



WELCOME TO
THE LEAGUE

About the League

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary, nonpartisan, nonprofit association whose members are the 91 incorporated cities and towns of the state. The League is owned and governed by its League membership. It is principally financed by cities and towns through population-based service fees. The League provides vital services and tools to all of its members, reducing the demand on each individual municipal staff and budget.

The League is guided by two core principles:

Protect State Shared Revenue – Arizona voters created the revenue sharing system through a series of initiatives. Shared revenue provides funds for essential services that residents count on – such as public safety, streets, parks and libraries.

Maintain Local Control – Freedom to make decisions at the local level is the best way that municipalities can fully serve their unique constituencies. We believe matters of local concern should be made by city and town officials, who are closest to their constituents.



League Programs and Services

Legislative Advocacy and Analysis The League's primary function is to represent the interests of cities and towns before the state Legislature and executive branch. During the session and throughout the year, League staff regularly meets with legislators, the governor, state agencies, and other interest groups to keep up with legislation and policies that directly affect cities and towns. The League monitors and tracks all bills introduced during each legislative session that are of municipal concern.

To keep members informed on what is happening at the Capitol, the League produces a weekly legislative bulletin and conducts weekly legislative conference calls throughout the session. At the end of session, the League prepares its annual New Laws Report, a comprehensive summary of all bills passed that affect municipalities. In addition to this report, League staff travels across the state to provide legislative updates from the session. Local officials are also encouraged to travel to the Capitol and coordinate with the League to meet with their legislative delegation.

When major legislation affects many different cities and towns, the League convenes multi-disciplinary implementation work groups that develop model ordinances or other processes to assist in the consistent implementation of state policy. Recent examples include topics such as sales tax changes, medical marijuana and impact fees.



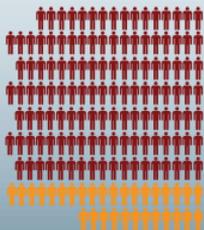


Annual Conference Held in late summer each year, the League's Annual Conference is the largest annual gathering of elected and appointed city officials in the state, with nearly 1,000 attendees each year. It is the premier education and networking opportunity for municipal officials.

Professional Development Classes

The League sponsors a series of training classes on a wide variety of topics of interest to elected officials and appointed city staff. Recent class topics included planning and zoning basics, open meetings and public records, and a guide to parliamentary procedure. Additionally, we host a two-day training each year for newly elected officials that outlines the most important duties and responsibilities of elected mayors and council members.

League Website The League website, www.azleague.org, is a content-rich site with the latest information for cities and towns; including links to legislative bills, various League publications and reports, upcoming events, affiliate organizations and municipal job opportunities.



NEARLY
80%

OF ARIZONA'S RESIDENTS
LIVE IN AN INCORPORATED
CITY OR TOWN

- 10 HAVE A POPULATION GREATER THAN 100,000
- 75 CITIES HAVE A POPULATION LESS THAN 50,000
- 20 OF ARIZONA'S 91 CITIES AND TOWNS PREDATE STATEHOOD

Public Outreach Programs To increase awareness of the work cities and towns do, the League produces public outreach programs. The most recent of these is AZCities@Work, a collaborative campaign effort that captures the accomplishments of the 91 cities and towns; from the everyday to the innovative. AZCities@Work encourages support for Arizona's cities and towns by engaging and informing residents and community members about the valuable services their communities provide.



Inquiry Service & Information Source

The business of government is constantly changing. To keep members up-to-date, the League issues regular reports and reminders on items such as planning materials for budget preparation and detailed information about municipal election laws and deadlines. The League also serves as a common link between municipalities, by connecting communities that may face similar issues or providing information referrals. Frequently, League staff will travel to meet with mayors, council members and staff to discuss specific situations.



WHEN THE LEAGUE WAS FORMED IN 1937, THERE WERE ONLY 30 INCORPORATED CITIES AND TOWNS WITH A COMBINED POPULATION OF JUST MORE THAN 190,000. TODAY THERE ARE 91, WITH A COMBINED POPULATION OF MORE THAN 5 MILLION.

Legal Opinions The League's general counsel specializes in municipal law and can share knowledge, experience, and recommendations with elected and professional staff, as well as city or town attorneys. On important municipal matters the League may also weigh in with amicus briefs on local and state court cases that can impact the operations of all cities and towns.

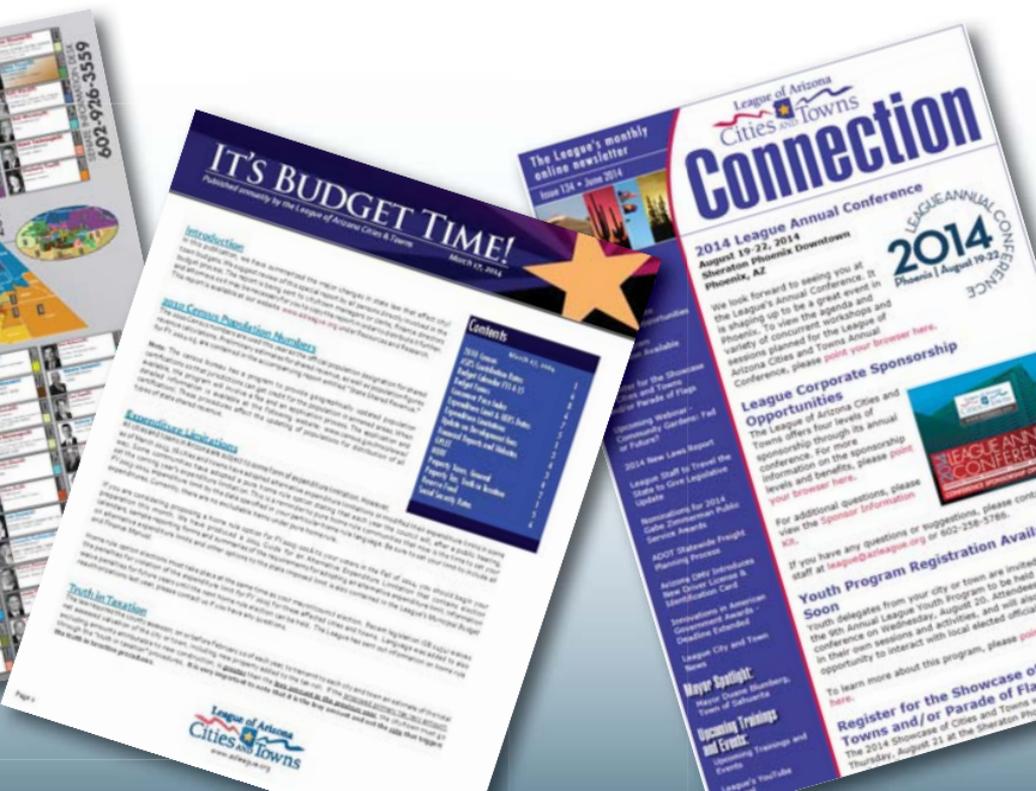
Ordinances and Codes When a city or town needs to enact new ordinances, the League can provide sample ordinances and examples of how other municipalities worded a similar ordinance.



Publications The League produces technical publications on topics such as budgeting and finance, preparation of ordinances and resolutions, elections, council member responsibilities and charter government - to name a few. Many of these publications are available online. We also publish a bi-annual magazine, *Arizona City and Town*, and a comprehensive directory of contact information for city and town officials.

A sampling of League publications includes:

- A Guide for Annexation
- Arizona City & Town Magazine
- Charter Government Provisions in Arizona
- "Connection" E-Newsletter
- Council-Manager Government in Arizona
- Exploring Charter Government for Your City
- Guide to Preparing and Adopting Local Laws / Municipal Publication Requirements
- Legislative Bulletin
- Local Government Directory (online and in print)
- Municipal Budget & Finance Manual
- Municipal Election Manual
- Municipal Incorporation in Arizona
- Municipal Policy Statement
- You as a Public Official



Executive Recruitment Service The League provides executive recruitment services to cities and towns in Arizona to help recruit quality managers. Our process includes devising a recruitment plan that meets the needs of the community, coordinating the recruitment process, and screening applications.

Pooled Services Some products and services can be purchased more economically when cities and towns enter into cooperative purchasing agreements or pools. The League offers several such arrangements for the acquisition of a variety of much-needed items, including: office supplies through U.S. Communities; property/liability insurance and workers comp coverage through AMRRP; health insurance options through H-PACT; and codification services through American Legal.



AMERICAN LEGAL
Publishing Corporation



U.S. COMMUNITIES™
GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE

Liaison The League serves as a conduit between cities, towns and state agencies, and can assist in setting up meetings to discuss issues of municipal concern.



THERE ARE 273 CITIES IN THE U.S.
WITH A POPULATION GREATER
THAN 100,000 –
10 ARE IN ARIZONA.



League Affiliate Groups In addition to our core service offerings, the League provides professional management services, staff support and coordination of trainings and conferences for several partner organizations. Comprised of local officials, our affiliate groups include:

- **Arizona City Attorneys Association**
- **Arizona City/County Management Association**
- **Arizona Municipal Clerks Association**
- **Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona**
- **Public Information Officers**

In addition, the League works closely with a variety of other local organizations on issues of municipal interest, including: the Arizona Chapter of the American Public Works Association, The Arizona Council of Government Directors' Association, the Arizona Rural Development Council and the Association of Arizona Human Resource Directors, among others.



SIX ARIZONA CITIES HAVE A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 1,000. WINKELMAN IS THE SMALLEST TOWN WITH 353 RESIDENTS.

League Governance and Policy Development

The League is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of 25 mayors and council members from across the state.

Among the members are three officers: the president, vice president and treasurer. The Executive Committee is elected by the entire membership at the League annual conference through a process coordinated by the Nominating Committee. The officers and members of the Executive Committee serve two-year terms. The Executive Committee is responsible for hiring an Executive Director who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the League.

League policy development begins with a resolutions process, culminating at our annual conference. Each mayor, or the council member he or she designates, is invited to participate in the Resolutions Committee meeting at the conference. Once resolutions are amended and approved, they are incorporated into our annual Municipal Policy Statement, which guides our advocacy efforts.

OF THE 100 LARGEST CITIES IN
THE U.S., SEVEN ARE IN ARIZONA.
ONLY CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS
HAVE MORE
CITIES ON THIS LIST.



History of the League

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns was originally formed in 1937 and was founded on two core principles that are still endorsed by the League today - home rule and local determination. In short, we believe that decisions about local matters are best made by locally elected officials and staff and not by some other level of government. We believe local officials are closest to the people, know what is best for their communities and are accountable to the local voters for the decisions they make.

The League's formation was the first step in gaining city and town access to the state legislative process. Over the years, the League has sponsored ballot initiatives that resulted in shares of the state sales tax, gas tax and income tax being returned to cities and towns. These successful initiative drives have helped develop Arizona's cities and towns into strong, efficient and financially-stable providers of vital local services. The vast majority of Arizona's economic development—and its resulting state tax revenues—comes from cities and towns. Our history proves the maxim that “strong cities make a strong state.”

Today's League is an effective voice for the interest of all of the state's 91 incorporated cities and towns. We work with state government—the Legislature, the governor and state agencies—to assure Arizona's municipalities always have a seat at the table when important issues are being discussed. We also provide consistently valuable programs and services that benefit all cities, large and small.



SINCE STATEHOOD, THE 1990S ARE THE ONLY DECADE TO HAVE JUST ONE COMMUNITY INCORPORATE: SAHUARITA IN 1994.



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