

### BUDGET PRIORITIES

#### Ensuring the state provides \$10.4 million on an ongoing basis to fund salary adjustments for its probation officers.

- Probation is an important jointly-funded function of the state's superior court, with the state largely funding case-carrying probation officers.
- For administrative convenience, statute requires the county boards to set salaries for all probation officers, on recommendation of the presiding judge.
- Inflationary pressures, high vacancies, and substantial adjustments to other state public safety officer salaries have necessitated increased probation officer salaries.
- State appropriations are insufficient to support this obligation on an on-going basis.

It's not fair to these employees or to county officials to face uncertainty regarding the state's commitment to probation officer salaries.

#### Protect taxpayer investments in public safety pensions.

- Recently, some stakeholders have suggested undoing much of the reforms made to stabilize public safety pensions.
- Counties urge lawmakers to critically analyze any proposed changes to the systems to ensure the changes effectively address a clear policy problem and maintain the plans' sustainability into the future.
- Over the past decade, the legislature worked with stakeholders to reform the underfunded PSPRS, CORP and EORP systems.
- Because pension benefits are constitutionally protected and cannot be reduced, the reforms closed the previous systems and **created more sustainable plans** moving forward.
- In the last 5 years, counties have invested over **\$1.1B** into their individual plans to reduce debt repayment costs in the closed legacy systems.
- Many counties made those deposits using Pension Obligation Bonds, which save the taxpayers millions in interest costs but remain a roughly **\$630 million** burden on the county general fund.

**HB 2292: wildfire prevention authority; fund (Blackman)**

**Secure funding for post-wildfire flooding mitigation and capital projects.**

### ONGOING PRIORITIES

**State-County Partnership**

**Maintaining flexibility language for FY 2027**

**Urging State Lawmakers to Enact Long-term Funding Solutions to Support State and Local Transportation Infrastructure**

# COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

## 2026 LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET PRIORITIES

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1

#### **SB 1067: county abatement liens; notice; priority (Rogers)**

Treat § 11-268 (D) assessments for county costs in the event of “removal of rubbish, trash, weeds, filth, debris, and dilapidated buildings” like special district assessments, allowing for their inclusion on property tax bills and in sales of tax liens.

2

#### **HB 2270: county seal; authority; sheriff's posse (Marshall)**

Amend statute currently prohibiting unauthorized use of the county seal to include use of any county name, logo, or brand identity when coupled with elected office. Further, permit the Sheriff's Office to maintain naming rights of all Sheriff's Posse associated with Search and Rescue Efforts.

3

#### **HB 2096: forgivable financial assistance; cesspool remediation (Griffin)**

Amend statute to permit counties to receive forgivable financial assistance from WIFA for the purpose of replacing cesspools and outdated septic system infrastructure. Specify that forgivable loans do not require approval at election.

4

#### **HB 2439: public cold plunge; rules; exemption (Bliss)**

Exempt single-person, bathtub-style cold plunge units from regulations if they meet outlined standards. Presently, vague code could result in regulation as "spas."

5

#### **Folder 922: solar energy; inspection; contractors (Carroll)**

Pursue changes to: (a) require rooftop solar companies to evaluate and disclose the existing condition of the homeowner's roof before installation, b) require solar companies with a documented history of complaints or violations to obtain third-party inspections verifying compliance.

6

#### **HB 2324 : fire code; municipalities; county buildings (Kupper)**

Create a statutory waiver process whereby counties may choose to use/enforce the municipality's fire code on county buildings if they can prove that enforcing the state's code would cause an undue burden.

7

#### **HB 2022: elections; July primary; curing; observers (Kolodin)**

Permanently (a) move the primary election, (b) shorten the cure deadline to 5 calendar days (instead of 5 business days), and (c) mandate the research and dispositioning of provisional ballots within 7 calendar days.

### COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

**Addressing Homeowners Insurance Affordability & Stability**

**Permanent Funding for the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office**

**Increase Local Responsiveness Regarding Short-term Rental Units, Including Unfair Tax Treatment**