ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE ON RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Report of Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 29, 2026
House Hearing Room 4 -- 9:00 A.M.

RECEIVED
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

FEB 02 2026

Convened 9:01 A.M.
Recessed
Reconvened
Adjourned 9:38 A.M.

Members Present
Representative Biasiucci
Representative Blackman
Representative Hernandez
Representative Peshlakai
Representative Volk
Representative Lopez, Vice-Chairman
Representative Martinez, Chairman

Members Not Present

Agenda
Original Agenda – Attachment 1

Request to Speak
Report – Attachment 2

Committee Attendance
Report – Attachment 3

Adoption of Committee Rules
Report – Attachment 4

Committee Action

Bill	Action	Vote	Attachments
HB2258	DP	7-0-0-0	5,6
HB2065	DP	6-1-0-0	7,8
HB2066	DP	6-1-0-0	9,10
HB2106	DP	7-0-0-0	11,12
HB2071	DP	6-1-0-0	13,14
HB2237	HELD		

Veronica Graham, Committee Secretary
February 2, 2026

(Original attachments on file in the Office of the Chief Clerk; video archives available at http://www.azleg.gov)

REVISED - 1/28/26 **REVISED - 1/28/26** **REVISED - 1/28/26**

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

Convened 9:01 am
adjourned 9:38 am

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE Thursday, January 29, 2026 ROOM HHR 4 TIME 9:00 A.M.

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:
https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2026011098

Members:

Representative Biasiucci	Representative Peshlakai	Representative Lopez, Vice-Chairman
Representative Blackman	Representative Volk	Representative Martinez, Chairman
Representative Hernandez C		

- Introduction of members and staff
- Adoption of Committee rules

Bills		Short Title	Strike Everything Title
HB2065	DP	appropriation; Apache Junction; housing	
		(Blackman)	
	6-1-0-0	RED, APPROP, RULES	
HB2066	DP	appropriation; Apache Junction; technology; connectivity	
	6-1-0-0	(Blackman)	
		RED, APPROP, RULES	
HB2071	DP	appropriation; Apache Junction; rural development	
		(Blackman)	
	6-1-0-0	RED, APPROP, RULES	
HB2106	DP	transportation tax; deposit; county board	
		(Martinez)	
	7-0-0-0	RED, RULES	
HB2237	Held	appropriation; Apache Junction; tourism; recreation	
		(Blackman)	
		RED, APPROP, RULES	
HB2258	DP	tourism advisory council; representation	
		(Biasiucci)	
	7-0-0-0	RED, RULES	

ORDER OF BILLS TO BE SET BY THE CHAIRMAN

RA
VC
01-22-2026
01-28-2026

People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, alternative formats, or assistance with physical accessibility. If you require accommodations, please contact the Chief Clerk's Office at (602) 926-3032 or through Arizona Relay Service 7-1-1.

Attachment 01

Information Registered on the Request to Speak System

House Rural Economic Development (1/29/2026)

HB2065, appropriation; Apache Junction; housing

Support:

Robert Wisler, APACHE JUNCTION, CITY OF; Noah-James Markham, representing self

HB2066, appropriation; Apache Junction; technology; connectivity

Support:

Robert Wisler, APACHE JUNCTION, CITY OF; Noah-James Markham, representing self

All Comments:

Robert Wisler, APACHE JUNCTION, CITY OF: The City greatly appreciates Representative Blackman's interest in the City. Amongst the bills in committee today, the City of Apache Junction most prioritizes this bill (HB2066)

HB2071, appropriation; Apache Junction; rural development

Support:

Robert Wisler, APACHE JUNCTION, CITY OF; Noah-James Markham, representing self

HB2106, transportation tax; deposit; county board

Support:

Mark Barnes, PINAL COUNTY; Heather Bernacki Wilkey, QUEEN CREEK, TOWN OF; Robert Wisler, APACHE JUNCTION, CITY OF; Cole Libera, Pinal Partnership; Craig McFarland, representing self; Katy Proctor, City Of Maricopa

All Comments:

Cole Libera, Pinal Partnership: Letter sent to Representative Martinez on behalf of Pinal Partnerhsip; Craig McFarland, Self: Dollars collected from this TPT (Tax) that was collected from Pinal County should remain in Pinal County. Thank you, Representative Terresa Martinez!

HB2237, appropriation; Apache Junction; tourism; recreation

Support:

Robert Wisler, APACHE JUNCTION, CITY OF; Noah-James Markham, representing self

HB2258, tourism advisory council; representation

Attachment 02

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD

COMMITTEE ON **RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

CHAIRMAN: Teresa Martinez VICE-CHAIRMAN: Chris Lopez

DATE	01/29/26	
CONVENED	9:01 am	
RECESSED		
RECONVENED		
ADJOURNED	9:38 am	
MEMBERS	PRESENT	NOT PRESENT
Biasiucci	✓	
Blackman	✓	
Hernandez C	✓	
Peshlakai	✓	
Volk	✓	
Lopez, Vice-Chairman	✓	
Martinez, Chairman	✓	
TOTAL	7	

Attachment 03

Attachment 1

Committee on Rural Economic Development
Standing Committee Rules

RULE 1. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. No official action may be taken unless a quorum is present in person at the time of taking such action.

RULE 2. The chairman sets the agenda and determines the order of measures. The chairman also controls all public testimony.

RULE 3. The following motions are customary and in order relating to actions on measures:

1. Do pass
2. Do pass as amended
3. Return for consideration of the House
4. Hold for further study
5. Do not pass
6. Be assigned to subcommittee for....

RULE 4. The affirmative vote of a majority of those voting is required to take any action.

RULE 5. On a roll call vote the names of committee members shall be called alphabetically by surname; except that the vice chairman and the chairman shall be called upon last. Each member present shall be allowed to pass on one call of the roll, and shall vote "yes" or "no" (aye, nay) or respond "present." Members may change their votes before the announcement of the results and members may explain their vote on any measure.

RULE 6. Whenever a measure is reported from the committee on a divided vote, any member may request a minority report.

RULE 7. All amendments (except strike-everything amendments, see House Rule 8(T) shall be distributed to each committee member's office by **12:00 P.M.** the day before the committee at which it will be offered. Verbal amendments may be offered during the committee meeting at the discretion of the chairman.

In accordance with Rule 9 of the House *Rules*, the following House *Rules* are also incorporated into the Committee *Rules*:

RULE 9(C). Each Standing Committee shall adopt and file with the Chief Clerk's Office rules of procedure consistent with the House *Rules* and shall include the following:

1. With the exception of executive session ordered by a majority of the committee constituting a quorum, all committee meetings shall be open to the other members of the Legislature, the press and public so long as proper decorum is maintained.

2. All committees shall meet at regularly scheduled times and places unless canceled with the permission of the Speaker. In the absence of the chairman, the vice chairman shall preside. In the absence of both the chairman and vice chairman, some other committee member designated by the Speaker shall preside.

3. The committee chairman (presiding officer) other than the chairman of the Committee on Rules shall prepare an agenda and distribute copies to committee members, the Information Desk and the Chief Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. at least five days before the committee meeting. Absence of a bill, memorial or resolution from the committee agenda will prohibit its consideration unless unanimous consent of all committee members is obtained. Unless a reconsideration motion has been offered and failed, a chairman may place a measure that failed in Committee on any subsequent agenda.

4. A bill not on the committee agenda shall be scheduled for discussion at the next subsequent committee meeting by a presentation of a petition containing the signatures of two-thirds or more of the committee members.

5. A roll call vote shall be taken in each standing committee when final action on any bill is voted.

6. Written committee minutes shall be filed with the Chief Clerk's Office within a reasonable time but no later than two weeks from time of completion of meetings. An audio recording of the meeting shall be open to public inspection in the Chief Clerk's Office three working days after the meeting. Attendance records of all committee meetings shall be filed with the Chief Clerk's Office within 24 hours from time of completion of meetings.

7. Special meetings may be called by the chairman but require permission of the Speaker and notice to members and the general public at the Information Desk by 5:00 p.m. on the previous day, except that the notice of a special meeting of the Committee on Rules may be given in open session prior to the meeting and does not require the Speaker's permission.

RULE 9 (E). No committee other than the Committee on Rules shall meet while the House is meeting in session without special permission of the Speaker.

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session
Majority Research Staff

HB 2258: tourism advisory council; representation
Sponsor: Representative Biasiucci, LD 30
Committee on Rural Economic Development

Overview

Expands one geographical planning area as representing on the Tourism Advisory Council to include La Paz.

History

The Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) is responsible for promoting and developing tourism in Arizona. The AOT is led by a Director who is appointed by the Governor. The Director is assisted and advised by the Tourism Advisory Council (Council) in preparation of the budget and in establishment of policies and programs which promote and develop tourism in Arizona.

The Council consists of 15 members, appointed by the Governor, serving five-year terms. The members must be from recreational and tourist attractions, lodging, restaurant or food and transportation industries, other tourism businesses and the general public. There must be at least one member from each of the six geographical planning areas: 1) Area 1 Maricopa; 2) Area 2 Pima; 3) Area 3 Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai; 4) Area 4 Mohave and Yuma; 5) Area 5 Gila and Pinal; and 6) Area 6 Graham, Greenlee, Cochise and Santa Cruz (A.R.S. §§ 41-2302, 41-2304).

Provisions

1. Adds La Paz County to Area 4 of the six geographical planning areas of Arizona for purposes relating to the appointment of members to the Council. (Sec. 1)
2. Makes technical changes. (Sec. 1)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes) ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes) ☐ Emergency (40 votes) ☐ Fiscal Note

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

ROLL CALL VOTE

COMMITTEE ON Rural Economic Development BILL NO. HB 2258

DATE January 29, 2026 MOTION: DP

	PASS	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT
Biasiucci		✓			
Blackman		✓			
Hernandez C		✓			
Peshlakai		✓			
Volk		✓			
Lopez, Vice-Chairman		✓			
Martinez, Chairman		✓			
		7	0	0	0

Veronica Graham
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

APPROVED:

TERESA MARTINEZ, Chairman
CHRIS LOPEZ, Vice-Chairman

ATTACHMENT 6

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session
Majority Research Staff

HB 2065: appropriation; Apache Junction; housing
Sponsor: Representative Blackman, LD 7
Committee on Rural Economic Development

Overview

Appropriate the sum of $9,500,000 from the state General Fund (GF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 to the State Treasurer to distribute to the City of Apache Junction for housing infrastructure and housing rehabilitation and blight abatement.

History

The Office of the State Treasurer Arizona is responsible for the banking and investment management duties for the state, provides investment services to local governments, and exclusively manages the Permanent Land Endowment.

Provisions

1. Appropriates the following amounts from the GF in FY 2027 to the State Treasurer to distribute to the City of Apache Junction:
   a. $6,500,000 to fund affordable housing infrastructure; and
   b. $3,000,000 for housing rehabilitation and blight abatement. (Sec. 1)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes) ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes) ☐ Emergency (40 votes) ☐ Fiscal Note

Attachment 7

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

ROLL CALL VOTE

COMMITTEE ON Rural Economic Development BILL NO. HB 2065

DATE January 29, 2026 MOTION: DP

	PASS	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT
Biasiucci		✓			
Blackman		✓			
Hernandez C		✓			
Peshlakai		✓			
Volk			✓		
Lopez, Vice-Chairman		✓			
Martinez, Chairman		✓			
		6	1	0	0

Veronica Graham
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

APPROVED:

TERESA MARTINEZ, Chairman
CHRIS LOPEZ, Vice-Chairman

ATTACHMENT 8

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session
Majority Research Staff

HB 2066: appropriation; Apache Junction; technology; connectivity
Sponsor: Representative Blackman, LD 7
Committee on Rural Economic Development

Overview

Appropriates $8,000,000 from the state General Fund (GF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 to the State Treasurer to distribute to the City of Apache Junction to fund the expansion of broadband and fiber optic networks.

History

The Office of the State Treasurer Arizona is responsible for the banking and investment management duties for the state, provides investment services to local governments, and exclusively manages the Permanent Land Endowment.

Provisions

1. Appropriates $8,000,000 from the GF in FY 2027 to the State Treasurer for distribution to the City of Apache Junction for the expansion of broadband and fiber optic networks. (Sec. 1)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes) ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes) ☐ Emergency (40 votes) ☐ Fiscal Note

Attachment_ 9

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

ROLL CALL VOTE

COMMITTEE ON Rural Economic Development BILL NO. HB 2066

DATE January 29, 2026 MOTION: DP

	PASS	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT
Biasiucci		✓			
Blackman		✓			
Hernandez C		✓			
Peshlakai		✓			
Volk			✓		
Lopez, Vice-Chairman		✓			
Martinez, Chairman		✓			
		6	1	0	0

Veronica Graham
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

APPROVED:

TERESA MARTINEZ, Chairman
CHRIS LOPEZ, Vice-Chairman

ATTACHMENT 10

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session
Majority Research Staff

HB 2106: transportation tax; deposit; county board
Sponsor: Representative Martinez, LD 16
Committee on Rural Economic Development

Overview

An emergency measure that allocates any undistributed or nonrefunded revenues collected from a county transportation excise tax to the Arizona Department of Transportation for transportation projects in the county.

History

A county may establish a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) which is a public, political, tax levying public improvement and taxing subdivision of this state and a municipal corporation to the extent of the powers and privileges conferred by statute. The government of the authority is vested in a board of directors composed of the members of the regional council of governments that are from the county that established the authority (Title 48, Chapter 30, A.R.S.)

Statute allows a county's RTA, if approved by qualified electors voting in a countywide election, to levy a transportation excise tax. The Department of Revenue collects the net revenues for deposit into the regional transportation fund or the public transportation authority fund, based on population and in accordance with statute (A.R.S. § 42-6106).

Provisions

1. Directs the net revenues collected, including interest earned, that are not distributed nor refunded prior to April 10, 2026, be distributed:
   a. for a county with a population of more than 400,000 persons that levied and collected the tax, to the Department of Transportation for transportation projects in the county; and
   b. for a county with a population of 400,000 persons or less that levied and collected the tax, to the Department of Transportation for transportation projects in the county. (Sec. 1)
2. Contains an emergency clause. (Sec 2)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes)	☐ Prop 108 (40 votes)	☒ Emergency (40 votes)	☐ Fiscal Note

Attachment 11

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

ROLL CALL VOTE

COMMITTEE ON Rural Economic Development BILL NO. HB 2106

DATE January 29, 2026 MOTION: DP

	PASS	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT
Biasiucci		✓			
Blackman		✓			
Hernandez C		✓			
Peshlakai		✓			
Volk		✓			
Lopez, Vice-Chairman		✓			
Martinez, Chairman		✓			
		7	0	0	0

Veronica Graham
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

APPROVED:

TERESA MARTINEZ, Chairman
CHRIS LOPEZ, Vice-Chairman

ATTACHMENT 12

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session
Majority Research Staff

HB 2071: appropriation; Apache Junction; rural development
Sponsor: Representative Blackman, LD 7
Committee on Rural Economic Development

Overview

Appropriates the sum of $15,500,000 from the state General Fund (GF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 to the State Treasurer to distribute to the City of Apache Junction for economic development and infrastructure projects.

History

The Office of the State Treasurer Arizona is responsible for the banking and investment management duties for the state, provides investment services to local governments, and exclusively manages the Permanent Land Endowment.

Provisions

1. Appropriates the following amounts from the GF in FY 2027 to the State Treasurer to distribute to the City of Apache Junction:
   a. $5,000,000 for support of a rural business and workforce hub;
   b. $6,000,000 for support of a rural infrastructure revitalization; and
   c. $4,500,000 for the development of a rural health and community services facility. (Sec. 1)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes) ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes) ☐ Emergency (40 votes) ☐ Fiscal Note

Attachment 13

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Fifty-seventh Legislature - Second Regular Session

ROLL CALL VOTE

COMMITTEE ON Rural Economic Development BILL NO. HB 2071

DATE January 29, 2026 MOTION: DP

	PASS	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT
Biasiucci		✓			
Blackman		✓			
Hernandez C		✓			
Peshlakai		✓			
Volk			✓		
Lopez, Vice-Chairman		✓			
Martinez, Chairman		✓			
		6	1	0	0

Veronica Graham
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

APPROVED:

TERESA MARTINEZ, Chairman
CHRIS LOPEZ, Vice-Chairman

ATTACHMENT 14