

Welcome to the Legislative Update for October 1, 2011

This *abbreviated version* of our regular e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

Fiscal News

Latest from the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC):

The *JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights September 2011* report states August revenues showed growth as base General Fund revenues (excluding one-time adjustments) were 8.6% above the prior year. General Fund revenue collections totaled \$767.2 million. To view the report, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-sep-11.pdf>

The most *recent update* to the JLBC report, *Tracking Arizona's Recovery* is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0911.pdf>

Other News

To follow the work of the **Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission**, go to: <http://www.azredistricting.org/> and visit the **Maps** link.

On Thursday, the **Governor** announced an agreement with CNN for the network to produce a debate in Arizona featuring candidates seeking the Republican nomination for president in 2012.

Although the Arizona State Legislature is currently not in session, interim committees are meeting and agendas are posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp?Type=AGENDAS>

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**.

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Bills that are expected to receive floor action this week in the Senate related to funding the federal government next federal fiscal year:

H.R.2608
H.R.2017

Active Legislation (in both the Senate Chamber and House Chamber) is posted at:

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/b_three_sections_wit_h_teasers/active_leg_page.htm

You can find Active Legislation posted at the House of Representatives website listed later in this issue.

Important Note: Thomas, the Library of Congress website, is down October 1st and 2nd for scheduled hardware maintenance.

S.RES.284

Introduced on 9/26/2011 by Senator Herb Kohl, the resolution designates September 23, 2011, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

S.Res.284 was submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

The **Thomas (Library of Congress) website** *blogs include an explanation of the 2011 Debt Ceiling legislation process at:*

http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2011/08/the-curious-history-of-the-2011-debt-ceiling-legislation/?loclr=ll_t0040

From Kaiser Health News

Side by Side Comparison of Medicare Provisions in Deficit and Debt Reduction Proposals

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/8124.cfm>

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Other News:

From the **Administration on Aging and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** - the flu season is expected to start in October and last six months. For information, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/>

From Medicare.gov
Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15 to December 7th
To compare your current coverage with all of the options available and to enroll in a new plan, go to <http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan>

Call 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-42270 24 hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

From *LeadingAge Magazine: Seniors Helping Seniors: Volunteerism Is an American Success Story*

<http://www.leadingage.org/magazine/Feature.aspx?id=3131>

Million Hearts is a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over the next 5 years. For more information:

<http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/>

From the **Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (formerly the Office of Applied Studies) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

September 1, 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health - *Illicit Drug Use Among Older Adults*

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/IllicitDrugUseAmongOlderAdults.pdf>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Awareness Event; In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Area Agency on Aging invites you to come learn more about late-life domestic violence and elder abuse.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/DVAwarenessEventFlyer2011.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society's 23rd Annual Fall Symposium The Changing Faces of Geriatrics

WHEN: Friday-Saturday, November 4-5, 2011, Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AzGSEmailBrochure091411.pdf>

WHAT: ArizonaSERVES Summit

WHEN: Rescheduled to November 4-5, 2011

Save the Date Flyer:

<https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/ArizonaServes/Summit-Save-the-Date.pdf>

For more information on Arizona Serves and the summit:

https://www.azdes.gov/Arizona_Serves.aspx?menu=332&id=6626

In the days ahead, the **Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will be holding Senior Action Days** that provide opportunities for seniors and their advocates to join in a dialogue with Council members, invited state legislators and local officials about issues of concern.

Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Udall Center, Tucson.

Friday, October 14, 2011, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Yavapai College Performance Hall, Prescott.

Monday, October 17, 2011, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post #62, Peoria/Sun City.

Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 9:00 - 11:00 at the El Pueblo Senior Center, Tucson.

Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the San Tan Ballroom, Sun Lakes Community Center, Sun Lakes.

If you would like more information about any of these events, contact the Council on Aging at 602-542-4710 or gaca@az.gov.

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you! Enjoy the fall season.

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging