2014 MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT





OVERVIEW

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.

PRESERVE 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. The League will endorse legislation that supports and sustains the principle of local control and oppose legislation that conflicts with the autonomy of cities and towns.

PROTECT STATE SHARED REVENUE

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.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

From roads to public safety, cities and towns are service providers. Our residents look to their local government to provide key services critical to creating welcoming, healthy communities. Therefore, the League urges the passage of legislation to:

- Make the requirements for annexation a more simple and flexible process;
- Prohibit fire districts from annexing areas inside a municipal planning area without the consent of the municipality, provided the municipality operates a municipal fire department;
- Authorize street light improvement districts to levy and expend money to repair, maintain and replace lighting facilities; and
- Amend statute to ensure that restitution for graffiti offenses includes all abatement costs associated with a victim of graffiti.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Cities and towns provide public safety and other high-quality services for their residents. In order to accomplish this there needs to be fiscal certainty in funding sources from the state level. The League calls upon the Legislature to:

- Stop future sweeps of Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) allocated to Arizona cities and towns and follow statutory formulas for the distribution of HURF monies;
- Develop and pass legislation to ensure the viability of Arizona state parks and to restore the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund; and
- Include one representative from a large city along with one representative from a small non-metropolitan city on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Board of Trustees.

FEDERAL ISSUES

The League recognizes that all levels of government must work cooperatively in order for local communities to be successful. Therefore, the League will:

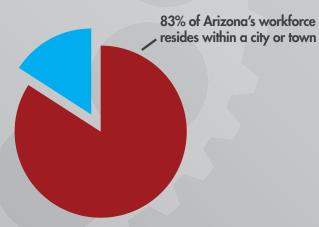
- Support the passage of legislation or engage in other activities that support and advocate for resources to improve Arizona's ports of entry with Mexico and related infrastructure;
- Support the long-term retention of Arizona's military installations;
- Encourage Congress to preserve the tax exempt status of municipal bonds; and
- Push Congress to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act.



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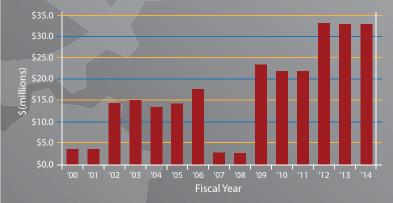
79% of Arizonans live in one of the 91 incorporated cities and towns in Arizona.



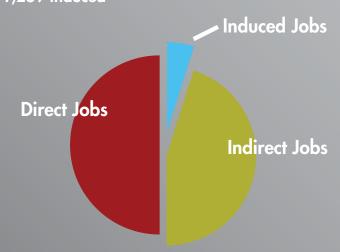
THE NATION IN STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PER 100 RESIDENTS

THE TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ARIZONA STATE PARKS ON THE STATE WAS \$266,436,582

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



 96,328 jobs in Arizona are associated with the U.S. Military; 45,568 direct, 39,942 indirect, 11,269 induced





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