

2019-2020 Session Summary

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2019/2020 - An Unusual Session

- Fewer laws passed than previous sessions. 185 bills signed into law in 19/20 session versus 370 in 17/18 session and 392 in 15/16 session.
- Split government control for first time since 2010.
- Budget was done relatively early considering split control – Act 9 signed 7/3/19.
- Governor called numerous special sessions, but the legislature didn't act on the calls.
- Regular session cut short due to COVID-19.
- Extraordinary session at the end of 2018 created tension that carried through to this session.

State Budget Included Positive County Items

- Additional \$25.5 million annually for county child welfare services.
- A 10% increase in general transportation aids for local governments and a \$75 million supplemental fund for county and municipal transportation projects.
- A \$475,000 increase for county land conservation staff and cost sharing, bringing the annual total to \$9.4 million.
- An additional 64.95 assistant district attorney positions, the first new GPR funded positions since 2007.
- An additional \$2.3 million for county child support enforcement.
- A \$37 million increase in nursing home reimbursement funding.

Some Highlights of County Bills Outside of Budget Bill

- **Act 42 (AB 193/SB 178)** – Allowing local government to do a biennial budget.
- **Act 76 (AB 119/SB 122)** – Grants for homeless shelters, directs WHEDA to transfer \$500,000 each year to support the grants.
- **Act 126 (AB 310/SB 291)** – Allowing counties to use construction estimates when going to referendum to increase levy limits. This and other changes in this bill mean local governments can put referendums on the ballot during any regularly scheduled election.

Some Areas of Concern

- Zoning exemptions for moving rock from quarry sites and preempting local control
- Requiring referendum on vehicle registration fee even if the county or municipality already have it in place
- Adoption package
- “Tougher on Crime package”

Questions?