

DR. MATT HEINZ

Supervisor

District 2



AGENDA MATERIAL

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Pima County Board of Supervisors

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

From: Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

Date: August 5, 2026

RE: BOS Agenda 8/11/26: Additional Material for the Legislative Agenda

Please add this as additional material to the Agenda for August 11th, 2026. Thank you.

Board of Supervisors:

Discussion/Direction/Action: Directing the County Administrator to add the following to our 2027 State Legislative Agenda, for pursuit by our county lobbyist at the State Capitol this legislative session:

1. Professional Certification Requirements for Elected Law Enforcement Officers

Recommendation

Support legislation requiring individuals elected to the offices of Sheriff and Constable to obtain and maintain Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training (AZPOST) certification within a defined period following their assumption of office, unless otherwise exempted by law.

Discussion

The Sheriff and Constables exercise significant law enforcement authority and are entrusted with substantial responsibilities affecting public safety, constitutional rights, and the administration of justice. While deputies serving under these elected officials must satisfy statewide professional training and certification requirements, Arizona law does not currently require elected Sheriffs or Constables to obtain AZPOST certification.

Requiring certification within a reasonable period after taking office would establish a consistent statewide professional standard while preserving the voters' ability to elect candidates from diverse professional backgrounds. Such a requirement would promote competency, accountability, and public confidence by ensuring elected law enforcement officials possess a foundational understanding of Arizona law, constitutional policing, use of force, ethics, and contemporary law enforcement practices.

2. Strengthening Accountability for Abuse of Public Office

Recommendation

Support legislation establishing stronger state-level criminal and civil accountability for public officials who knowingly misuse the authority of their office or act under color of law to deprive individuals of constitutional or statutory rights.

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Supervisor Heinz

Re: BOS Regular Agenda 8/11/2026: Legislative Agenda Additional Material

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Discussion

Public confidence in government depends upon meaningful accountability when public officials misuse the authority entrusted to them. Federal law provides criminal penalties for certain acts committed under color of law; however, Arizona has comparatively limited statutory provisions specifically addressing abuse of official authority by public officers. National evaluations of state integrity and accountability laws have consistently identified Arizona as having opportunities to strengthen ethics, executive accountability, and public integrity statutes.

The County supports legislation that would create clearer state-level remedies for intentional abuses of governmental authority, including knowingly exceeding lawful authority, violating constitutional rights while acting under color of office, or using public office for unlawful personal or political purposes. Such legislation should provide appropriate due process protections while reinforcing public trust that abuses of governmental power will be addressed consistently under Arizona law.

3. Modernizing Accountability for County Elected Officials

Recommendation

Support legislation providing counties with measured administrative tools to address serious misconduct or sustained failure to perform statutory duties by county elected officials, while preserving voter oversight and the independence of constitutional offices.

Discussion

Arizona law appropriately establishes independently elected county officers who are directly accountable to the electorate. Outside of limited statutory authority applicable to specific offices, however, counties generally possess few mechanisms to respond when an elected official demonstrates sustained failure to perform statutory responsibilities, engages in significant misconduct, or materially disrupts the delivery of essential public services.

Current remedies often present an all-or-nothing choice between informal political pressure and the extraordinary remedy of recall. The County supports legislation authorizing a narrowly tailored administrative process, with robust due process protections and judicial review, allowing temporary intervention under clearly defined circumstances involving neglect of duty, malfeasance, or inability to perform essential statutory functions. Such authority should be carefully limited to preserve the independence of elected offices while ensuring continuity of government operations and protection of the public interest.

CC: Jan Leshar, County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr, Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Sam Brown, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney