

League of Arizona  
Cities AND Towns  
**2017**  
**MUNICIPAL POLICY**  
**STATEMENT**



## OVERVIEW

The cities and towns of Arizona serve their constituents through efficient service delivery, transparent operations, fiscal responsibility and long range planning. In order to accomplish this mission, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns enlists the input of its members to develop the annual Municipal Policy Statement. This document represents collaborative policy priorities that ensure cities and towns throughout Arizona can maintain the high quality municipal environment that citizens want and deserve.

## CORE PRINCIPLES

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is governed by two core principles: 1) Preserve local control, and 2) Protect shared revenue. Adherence to these principles is the foundation of all the League's efforts. We will support legislation that reinforces these principles, and oppose any that undermines them. Therefore, one of our first priorities will be the repeal of SB1487, state law; local violations; penalties, a bill that strikes at the heart of our core principles.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Cities and towns are at the forefront of economic vitality and growth. Incorporating these policies would advance financial success.

### *Legislative Priorities*

- Foster economic development by allowing cities and towns to use additional financing tools to invest in infrastructure and other improvements in designated areas.
- Create renewable energy and conservation financing districts for commercial properties on a voluntary basis.
- Authorize the inclusion of retention and detention basins for improvement district funding.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

Citizens expect local government to be fiscally stable, reasonable in its enforcement, and efficient in its procedures. These concepts further enable municipalities to achieve those goals

### *Legislative Priorities*

- Repeal SB1487, state law; local violations; penalties.
- Create workable, simplified mutually beneficial construction sales tax reform.
- Update zoning laws to mirror that of county zoning statutes.
- Modify statute to align Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) benefits with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Explore options to create solutions for the current unfunded liabilities of PSPRS.
- Revise and update disincorporation statutes.
- Construct a more efficient process for annexation.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Citizens want great places to live and thrive. Safe, vibrant communities retain the people that live there, and attract new citizens as well.

### *Legislative Priorities*

- Restore the Arizona Housing Trust Fund.
- Develop strategies to improve forest health.
- Support Arizona's military installations.



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## GENERAL FUND REVENUE

On average, cities and towns receive almost 40% of their revenues from state shared sources-income tax, sales tax, HURF and VLT.

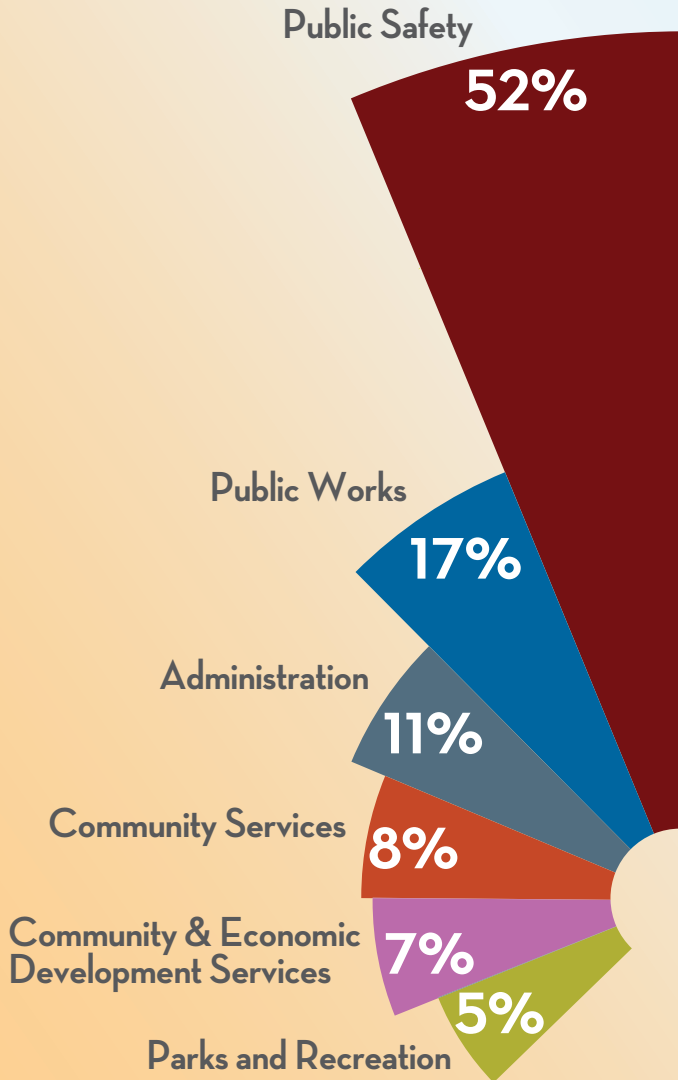
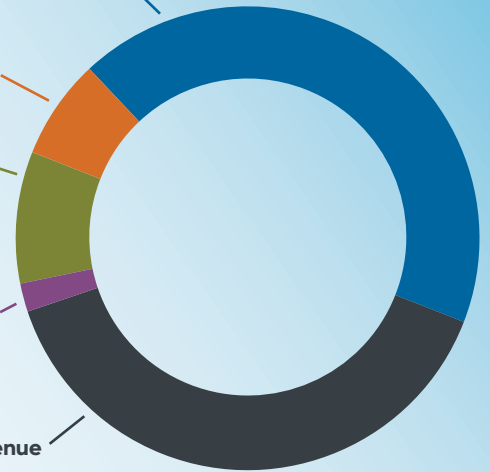
43% Local Sales & Franchise Taxes

7% Local Property Tax

9% Licenses, Permits,  
User Fees  
& Grants

2% Fines & Forfeitures

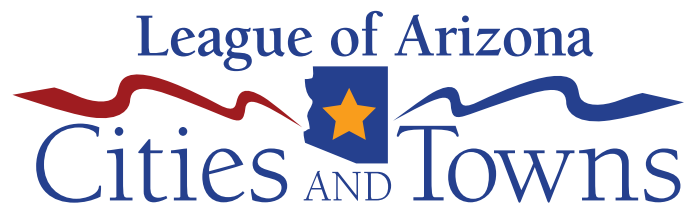
39% State Shared Revenue



**79%** of Arizonans live in one of the state's 91 incorporated cities and towns.

## GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

On average, cities and towns spend over 50% of their budgets on public safety-police and fire departments.



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