State County Partnership

Arizona Legislative Academy

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Arizona’s Territorial Days

- 4 Territorial era counties in 1864
  - Mohave
  - Pima
  - Yavapai
  - Yuma

- The now defunct Pah-Ute County split from Mohave County in 1865, but merged back in 1871.

- 14 Counties at Statehood in 1912
Arizona Counties

- 15 counties in Arizona
- All counties have a 3 or 5 member board
- There are more than 300 County Elected Officials in Arizona, including 61 County Supervisors
U.S. County Map

3,033 counties in the U.S.
- Louisiana - Parishes
- Alaska - Boroughs
- Texas has the most counties with 254
- Delaware has the fewest with 3

Source: [www.Worldatlas.com](http://www.Worldatlas.com)
What is the role of counties?

- Counties are *political subdivisions* of the state, charged with implementing state law and policy on a *regional level* - overseen by locally elected officials.

- Unlike cities, counties do not have “home rule” (*authority to act independently of the state*), therefore, *counties only have powers and authorities delegated to them by the Arizona Legislature and State Constitution*. 
How is a county organized?

Voters elect:
(State Law Mandates Activities of Elected Officials)

Board of Supervisors

- Sheriff
- Treasurer
- Recorder
- Assessor
- County Attorney
- School Superintendent
- Clerk of Superior Court

County Administrator
   - Clerk of the BOS
   - County Engineer
   - Medical Examiner
   - Public Defender
   - Public Fiduciary

Other departments, boards, and commissions
How are Counties Governed?

- Power is derived by Arizona Constitution and state law and is divided between elected governing body (board of supervisors) and separately elected officials
  - Constitutional Offices
  - Statutory Duties

- State law endows county supervisors with budgetary authority over the county

- The structure of county government requires close collaboration among the elected officials to promote an efficient, effective organization.
Regionally Efficient Services

- Providing public safety and jail operations through the Sheriff’s Office
- Prosecuting state crimes through the County Attorney
- Providing for indigent defense through the Public Defender
- Coordinating emergency management and response
- Conducting elections and maintaining voter records
- Record and store legal documents, including deeds, mortgages, etc.
- Operation and maintenance of county fair and parks
- Operation of Superior courts and Justice of the Peace courts
- Probation operations (in conjunction with the state)
- Building and maintenance of roadways and bridges
- Assess and collect property taxes on behalf of schools and other districts
- Set and implement zoning, subdivisions, and other land-use regulations
- Administer environmental and public health programs & inspections
- Provide medical examiner and indigent burial services
Counties by the Numbers

Arizona's County Governments provide essential services that millions count on every day. From public safety and courts to elections and public health, and from educational services to public finance, property record management and transportation — your county does so much!

Arizona Counties Matter

Arizona's County Governments are a KEY LEVEL of government, DIRECTLY serving the people.

With America's system of FEDERALISM, counties are mandated by FEDERAL and STATE laws and regulations.

As governments created by states, counties provide ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES including

Health-care
Public Safety & Jails
Courts
Elections
Record-keeping
Transportation
Mental Health Services
Community Colleges
Parks & Recreation
Animal Care & Control
Flood Control
...and so much more

Services

Counties employ more than 37,000

Arizonaans delivering a variety of services

Elections

Counties fund and oversee more than 1,830
polling places

and coordinate 15,076
poll workers EVERY TWO YEARS

Transportation

Counties are responsible for more than 20,000 miles of roads in Arizona and for the maintenance of 1,035 bridges

Law Enforcement

Arizona's counties operate 31 jails across the state

Housing more than 18,000 inmates on any given day

Data compiled from the Arizona Association of Counties, Summer/Fall of Counties 2012. Population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Arizona has 15 diverse counties

3,942,169

Maricopa County

Greenlee County

8,802
What else do counties do?

Perform city-type functions in unincorporated areas

- Local law enforcement (sheriff) and justice courts (misdemeanors)
- Build and maintain roads, manage transportation system, enforce building safety codes
- Set and implement zoning, subdivision and other land use regulations
## County Population Distribution

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apache</td>
<td>72,215</td>
<td>10,404</td>
<td>61,811</td>
<td>85.60%</td>
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<td>Cochise</td>
<td>129,112</td>
<td>78,198</td>
<td>50,914</td>
<td>39.40%</td>
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<td>Coconino</td>
<td>141,602</td>
<td>86,366</td>
<td>55,236</td>
<td>39.00%</td>
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<td>Gila</td>
<td>54,406</td>
<td>28,363</td>
<td>26,043</td>
<td>47.90%</td>
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<td>Graham</td>
<td>38,475</td>
<td>17,337</td>
<td>21,138</td>
<td>54.90%</td>
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<td>Greenlee</td>
<td>10,555</td>
<td>5,312</td>
<td>5,243</td>
<td>49.70%</td>
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<td>La Paz</td>
<td>21,183</td>
<td>6,985</td>
<td>14,198</td>
<td>67.00%</td>
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<td>Maricopa</td>
<td>4,076,438</td>
<td>3,782,560</td>
<td>293,878</td>
<td>7.20%</td>
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<td>Mohave</td>
<td>205,716</td>
<td>127,447</td>
<td>78,269</td>
<td>38.00%</td>
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<td>Navajo</td>
<td>109,671</td>
<td>40,176</td>
<td>69,495</td>
<td>63.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pima</td>
<td>1,009,371</td>
<td>648,348</td>
<td>361,023</td>
<td>35.80%</td>
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<td>Pinal</td>
<td>406,468</td>
<td>201,543</td>
<td>204,925</td>
<td>50.40%</td>
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<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>50,270</td>
<td>22,873</td>
<td>27,397</td>
<td>54.50%</td>
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<td>Yavapai</td>
<td>217,778</td>
<td>131,637</td>
<td>86,141</td>
<td>39.60%</td>
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<td>Yuma</td>
<td>214,991</td>
<td>150,811</td>
<td>64,180</td>
<td>29.90%</td>
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<td><strong>Arizona</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,758,251</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,338,360</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,419,891</strong></td>
<td><strong>21.00%</strong></td>
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</table>

*All data obtained via July 1, 2015 population estimates for Arizona’s Counties via Arizona’s Office of Employment and Population Statistics.*
How are counties funded?

Counties are funded through a combination of local and state-shared revenue (sources in blue are statutorily capped):

- **Local tax revenue**
  - Half-cent sales tax
  - Primary property tax
  - Secondary property tax (for dedicated purposes)

- **State-shared revenue**
  - Sales tax (cities receive a portion of state income tax)
  - Vehicle license tax
  - Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF)
    - Over $140.6 Million diverted from counties since 2009
Do counties have financial flexibility?

State shifts cost and responsibilities to counties
Higher pension and healthcare costs
Population growth increases demand for more services
5 Forces Impacting County Operations

- U.S. Executive, Congressional & Federal Agencies
- The Courts
- Arizona’s 15 County Governments
- State Legislature
- The Executive & State Agencies
- Ballot & Voter Initiatives
Takeaways

• Since counties provide constitutional and state mandated services (*public safety, transportation and criminal justice*), your policy choices affect local costs and county responsiveness to constituents.
  
  o *Federal, state and judicial action drive costs in county operations.*

• Unlike cities, counties have limited financial flexibility and fixed, limited revenue streams.

• Counties need relief; state action diverting local resources for state obligations is bad public policy and damaging local services.
  
  o *County impacts since 2009: $504.4 million*
  o *Counties currently pay a portion of 4 state agencies, historically funded by the state GF*
  o *Absent relief counties will lose $52.42 million in this year’s budget*

• County officials are your partners in serving your constituents.
Our Address
1905-1910 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Our offices are just a 5 minute walk from the State Capitol complex!