

# Congressional City Conference 2023

## City of Chandler Federal Priorities

### Stabilize the Colorado River

#### Support actions that stabilize the Colorado River system

Colorado River reservoir storage levels are at all-time historic lows and federal emergency action is needed to protect critical infrastructure at Lakes Powell and Mead. The Bureau of Reclamation should immediately implement an emergency action plan to equitably distribute shortage reductions to each of the seven states who rely on the Colorado River. The “six state plan” proposed by Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming represents a collaborative approach to equitably share in the necessary shortage reductions.



The City of Chandler has a diverse water portfolio, with roughly **37%** of our water coming from the Colorado River system

### Transit and Transportation

#### Secure adequate federal support for local transit and transportation needs

Federal funding currently supports 80% of the cost of paratransit vehicles and 85% of the cost of buses for fixed route transit service in the City of Chandler. Maintaining this funding will help ensure that this vital service can continued to be provided for the residents that rely on it.

Additionally, Chandler supports transportation initiatives that prioritize environmental sustainability, such as Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. Expanding CMAQ funding would provide opportunities for municipalities to invest in projects that reduce congestion or improve air quality in their region that may not be financially feasible without federal support. Chandler also supports the funding of additional grants through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) programs, which can be leveraged to make critical safety and capacity improvements at intersections with high crash rates.



## Municipal Bonds

### Restore the tax exempt status of Advanced Refunding Bonds

Municipal bonds are a critical financing tool that help pay for large capital improvement projects, and help spread project costs over the lifetime of the asset. Up until the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017, municipalities were able to use advance refunding bonds to lower interest rates and achieve cost savings that could be invested in other parts of their community.

Restoring the tax-exempt status of advanced refunding bonds is crucial to ensure that cities and towns of all sizes can continue to provide necessary infrastructure and quality of life improvements for their communities.



The City of Chandler is **one of the few cities** in the nation with a AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies

## Intergovernmental Coordination of Emerging Technologies

### Support local governments in their responsible deployment of emerging technologies

The rapid evolution of technology, such as the development of blockchain, digital currency, and autonomous vehicles has provided cities, towns and villages with unprecedented opportunities to explore alternative methods of traditional service delivery and operation modernization.

Adopting innovative approaches to local administration may present technical, regulatory, implementation, financial or intergovernmental challenges. The federal government has a role in supporting municipalities, acting as a convener of best practices, cutting federal agency red tape, and providing aid to support advancing local innovation in the use of emerging technologies at the local level.

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