



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Arizona State Visit

From March 2-3, the Grand Canyon State welcomed CSG West Director Edgar Ruiz, CSG Executive Director/CEO David Adkins, and accompanying staff. The team visited Phoenix to meet with legislative leaders, members, and legislative staff to share information on 2020 programming offered by both CSG West and CSG National.

The CSG team appreciated members' making time to visit as they balanced meetings and the review of the [830 bills](#) introduced and being considered during the session. With COVID-19 capturing the news and concerns of many, ad hoc meetings were prioritized to address state and community preparedness. Conversations with members provided insights on legislative priorities, as well as feedback on member programming provided by our organization.

Like many other states, Arizona faces water challenges and with wells going dry in rural areas, [groundwater regulation](#) has become an urgent concern. Projected shortfalls in the Colorado River coupled with longer, hotter and drier summers saw state lawmakers evaluating the need for additional regulations. A bill proposing an increase to Arizona firefighters' cancer coverage ([SB 1160](#)) was also being discussed.

This session saw two specific concerns that would impact the state's constitution. Governor Doug Ducey and leadership in the House and Senate rejected a ballot referral that would have asked voters to amend the state Constitution to [ban sanctuary jurisdictions](#). Additionally, the House voted to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to create a Lieutenant Governor position. Similar to [Oregon, Maine, New Hampshire, and Wyoming](#), Arizona does not have a



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

lieutenant governor position. Under Arizona's constitution, the Governor's immediate successor is the Secretary of State.

Arizona's southernmost border counties connects to the Mexican states of Sonora and Baja California. Included in this stretch of the border are three legislative districts. CSG West staff met with several of the border district legislators to learn more about their district priorities, as it relates to the shared border region.

Conversation allowed staff to discuss the upcoming [Border Legislative Conference](#) (BLC) and gather feedback from legislators regarding topics of interest for the conference.