

[View in browser](#)

[Print Version](#)

Legislative Bulletin: Issue 9 – March 16, 2026



Legislative Update:

Welcome to the tenth week of the legislative session. A total of 2,121 legislative measures have been introduced. To date, the legislature has passed 15 bills, three of which were signed by the Governor and 12 of which were vetoed.

Legislative Vacancy Update

Republican precinct committeemen in Legislative District 3 have nominated three candidates to replace former Rep. Joseph Chaplik (R-Scottsdale), who resigned earlier this session to focus on his campaign for Congress. The nominees are former State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita, political consultant George Khalaf, and Rio Verde Foothills resident Cody Reim. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will select one of the three nominees to serve the remainder of the current term.

League Resolution Update

Several League-supported measures advanced in the House last week:

HB4130: NOW: budgets; municipalities; amendments (Blackman) passed the House on a 42–13 vote and has been transmitted to the Senate. The bill allows cities and towns to amend their adopted budgets during the fiscal year to spend newly received revenues not included in the original budget, while maintaining existing public notice and hearing requirements. The bill prohibits adopting new or increased taxes or fees through the amendment process.

HB4064: municipal improvement districts; petitions (Bliss) passed the House on a 48–7 vote and was transmitted to the Senate. The measure updates the process for forming municipal improvement districts by requiring property owner petitions at the outset and allowing certain notice requirements to be waived when all affected property owners agree.

HB2429: short-term rentals; vacation rentals; occupancy (Bliss) was reconsidered in Committee of the Whole after previously passing Third Read. The bill standardizes additional local regulatory authority for short-term rentals, including occupancy limits and expanded enforcement tools. An **amendment** was adopted requiring local ordinances to include guest background check provisions, and the bill is scheduled for another Third Read vote today.

Budget Preemption Bills Advance

Two measures opposed by cities and towns—**HB4030** and **HCR2052**—advanced from Committee of the Whole last week and remain eligible for a Third Read vote. Sponsored by Rep. Justin Olson (R-Mesa), the proposals would prohibit cities, towns, and counties from adopting new taxes or increasing existing taxes, fees, or utility rates between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2030, unless voters approve an increase with at least 60% support in an even-year election. HB4030 would enact the moratorium in statute, while HCR2052 would refer the policy to voters statewide on the November 2026 ballot.

Cities and towns remain strongly opposed as the proposals would significantly restrict local authority to manage municipal budgets and utilities. Municipal utilities and infrastructure projects are typically financed through user fees and rate adjustments over time, and limiting that flexibility could delay maintenance, infrastructure investment, and long-term capital planning. Municipal leaders have also expressed concern that restricting local revenue options could shift financial pressure to other parts of city budgets, including services such as police, fire, and transportation.

Upcoming Hearings

SB 1216: traumatic event counseling (Payne)

House Committee on Public Safety & Law Enforcement

Expands eligibility for employer-paid traumatic event counseling to include crime scene technicians and digital forensics technicians as public safety employees. Eliminates the delayed repeal of January 1, 2027 for the traumatic event counseling program.

Position: **SUPPORT**

Hearing: March 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in HHR 1

SB 1431: municipalities; planned communities; design; prohibition (Bolick)

House Committee on Commerce

Prohibits a municipality from requiring the creation of a homeowners' association, shared amenities, gated access, or other perimeter enclosures as a condition of a subdivision or development, except as required by federal law. Prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing design, architectural, or aesthetic requirements for single-family homes or accessory dwelling units, including requirements related to materials, colors, façades, layouts, garages, fences, or similar features. Prohibits a municipality from denying or conditioning a permit based on prohibited design requirements, Preserves the applicability of building codes, fire codes, public health and safety regulations, minimum parking requirements, and dark sky ordinances.

Position: **OPPOSED**

Hearing: March 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in HHR 5

SB 1566: malicious delay; enforcement; penalty (Petersen)

House Committee on Commerce

Prohibits municipalities from “maliciously” (defined) delaying adopted licensing time frames for single-family residential construction. Prohibits counties from maliciously delaying responses to license, approval, or permit applications or similar requests. Authorizes the Attorney General, and county attorneys for counties, to enforce the prohibition and subjects violators to a civil penalty of \$5,000 per violation. Entitles a plaintiff who files a property right claim or seeks review of a state or local land use determination in superior court to expedited judicial review. Requires the superior court to hold a case management conference within ten days, expedite discovery, rule promptly on dispositive motions and set a trial or final hearing as soon as practicable, and requires expedited treatment on appeal and special action review.

Position: **OPPOSED**

Hearing: March 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in HHR 5

Session Deadlines

Every session has deadlines pertaining to bill submissions and hearings. These are established by Senate and House rule and are subject to change. This year's schedule is as follows:

March

Friday 3/27: Last day for consideration of bills in opposite chamber

April

Friday 4/17: Last day for consideration of bills in conference committee

Tuesday 4/21: 100th Day of Session

Legislative Staff

You may contact our legislative division by phone at (602) 258-5786 or by e-mail using the following information:

Tom Savage, Legislative Director: tsavage@azleague.org

Marshall Pimentel, Senior Legislative Associate: mpimentel@azleague.org

Megan Didur, Legislative Associate: mdidur@azleague.org

Nicholas Medel, Legislative Intern: nmedel@azleague.org



#Keepup with us on X.

Keep up with the issues and events.

[CLICK HERE](#)

What the League is Tracking

Stay informed about legislation that affects municipalities throughout the state. Track proposed bills and resolutions, stay updated on their progress, and actively engage in the democratic process. Here are some priority measures the League is tracking:

Legislative Bill Monitoring

League of Arizona Cities and Towns
1820 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
info@azleague.org



No longer want to receive these emails? [Unsubscribe.](#)