



2008
MUNICIPAL
POLICY STATEMENT



THE LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS
PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS 2008 MUNICIPAL POLICY STATEMENT.
CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS ARIZONA DEVELOPED THIS STATEMENT
IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS
ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING OUR CITIZENS;
WE ALL SERVE THE SAME PEOPLE.

CORE PRINCIPLES:

- **Protect State Shared Revenues**

Arizona voters created State Shared Revenues through the citizen-based initiative process. A portion of State-collected taxes goes back to local communities in exchange for prohibiting municipal taxes on income and luxury goods. This keeps taxpayers' money working in their home communities and supports local choice and self-government. State Shared Revenue funds essential services that residents count on – public safety, streets, parks and libraries. Economically strong cities provide substantial tax revenue to the state government. The League and the Legislature must work together to protect State Shared Revenue and the basic local services it provides.

- **Maintain Local Control**

Community residents voluntarily create cities and towns to provide local self-government, make their communities safe and productive places to live and work, and provide basic, vital services. Freedom to make decisions at the local level is the best way that municipalities can fully serve their unique constituencies. Being mindful that cities and the State work best as partners, the League urges the Legislature to oppose all preemptions and mandates that erode local decision-making authority.

ECONOMIC ENGINES

According to *The Role of Arizona Cities and Towns in the State's Economy*, authored by the University of Arizona, municipal residents make up over 82% of the state's population and municipal economic activity contributes over 91% of the state's income tax revenues. These numbers clearly demonstrate the vital role cities and towns play in the state's economy. It is imperative that state policy makers understand how crucial municipalities are to the state's well being and advocate policies that augment municipal strength.

The League supports the enhancement of economic tools that make Arizona an attractive place for residents and business. The League encourages the Legislature to:

- Identify, fund and implement economic development programs to help cities and towns be more competitive with surrounding states

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

With record-setting population growth, cities and towns face greater responsibilities with even tighter revenues. They must provide quality services while keeping costs down. Municipalities deliver primary services such as public safety, and basic infrastructure including water, sewer, and streets. They make their communities attractive to residences and businesses by providing planning, zoning, and economic development. Services require resources. Municipal sales tax revenue is generally the largest contributor to municipal budgets, closely followed by Urban Revenue Sharing. For this reason, the League strongly opposes any cuts or changes to the Urban Revenue Sharing Fund and urges the Legislature to:

- Protect Urban Revenue Sharing from tax cuts and other attacks
- Provide basic level appropriation to the state's six smallest communities
- Allow cities and towns to request fee ranges in Requests for Qualifications (RFQ's)

QUALITY COMMUNITIES

As the level of government closest to the people, cities and towns have the duty to work with their citizens to create high quality, safe places for people to live and work. From community improvements to smart growth planning, municipalities perform many roles in fulfilling their responsibilities. The League calls on the State to create, maintain and fund the necessary tools to complete this duty by:

- Giving greater consideration to municipal input into state liquor license issuance
- Allowing for development rights transfers between cities and counties to encourage smart development and reduce sprawl
- Promoting full allocation of Heritage Fund monies to continue community development projects across the State

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is the top priority for Arizona cities and towns, consuming an estimated 60% of the average municipal budget. The most basic city services that are critical to a safe and thriving community are police and fire protection. The League encourages statewide efforts to improve public safety by:

- Restoring the \$15 million taken from the State Telecom Fund that supports the 911 emergency system
- Protecting critical infrastructure information from public records requests

TRANSPORTATION

Arizona has infrastructure deficiencies resulting from the state's rapid population growth. The need for capital will require collaborative efforts from all levels of government. The League supports a comprehensive effort to address the state's transportation needs. The League endorses legislation that:

- Supports new and increased sources of transportation funding to enhance safety, decrease congestion and support economic development.
- Exempts cities and towns from the State Trust Land auction requirements for public rights of way

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Federal policies have great impact on Arizona cities and towns. Homeland security requirements and national forest policies are examples of how decisions made in Washington affect municipalities. The League will work with Arizona's Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and other partners to promote the following resolutions:

- Encourage forest health initiatives
- Preserve and fund the Community Development Block Grant Program
- Protect critical infrastructure information
- Support new and increased sources of transportation funding to enhance safety, decrease congestion and support economic development
- Create methods for municipalities to be reimbursed with Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILT) monies for expenses resulting from federal lands (also included in the County Relations agenda)

COUNTY RELATIONS

The League promotes working relationships between local government entities. While municipal and county policies may sometimes conflict, there are many opportunities to improve partnerships. This policy is supported by the following resolutions:

- Improve cooperation between municipalities and counties
- Work together to plan utility approvals near municipal planning areas
- Create methods for municipalities to be reimbursed with Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILT) monies for expenses resulting from federal lands (also included in the Federal Relations Agenda)

CITIES & TOWNS BY DISTRICT

1 **Senator:** Tom O'Halleran
Representatives: Lucy Mason, Andy Tobin
Cities/Towns: Camp Verde, Chino Valley, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Jerome, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Sedona, Williams

2 **Senator:** Albert Hale
Representatives: Tom Chabin, Albert Tom
Cities/Towns: Flagstaff

3 **Senator:** Ron Gould
Representatives: Trish Groe, Nancy G. McLain
Cities/Towns: Bullhead City, Colorado City, Fredonia, Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Page, Parker, Quartzsite

4 **Senator:** Jack W. Harper
Representatives: Tom Boone, Judy M. Burges
Cities/Towns: Buckeye, Dewey-Humboldt, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise, Wickenburg

5 **Senator:** Franklin "Jake" Flake
Representatives: Jack Brown, William Konopnicki
Cities/Towns: Clifton, Duncan, Eagar, Globe, Holbrook, Miami, Payson, Pima, Pinetop-Lakeside, Safford, St. Johns, Show Low, Snowflake, Springerville, Star Valley, Taylor, Thatcher, Winslow

6 **Senator:** Pamela Gorman
Representatives: Doug Clark, Sam Crump
Cities/Towns: Phoenix

7 **Senator:** Jim Waring
Representatives: Ray Barnes, Nancy Barto
Cities/Towns: Carefree, Cave Creek, Phoenix, Scottsdale

8 **Senator:** Carolyn S. Allen
Representatives: Michele Reagan, John Kavanagh
Cities/Towns: Fountain Hills, Scottsdale

9 **Senator:** Robert "Bob" Burns
Representatives: Rick Murphy, Bob Stump
Cities/Towns: Glendale, Peoria, Surprise, Youngtown

10 **Senator:** Linda Gray
Representatives: Jackie Thrasher, James Weiers
Cities/Towns: Glendale, Phoenix

11 **Senator:** Barbara Leff
Representatives: Mark Desimone, Adam Driggs
Cities/Towns: Paradise Valley, Phoenix

12 **Senator:** Robert Blendu
Representatives: John Nelson, Jerry P. Weiers
Cities/Towns: Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Phoenix, Surprise

13 **Senator:** Richard Miranda
Representatives: Steve Gallardo, Martha Garcia
Cities/Towns: Avondale, Glendale, Phoenix, Tolleson

14 **Senator:** Debbie McCune-Davis
Representatives: Chad Campbell, Robert Meza
Cities/Towns: Glendale, Phoenix

15 **Senator:** Ken Cheuvront
Representatives: David Lujan, Kyrsten Sinema
Cities/Towns: Phoenix

16 **Senator:** Leah Landrum Taylor
Representatives: Cloves Campbell, Jr., Ben R. Miranda
Cities/Towns: Guadalupe, Phoenix

17 **Senator:** Meg Burton Cahill
Representatives: Edward Ableser, David Schapira
Cities/Towns: Scottsdale, Tempe

18 **Senator:** Karen Johnson
Representatives: Mark Anderson, Russell K. Pearce
Cities/Towns: Mesa

19 **Senator:** Chuck Gray
Representatives: Kirk Adams, Rich Crandall
Cities/Towns: Apache Junction, Mesa

20 **Senator:** John Huppenthal
Representatives: John McComish, Bob Robson
Cities/Towns: Chandler, Phoenix, Tempe

21 **Senator:** Jay Tibshraeny
Representatives: Warde Nichols, Steven B. Yarbrough
Cities/Towns: Chandler, Mesa, Queen Creek

22 **Senator:** Thayer Verschoor
Representatives: Andy Biggs, Eddie Farnsworth
Cities/Towns: Apache Junction, Gilbert, Mesa

23 **Senator:** Rebecca Rios
Representatives: Barbara McGuire, Peter Rios
Cities/Towns: Apache Junction, Avondale, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Florence, Hayden, Kearny, Mammoth, Maricopa, Phoenix, Queen Creek, Superior, Winkelman

24 **Senator:** Amanda Aguirre
Representatives: Lynne Pancrazi, Theresa Ulmer
Cities/Towns: Parker, San Luis, Somerton, Wellton, Yuma

25 **Senator:** Marsha Arzberger
Representatives: Manuel V. "Manny" Alvarez, Jennifer J. Burns
Cities/Towns: Benson, Bisbee, Buckeye, Douglas, Gila Bend, Huachuca City, Marana, Nogales, Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Willcox

26 **Senator:** Charlene Pesquiera
Representatives: Pete Hershberger, Lena Saradnik
Cities/Towns: Marana, Oro Valley, Tucson

27 **Senator:** Jorge Luis Garcia
Representatives: Olivia Cajero Bedford, Phil Lopes
Cities/Towns: Tucson

28 **Senator:** Paula Aboud
Representatives: David T. Bradley, Steve Farley
Cities/Towns: Tucson

29 **Senator:** Victor Soltero
Representatives: Linda Lopez, Tom Prezelski
Cities/Towns: South Tucson, Tucson

30 **Senator:** Tim Bee
Representatives: Marian A. McClure, Jonathan Paton
Cities/Towns: Patagonia, Sahuarita, Sierra Vista, Tucson

