

## 2. PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT



[www.pima.gov](http://www.pima.gov)

(520) 724-9999

**Pima County Administration Building  
130 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85701**

Pima county, located in south central Arizona, cover 9,189 square miles. Pima County, like all county governments in Arizona, is a political and administrative subdivision of the state government of Arizona. Thus it carries out strictly regulated functions mandated in state statues for counties. The county has some discretion to choose to provide other services, but with less autonomy than municipalities.

Pima County's state-mandated function for all people living in both incorporated and unincorporated areas include:

PUBLIC SERVICE	OFFICIAL WEBSITE
• Conduct elections and maintain voter registration roll	<a href="http://www.pima.gov/elections/polling/">www.pima.gov/elections/polling/</a>
• Operate jails	pimasheriff.org
• Issue passports	webcms.pima.gov
• Prosecute state crimes and operate superior and justice of the peace courts	webcms.pima.gov

• Record deeds and mortgages	recorder.pima.gov
• Build and maintain roads and bridges	webcms.pima.gov
• Operate agriculture extension services	extension.arizona.edu
• Election & voter	<a href="http://www.pima.gov/elections/polling/">www.pima.gov/elections/polling/</a>
• Crime and jails	pimasheriff.org
• Courts	webcms.pima.gov
• Recorder	recorder.pima.gov
• Transportation	webcms.pima.gov
• County Extension Services	extension.arizona.edu
• Oversee public schools	schools.pima.gov
• Capitol Improvement Projects	webcms.pima.gov

The county is permitted to, and may opt to, provide countywide functions. Over time Pima County has elected to provide the following:

ENVIRONMENTAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater management</li> <li>▪ Flood control</li> </ul>	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
COMMUNITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job training</li> <li>• Neighborhood conservation</li> <li>• At-risk Youth programs</li> <li>• Libraries</li> </ul>	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
RECREATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stadium District</li> </ul>	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
PUBLIC WORKS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Loop</li> </ul>	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>

Counties have less discretion than municipalities in providing these local services. Some of these functions are state-mandated and are closely regulated by the state.

**Pima County also performs some traditionally municipal functions only in unincorporated areas such as:**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code enforcement</li> </ul>	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
GOVERNMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Zoning and other land-use regulation</li> <li>• Traffic controls</li> <li>• Public nuisance control</li> </ul>	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>

• Public Schools	<a href="http://schools.pima.gov">schools.pima.gov</a>
• Community Services	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
• Recreation Services	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
• Community Services	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
• Public Works	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
• Building safety	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>
• Health Services	<a href="http://webcms.pima.gov">webcms.pima.gov</a>

## Form of Government

Pima County is governed by a county commission form of government in which the elected commission (Board of Supervisors) has legislative and executive powers over some functions and state mandated administrative officers have powers over other functions as specified in the Arizona Constitution. Thus, Pima County government does not strictly follow the three-branch organization of government where legislative or executive powers are centered in their respective branches. While all counties in Arizona with populations over 500,000 may choose to become “charter” counties to gain more autonomy from the state, neither have been able to gain the necessary voter approval to gain the status of “charter.”

## Legislative Branch

Board of Supervisors: [webcms.pima.gov/government/board\\_of\\_supervisors](http://webcms.pima.gov/government/board_of_supervisors)

- Consists of five elected Supervisors
- Supervisors serve four-year terms, elected simultaneously
- Elections held every four years, in even-numbered years
- Elected by district with five supervisory districts
- Elections are partisan
- Chairperson is selected by Supervisors and is responsible for conducting meetings and ensuring that the rules are observed.
- Supervisors serve as official representative on some citizen and district boards

## Meetings:

- Held at 130 West Congress Street in the Pima County Administrative Building.
- Schedule of regular meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. but there are also special meetings.

**All are listed at [webcms.pima.gov](http://webcms.pima.gov) Powers:**

- Makes policies within the strict limits of state statutes
- Sees that state-mandated functions are carried out
- Appoints the County Administrator, Clerk of the Board, Public Fiduciary, County Engineer, Public Defender and legal defender
- Has direct control over the county manager, community services, indigent defense, medical, health, and welfare services, and public works
- Has limited authority with respect to the functions of elected administrative officials
- Sets the county tax rate and levies property taxes
- Adopts the county's annual budget
- Sets voting precinct boundaries, supervisory district boundaries, and justice of the peace district boundaries
- Sits on the governing board for the Tucson Airport Area Enterprise Zone, Pima County Library District, and Pima County Municipal Property Corporation

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors [webcms.pima.gov](http://webcms.pima.gov)**

- Appointed by the Board of Supervisors
- Records and publishes all proceedings of the board
- Preserves and files all accounts acted upon by the Board of Supervisors
- Keeps the official records for the Board of Supervisors
- Performs statutory requirements for special taxing districts
- Maintains membership information of Pima County boards, commissions and committees

**County Attorney [pcao.pima.gov](http://pcao.pima.gov)**

- Prosecutes people accused of crimes
- Gives legal advice to the Board of Supervisors and the county administrator, departments, boards, commissions, and committees

**Executive Branch**

**Elected officials** that manage departments with independence from the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator except for the budget and central administration.

- Sheriff [pimasheriff.org](http://pimasheriff.org)
- Assessor [asr.pima.gov](http://asr.pima.gov)
- Attorney [pcao.pima.gov](http://pcao.pima.gov)
- Recorder [recorder.pima.gov](http://recorder.pima.gov)
- Superintendent of Schools [schools.pima.gov](http://schools.pima.gov)
- Treasurer [to.pima.gov](http://to.pima.gov)
- Clerk of the Superior Court [cosc.pima.gov](http://cosc.pima.gov)
- Justices of the Peace [jp.pima.gov](http://jp.pima.gov)
- Constables [webcms.pima.gov](http://webcms.pima.gov)

**County Administrator [webcms.pima.gov](http://webcms.pima.gov)** is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is responsible for:

- Carrying out policies and goals established by the Board of Supervisors
- Providing information and technical assistance to the Board of Supervisors

- Administering and overseeing all non-elected official departmental operations
- Providing management, coordination and communication on legislative issues and intergovernmental needs

The **Departments** are organized into seven functional areas: *webcms.pima.gov*

- Recreation
- Health
- Development
- Business
- Community
- Environment
- Government

### **Judicial Branch** *agave.cosc.pima.gov*

Superior Courts are technically state courts but they are partially supported financially by the county and are widely referred to as county courts. Justice Courts are county courts.

### **Sources of County Revenues**

Property tax and state revenue sharing are the main sources of revenue for the General Fund. Restricted funds (those designated for a special purpose) come mostly from federal and state grants, state-shared funding (typically for specific purposes) and bonds. Fees from county enterprises also contribute to the budget. Budgets are posted under "budgets" found under "government" at **webcms.pima.gov**.

### **Bonds** *webcms.pima.gov*

General Obligation bonds are a major source of funding for Pima County's large capital projects. By Arizona law, general obligation bond debt may not exceed 6% of the value of taxable property as of the latest assessment. Debt may be incurred up to 15% if voters approve.

The Bond Advisory Committee initiates, reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on projects that should be approved for bond support. The Committee also monitors projects. All municipalities and tribal authorities as well as citizens are represented on the Bond Advisory Committee which helps the committee to evaluate projects' broad regional impacts. In addition to the County Bond Advisory Committee's monitoring of project expenditures and implementations, the state of Arizona periodically audits projects.

### **Funding for Pima County**

#### **The three major types of funds for all local governments:**

- The general fund, primarily from taxes: These are monies that can be used for any government purposes.
- Enterprise funds are funds that come from government-owned enterprises or businesses such as water and sewer service which go back into the enterprise.
- Special revenue funds are monies usually from grants restricted to one program or purpose, such as a gas tax that is dedicated to use for roads.

## **Fiduciary Funds**

Pima County also has fiduciary funds. These are not county funds, but the county acts as the official financial officer for many other public authorities in the county and accounts for the monies in fiduciary funds. Pima County bills for and collects property taxes for all local governments in the county. It is also the fiscal manager for some local governments and special taxing districts.

