

## **RESOLUTION 15-26**

### **REGARDING 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**WHEREAS**, actions by state government since 2009 have impacted Cochise County by more than \$8.9 million; and

**WHEREAS**, these actions have resulted in over \$4.3 million in diverted road maintenance funds, \$1.8 million in lost revenue, and \$2.8 million in program shifts, including increasing the county share of justices of the peace salaries and requiring counties to fund state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, these cost shifts caused significant financial distress for Cochise County, which is already reeling from the negative financial impacts of the economic downturn and slow recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the current structure of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) is unsustainable and is placing growing pressure on Cochise County taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the shifting of state agency costs to counties is both an inappropriate use of county taxpayer dollars and an ineffective governance model, forcing county taxpayers to subsidize a state run agency with no county managerial oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, Cochise County has neither the financial capacity to pay for additional state costs, nor the statutory ability to control costs of state administered programs the county is required to fund; and

**WHEREAS**, Cochise County also faces significant risk from the uncertain funding status of federal programs, including the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Cochise County's financial condition continues to be suppressed by a fourth straight year of declining Net Assessed Value; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to Cochise County that the state works to eliminate these cost shifts and revenue reductions in the FY 2017 budget, with the goal of reestablishing a sustainable financial model for the county,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Arizona State Legislature is hereby implored to:

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- Engage with stakeholders to create a viable, long-term funding and benefit structure in PSPRS that addresses the needs of public safety professionals while protecting the interests of taxpayers; and
- Eliminate mandated county payments to state agencies, including the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, the Arizona Department of Revenue, and the Arizona State Hospital; and
- Engage with counties and other stakeholders to find a mutually beneficial solution that protects both the state and local governments from uncapped liabilities associated with the 1 Percent Constitutional Property Tax Cap while allowing for budget flexibility to respond to constituent needs; and
- Eliminate the local government HURF transfers in the state budget, identify and enact revenue enhancements for the existing HURF distribution system, and pursue policies that improve efficient utilization of transportation resources; and
- Eliminate, fully fund, or require the political parties to pay for the costs associated with the Presidential Preference Election; and
- Restore, in statute, the county share of lottery funds to provide a stable source of revenue for county operations; and
- Continue to include authority for counties to access restricted funds through flexibility language to allow counties the ability to most efficiently manage taxpayer funds;

Thereby providing Cochise County and all Arizona counties with the financial stability necessary to continue providing mandated state services to local residents.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_ day of November, 2015.

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Patrick Call, Chairman  
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

**ATTEST:**

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Arlethe Rios,  
Clerk of the Board

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

*Elda Orduno*

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Britt W. Hanson,  
Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney