



Children's Action Alliance

A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988

Arizona Appointed and Elected Officials

Federal and state governments are not the only avenues to create policy change. Advocates can engage with city and county government; state boards and commissions; school boards; and special districts to advance issues affecting children and families.

County Government

www.countysupervisors.org for general information

Arizona has 15 counties, each with their own Board of Supervisors. County supervisors provide regional leadership over policy areas that ensure safe communities, protect public health, promote economic development, and plan and manage land use for sustainable development. Supervisors also provide oversight of county operations, including overseeing strategies to promote sound fiscal management and to develop a high-quality county government workforce.

Maricopa County, for example, funds nearly 15,118 positions to serve the public in areas of public health and health care; transportation infrastructure construction and maintenance; flood control; law enforcement and courts; education; parks and recreation facilities; libraries; animal control; economic and community development; and elections.

City Government/Town Government

www.azleague.org for a listing of Arizona cities and towns

City governments generally consist of a mayor and council. Some mayors are elected separate from the council members; other mayors are selected from within the sitting council. The city government is responsible for public health and health care; transportation; trash collection; infrastructure construction and maintenance; law enforcement; parks and recreation facilities; libraries; economic and community development; and elections. Cities also have appointed commissions similar to the State Boards and Commission (see below). Refer to your city or town website for more information about local boards and commissions.

State Boards and Commission

www.azgovernor.gov/bc for general information

www.azgovernor.gov/bc/documents/GovAppointments.pdf for a directory

A Board or Commission is an independent body consisting of members who are appointed by public officials, usually the Governor. Boards with Gubernatorial appointments are created in two ways, either by statute enacted in the State Legislature, or by a Governor's Executive Order.

There are two types of boards and commissions: regulatory and advisory. Regulatory boards are those that oversee the licensing, handle complaints, and enforce disciplinary actions of individuals or industries that fall within the jurisdiction of the board's authority. For example, a complaint filed by a patient against a physician would be reviewed, investigated, and appropriately acted upon by the Arizona Medical Board.

The second type of board or commission, the advisory board, develops policy and makes recommendations to public officials on how to address specific issues. For example, the Civil Rights Advisory Board investigates and holds hearings on infringements of Arizona civil rights laws and then advises the civil rights division of the Attorney General's Office.

Here are some examples of commissions that address children/youth issues:

Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission

The Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission provides leadership to state and local communities to develop and maintain a coordinated, best practice approach to juvenile justice prevention, intervention and public safety. The commission advises the Governor and the Legislature on matters related to the improvement of the juvenile justice system, and its services to youth and families. It also develops policies to improve the quality of juvenile justice and conditions for children in care and advocates for youth involvement in both the planning and implementation of projects and encourage parental involvement in delinquency prevention and intervention programs

Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention

The Commission funds programs that will increase and enhance parental involvement and will increase education about the serious risks and public health problems caused by the abuse of alcohol and controlled substances. The Commission also contracts for administrative and professional services with a not-for-profit organization or government entity with expertise in substance abuse education and prevention.

Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

The Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women develops legislative and policy recommendations on violence against women. The Commission supports successful prevention initiatives, as well as the expansion of services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

School Boards (also called Governing Boards)

www.azsba.org for the Arizona School Board's Association

The school board, with extensive involvement from the staff and community, is responsible for envisioning the future of the public schools in their community. After setting the vision and mission for the district, the governing board works collaboratively to establish strategic goals to move the organization toward the community's vision for its schools.

As the community's representative in the local schools, the board is responsible for ensuring that the schools are well run – that resources are used wisely and that high standards for academic performance are set. The board as a whole needs to monitor performance to meet established goals – academic, financial and operational.

Board policies and goals establish the structure and create the environment for ensuring that all students are served. The board provides support by ensuring that resources are adequate and aligned to meet established goals. Support also is provided by recognizing and encouraging excellence throughout the organization.

First Things First

www.azftf.gov

First Things First is a government agency that is funded through the tobacco tax. While the state legislature has broad oversight over FTF, its funding is not allocated by the legislature and it operates under the direction of its own Board of Directors. FTF funds early childhood education in Arizona, and dollars are distributed to local communities through the direction of the First Things First Regional Partnership Councils.

The dedicated volunteers who make up the Regional Councils are responsible for working with their communities to determine what kids five years old and younger in their area need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

Visit the individual Regional Council pages on the FTF website to learn, about the services funded for kids in your community, and how you can become involved with your local council.

Tribal Government

<http://itcaonline.com> for the Intertribal Council of Arizona

Native American tribes possess the right to form their own governments, to enforce laws (both civil and criminal) within their lands, to tax, to establish requirements for membership, to license and regulate activities, to zone and to exclude persons from tribal territories. There are 21 federally recognized tribes based in Arizona. (The Pueblo of Zuni have a small territory in Apache County that is not adjoining to the main reservation in New Mexico.)

Each tribe has its own elected leadership and elections many not always coincide with non-tribal elections. Some tribes are districted; others are not. Only recognized members of the tribe can vote in their elections. Native Americans do vote in legislative, statewide (including ballot initiatives) and federal elections.

Tribes can operate their own K-12 primary and secondary education systems and some have their own higher education programs. They receive federal grants and engage in contracts with the federal government and do not need the approval of the state legislature to allocate those dollars. Tribes manage social services, natural resources management on trust lands, economic

development programs, law enforcement and detention services, administration of tribal courts, implementation of land and water claim settlements, housing improvement, disaster relief, replacement and repair of schools, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges, and the repair of structural deficiencies on high hazard dams.

Tribal government revenues are not taxed, just like state and local government revenues are not. Like state and local governments, tribal governments use their revenues to provide services for their citizens. Unlike state governments, tribal governments are not in a position to levy property or income taxes. Income from tribal businesses is the only non-federal revenue source.

State governments can collect excise taxes on sales to non-members that occur on tribal lands, so long as the tax does not fall directly on the tribal government. States and tribes have developed a variety of methods for collecting these taxes, which most often take the form of intergovernmental agreements or pre-taxing at the wholesale level.

Individual American Indians and Alaska Natives and their businesses pay federal income tax just like every other American. The one exception is when an Indian person receives income directly from a treaty or trust resource such as fish or timber, that income is not federally taxed. States also cannot tax tribal members who live and derive their income on tribal lands.

Special Districts

Special districts are organized entities, possessing a structural form, an official name, perpetual succession, and the rights to sue and be sued, to make contracts and to obtain and dispose of property. They have officers who are popularly elected or are chosen by other public officials. Unlike most other governments or full service governments, special districts usually provide only one or two functions. The U.S. Bureau of the Census defines special districts as: "independent, limited purpose government units, which exist as separate entities with substantial administrative and fiscal independence from general purpose local governments."

School districts are considered special districts. Other special districts in Arizona include:

active management area water	irrigation and water conservation
agricultural improvement	irrigation water delivery
ambulance	jail
community facilities (finance schools)	multi county water conservation
community park maintenance	municipal improvement
county free library	pest abatement and control
county improvement districts	power
county television improvement	regional public transportation authority
(television translator and relay facilities)	regional transportation authority
drainage 'and flood protection'	rural road improvements
domestic water improvement	sanitary (sewer and garbage disposal)
electrical	school technology

fire	special health care (nursing care center,
flood control	urgent care, clinics)
general public improvements	special road
health service	street and highway bonds
(medical clinic in medically underserved areas)	stadium
hospital	water oriented development

Others

Other elected offices, such as a homeowner's associations, precinct committee person in a political party, or non-profit Board of Directors can shape public policy.