

**MINUTES  
LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, November 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.  
League of Arizona Cities and Towns  
1820 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona

**MEMBERS**

**President**

Kevin Hartke, Mayor, Chandler

**Vice President**

Mila Besich, Mayor, Superior +

**Treasurer**

Jerry Weiers, Mayor, Glendale

Ken Budge, Mayor, Bisbee +  
Craig McFarland, Mayor, Casa Grande  
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Mayor, Clarkdale  
Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor, El Mirage +  
Ginny Dickey, Mayor, Fountain Hills  
Al Gameros, Mayor, Globe  
Joe Pizzillo, Mayor, Goodyear  
Cal Sheehey, Mayor, Lake Havasu City +  
Tom Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park +  
Ed Honea, Mayor, Marana  
Nancy Smith, Mayor, Maricopa

John Giles, Mayor, Mesa \*  
Jerry Bien-Willner, Mayor, Paradise Valley  
Jason Beck, Mayor, Peoria \*  
Kate Gallego, Mayor, Phoenix  
Stephanie Irwin, Mayor, Pinetop-Lakeside +  
Tom Murphy, Mayor, Sahuarita  
David Ortega, Mayor, Scottsdale +  
Corey Woods, Mayor, Tempe \*  
Regina Romero, Mayor, Tucson \*  
Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma \*

\*Not in attendance

+ Attended via Zoom

President Kevin Hartke called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He then led the Executive Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

President Kevin Hartke requested a motion on the adoption of minutes from the August 2, 2024 meeting. Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer of Clarkdale moved to approve the minutes; Mayor Craig McFarland of Casa Grande seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**2. RECAP OF 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Executive Director, Tom Belshe introduced Deputy Director Matt Lore to provide a report summarizing the outcomes of the 2024 annual conference. Matt noted that conference attendance broke records, which was attributed to the engaging agenda curated by the organizing team. The financial profits also improved significantly compared to previous years. While costs have been increasing, particularly post-COVID, there was optimism that revenues would continue to support the League's operations.

The upcoming conference was announced to be held in Scottsdale on August 19-22, 2025. Discussions highlighted that hosting events in August could help keep costs lower compared to peak seasons.

### **3. 2023-2024 AUDIT REPORT**

An overview of the 2023-2024 audit report was presented by Executive Director, Tom Belshe, noting that there were no significant findings. Tom explained that 2024 marked the third year with the current auditing firm and that a new firm will be engaged for the next audit. An expression of gratitude was made to the staff, acknowledging their excellent preparation for the audits.

A motion was made by Mayor Jerry Weiers of Glendale to approve the audit report, and seconded by Mayor Joe Pizzillo of Goodyear. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **4. LEGISLATIVE POLICY OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

Executive Director, Tom Belshe introduced Legislative Director, Tom Savage who gave a detailed review of legislative policies and updates. Tom updated committee members on the election results impacting the House and Senate, noting that Republicans are expected to slightly increase their majority in the House while holding their position in the Senate. Several tight races were ongoing with varying expectations of outcomes.

Important ballot measures were introduced in detail, including propositions concerning property taxes and penalties for crimes associated with border control. There appeared to be ongoing deliberations concerning the continuity of a housing assistance measure, which impacts affordable housing credit.

Attention shifted to legislative forecasts concerning housing and homelessness priorities for next session, revisiting attempts to revitalize a defeated housing bill from earlier initiatives. There was also interest in bridging some positions introduced by homebuilders especially the revision of plan inspection systems. Several questions emerged, highlighting the complexities involving current housing development policies, land controls, and economic interests influencing infrastructure adjustments and legislative ordinance reformations in cooperation with building and housing representatives.

Members recognized the uniqueness of Arizona's municipal circumstances, which frequently involve collaboration with statutory government entities on building rules, permits, and initiatives surrounding zoning standards.

League General Counsel, Nancy Davidson, provided updates about the Housing Work Group, amicus briefs, and the matters related to the passage of Prop 312 including legal issues and potential legal challenges. Nancy asked for assistance from cities and towns to inform the League should they get questions from constituents about refund under Prop 312. Should the Executive Committee need to be briefed on a lawsuit before the next regular meeting, a special meeting will be called.

### **5. ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESENTATION**

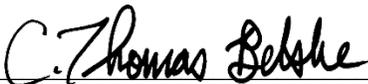
Joan Serviss, Director of the Arizona Department of Housing delivered a comprehensive presentation on state housing policies and initiatives. Emphasized were priorities around the state's Housing Trust Fund and measures to increase housing affordability and shelter availability for the homeless. Part of the debate focused on critical state legislative actions supporting wide-scale housing efforts enabling

partnerships with non-profit and commercial housing entities to fill housing deficits across Arizona. Emphases included the statistical data outlining housing shortages paired with developmental projects targeting ameliorating housing inadequacies.

## 6. RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

Resolutions of appreciation were read for departing committee members. Those acknowledged were Mayor Bridget Petersen of Gilbert, Mayor Craig McFarland of Casa Grande, Mayor John Giles of Mesa, Mayor Jerry Bien-Willner of Paradise Valley, Mayor Ginny Dickey of Fountain Hills, and Mayor David Ortega of Scottsdale. Each member was recognized for contributions to both the executive committee and local government, with personal reflections from those present.

Seeing no further business, President Kevin Hartke adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

  
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PRESIDENT