



County Supervisors ASSOCIATION of arizona

**COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE**
(Teleconference/Web Conference Made Available)

County Supervisors Association
1905 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona

**MINUTES
February 4, 2022**

Call to Order:	Jean Bishop	9:00 a.m.
Present In Person:	Alton Joe Shepherd Jean Bishop	Apache County Mohave County
Present Telephonically/Webinar:	Ann English Matt Ryan Steve Christensen Danny Smith Richard Lunt Duce Minor Steve Gallardo Jason Whiting Rex Scott Stephen Miller Rudy Molera Mary Mallory Lynne Pancrazi	Cochise County Coconino County Gila County Graham County Greenlee County La Paz County Maricopa County Navajo County Pima County Pinal County Santa Cruz County Yavapai County Yuma County
Absent/Proxies:	Hildy Angius	Mohave County

Others present telephonically: Patrice Horstman, Harry Oberg, Paul David, John Howard, Phil Bourdon, Ryan Patterson, Glenn Kephart, Dustin Welker, Derek Rapier, Sam Elters, Jack Fields, Alejandro Figueroa, Trey Williams, Todd Madeksza, Danny De Hoog, Michael Racy, Chris Keller, Rochelle Lacapa, Cynthia Gentle, Sarah Hall, Hayley Howard, Tami Suchowiejko, Barbara Spoonhour, Todd Baughman, Catherine Boland, Jen Marson, Beatrice Rocklin, Mark Barnes, Robin Hillyard

Others present in person: Craig Sullivan, Penny Adams, Vanessa Fielder, Jacob Emmett, Yvonne Ortega, Lubka Jacobs

President Jean Bishop welcomed everyone. Penny Adams called roll and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Supervisor Richard Lunt moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2022, CSA Legislative Policy Committee meeting. Supervisor Mary Mallory seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion of LPC – Bylaws, Membership, Process

Craig Sullivan, in response to last week’s discussion and request, presented on CSA bylaws as they pertain to the establishment of the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), voting procedures, and advocacy policies. Included in the presentation, he noted the individual counties determine who would be their LPC representative. He stated that although there is one voting representative from each county on the LPC, the LPC report is distributed to all supervisors and professional staff. He added that currently the LPC membership consists of seven republicans, seven democrats, and one independent. Craig noted that to take a position the LPC must have at least 10 votes on a motion. He further explained that when voting decisions are near unanimous, the organization is most

effective in representing to the legislature that the counties believe in a particular direction on legislation. Discussion occurred.

CSA Legislative Agenda

Craig Sullivan reported that the last day to hear bills in committee of the original chamber is two weeks away. He provided the status of CSA's legislative agenda.

- 1) [CSA Legislative Budget Priorities](#)
 - a) [HB 2201 counties; committed youth contributions; repeal](#) (Weninger). Passed House Appropriations.
- 2) [HB 2012 county improvement districts; formation](#) (Kavanagh). Passed the House 58-0.
- 3) [HB 2044 juvenile dependency; state aid; appropriation](#) (Biasiucci). Passed House Appropriations and is awaiting Rules.
- 4) [HB 2067 county improvement districts; recreation; governance](#) (Blackman). Scheduled for House Government & Elections next week.
- 5) [HB 2197 medical examiner; pathologist assistant; autopsies](#) (Osborne). Passed the Health committee this week and is awaiting Rules.
- 6) [SB 1188 unincorporated areas; transient lodging assessment](#) (Gabaldon). Has been assigned to a Senate committee, but not yet on an agenda.
- 7) Procurement Contract Modifications.

Legislative Bills for Discussion and Possible Action

- 1) [HB 2453 governmental entities; mask requirement; prohibition](#). Jacob Emnett presented the bill and expressed some county concerns. Supervisor Rex Scott moved to oppose H.B. 2453. Supervisor Matt Ryan seconded the motion. Discussion occurred. The motion passed, with Supervisor Steve Miller in opposition.
- 2) [SB 1093 property tax; class one; equalization assistance](#). In response to a request from last week's LPC meeting, Vanessa Fielder presented an analysis on the impacts of the two-year phase down of the class 1 assessment ratio and the corresponding reduction in the state's tax rate. She also explained the estimated amount of annual NAV growth needed to keep both the tax rate and levy constant. Mark Barnes stated he and Craig Sullivan had met with the bill sponsor, Senator Mesnard, to discuss aspects and concerns of the bill. Mark noted the sponsor had indicated he would not advocate to move the property tax assessment ratio down any lower than 15 percent. Discussion occurred. Vanessa noted that a fiscal note was recently added to the bill estimating the rate reduction in the final year of the phase down could cost the state \$81.3 million. Further discussion occurred. Supervisor Steve Christensen moved to oppose S.B. 1093. Supervisor Rex Scott seconded the motion. Additional discussion occurred. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) [SB 1161 prescription drug coverage; steering prohibition](#). Robin Hillyard presented S.B. 1161 for informational purposes only regarding out of network pharmacy benefits and the impact to county health plans.
- 4) [SB 1191 civil actions; virtual court appearance](#). Robin presented cost and connectivity concerns by the counties and the courts, and advised CSA would continue to monitor the bill for amendments. Discussion occurred.
- 5) [SB 1270 state parks; lottery; Heritage fund](#). Jacob presented the bill as benefitting the State Parks Heritage Fund. Supervisor Mary Mallory moved to support S.B. 1270. Supervisor Matt Ryan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 6) [SB 1460 election law amendments](#). Jacob stated this bill is being run by the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) to make a variety of changes to election law. Supervisor Alton Shepherd moved to support S.B. 1460. Supervisor Steve Miller seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 7) [SB 1496 remote sellers; TPT; administration](#). Vanessa reported that CSA had worked with a coalition of Arizona retailers and other local governments in 2019 about the taxation of remote sales in Arizona, and presented some concerns about the bill, including a lack of clarity on how the proposed tax rate would be implemented. She noted there are other stakeholders with concerns. Supervisor Mary Mallory moved to oppose S.B. 1496. Supervisor Jason Whiting seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- 8) [SB 1629 registration; verification; images; audits; boxes](#). Robin noted that AACo will be meeting with their members today to discuss this legislation. She stated the Senate had requested amendments be submitted next Tuesday. She referred to changes in election law this bill would affect and indicated she will report back after receipt of information from AACo.

Legislative Bill Updates

- 1) [HB 2070 open meetings; capacity; posting; violation](#). Robin Hillyard noted Senator Kavanagh plans to remove the civil penalty for an open meeting violation from the bill language, and that although the bill would require public bodies provide a reasonable amount of seating, a public body would not need to relocate to accommodate the public. Robin noted he does want notice provided to the public as to when physical access into the meeting location would be available.
- 2) [HB 2541 deputy sheriff; detention officer; salary](#). Craig Sullivan reported this bill, along with a Senate companion bill, were introduced by the Sheriffs Association. H.B. 2541 will be heard in House Military Affairs on Monday, and S.B. 1381 is scheduled for Senate Appropriations on Tuesday. He noted he had sent an email to the counties regarding these bills. Supervisor Duce Minor sought clarification that the LPC took a position to oppose H.B. 2541 last week. Discussion occurred.
- 3) [HB 2587 public records; point of contact](#). Robin reported this bill was brought by the Free Enterprise Club. She said the sponsor is willing to negotiate. CSA is working with the League and AACo on draft amendment language. She thanked the counties for their feedback.
- 4) [SB 1371 county salaries; precinct officers](#). Craig reported this legislation proposes a salary increase for constables and would remove the current county salary range. Craig said he had spoken with some constables about being opposed to removing flexibility from the supervisors. CSA currently opposes the bill as written, but is willing to work with the constables.

Other Legislative Issues

In response to Supervisor Steve Miller's query on H.B. 2162 from last week, Robin Hillyard reported she had reached out to the Attorney General's Office who supplied that of the 221 open meeting law violation complaints reported in 2021, 150 were closed with no action and 25 resulted in violations, which is about 11 percent of the total complaints. Supervisor Miller thanked her for this information.

Supervisor Rex Scott provided a follow-up to his query of last week regarding federal pandemic relief funds and how they are disbursed to the counties. He had followed up with his acting county administrator who shared that the most difficulty has stemmed from not receiving the federal resources promised from the Federal Emergency Management Administration Public Assistance Funds. He said his county is not receiving the appropriate reimbursement for COVID testing and vaccinations. He requested CSA follow-up with his staff and with the other counties to determine if they are having similar concerns in order to consider a joint approach to address the problem. Craig Sullivan said CSA would be happy to follow-up on this.

Supervisor Alton Shepherd commented his board became concerned about possibly violating the state gift clause by receiving a 10 percent match in grant monies under the broadband grant, and he asked if any other counties had similar concerns. Discussion occurred.

Next Meeting Date and Time

President Jean Bishop advised the LPC will not meet next Friday, February 11. The LPC will meet next in conjunction with the CSA Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, February 17, at 10:00 a.m., and then on Friday, February 25, at 9:00 a.m.

Other Business and Adjournment

There being no further business, President Jean Bishop adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.