control and reject legislation that conflicts with the autonomy of cities and towns.

Specifically, the League supports legislation that will restore municipal authority to:

- Regulate the sale and use of consumer fireworks; and
- Determine the method, manner and timing of local elections.

BUDGETARY RESOURCES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The League is determined to safeguard the economic resources cities and towns require to ensure safety and provide high-quality services for their residents. To that end, the League calls upon the Legislature to:

- Enact a budget that maintains existing historical formulas for the distribution of state-collected shared revenue to local governments;
- Discontinue diversions of Highway User Revenue Fund monies to fund the operations of state agencies (see figure 1); and
- Remove the financial burden from municipalities regarding the construction of infrastructure for large manufacturing facilities.

Cities and towns are actively exploring new ways to promote business growth and expand the tools available to municipalities for this purpose. In partnership with the state, the League supports legislation to:

- Authorize the formation of Revenue Allocation Districts;
- Improve Arizona's ports of entry with Mexico (see figure 2);
- Support the long-term retention of Arizona's military installations (see figure 3); and
- Modify the pension statutes related to the Alternate Contribution Rate for the Arizona State Retirement System.

TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Recognizing the many benefits provided by Arizona's extraordinary open spaces, cities and towns support the efforts of the tourism industry and are committed to the preservation of our natural resources. The League urges the passage of legislation to:

- Promote tourism as an economic engine;
- Fully fund state parks and work with cities and towns to develop mechanisms for the operation of select parks under long term leases; and
- Improve forest health and reduce wildfire threats.

REGULATORY AND PROCESS REFORM

Cities and towns continue to seek ways to improve and streamline their regulatory, licensing and acquisition processes to promote cost effectiveness and efficient service delivery. Therefore, the League will:

Oppose any regulatory reform proposal that does not promote greater efficiency, effect significant cost savings or improve existing regulatory frameworks for the mutual benefit of stakeholders;

- Support changes to regulatory reform legislation enacted in 2011 in order to improve municipal licensing and permitting processes; and
- Endorse legislation to authorize expanded municipal use of Alternative Project Delivery Methods with respect to construction contracts.

QUALITY COMMUNITIES

The League supports legislation to help cities improve communities and enhance the quality of life for their residents. The League recommends legislation to:

- Subject graffiti vandals to increased accountability;
- Promote more flexibility in the annexation of county islands; and
- Empower municipalities to engage in housing assistance efforts without existing regulatory burdens.

POPULATION FACTS:



83% of Arizona's workforce resides within a city or town

PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENDITURES:

On average, cities and towns in Arizona spend more than 60% of their general fund budget on public safety



GENERAL FACTS:

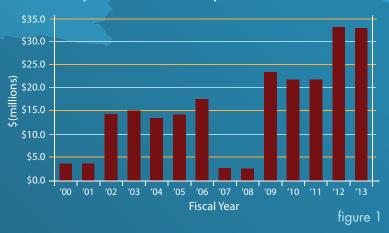


 Of Arizona's 91 incorporated cities and towns, 19 of those are charter cities.

Charter Cities

20 cities and towns incorporated prior to statehood.

HURF Transfers from Cities and Towns to DPS (2000 - Present)



BORDER FACTS:

 In 2011, 20,847,588 people entered Arizona through the six ports of entry with Mexico.

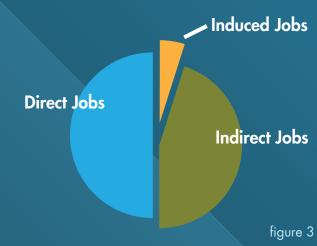


94% entered through the four ports of entry located within cities and towns.

figure 2

MILITARY FACTS:

• The military industry creates 96,328 jobs in Arizona; 45,568 direct, 39,942 indirect, 11,269 induced.





QUESTIONS? CALL 602-258-5786

