

RESOLUTION 16-
REGARDING 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, actions by State Government during the “Great Recession” impacted Cochise County by \$9.6 million since 2009; and

WHEREAS, these actions have resulted in over \$4.4 million in diverted road maintenance funds, \$1.8 million in lost revenue, and \$3.4 million in program shifts including increasing the county share of Justices of the Peace salaries, and requiring counties to fund state agencies; and

WHEREAS, these cost shifts caused significant financial distress for Cochise County, which is already reeling from the negative financial impacts of the recession and slow recovery; and

WHEREAS, Cochise County also faces significant risk from the uncertain funding status of federal programs, including the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools programs; and

WHEREAS, the shifting of state agency costs to counties is both an inappropriate use of county taxpayer dollars and an ineffective governance model, forcing county taxpayers to subsidize a state run agency with no county managerial oversight; and

WHEREAS, Cochise County has neither the financial capacity to pay for additional state costs, nor the statutory ability to control costs of state administered programs the county is required to fund; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that while the state fiscal situation may not allow for relieving all the county financial impacts enacted in the recent years, it is critical to Cochise County that the state works to eliminate key cost shifts and revenue reductions in the FY 2018 budget, with the goal of reestablishing a sustainable financial model for the county,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Cochise County that the Arizona State Legislature is hereby implored to:

- Eliminate county payments to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections;
- Restore local government Highway User Revenue Funds;
- Continue to include authority for counties to access restricted funds through flexibility language to allow counties to most efficiently manage taxpayer funds.
- Restore, in statute, the county share of lottery funds to provide a stable source of revenue for county operations;

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Re: Regarding 2017 Legislative Priorities

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Thereby providing Arizona counties with the financial stability necessary to continue providing mandated state services to local residents.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of December, 2016.

Richard R. Searle, Chairman
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Britt W. Hanson
Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney