

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

Friday, May 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
League of Arizona Cities and Towns
1820 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS

President

Kevin Hartke, Mayor, Chandler *

Vice President

Mila Besich, Mayor, Superior

Treasurer

Jerry Weiers, Mayor, Glendale

Ken Budge, Mayor, Bisbee *
Eric Orsborn, Mayor, Buckeye
Lisa Fitzgibbons, Mayor, Casa Grande
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Mayor, Clarkdale +
Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor, El Mirage +
Becky Daggett, Mayor, Flagstaff *
Al Gameros, Mayor, Globe *
Joe Pizzillo, Mayor, Goodyear +
Cal Sheehey, Mayor, Lake Havasu City +
Tom Schoaf, Mayor, Litchfield Park +
Nancy Smith, Mayor, Maricopa

Mark Freeman, Mayor, Mesa
Mark Stanton, Mayor, Paradise Valley
Jason Beck, Mayor, Peoria *
Kate Gallego, Mayor, Phoenix
Stephanie Irwin, Mayor, Pinetop-Lakeside +
Julia Wheatley, Mayor, Queen Creek
Tom Murphy, Mayor, Sahuarita
Corey Woods, Mayor, Tempe +
Regina Romero, Mayor, Tucson *
Roberta Cano, Mayor, Winslow +
Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma

*Not in attendance

+ Attended via Zoom

Vice President Mila Besich called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She then led the Executive Committee in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Vice President Mila Besich requested a motion on the adoption of the minutes. Mayor Nancy Smith of Maricopa moved to approve minutes of the February 7, 2025 and March 21, 2025 Executive Committee Meetings; Mayor Julia Wheatley of Queen Creek seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. LEGISLATIVE POLICY OVERVIEW AND SESSION UPDATE

Tom Belshe introduced Tom Savage to provide an update on the legislative session.

Tom Savage reported that the legislative session had slowed down, with both chambers taking a 2-3 week break. He noted that there was no indication of anything in the state budget affecting cities and towns at that point.

Savage provided a session recap, mentioning that League staff tracked over 400 bills, with 104 bills moving forward that they took an active position on or testified about in committee. He highlighted several session successes:

- Sober Living Home Legislation: Passed and signed by the governor. The League will work on implementation with the Department of Health Services and the governor's office.
- Food Tax: HCR 2021, initially proposing a complete repeal of cities' ability to tax food for home consumption, was modified to freeze tax rates for two years and recap them. The bill is still pending.
- Planning and Zoning Preemptions: Senate Bill 1229, the Start Home Act, faced significant opposition and is effectively dead for this session.
- Local Campaign Contributions: A bill allowing local campaign contributions to be transferred to statewide or legislative offices passed the House and is awaiting final passage in the Senate.

Savage discussed outstanding issues, including budget negotiations and the extension for Prop 123. He mentioned concerns about potential recession, declining revenue projections, and the impacts of federal tariff policies and potential Medicaid cuts.

The League is advocating for the low-income housing tax credit extension in the budget negotiations. Savage also provided updates on several pending bills, including HB 2221 (prohibiting "defunding the police"), HB 2222 (settlement agreement bill), HB 2927 (public meetings and records bill), SCR 1008 (requiring a two-thirds vote for tax or fee increases), and two taxpayer bill of rights bills.

Rene Guillen thanked the mayors of the executive committee for their help in testifying and participating in media discussions, particularly on housing issues. He emphasized the importance of having a diverse group of cities presenting a unified message.

Mayor Orsborn asked about the possibility of getting the food tax bill across the finish line this year. Tom Savage responded that there is still a possibility the bill could move when the Senate reconvenes, but they are in a holding pattern for now.

Discussion ensued about whether to advocate for the food tax bill's passage. Mayor Weiers suggested privately communicating support for the bill while waiting to see the full field of concurrent resolutions.

Mayor Orsborn also mentioned a conversation with Jackson Moll from the homebuilders about finding ways to avoid yearly arguments over housing preemption. Tom Belshe expressed skepticism about the homebuilders' willingness to negotiate in good faith, citing past experiences. He stated that the League is always open to discussions but is not willing to "give away the farm."

3. 2025 LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Matt Lore provided an update on the 2025 League Annual Conference, scheduled for August 19-22 at the Princess in Scottsdale. He outlined the registration process, noting that executive committee members and their staff would have early access to registration, likely starting the week of May 19. Matt Lore also mentioned that they were finalizing session details and speakers and encouraged committee members to submit any topic suggestions.

Matt Lore highlighted the importance of conference sponsorships as a significant source of revenue for the organization. He asked committee members to consider recommending potential sponsors from their cities or towns.

4. LEGAL UPDATE

Nancy Davidson provided a legal update, highlighting two recent amicus briefs filed by the League:

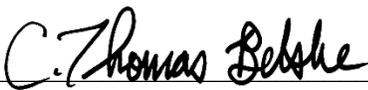
- *Butler v. Scottsdale*: A defamation case involving the release of an internal investigation report. The League's brief focused on the potential impact on cities if they could be sued for defamation every time they release public records containing allegedly defamatory statements.
- *Desert Mining Energy Corp. v. City of Flagstaff*: A case where the court ruled that the city's claims were null and void because the litigation was authorized in executive session. The League's brief will focus on the need for flexibility in how cities authorize litigation.

Nancy also provided updates on Proposition 314 (immigration enforcement) and the League's housing working group model ordinances. She mentioned that HB 2447, which makes certain administrative approvals mandatory without public hearings, will require updates to some of the model ordinances created in 2023.

5. LEAGUE BUDGET FOR 2025-2026

Tom Belshe noted that there were no changes from the version presented in March. Budget Subcommittee Chairman, Mayor Jerry Weiers moved to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Eric Orsborn of Buckeye and it carried unanimously.

Vice President Besich called for any other business for the good of the order. No other business was brought forth. Vice President Besich adjourned the Executive Committee at 10:35 a.m.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PRESIDENT