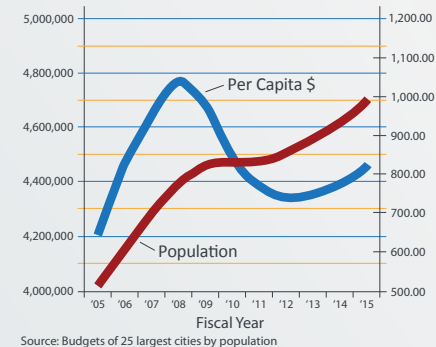


League of Arizona Cities AND Towns | 2015 IN REVIEW

Cities and towns in Arizona faced many challenges in 2015, but working together we have been able to successfully solve the vast majority of them, and develop good strategies to work on the remaining issues. The League is pleased to have been able to assist with many issues—both large and small—that affect the ability of cities and towns to meet the needs of your residents. We appreciate the

Cities: Average population up, spending down

Arizona's cities and towns are responsible stewards of taxpayer resources. Although average populations have grown by 6 percent, average spending per capita is now nearly 20 percent lower than it was before the recession.



confidence you have shown in us by your active participation in League programs and activities throughout the year. As you can see in the graph, cities and towns are still lagging behind in overall revenues compared to the years prior to the great recession. We will continue to face financial challenges in 2016 as the state's economy is still recovering slower than many other areas of the country, and new proposals are made at the state level to erode our ability to collect local revenue and also retain the remaining sources of state revenue that have historically been available to cities and towns. We need to keep these important priorities in

mind as we begin the legislative session, and renew our combined efforts to keep Arizona's cities and towns the strong, quality communities that they are.

Nearly 80 percent of Arizonans live in a city or town, and municipal government provides the services that are most-used on a daily basis by the more than 6 million people that live in our state. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with you on matters that concern each city and town, and we continually strive to produce value for your community's membership in the League.

Leadership

The three officers of the League are elected in even-numbered years and serve two-year terms; the 22 remaining members of the Executive Committee, the League's governing board, are elected annually and serve staggered two-year terms. Mayor Mark Mitchell of Tempe is League president, Mayor Jay Tibshraeny of Chandler is vice president, and Mayor Mark Nexsen of Lake Havasu City is

treasurer. Each of those positions will be up for election at the Annual Conference in August. Last year, Mayor Cathy Carlat of Peoria was the only newly-elected member of the Executive Committee, the remaining members were all re-elected to their positions. There is no term limit on Executive Committee membership. The committee meets quarterly, three times at the League building in Phoenix, and once at the Annual Conference. All meetings are open for anyone to attend and agendas are published on the League website prior to the meeting.

Officers



Mark Mitchell
President,
Mayor, Tempe



Jay Tibshraeny
Vice President,
Mayor, Chandler



Mark Nexsen
Treasurer,
Mayor, Lake Havasu City

Committee Members

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor, Clarkdale
Gilbert Lopez, Councilmember, Coolidge
Lana Mook, Mayor, El Mirage
Gerald Nabours, Mayor, Flagstaff
Linda Kavanagh, Mayor, Fountain Hills
John Lewis, Mayor, Gilbert
Jerry Weiers, Mayor, Glendale
Tom Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park
Ed Honea, Mayor, Marana
Christian Price, Mayor, Maricopa
John Giles, Mayor, Mesa
Kenny Evans, Mayor, Payson
Cathy Carlat, Mayor, Peoria
Daniel Valenzuela, Vice Mayor, Phoenix
Harvey Skoog, Mayor, Prescott Valley
Jim Lane, Mayor, Scottsdale
Daryl Seymore, Mayor, Show Low
Rick Mueller, Mayor, Sierra Vista
Sharon Wolcott, Mayor, Surprise
Bob Rivera, Mayor, Thatcher
Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor, Tucson
Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma



Legislative and Legal Advocacy

The Executive Committee has identified legislative advocacy as the highest work priority of the League. Our legislative team works year-round on issues that are the subject of legislative bills, topical work groups, ongoing projects and League Policy Committees. The Policy Committees were established this year as a way to provide an opportunity for more involvement with the League and to work on various issues throughout the year. The five Policy Committees are listed here:

League Policy Committees

- **Budget, Finance and Economic Development**
 - Chair: Mayor Kenny Evans of Payson
 - League Staff: Ryan Peters
 - Example Topics: Taxation, economic development incentives/ programs, budget procedures, audit procedures, Model City Tax Code, developmental impact fees, financing, enterprise zones, foreign trade zones
- **General Administration, Human Resources and Elections**
 - Chair: Mayor Lana Mook of El Mirage
 - League Staff: Tom Belshe
 - Example Topics: Annexation, personnel issues, workers' compensation, pension, elections, public records, public notices, government transparency, administrative issues, planning, procurement, public-private partnerships
- **Neighborhoods, Quality of Life and Sustainability**
 - Chair: Councilmember Gilbert Lopez of Coolidge
 - League Staff: Dale Wiebusch
 - Example Topics: Homeowners associations, parks, libraries, liquor licensing, health care, environmental issues
- **Public Safety, Military Affairs and Courts**
 - Chair: Mayor Jerry Weiers of Glendale
 - League Staff: Dale Wiebusch
 - Example Topics: Criminal justice, police and fire (not pension), firearms, judiciary, military relations and installations
- **Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Works**
 - Chair: Mayor Jonathon Rothschild of Tucson
 - League Staff: Ryan Peters
 - Example Topics: HURF, long-term infrastructure planning, developmental impact fees, water/ wastewater administration, transit, commercial rail, airport administration, highway safety, right-of-way, public-private partnerships, ADOT, ports of entry

Membership is open to any city or town elected official or staff member. If you would like to be added to a committee, please send an email to: resolutions@azleague.org. The work of the Policy Committees is presented to the full membership at the Resolutions Committee meeting at the Annual Conference and forms the basis of our legislative agenda and the Municipal Policy Statement.



Throughout the legislative session, the League conducted weekly Monday legislative calls so that city officials could hear directly about the bills that had a direct impact on municipal operations. Additionally, the League Officers and Executive Committee held regular meetings to update our strategies and design successful advocacy programs. Intergovernmental staff or "intergovs" from several cities and towns as well as other staff also met weekly to review committee hearings, discuss amendments and count votes. The weekly Legislative Bulletin contained reports on legislative activity and linked to the **Bill Tracking Page** on the League website where all the bills of interest to cities and towns are regularly updated. To be added to the mailing list for the bulletin and receive the agendas for the Monday calls, contact the League at info@azleague.org.

Major bills in the 2015 session included an update to the administration of the Construction Sales Tax, assessments on cities and towns in the state budget for operations of the Department of Revenue, a proposal to eliminate the local residential rental tax, municipal elections, public entity indemnification, police body cameras, public records, firearms, fireworks and many others. You can always find a summary of the new laws that affect cities and towns by accessing the New Laws Report under the Legislative tab on the League website, www.azleague.org.

The League also weighed in on legal matters affecting cities and towns through the filing of amicus briefs at the Court of Appeals and State Supreme Court. Topics included liability for street and road maintenance and upgrades as well as leaking municipal water systems, and the appropriate use of police dogs. A committee of municipal attorneys makes recommendations on League amicus cases, and the League's officers have final approval.





Conferences and Trainings

The League Annual Conference, held each August, is the biggest meeting of the year for elected officials. This year's conference was held in Tucson at the Marriott Starr Pass and was attended by nearly 1,100 delegates. The conference is an excellent opportunity for municipal officials to have a "one-stop shop" for a large variety of training topics, thought-provoking general sessions and networking with other officials from around the state. Highlights this year included an address by US Senator Jeff Flake, legislative awards for friends of cities and towns, service awards for elected municipal officials, the popular Showcase of Cities and Towns, and dozens of problem-solving sessions presented by outstanding experts. We look forward to seeing you at the 2016 Annual Conference, August 23-26, at the Fairmont Princess Resort in Scottsdale.

Throughout the year, the League sponsors other classes, seminars and trainings on a wide range of issues for both elected officials and staff. Many of the topics are suggested by our membership, so if you have an idea for a training that you would like for the League to organize, send a description of your suggestion to info@azleague.org. A number of training programs as well as other videos are available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Technical Assistance and Inquiry Service

Each year, the League responds to thousands of requests for information about municipal best-practices, model ordinances and technical information that is available nowhere else. Sometimes members have a question about the implementation of a particular statute or want to know how other cities and towns manage a particular issue. The news media frequently contacts the League for analysis of legislative proposals affecting all municipalities in the state, or asks about particular practices of a city or town. Periodically we receive requests to speak to civic and political organizations about how municipalities in Arizona operate. We also go out across the state to speak to groups that are considering incorporation as a city or town and want to understand the process and its impact on the residents of their area.

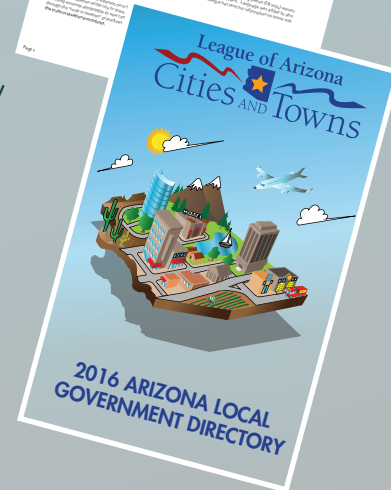
The League's general counsel facilitates the exchange of legal developments and information sharing among the city and town municipal attorneys, and leads work groups in the crafting of model ordinances that can be adapted for use by all cities and towns in the state.

Publications and Manuals

The League produces a number of technical publications, everything from budgeting and finance to charter government. Most of these publications are available online and many are updated annually to ensure they are in sync with current law. In addition to our technical publications, the League also produces the bi-annual magazine, Arizona City and Town, and the Local Government Directory, a comprehensive directory of contact information for city and town officials. Our website, www.azleague.org is content-rich and updated frequently. A sampling of League publications includes:

- A Guide for Annexation
- Arizona City & Town Magazine
- Charter Government Provisions in Arizona
- League Connection E-Newsletter
- Council-Manager Government in Arizona
- Exploring Charter Government for Your City
- Guide to Preparing and Adopting Local Laws / Municipal Publication Requirements
- Legislative Bulletin
- Local Government Directory (online and in print)
- Municipal Budget & Finance Manual
- Municipal Election Manual
- Municipal Incorporation in Arizona
- Municipal Policy Statement
- You as a Public Official

For a full listing of publications, [visit here](#).





Arizona Cities @ Work

In 2015, the League continued to promote the good work done by cities and towns in Arizona through AZ Cities @ Work, a long-term collaborative educational program.

Using social media as well as conventional media, the program highlights city employees who have done extraordinary work, publicizes community events, and reminds citizens about the impact of municipal services on their daily lives. Our latest video shows that there is much more to streets and roads than meets the eye: [click here](#).

The AZ Cities @ Work program is flexible enough to be utilized by each of the 91 cities and towns to help augment and increase our outreach and communication to residents. For more information, visit www.azcitieswork.com follow us on Twitter (@AzCitiesWork) and like us on Facebook (AZ Cities Work).



Partnership Programs

The League is always looking for programs and services that will help cities and towns be more efficient and that provide benefits for local governments and their employees. We have formed alliances with a limited number of high quality companies that provide specialized services and products such as property-liability and workers' compensation insurance, joint purchasing, codification, health insurance options, website services and utility line warranty service. You can find out more about each of those services by visiting the League's website and clicking on the **League Partnership Programs** option on the left side.



NLC Service Line Warranty Program



U.S. COMMUNITIES™ GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE

League Affiliate Groups

In addition to our core service offerings, the League provides professional management services, staff support and coordination of trainings and conferences for several partner organizations. Comprised of local officials, our main affiliate associations include:

- Arizona City Attorneys Association
- Arizona City/County Management Association
- Arizona Municipal Clerks Association
- Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona



The League is made up of all the 91 incorporated cities and towns in Arizona, and municipal government is our exclusive focus. No one else has this kind of singular priority just for cities and towns and we are always interested in your feedback on how we can improve our service to our members. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, or if you would like a League representative to make a presentation to your city or town council, please feel free to contact us at 602-258-5786 or send an email to Executive Director Ken Strobeck at kstrobeck@azleague.org. To connect with the League year-round, visit www.azleague.org, find us on Instagram at **AZCities**, or follow us on Twitter **@AZCities**.