

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

Friday, August 1, 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

President Kevin Hartke called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He then led the Executive Committee in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

President Kevin Hartke requested a motion on the adoption of the minutes. Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer of Clarkdale moved to approve minutes of the May 9, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting; Mayor Mila Besich of Superior seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## **2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Tom Belshe thanked the hardworking legislative staff and intergovernmental relations team for another successful year. He noted that success is often measured by preventing negative outcomes for cities and towns.

Tom Savage provided an update on the legislative session, which lasted 169 days. He highlighted:

- The importance of mayor testimony on the food tax bill in the Ways and Means committee
- 93 bills were summarized in the New Laws report, along with 2 ballot measures
- Interim work will focus on developing model ordinances for housing bills, including Senate Bill 1529 requiring cities to adopt standard plans for single-family, duplex, triplex and ADU housing
- The housing work group has created about 6 model ordinances and guidance documents, including on adopting objective design standards
- A sample disclaimer is being developed related to the Hammer Homes v. Phoenix case regarding staff providing informal zoning information

Rene Guillen added that they are working on creating a dedicated housing website to compile all the housing-related resources and data in one place. He also noted Representative Olson's courtesy in allowing all mayors to speak during the Ways and Means hearing on the food tax bill.

Tom Savage provided updates on League resolutions:

- HB 2653 on redacting victim/witness information was signed into law
- Sober living home reform legislation passed
- SB 1129 from Goodyear did not get enough votes
- Short-term rental legislation did not advance but continues to gain support

The League will continue working on implementing SB 1529, planning the intergovernmental retreat, and preparing for next legislative session, including potential "starter home" legislation.

## **3. 2025 LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Matt Lore provided an update on the upcoming League Annual Conference:

- It will be held August 19-22, 2025 at the Princess Resort in Scottsdale
- Attendance is expected to be around 1,800 people, nearly double from 20 years ago
- Over 30 sessions are planned, along with many ancillary meetings
- Sponsorships are going well, which is important as the conference is the League's second largest revenue source
- This is the first time back at the Princess Resort since 2016
- Final preparations are underway, with some on-site registrations still expected

Tom Belshe commended Matt and the staff for their hard work in growing the conference to a major statewide event that brings together city officials, businesses, and other stakeholders.

## **4. CIVIC CRAFT PRESENTATION**

Jennifer Daniels presented on a new leadership development program for local elected officials called Civic Craft:

- It is the first Arizona-specific program targeted to local elected needs
- 38 applicants were accepted for the first cohort, with a limit of 50
- The program will run for a year, launching at the League conference and graduating at next year's conference
- It includes a mix of virtual and in-person sessions
- Topics covered include personal leadership development, best practices, and building a network
- \$25,000 in private sponsorships was raised to support the program
- Mentors will be assigned to participants
- The goal is to build a deeper bench of effective local leaders across Arizona

The Executive Committee discussed potentially making it a fee-based program in the future and expanding to include staff or other stakeholders. Overall, there was support for the program as a way to develop future leaders.

## **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION**

The committee entered executive session to discuss the process for hiring a new executive director to replace Tom Belshe, who is retiring at the end of the year.

After returning to open session, President Hartke asked for a motion to start a search for a new Executive Director, form a subcommittee of mayors to lead the process, and conduct the search from August 1 through November 7, 2025. The motion was made by Mayor Douglas Nicholls of Yuma and seconded by Mayor Tom Murphy of Sahuarita. The motion passed unanimously.

President Hartke called for any other business for the good of the order. No other business was brought forth. President Hartke adjourned the Executive Committee at 11:36 a.m.

  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

  
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PRESIDENT