

ARIZONA

A publication of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns | Winter 2020

# CITY&TOWN



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*In January, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns welcomed Tom Belshe as its new executive director.*

*Tom has served as the deputy director of the League for 15 years. After receiving his BA in economics and MPA from Brigham Young University, he began his career with the League in 1993. Following a stint at the Arizona Department of Commerce, where he served as one of the assistant deputy directors, he returned to the League in 2004.*

*As he begins his new position of League executive director, we hear from Tom on what he's excited to tackle in this new role.*



## Pride in Our Cities

**Each year, I enjoy following the events of Cities and Towns Week. I have been a member of the League staff for more than 20 years, but I continually feel a sense of pride for the efficiency, effectiveness and innovation of our member cities and towns as they provide vital services to their citizens across the state. I also feel a sense of pride in the role the League plays in protecting the authority and resources that cities and towns need to provide those services.**

As I assume the post of executive director this year, I take the reins of a very successful organization with a dedicated staff committed to maintaining that success. However, it is also true that successful organizations must continually challenge themselves to be better. Consistent questioning of our goals, strategies and tasks is essential. Are we doing what we should? And, if so, how can we do it better? Planning is what provides vision for leadership. If we want continued success, we must invest in the tools that make planning meaningful.

To that end, one of the first steps League staff will take in the New Year is a strategic planning process with our Executive Committee. This will accomplish several important things:

- Provide the League with goals that we can use to measure our performance
- Provide strategies that the Executive Committee and League staff can use to achieve the established goals of the organization
- Provide League staff with a framework to determine the tasks that are necessary for the developed strategies
- Establish the method by which we consistently question what we do and how we do it to ensure we focus on those issues that benefit cities and towns most

It is my conviction that as we invest in the time and resources to create a strong strategic planning process, it will create organizational renewal that will become part of our culture for years to come. And each year as I follow the activities of Cities and Towns Week, I will continue to be amazed at the innovation that the cities, towns and the League organization can achieve through our partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Thomas Belshe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Belshe  
League Executive Director

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## Working Together for a Great Session

Since its inception in 1937, the League has been the foremost advocate of cities and towns at the state Capitol. Every year we make a concentrated effort to ensure that the voices of our cities and towns are heard as the Legislature approaches the process of making new laws. So let's take a look at how we as members of the League can be most effective.

First and foremost, know your legislators. Call them, go to see them, invite them to your local events and council meetings. If they don't live in your town, bring them in and show them your community. Let them know how what they decide at the state Capitol affects your city. Introduce them to your citizens and let them hear from the people directly affected by their activities.

You can also go to see them where they live, or at the Capitol itself. The League publishes helpful guides for accessing your state elected officials. Sign up for the Request to Speak system on the legislative website (the League can help you do this). This system allows you to weigh in on pieces of legislation as they move through the process. There may also be occasions where the League will ask that you participate directly in the stakeholder process. Please avail yourselves of these opportunities.

As we approach another legislative session, let us renew our commitment to bringing the issues affecting our municipalities to the Legislature. Open and honest communication is everyone's best friend when it comes to making the legislative process work for the whole state's benefit. Remember, their constituents are our constituents. Let's do our best to work together to have a great and productive session!

Lastly, we want to take the opportunity to thank Ken Strobeck for his 14 years of steadfast service to our cities and towns, and welcome Tom Belshe as the new executive director of the Arizona League. Thank you, Ken, for everything, and our very best wishes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Price', written over a horizontal line.

Christian Price  
League President  
Mayor, City of Maricopa





# THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS FRIENDS AND CHAMPIONS

## CHAMPIONS



Sen. Sean Bowie (D)



Sen. David Bradley (D)



Sen. Kate Brophy McGee (R)



Rep. Kelli Butler (D)



Rep. Kirsten Engel (D)



Rep. Mitzi Epstein (D)



Senate President Karen Fann (R)



Rep. Charlene Fernandez (D)



Rep. Joanne Osborne (R)



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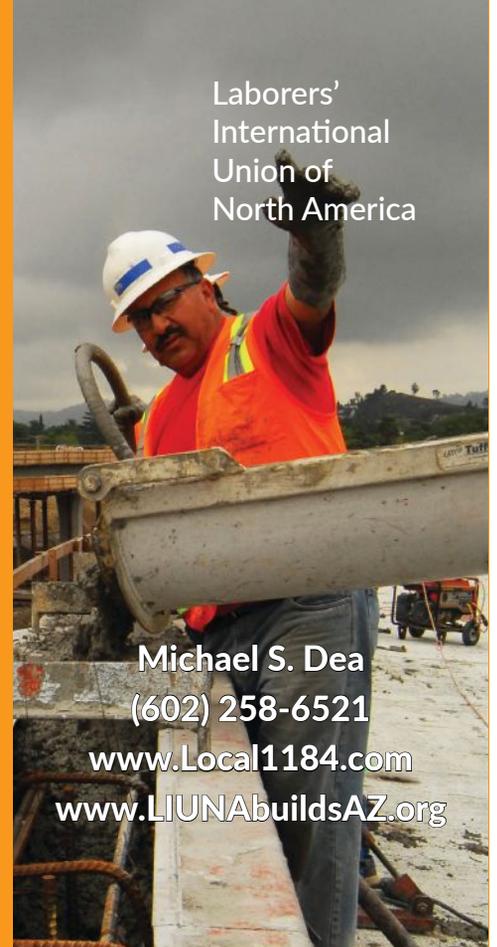
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# LEGISLATURE 101: AN INTRODUCTION TO LAWMAKING AND THE CAPITOL

## HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

Each session, state legislators introduce approximately 1,200 bills, nearly a quarter of which have some relevance to cities and towns. Bills start in either the House or the Senate, depending upon who sponsors the bill. Senate bills start with "1001," and House bills start with "2001" and are then numbered sequentially. Although there are some differences in how each chamber operates, the basic process is the same. There are six sequential steps that take place in each.

1) Bill Assignment – A bill is "first read" on the floor and then assigned to a committee based on subject matter.

2) Committee – Committees are comprised of members from each party, with the majority party having the most seats. This is the only step in the entire legislative process that is truly "open to the public" for comment. Members of the committee may offer amendments to change the language of a bill. If a bill fails here, it is essentially "dead," although there are methods available to resurrect it. If a bill passes, it proceeds to the Rules Committee.

3) Rules Committee – Every bill must go through the Rules Committee for legal review to discuss whether the bill is constitutional, germane with existing statute and in the proper format. The committee does not give a bill a pass or fail recommendation. Following the review by the Rules Committee, the bill moves to discussion among the party caucuses.

4) Caucus – The members of each party meet to review bills and the "party position" is vetted. No formal action takes place.

5) Committee of the Whole (COW) – The entire chamber comes together for a floor debate. At this point committee amendments as well as floor amendments are formally offered and adopted. Discussions can last a few minutes or several hours. In COW, a voice vote is used.

6) Third Read – All changes adopted in COW are engrossed into the bill and prepared for a final vote. This vote is electronically tallied. Like the committee process, if a bill fails on third read it is considered "dead" with the possibility of procedural resurrection. If it passes, the bill then goes to the other chamber and the same steps are repeated.

## 2020 SESSION TIMELINE

**Monday, Jan. 13:** Session begins

**Thursday, Jan. 16:** Seven-bill limit in House begins

**Monday, Feb. 3:** Senate bill introduction deadline

**Monday, Feb. 10:** House bill introduction deadline

**Feb. 17-21:** Last week to hear bills in chamber of origin

**Mar. 23-27:** Last week to hear bills in opposite chamber

**Friday, Apr. 17:** Last day for conference committees

**Tuesday, Apr. 21:** 100th day of session

# HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN ARIZONA

Each session state legislators introduce approximately 1,200 bills, nearly a quarter of which have some relevance to cities and towns...

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- Introduction of Bill (First Read, Second Read, Committee Assignment)
- Committee (Public Hearing)
- Rules Committee (Legal Review)
- Caucus (Partisan Briefing)
- Committee of the Whole (Floor Debate)
- Third Read (Final Vote)

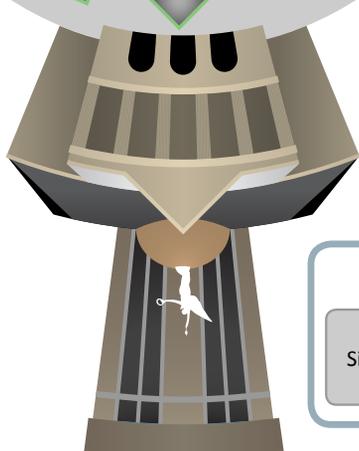
**SENATE**

- Introduction of Bill (First Read, Second Read, Committee Assignment)
- Committee (Public Hearing)
- Rules Committee (Legal Review)
- Caucus (Partisan Briefing)
- Committee of the Whole (Floor Debate)
- Third Read (Final Vote)



**OUTCOME**

|           |                    |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Unamended | Amended & Accepted | Amended & Rejected |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

|           |           |                         |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Sign Bill | Veto Bill | Enact Without Signature |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|

**GOVERNOR**

If a bill passes both chambers without any amendments, it goes straight to the governor's office. If a bill is approved in one chamber, amended in the other chamber, and that amendment is approved by the sponsoring chamber, the bill will advance to the governor's office. However, if the sponsoring chamber does not approve of the amendment adopted, it will be assigned to a conference committee. This committee is made up of members from both chambers designated by the speaker of the House and president of the Senate who will work toward a version of the bill amenable to both chambers. If a chamber rejects the committee's recommendation, the bill is considered "dead." If a bill is amended by a conference committee, it then has a final read by both chambers. If it passes final read, it is transmitted to the governor's office.

Once a bill is in the governor's office, he or she can sign it into law, veto the bill or allow the legislation to become enacted without his or her signature.

Bill language, hearing schedules, live feeds and status information are available at the Arizona State Legislature's website: [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov).

During the session, League staff spends countless hours at the Legislature tracking bills. We encourage our members to stay abreast of legislative issues impacting cities and towns through our weekly **Legislative Bulletin** and by contacting the League at (602) 258-5786 with any questions you have. Additionally, the League has a **legislative bill monitoring** page available on our website that provides more detailed information about the bills League staff is actively tracking. You may also sign up to register your opinion on legislation at the Legislature's website using the Request to Speak system. Contact the League for assistance in accessing this feature.



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# A LOOK AT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES FOR 2020



**Governor of Arizona –  
Doug Ducey**

The governor is the chief executive officer of the state and is in charge of the executive branch of government.



**Speaker of the House –  
Rep. Rusty Bowers**

The speaker oversees the House and acts as the chamber's liaison to the governor and the Senate president.



**Senate President –  
Sen. Karen Fann**

The president is in charge of the Senate and acts as the chamber's liaison to the governor and the speaker of the House.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**Majority Leader –  
Rep. Warren Petersen**

The majority leader oversees their party's caucus, after the speaker.



**Assistant Minority Leader –  
Rep. Randy Friese**

The assistant minority leader oversees their party's caucus, after the minority leader.



**Majority Whip –  
Rep. Becky Nutt**

The majority whip gathers the necessary votes on a bill for their party.



**Minority Co-Whips –  
Rep. Athena Salman  
Rep. Reginald Bolding**

The minority co-whips gather the necessary votes on a bill for their party.



**Minority Leader –  
Rep. Charlene Fernandez**

The minority leader oversees the minority caucus and is the main liaison to the majority leadership.



# STATE SENATE



**Majority Leader –  
Sen. Rick Gray**

The majority leader oversees their party's caucus, after the president.



**Assistant Minority Leader –  
Sen. Lupe Contreras**

The assistant minority leader oversees their party's caucus, after the minority leader.



**Majority Whip –  
Sen. Sonny Borrelli**

The majority whip gathers the necessary votes on a bill for their party.



**Minority Co-Whips –  
Sen. Lisa Otondo  
Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai**

The minority co-whips gather the necessary votes on a bill for their party.



**Minority Leader –  
Sen. David Bradley**

The minority leader oversees the minority caucus, and is the main liaison to the majority leadership.



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## DISTRICT 2

### Cities and Towns

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## DISTRICT 3

### Cities and Towns

Tucson



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### Cities and Towns

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### Cities and Towns

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### Cities and Towns

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## DISTRICT 7

### Cities and Towns

Eagar, Fredonia, Page, Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, Springerville, St. Johns, Winslow



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## DISTRICT 8

### Cities and Towns

Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Florence, Globe, Hayden, Kearny, Mammoth, Miami, Superior, Winkelman



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## DISTRICT 9

### Cities and Towns

Marana, Tucson



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## DISTRICT 10

### Cities and Towns

Tucson



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## DISTRICT 12

### Cities and Towns

Gilbert, Queen Creek



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## DISTRICT 13

### Cities and Towns

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Park, Surprise, Wellton, Wickenburg, Yuma



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## DISTRICT 14

### Cities and Towns

Benson, Bisbee, Clifton, Douglas, Duncan, Huachuca  
City, Pima, Safford, Sierra Vista, Thatcher, Tombstone,  
Tucson, Willcox



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Cave Creek, Phoenix



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## DISTRICT 16

### Cities and Towns

Apache Junction, Mesa, Queen Creek



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## DISTRICT 17

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## DISTRICT 18

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## DISTRICT 19

**Cities and Towns**  
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## DISTRICT 20

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## DISTRICT 22

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## DISTRICT 24

**Cities and Towns**  
 Phoenix, Scottsdale



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## DISTRICT 25

**Cities and Towns**  
 Mesa



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## DISTRICT 26

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## DISTRICT 30

**Cities and Towns**  
Glendale, Phoenix



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# MEET THE LEAGUE'S LEGISLATIVE STAFF



**Nick Ponder**  
**Legislative Director**  
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Nick serves as the legislative director at the League. Prior to his promotion to director in 2018, he served as the League's pension policy analyst. Before coming to the League, he was the government relations officer with the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) for eight years, and prior to his position at ASRS, he was the associate retirement benefits examiner for the Fire Department of New York. He earned his degree in international relations from The Ohio State University.



**Tom Savage**  
**Senior Legislative Associate**  
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Tom serves as the senior legislative associate at the League. He has been with the League since 2017. Prior to his time at the League, he served four legislative sessions at the Arizona House of Representatives as a research analyst for the Government; Energy, Environment and Natural Resources; and Agriculture, Water and Lands committees. He holds a bachelor's degree in public policy from Arizona State University.



**Roxanna Pitones**  
**Legislative Associate**  
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Roxanna serves as legislative associate at the League. Prior to joining the League, Roxanna served as a policy advisor in the Arizona Senate, focusing on education and commerce issues. In this role, she gained extensive knowledge of the legislative process and the intricacies of navigating state government. Roxanna graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in political science and minor in Spanish literature.

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# Upcoming 2020 League and Affiliate Events

Below is a list of League and Affiliate Events during the upcoming year. More will be added so remember to always check the League website for any updates.

| Event  | Dates           | Location           |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Arizona City/County Management Association - Winter Conference         | January 29-31   | Sedona, AZ         |
| Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona - Winter Conference | February 12-14  | Flagstaff, AZ      |
| National League of Cities - Congressional City Conference              | March 8-11      | Washington, DC     |
| GFOA Annual Conference   | May 17-20       | New Orleans, LA    |
| Arizona City Attorneys Association                                     | May 28-29       | Flagstaff, AZ      |
| Women Leading Government   | June 18-19      | Phoenix, AZ        |
| Arizona City/County Management Association - Summer Conference         | July 15-17      | Tucson, AZ         |
| Arizona Municipal Clerks Association - Summer Conference               | July 21-23      | Fountain Hills, AZ |
| Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona - Summer Conference | August 12-14    | Tucson, AZ         |
| League Annual Conference   | September 1-4   | Glendale, AZ       |
| ICMA Annual Conference   | September 23-26 | Toronto, Canada    |
| International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) Annual Conference   | September 23-27 | La Quinta, CA      |
| Arizona Cities & Towns Week  | October 18-24   | Statewide          |
| National League of Cities - City Summit                                | November 18-21  | Tampa, FL          |
| Newly Elected Officials Training                                       | December 3-4    | Phoenix, AZ        |



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