

Monday, March 18, 2024 at 10:55:11 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: RE: Public Records Request (AZ-SEN-24-0092)
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 at 5:24:33 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Pete Galvan
To: AO Records
Attachments: Results; AO0092.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Please find attached all nonprivileged records in the Senate's possession that are responsive to this request.

Pete

Pete Galvan

Arizona State Senate | Associate Rules Attorney
(602) 926-3777 | pgalvan@azleg.gov

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Pete Galvan <pgalvan@azleg.gov>
Subject: Public Records Request (AZ-SEN-24-0092)

Dear Public Records Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Arizona's Public Records Law.

Sincerely,
Dylan Winters
Paralegal | American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org |
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PRR: AZ-SEN-24-0092

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 1-8
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 12:49:00 PM
Attachments: [01-08-24.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke
Assistant to Senator Kavanagh
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Tel. 602-926-5170

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:19 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-8

Chierstin Susel
Deputy Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
Office: 602-926-3905
Twitter: @azsenaterepublicans
Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com



From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-8
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:32:19 PM
Attachments: [01-08-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:19:20 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-8

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications
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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Lake appeals ruling in Richer defamation case



After a trial court rejected two motions to dismiss Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer's defamation suit, Kari Lake filed a [special action](#) in the Arizona Court of Appeals to overturn the decision, claiming an abuse of discretion by the trial court. Lake lodged two motions to dismiss, with one revolving around Arizona's recently amended [anti-SLAPP statute](#), a law barring litigation "motivated by a desire to

deter, retaliate against or prevent the lawful exercise of a constitutional right." Both failed. And now, attorneys for Lake contend Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Jay Adleman failed to shift the burden back to Richer to further illustrate the worthiness of his defamation case and in turn, treaded on Lake's free speech rights and the anti-SLAPP law. Lake claims absent a dismissal of Richer's case, any speech critical of elections and election administration, "will be silenced and impeded, essentially muzzling all of Recorder Richer's critics as we enter an election year where Recorder Richer's performance of his elected duties is on the ballot." Her attorneys further claim the case cannot go on given Richer's failure to secure sanctions against Lake in her election contest. And according to Lake, the suit is apt for special action given the constitutional concerns and due to a lack of any "speedy" remedy. Her attorneys note any appeal would come after a trial "relitigating" the 2022 election, an undertaking they expect to run "at least 10-14 days, with tens of thousands of pages of exhibits, a half-dozen or more expert witnesses, which will be preceded by dozens of discovery disputes." Adleman set a pre-trial conference for August 21.

Toma, Petersen want action, NOW!

Petersen and Toma [asked the Arizona Court of Appeals](#) to put their challenge to Prop 211 on a rocket docket given the dawning of the 2024 election cycle and a statewide importance seal of approval from the superior court. The legislature wants to see the ballot measure requiring heightened campaign donor disclosures struck down due to its award of "unfettered" authority to the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Timothy Ryan rejected Petersen and Toma's claim. But before doing so, he teed up the case for an appeal and dubbed the lawsuit's resolution to be of statewide importance. Petersen and Toma asked the appellate court to quickly consider and rule on the case to stem alleged ongoing harm to the legislature and to provide clarity to parties regulated by the Voters' Right to Know Act. The legislative leaders intend to file their opening brief today and

note an impending request for expedited oral argument at the conclusion of briefing, which they ask the court to set for Jan. 29.

Ugenti-Rita MAGAnetized

Three years after getting booed off the stage at a Turning Point rally, former Secretary of State candidate Michelle Ugenti-Rita seems to have fully adopted the MAGA election platform. Ugenti-Rita, who built a career on passing election-integrity legislation before the flurry of boos and catcalls at the July 2021 rally, gushed today on X about former Attorney General candidate Abe Hamadeh's endorsement of her run for Maricopa County Supervisor District 2. "Abe knows first hand how unscrupulous the County Cartel can be," she tweeted. "He also knows we the people deserve competent, conservative leadership. And that starts with un-electing [@billgatesaz](#)'s BFF appointed RINO [@ThomasGalvin](#)." Ugenti-Rita tagged Rogers, Smith, J. Parker, Chaplik, Arpaio, and former seatmate Kavanaugh, even though Kavanaugh hasn't beat the election-denying drum as much as the others. Another one of Ugenti-Rita's tags in the tweet was former Sen. Kelly Townsend. It's believed that the 2021 rejection of Ugenti-Rita by the Trump-supporting crowd was because she wouldn't hear election bills from Townsend. Ugenti-Rita, who chaired the Senate Government Committee with Townsend as vice chair in 2021, repeatedly said throughout the session that the bills were bad. Townsend now supports her. "MUR has the knives to be able to excise the corruption in Maricopa County's election process. Willing to unite behind her so that she can get in there and roll some heads," Townsend tweeted. A railbird called Ugenti-Rita's embrace of the Hamadeh endorsement "craven" after bashing former gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake and former President Trump. "Now she's singing a different tune," the Railbird said. "She got booed offstage at a Turning Point event. She's now getting the endorsements no one wants anyway."

Judge slaps Horne again in trans sports ban case

A jury is out of the question in two transgender girls' federal challenge to the state's trans sports ban, a district judge [ruled](#) last week. Horne lodged a demand for a jury trial in May and was met with opposition from the plaintiffs, who claimed Horne had no right to a jury under the federal civil procedure rules, statute, nor the Seventh Amendment. Horne countered by asking for an advisory jury, which would issue a decision but leave the final call to federal judge Jennifer Zipp. In his filing, Horne references Zipp's ruling striking down his defense of the trans sports ban and claims he "does not believe a jury would make these same factual errors." In a ruling Friday, Zipp found Horne had no right to any jury, advisory or otherwise as the case deals with equitable relief. She determined the Seventh amendment preserves a right to a jury on all legal claims but not on equitable claims. Zipp denied the right to an advisory jury too "(f)or obvious reasons." She wrote, "the Court is not persuaded by Defendant's argument that most of its factual findings have been erroneous. And, although jurors provide a valuable service in finding facts and applying the law in many cases, Defendant Horne's reference to the advisory jury as 'the effected community' suggests that he seeks advisory jurors whose personal beliefs about the propriety of (the trans sports ban) might color their determination of the factual issues." Horne appealed Zipp's ruling finding in favor of the plaintiffs to the Ninth Circuit. Oral argument is scheduled for March 14.

•WAKE UP CALL•

[Judge to rule whether No Labels can keep candidates off ballot](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

January 8, 2024

A federal judge is considering whether to allow No Labels Arizona to solely run a presidential candidate in 2024 and bar any other interested parties from running under the party's banner.

[New Mexico attorney general says fake GOP electors can't be prosecuted, recommends changes](#)

Associated Press

New Mexico's top prosecutor said Friday that the state's five Republican electors cannot be prosecuted under the current law for filing election certificates that falsely declared Donald Trump the winner of the 2020 presidential race.

[Hobbs ready with veto stamp again if necessary](#)

Capitol Media Services

Katie Hobbs says she is "optimistic" about working with the Republican-controlled Legislature as she gives her second State of the State speech Monday.

[Lawmakers to start 2024 session with massive budget deficit](#)

Capitol Media Services

State lawmakers return to the Capitol Monday with an overflowing list of major issues that need to be addressed, from water to housing to the economy.

[Water, housing, abortion, teacher pay could be top issues for lawmakers](#)

Capitol Media Services

It's taken four decades, Saudi cows munching on alfalfa grown with Arizona water and national headlines about whether Arizona is finally drying up.

[Arizona Congressman Andy Biggs says Republicans have nothing to campaign on](#)

Fronteras

Arizona Republican Congressman Andy Biggs said late last week that fellow members of the GOP had not accomplished much in one year while holding a House majority.

[GOP lawmakers hope to find common ground with Hobbs as legislative session gets underway](#)

Axios

After Gov. Katie Hobbs shattered Arizona's single-session veto record in 2023, GOP lawmakers believe this year they can find areas where the Republican-controlled Legislature and Democratic administration can reach agreements.

[Connecting struggling people to quality jobs is critical](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

The Greater Phoenix Chamber and St. Joseph the Worker urge you to remember the Valley's disadvantaged, unhoused, and transitioning individuals throughout the entire year.

[Faith leaders have special role in 2024 elections](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

The job of a religious leader contains a huge variety of functions. For me and my rabbinic colleagues, we're there for everything from birth celebrations to bar mitzvahs to weddings to deaths and funerals.

[Will the Fossil Fuel Lobby Fool the ACC?](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

With more than 300 sunny days per year across most of the state, Arizona is the nation's sunniest. As such, no state is better suited for solar energy.

·PRESS RELEASES·

The Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. (AZAGC) to Sue Cities that Adopt an Illegal Prevailing Wage on Construction Work

January 8, 2024

Phoenix – As the Cities of Phoenix, Tucson and Tempe consider the adoption of prevailing wage ordinances for city-funded construction projects within their jurisdictions, AZAGC, Arizona’s oldest construction association will partner with affected organizations to advance all legal remedies to ensure violating cities are held in-check and these illegal ordinances are not implemented.

“On day one of any ordinances’ effective date or sooner if appropriate, AZAGC will partner with companies and industry associations to challenge the legality of such exclusive practices,” said David M. Martin, president of the Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. The association wants to make it clear that we advocate for free and open competition among all contractors whether union or non-union. These ordinances are a direct attack on contractors that choose to remain non-union. David Martin will not go into details about the association’s strategy in challenging the ordinance because there are key provisions in each that make them completely illegal. “Instead of battling these issues at the council level we’ll take our arguments through the court system,” Martin said.

The Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. (AZAGC), chartered in 1934, is a not-for-profit association of general contractors, subcontractors, and other construction industry affiliated firms engaged in highway, heavy, industrial, federal and municipal-utility construction. Since inception, AZAGC has been instrumental in helping grow Arizona’s economy by investing and supporting efforts that expand and maintain Arizona’s infrastructure so that every citizen has an increased quality of life. The association is involved in legislative affairs, specification reviews, labor matters, highway budgeting and appropriations, education and training, and many other areas important to the construction industry.

www.azagc.org

###

AEA Applauds Focus on Educator Retention and ESA Voucher Accountability in 2024 State of the State

PHOENIX – Marisol Garcia, president of the Arizona Education Association, offered the following statement in response to the 2024 State of the State from Governor Katie Hobbs:

"Arizona educators are committed to helping all of our students succeed, no matter who they are or where they live. But in recent years, our jobs have been made much harder by severe shortages of classroom teachers, bus drivers, classroom aides, and more. Our state is continuing to lose thousands of educators every year to better-paying jobs in the private sector or in other states, and our educator retention crisis is only deepening.

Getting it right when it comes to the renewal of Proposition 123 is a central piece of addressing that crisis. In light of that, **I was glad to see Governor Hobbs lay out a proposal for Proposition 123 that would include raises for all educators in our schools, from teachers and school counselors to bus drivers and classroom aides, as well as much-needed investments in school safety.**

Educator retention shouldn't be a partisan issue, and we sincerely believe it doesn't have to be. **Our union looks forward to reviewing the details of Governor Hobbs' proposal, and to working with legislators of all parties** to make sure that we replace Proposition 123 with something that includes every educator, from the person who opens the building in the morning to the person who locks up the building at night.

January 8, 2024

In addition, **I was glad to see Governor Hobbs continuing to demand accountability and transparency measures for ESA vouchers.** Common-sense policies like financial safeguards and audits and student safety protections are important initial moves towards addressing the damage created by this disastrous, out-of-control program.

Finally, **it was good to see Governor Hobbs call for a long-term solution on the Aggregate Expenditure Limit,** the spending cap that creates so much unnecessary uncertainty for educators and families.

There is so much more that needs to be done to fully invest in our public schools and deliver on the promise of public education. But in the face of the current political reality at the State Capitol, **these proposals are an excellent place to start.** We hope that legislators of both parties will recognize the need to act and get to work.”

###

Sinema Cosponsors Resolution Supporting Mifepristone to Protect Women’s Access to Safe, Effective Health Care

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema backed a Senate resolution in support of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval of mifepristone, a drug used by women and their doctors to manage reproductive health care, including miscarriage care. The resolution follows news last month that the U.S. Supreme Court will review a lower court ruling that would limit access to mifepristone.

“A woman’s health care decisions should be made between her, her doctor, and her family. We’re continuing to support science-based approaches that protect Arizona women’s freedom to make their own decisions about their futures,” said Sinema.

Last year, Sinema submitted an amicus brief in the *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA* case supporting the FDA’s scientific and evidence-based approval of mifepristone. Mifepristone is one of the two medications typically used in reproductive and miscarriage care, which has been FDA-approved and safely used for over 20 years.

Sinema, along with Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) and Susan Collins (Maine) and Democratic Senator Tim Kaine (Va.), introduced the *Reproductive Freedom For All Act* – bipartisan legislation protecting women’s freedom to make their own health care decisions by enacting the core protections of *Roe v. Wade* and related Supreme Court cases into law.

###

Behavioral Health Care Scholarships Available at Northland Pioneer College

PHOENIX – The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has partnered with Northland Pioneer College to offer scholarship and tuition assistance programs for students who are pursuing health care careers in behavioral health and long-term health care services.

This initiative aims to increase the number of individuals who join or continue employment in the workforce to pursue health care careers and address behavioral health workforce shortages in rural Arizona. Online programs are available to students just starting their careers and to those currently employed in order to continue their education.

January 8, 2024

Scholarship opportunities totaling nearly \$400,000 will allow students to complete program requirements with little out-of-pocket cost. In exchange for tuition assistance, students are required to serve in the behavioral health field for a minimum of two years or a period that equals the completed program length.

House Bill 2691, passed and signed during the 2023 legislative session, allocated approximately \$9 million in American Rescue Act funds to Arizona community colleges through Sept. 30, 2024, with another \$4.5 million possible, pending further legislative action.

Visit Northland Pioneer College's [website](#) to review eligibility requirements and apply.

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“She’s now getting the endorsements no one wants anyway.” — *A Railbird on former lawmaker and former Secretary of State candidate Michelle Ugenti-Rita getting the endorsement of Trump-endorsed Abe Hamadeh.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 1-16/17
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:06:00 AM
Attachments: [01-16-24.pdf](#)
[1-17-24.pdf](#)

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Hobbs' Prop 123 extension proposal likely going to circular file



Hobbs put in her two cents on Prop. 123 and proposed increasing the percentage allocated to schools from the state land trust to increase educator and school staff compensation and invest in school safety, contrasting an earlier plan by GOP lawmakers to renew the fund to solely cover teacher pay. Prop. 123, narrowly passed by voters in 2016, increased the percentage K-12 schools receive from the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund from 2.5%

to 6.9% through FY2025. Republican lawmakers announced a plan in November to extend Prop. 123 another 10 years but allocate the hundreds of millions from the fund to increase teacher pay. In announcing the plan, Petersen said the proposal would increase teacher pay by 7%, putting the state's average just above the national average. Hobbs' plan proposes upping the percentage to 8.9% and extending use of the funds – with 2.5% going to general school funding, 5.9% to increase educator and staff compensation and 0.5% to invest in school capital projects for safety and security. According to a press release, Marsh plans to sponsor the resolution to renew and expand Prop. 123 through the Legislature. If passed by a two-thirds majority, the measure would then go to voters. In a statement provided to our reporter, Petersen said, "I appreciate that the Governor is embracing our idea to use a proposition to provide teachers with pay raises. When Republicans passed 20 percent teacher pay raises in 2018, the Democrats voted no. And while we appreciate her input on the matter as a referral to the ballot, the issue is solely at the discretion of the Legislature, subject to voter approval." The proposal got immediate backlash from Yee, overseer of the fund, who called Hobbs' proposal to increase the percentage "egregious" as well as "dangerous and unsustainable" as she claims it stands to "break the bank."

No Labels will have only presidential candidate, judge rules

A federal judge entered [an injunction](#) barring Fontes from accepting statements of interests and printing No Labels candidates outside the party's presidential picks on the state ballot. No Labels Arizona first sued Fontes after the secretary accepted statements of interests from two No Labels candidates vying for Corp Comm and U.S. Senate. The party claimed they only intended to run a candidate for president and vice president in the general election and sought to sit out the primary and general election for any other office entirely. And by accepting statements of interests against the party's wishes, No Labels argued Fontes was "forcing" the party to associate with candidates they wanted nothing to do with. No Labels claimed state law required parties to be "intending" to nominate candidates to run in the primary and being made to support candidates they did not intend to run treaded on associational rights. U.S. District Judge John Tuchi found Fontes did not violate state law but did rule allowing No Labels candidates to run against the party's will would infringe on the First Amendment. "The Secretary's acts leading to placement of candidates on the primary election ballot under the Party insignia for offices

the Party does not intend to seek infringes on the Party's associational rights to structure itself, choose a standard bearer who speaks for the Party, and decide where to devote its resources," Tuchi wrote. "Simply because the state may disagree with the Party's choices in structuring or setting boundaries for itself does not entitle the state to constitutionally substitute its judgment for the Party's judgment."

Blackman in manhunt for ex-campaign treasurer

Former lawmaker and current LD7 contender Walt Blackman notified the FEC his former campaign treasurer, Thomas Datwyler, who worked for Blackman's 2021 congressional campaign, allegedly embezzled \$50,000, [Arizona's Politics](#) first reported Monday. In a letter, Blackman claimed Datwyler diverted campaign funds into outside accounts and "knowingly" issued multiple checks from deficient accounts. Blackman told the FEC he had notified law enforcement agencies but has been unable to file complete reports, due to an "inability to locate Mr. Datwyler." He wrote, "Upon determination of his whereabouts, it is our intention to formally lodge a complaint and initiate legal proceedings against Mr. Datwyler for the crime of theft, advocating for maximal prosecutorial action," Blackman wrote. He added they would pursue civil litigation to recover damages. Blackman asked the FEC to waive any penalties for his congressional committee and noted his intention to file a report to FEC. According to Datwyler's LinkedIn, he works for 9Seven Consulting in Wisconsin, where he boasts work for [more than 100](#) PACs, candidates and committees. Datwyler was named as Rep. George Santos campaign treasurer in reports, though he denied ever taking the position. Blackman did not respond to a request for comment before our deadline.

County supervisor slaps back at Mayes

In a lawsuit filed against Mayes, Mohave County Supervisor Ron Gould seeks a declaration from the superior court asserting boards can opt out of tabulation machines entirely and can do so without being subject "to threats and intimidation by the Attorney General," [Capitol Media Service's](#) Howie Fischer first reported Monday. The Mohave County Board of Supervisors twice rejected a proposal to go forward with a full hand count, with chair Travis Lingenfelter standing as the deciding "no" vote each time. In the first vote, Lingenfelter torpedoed the plan given its cost and the county's budget deficit. And ahead of the second vote, Mayes sent what Gould deemed a "threatening" letter, which informed the supervisors they could be liable for "various felony and misdemeanor criminal penalties" if they voted in favor of going forward with a hand count contrary to Arizona law. Gould claims the "pressure of the Attorney General's threats to the Board members prior to the vote influenced the voting process and ultimate vote." And he disagreed with Mayes' interpretation of the law and contends the board does in fact have the authority to ditch tabulation machines entirely as statute notes counties "may" tally ballots using tabulation machines. In the filing, Gould said he "intends to continue raising the issue and voting in favor of using hand counting." Gould told Fischer, "I'm getting tired of people telling me they're going to throw me in jail for doing my job."

Finchem gets new lawyer

Attorney Dennis Wilenchik stepped in to keep Finchem's case alive after attorney Daniel McCauley withdrew from his appeal of election contest-related sanctions on order from the state bar. Wilenchik filed his notice of appearance last week and filed a request to reinstate oral argument. Argument in the case was initially scheduled for Jan. 31 before McCauley's departure. The court vacated argument and

January 16, 2024

set a status conference for the same day. Wilenchik told our reporter he offered no firm date to reschedule but would be fine taking up arguments on Jan. 31.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Hobbs, GOP expect to find common ground on some issues](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Gov. Katie Hobbs' State of the State Address on Jan. 8 shared some mutual policy goals between Democrats and Republicans, but already the two sides are showing their differences for how to meet them.

[Lawmaker wants non-planet designated state planet](#)

Capitol Media Services

Pluto may not be a planet according to the guidelines uses by astronomers. But as far as Rep. Justin Wilmeth is concerned, it should still be Arizona's planet.

[WIFA 'alive and well,' but budget dwindling](#)

Capitol Media Services

Former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's multi-billion-dollar plan for a desalination plant or other hugely expensive project to add to the desert state's imperiled water supply is still alive.

[No joke: Feds are banning humorous electronic messages on highways](#)

The Associated Press

It's no joke. Humorous and quirky messages on electronic signs will soon disappear from highways and freeways across the country.

[Mohave county supervisor wants judge to declare hand counting votes legal](#)

Capitol Media Services

A Mohave County supervisor wants a judge to bar Attorney General Kris Mayes from subjecting him to "threats and intimidation" for pushing for a hand count of elections.

[Lawmaker wants to address 'deep fake' imagery in elections](#)

Capitol Media Services

The way Alexander Kolodin sees it, a well-crafted "deep fake" video or audio has the capacity to swing an election.

[Governor's wish list depends on cuts to GOP-favored programs, spending](#)

Capitol Media Services

Gov. Katie Hobbs proposed a \$16.2 billion spending plan is built on cuts to vouchers that are unlikely to survive the Republican-controlled Legislature.

[Far too many Arizonans are not living at home](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

So many families in Arizona are living on the housing edge, where one life event, big or small, can push them on to the streets.

[LGBTQ+ PAC's narrow agenda limits range of candidates](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

For those who don't know, the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund is a political action committee whose goal is to elect LGBTQ+ officials around the country.

[Access to affordable medications must be protected](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Growing up, I always imagined that I would work in health care – perhaps as a nurse. I never expected that

January 16, 2024

my path to becoming a pharmacist would start with a last-minute decision to join the Air Force after my high school graduation.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Governor Katie Hobbs Releases Prop 123 Plan to Invest in Public Education

Phoenix, AZ – Today, Governor Katie Hobbs announced her Prop 123 renewal plan that will raise compensation for every educator and support staff, and improve school safety without raising taxes on Arizonans. The plan will expand on the current Prop 123 funding to continue building a quality public education for the over 90% of Arizona children who attend public schools.

Governor Hobbs’ plan extends Prop 123 for ten years increasing the State Land Trust Permanent Fund distribution to 8.9% with this dedicated split:

- 2.5% of the distribution will continue general school funding (\$257 million projected 10-year average distribution)
- 4.4% of the distribution will raise educator compensation (\$347 million projected 10-year average distribution)
- 1.5% of the distribution will increase support staff compensation (\$118 million projected 10-year average distribution)
- .5% of the distribution will invest in school capital for safety and security (\$39 million projected 10-year average distribution)

“We have a once in a decade opportunity to invest in a public education system that gives every child the opportunity to succeed,” **said Governor Katie Hobbs**. “We can increase compensation for educators and make schools safer for our kids, all without raising taxes on Arizonans. Or we can let billions of dollars accrue in a bank account and do nothing to address our immediate needs. The choice is clear. My plan is a critical step toward ensuring every Arizona child can get a quality and safe public education while addressing our teacher shortage. I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats in the legislature to send Prop 123 back to the ballot and making these critical investments in public education.”

“I am proud to sponsor Governor Hobbs’ proposal to extend Proposition 123 for an additional 10 years and increase funding for our K-12 schools,” **said Senator and former teacher of the year Christine Marsh**. “Renewing and expanding this vital funding source for our schools is crucial to ensuring Arizona’s students receive the high quality education they deserve.”

“As a life-long teacher, what drove me and so many of my Democratic colleagues to serve in the legislature has been to increase educator pay and investment in the public schools,” **said Representative Judy Schieb**. “As champions for our children and their schools we know that all educators — from teachers to classroom assistants to school bus drivers — are a team. Without raises for all educators, we will only increase the burden on teachers, parents, and students. More than 90 percent of Arizona families choose public schools and they deserve this investment. Every Arizonan will benefit from the vital workforce our public schools produce.”

The current Prop 123 has triggers to protect the state in the event of an economic downturn such as the ability to reduce funding to public schools. Governor Hobbs’ plan protects critical funding for public education by raising the threshold to enact these triggers to a two-thirds vote.

January 16, 2024

The Governor's increased Prop 123 distribution comes as the State Land Trust Corpus has remained strong, growing to nearly \$8 billion with an average 10-year annualized return of 7.24%.

###

Arizona Families Rebate Recipients Will Need to Report Rebate Income on Tax Returns

Phoenix, AZ – The Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) is sending this information to assist taxpayers as the 2024 tax filing season begins. The IRS has determined the Arizona Families Tax Rebate recently sent to eligible taxpayers is subject to **federal** income tax and is required to be reported as part of the federal adjusted gross income. However, **the rebate is not subject to Arizona income tax** and should be subtracted from the federal adjusted gross income on the 2023 Arizona individual income tax return.

Affected taxpayers will be sent a statement by mail that they are to check the online portal to access their 1099-MISC which documents the rebate amount they received. ADOR is required by federal law to issue this form to taxpayers as an informational statement since the income must be reported on the income tax return.

Taxpayers can also check their bank statement to confirm the amount received from ADOR for the Arizona Families Tax Rebate. The statement is not a bill, and individuals should not send any type of payment in response.

Effective January 31, ADOR is adding Form 1099-MISC to its online portal to search, download, and print 1099 forms through www.AZTaxes.gov.

Form 1099-MISC

Form 1099-MISC reports miscellaneous compensation and other payments such as the Arizona Families Tax Rebate. Primary taxpayers will be issued the statement if they received the rebate in 2023.

For more information, visit: <https://azdor.gov/individuals/arizona-families-tax-rebate>

For updates and the latest news on tax season, subscribe to our [email subscription service](#) or [social media](#).

###

Kelly, Casey Introduce Bill to Strengthen Border Security to Stop Flow of Fentanyl

The Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act will increase staffing and technology to detect and stop the flow of fentanyl coming across the border

Bill strengthens security at ports of entry along southwest border, which is the most common way criminals smuggle fentanyl into the U.S.

Kelly, Casey have previously [pushed](#) Biden administration for more funding to secure the border

Today, Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced legislation to reduce the flow of fentanyl by providing much-needed resources to secure the southwest border. The *Stop Fentanyl at the*

January 16, 2024

Border Act increases staffing capacity and technology to detect illicit drugs and other contraband being smuggled through ports of entry along the border. The bill targets the most common way that fentanyl is coming into the United States: through ports of entry along the southwest border.

“Border Patrol and Port Officers have been stretched far too thin as they do the difficult job of keeping our country safe every single day,” **said Senator Kelly**. “This bill would give federal law enforcement the additional personnel and technology needed to keep our ports of entry fully staffed, stem the flow of illegal drugs, and secure the border.”

“So much of the fentanyl devastating Pennsylvania families and communities is being smuggled across our southern border,” **said Senator Casey**. “This bill will help stop the flow of fentanyl into the U.S. and provide the hardworking law enforcement officers at the border with the resources, technology, and support they need to do their jobs and secure our border. This bill is a part of a multipronged approach to end the fentanyl crisis by cracking down on the criminals producing and smuggling fentanyl, securing our border, and providing the Americans impacted by fentanyl with the help they need.”

The *Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act* would enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to hire more Officers and Border Patrol Agents to increase capacity to stop illicit smuggling over the border. The bill also provides funding to purchase Non-Intrusive Inspection systems, which scan vehicles and cargo at the border to provide detailed images of their interiors, which leads to the detection of fentanyl and other illicit drugs. Additionally, the bill would create an inspection program to increase seizure of firearms, which Mexican cartels frequently purchase in the United States and smuggle into Mexico to support their fentanyl production operations and other violent criminal enterprises.

In addition to Kelly and Casey, the bill is cosponsored by Senators Lujan (D-NM), Cortez Masto (D-NV), Rosen (D-NV), Baldwin (D-WI), Klobuchar (D-MN), Warner (D-VA), and Brown (D-OH).

In addition to introducing the *Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act*, Kelly and Casey have [pushed](#) President Biden to prioritize additional resources to strengthen the security at the southwest border to stop the flow of illicit drugs like fentanyl through ports of entry along the border. Kelly and Casey also support a number of bills to address different aspects of the fentanyl crisis, including the [FEND Off Fentanyl Act](#), which targets the criminal organizations in the fentanyl supply chain by sanctioning and blocking their financial assets.

Read more about the *Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act* [here](#).

###

Arizona Chamber of Commerce, coalition of business industry leaders urge state legislators to continue Arizona Commerce Authority

PHOENIX (January 16, 2024) — The Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, joined by a coalition of more than 100 business leaders and growing throughout the state, today sent a [letter](#) to Arizona legislators expressing strong support for the continuation of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA).

The agency, established by former Gov. Jan Brewer in 2010 in an effort to revamp the state's economic approach and create new business and job opportunities for Arizonans, faces its sunset review this year.

“This letter demonstrates the tremendous support the ACA has from job creators across the state, from communities urban and rural, and from groups representing a broad swath of industries,” Chamber President

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and CEO Danny Seiden said. “We look forward to working with members of both parties to ensure that the ACA can continue its excellent work recruiting good jobs to Arizona and helping to grow our economy.”

The full letter can be viewed [here](#) and below:

Dear Members of the Arizona Legislature,

We are reaching out to you on behalf of the undersigned organizations and businesses committed to advancing policies that stimulate economic growth and prosperity for all Arizonans. Collectively, our organizations and businesses represent hundreds of thousands of hardworking Arizonans across multiple industry sectors. We write to you today in support of the continuation of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) and the critical programs it oversees that have made our state the best place to work and own a business.

Background

During the recovery from the great recession, leaders from around Arizona came together to creatively revamp the state’s economic approach. This new model – the Arizona Commerce Authority – was designed to diversify Arizona’s economy and attract, expand, and create new businesses and job opportunities. This approach had never been tried before and is now the leading example of economic development success across the nation. Arizona’s growth since 2011 has been astounding, with record-level investments creating thousands of new high wage jobs for our residents.

Impact on economy and jobs

Since its inception, the ACA has contributed to Arizona’s economic success through the attraction of new projects and expansion of existing Arizona companies. Some significant wins include:

- 1,209 projects won,
- 272,803 projected new jobs,
- \$60,808 average wage, and
- \$115.694 billion in projected total capital investment.

The impact of this success on our economy has been profound. It’s estimated that ACA projects will produce \$11.3 billion in tax revenue and \$442.3 billion in economic output. The direct, indirect, and induced projected jobs total is 886,933. These new jobs are shifting our economy and Arizona is now more well positioned than ever. With the help of the ACA, Arizona has dramatically reshaped the outlook of our economy. For example, since 2011, Arizona’s workforce has grown by 28%, the 5th-fastest growth rate in the nation.

Additionally, we have seen rapid growth in employment in varying industries. Prior to the creation of ACA, the main economic driver within Arizona’s economy was construction. Now, Arizona has more manufacturing jobs than construction and our economic outlook for the future has never been better because of the diversification the ACA helped to create. Furthermore, JLBC shows Arizona’s General Fund revenue increased by more than \$5 billion from 2011 to 2023, from \$8.3B to almost \$13.5B, as Arizona has added new jobs, businesses, and workers.

The ACA also plays a central role in workforce development, partnering with industry, universities, community colleges, and more to meet the increased workforce demand and develop a skilled talent pipeline that is ready to support the anticipated growth in our state.

Industry growth & diversification

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In addition to attracting business and advancing our global competitiveness, ACA offers a host of programs that have been crafted by policymakers to support businesses of all sizes in all corners of Arizona. They specifically have focused on supporting the growth and success of rural and small businesses.

The manufacturing industry has exploded under the leadership of the ACA, which has helped secure historic investments throughout the state. Arizona has become a sustainability ecosystem with the manufacturing of microchips, electric vehicles, batteries, and more. The growth in manufacturing has helped onshore the supply chain stimulating our economy, creating jobs, and protecting national security by reducing our reliance on international supply chains. Innovation is at the core of ACA's mission, and they continue to team up with startups and entrepreneurs to spur investment in Arizona.

Preparing for the future

The Arizona Commerce Authority continues to be critical to economic development in our state, and it's imperative that it is continued. ACA has exceeded its original mission and has become a model for job attraction that is being mirrored nationwide. We strongly urge the state Legislature to support ACA's continuation.

We are grateful for the continued leadership of our legislators who have worked to ensure Arizona remains competitive on the global level and pursue policies that make Arizona the best state to start and grow a business.

[Click here](#) to see the full list of business community supporters.

Chamber President and CEO Danny Seiden recently wrote an [OpEd for the Arizona Republic](#) in response to a legislative effort to dismantle the ACA.

###

Gallego Highlights His Fight to Cut Costs for Arizonan

WASHINGTON, DC — Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ-03) today released a new report, [Cutting Costs for Arizonans: How Rep. Gallego is Fighting to Make Life More Affordable for Hardworking Families](#), that highlights his ongoing efforts in Congress to drive down costs for everyday necessities, hold big corporations accountable, protect Arizona's most precious resources, and support parents who are trying to take care of their children.

"I grew up working every job I could to help support my mom in raising me and my three sisters. I understand the impact of rising prices on hardworking Arizona families and the toll that takes on parents and kids," said **Rep. Gallego**. "It can be tough to juggle it all, and that's why in Congress I've been fighting to cut costs on everything from gas and groceries to housing and child care. This report underscores those efforts and lays out my vision of how we get the job done for hardworking Arizonans."

The report details Arizona families' challenges with rising costs in different aspects of their lives. Section by section, the report highlights Rep. Gallego's work to bring those costs down. This means supporting Arizonans to combat rising costs:

- **At Home;**
- **With the Family;**
- **At the Pharmacy;**
- **At the Store; and**
- **On the Go.**

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One such example detailed in the report is prescription drug costs. Between July 2021 and July 2022, there were over 1,200 drugs whose prices increased faster than inflation, despite historic inflation that year — resulting in record profits for pharmaceutical companies. The average price increase for those drugs was 31.6%.

These price increases mean more and more Arizonans travel across the border to Mexico each year to buy prescription drugs.

That's why Rep. Gallego not only was a strong supporter of the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), but he has introduced legislation such as the [Lower Drug Costs for Families Act](#), to extend the Medicare rebate provision of the IRA to the commercial market and protect all Arizonans from Big Pharma price gouging — saving Arizonans on their next trip to the pharmacy.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

###

New Sinema Bill Protects Seniors' Ability to Access Critical Medicines

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) to reverse harmful Medicare policies that make it harder for a doctor's office to mail prescription medication to seriously ill cancer patients or allow caregivers to pick prescriptions up for the patient through on-site pharmacies. The *Seniors' Access to Critical Medicines Act* allows patients to pick up their medicines at their medical appointment rather than make a separate trip to the pharmacy, caregivers to pick up medications if the patient is too sick to travel to the doctor's office, or doctors to mail medicines to patients in rural areas.

“We’re making it easier for seniors and patients with serious illnesses to access the medication they need by reversing a harmful Medicare policy that harms patients’ ability to get their medicines through the mail or to have a loved one pick it up at the doctor’s office if they are too sick to travel,” said Sinema, lead sponsor of the *Seniors’ Access to Critical Medicines Act*.

Sinema’s bipartisan bill would ensure Medicare beneficiaries’ timely access to life-saving medicines, such as cancer drugs, by granting doctors the authority to allow caregivers to pick-up loved ones’ medication, or mail medication to rural patients who cannot travel – making clear that doing so does not violate federal law.

Many doctors’ offices caring for seriously ill patients, like oncology clinics, will partner or run an on-site pharmacy to help cancer patients access their critical medicines. While Medicare rules (known as Stark law) allow a doctor to dispense prescription medications from an on-site pharmacy if the patient picks up the medication in person, a doctor’s office cannot mail, courier, or allow a caregiver to pick up the medicines on behalf of the patient under Stark rules. These rules were temporarily lifted during the pandemic to help patients access their medications, but has since expired. The *Seniors’ Access to Critical Medicines Act* amends section 1877 of the Social Security Act to clarify that doctors’ offices delivering medicines by mail or allowing a family member to pick up medicines on behalf of a patient does not violate Stark law.

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Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee's Statement on Governor Hobbs' Prop 123 Proposal

“Governor Hobbs just announced her proposal to increase Prop 123 distributions to 8.9%. The Governor's proposal is dangerous and unsustainable. It would break the bank. Governor Hobbs wants to raid the land trust to cover for her mismanagement of the state budget and overzealous spending plans in an ever-increasing inflationary environment. That is irresponsible and doesn't look out for the long-term vision of Arizona, and this land trust was put in place for our state's future.

As Treasurer, I oversee the management of the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund (PLETF) and oppose the Governor's egregious proposal. The purpose of the PLETF is to provide an ongoing revenue stream to the beneficiaries from the proceeds of any of the land entitled to the beneficiaries. That land is to provide an income stream to the beneficiaries and the Endowment was created to replace that revenue stream from the land holdings. Continuing at a 6.9%, or increasing the distribution to 8.9%, will likely dip into corpus and violates the terms of the Enabling Act, under which Arizona became a state.

Wall Street forecasters predict a 5.45% return for the next decade on a 60/40 portfolio like the PLETF. My office will continue to make the financial recommendation of a 4-5% distribution, as it is prudent and consistent with what most Endowments distribute annually. My office has not reported a 10-year return above 8.9% in nearly two years. Over the span of the last 10 years, only 32 months have had a 10-year return over 8.9%. In short, this means an increase to 8.9% is unfeasible based on past performance.”

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Simply because the state may disagree with the Party's choices in structuring or setting boundaries for itself does not entitle the state to constitutionally substitute its judgment for the Party's judgment.” — *U.S. District Judge John Tuchi in ordering Fontes not to accept any No Labels candidates on down ballot races.*

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From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-17
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:12:12 PM
Attachments: [1-17-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:48:38 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-17

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Attorneys try to read SCOTUS tea leaves on homeless case



After the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to take up a Ninth Circuit case, *Johnson v City of Grants Pass*, barring cities from citing homeless people sleeping or camping in public places if they have no available shelter, Phoenix's own maelstrom of superior and federal court proceedings over homeless camps hang in the balance. The bid for review at the high court invited amici briefs in support from [the legislature](#), the [city of Phoenix](#), [property owner and](#)

[resident plaintiffs](#) in the suit against Phoenix and the [Goldwater Institute](#). And while some attorneys are not so sure the holding is entirely doomed, others are convinced the high court is bound to overturn precedent set by the Ninth Circuit given the court's makeup and consensus across unlikely parties. Ilan Wurman, attorney for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Phoenix over the homeless camp "the Zone," said cities incorrectly interpret Ninth Circuit caselaw. "Clearly this idea has gotten out of control," Wurman said. "The way it's been subsequently interpreted to say, 'Well, you can't enforce camping and sleeping bans at all just because there won't be enough space for everybody.'" Wurman continues to represent the *Brown* plaintiffs as the City of Phoenix appeals the permanent injunction, and as an intervenor in the federal lawsuit filed by the Fund for Empowerment. He filed an amicus brief on the plaintiffs' behalf in support of cert at the Supreme Court too and is representing Tucson residents in challenging an encampment at the superior court using a similar strategy. Wurman said they never saw the precedent as a "hurdle" in cases against Phoenix and Tucson but said, "certainly, once we get rid of the Ninth Circuit decisions, the city loses one of its excuses and its defenses." Timothy Sandefur, VP of litigation at the Goldwater Institute, said, "I think that the Ninth Circuit ruling is so clearly wrong that I'm pretty confident that this case will come out the right way. Since you see both groups like the Goldwater Institute and also liberals like Governor Newsom of California, urging the Court to overturn the Ninth Circuit, it is pretty broad consensus that the Ninth Circuit got it wrong. And I expect that the US Supreme Court will say that." Ben Rundall, attorney for the Fund for Empowerment in the federal challenge to Phoenix, said he hopes the court upholds "basic fundamental constitutional rights for people who are unhoused," and said he anticipates cities will "weaponize criminal and civil citations against people" if the precedent is overturned. And given the constitutional considerations, Will Knight, decriminalization director for the National Homelessness Law Center, said "We're not dead in the water. This is about the rule of law, and just because you're homeless doesn't mean you're not protected by the law and by the

Constitution, and this Court sees that too.” He added, “I can't make any predictions, but I by no means am throwing in the towel.”

No automatic recounts for close municipal ballot measures

Arizona’s automatic recount law does not apply to close municipal elections, according to Mayes. In [an opinion](#) issued today, Mayes found the state law requiring “referred measures” be recounted given a result split by one half of a percent or less only encompasses statewide ballot measures. In November, Tucson voters passed a proposition to increase Mayor and councilmember salaries by a razor thin margin, leading to confusion on whether the election would be subject to Arizona’s automatic recount statute. The law excludes “precinct committeemen, school district governing boards, community college district governing boards, fire district boards or fire district chiefs or secretary-treasurers or boards of other special districts,” but is silent on municipalities. Mayes found a handful of separate statutes seeming to make a split between state elections and county elections and lower, and another law requiring cities and towns bear the cost of only municipal officer recounts. “If the legislature had intended to expand the recount article to encompass municipal elections more broadly, as opposed to just municipal officer elections, it could have said so. It did not,” Mayes wrote.

Mayes gives Hoffman more ammo to argue for ACA repeal

Mayes found “grandiose” CEO forums put on by the Arizona Commerce Authority violate the state constitution’s Gift Clause in failing to return an adequate public value. She [informed the ACA](#) the AG’s office will seek to stop any “future illegal payment of public monies,” namely two forums already planned for 2024. Mayes weighed in after [a Sept. 2023 sunset review](#) from the Arizona Auditor General flagged more than \$2.4 million in spending on five private CEO forums and asked Mayes to investigate whether the program ran afoul of state law. Both the Auditor General and Mayes’ review flagged a four-day forum in 2023 centered around Super Bowl LVII and the Waste Management Phoenix Open, that spanned 66 private business and cost more than \$2 million. ACA comped attendees’ accommodations, transportation and VIP tickets to both events and associated concerts and coordinated panels and meals with the governor, a U.S. Senator, ACA board members and university presidents, among others. In 2024, ACA anticipates hosting two forums around the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament and the Waste Management Phoenix Open, totaling more than \$1 million. Arizona courts employ a two-pronged test in assessing whether a public entity violated the Gift Clause. First, whether the expenditure serves a public purpose, and second, if deemed a proper public purpose, whether the value to the public exceeds the cost to taxpayers. Mayes found the ACA CEO forums serve some public purpose but fail to reap a concrete public benefit in return. Mayes notes the ACA uses a “funnel” to measure success, ranging from CEOs acknowledging the invitation to concrete closure of projects in Arizona. But Mayes writes “the mere hope of an Arizona-based project” is not enough to fulfill the requirement for public benefit. “Whether the ACA met ‘peak attendance’ with ‘qualified companies might lead to ‘awareness, sentiment, and preference’ for Arizona from those companies,” Mayes writes. “But those feelings provide the state with no cognizable economic value.” A spokesperson for ACA said, “We disagree with the AG’s opinion. From the beginning of this program, we’ve conferred with internal and external legal counsel to ensure it aligns with all state requirements. We are reviewing the AG’s opinion and will continue to work with legal counsel to consider next steps.”

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Republican parties in Yuma, Mohave counties have more in bank than Maricopa

County political parties ended 2023 with varying degrees of financial security. Maricopa County Democrats took the lead with more than [\\$87,000](#) in the bank, while Maricopa County Republicans only saw [\\$52,759](#). Some smaller county Republican committees beat out Maricopa County GOP too, with Yuma County Republicans ending the year with about [\\$86,000](#) and Mohave standing on about [\\$73,250](#).

Lake gets slight delay in defamation case

Lake is taking her appeal of two failed motions to dismiss Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer's defamation suit to the Arizona Supreme Court after the Arizona Court of Appeals declined jurisdiction. In a petition filed Monday, Lake asks the state high court to take up the case and stay trial court proceedings. The state high court [ordered](#) a response from Richer by Feb. 6 and agreed to stay proceedings in the interim but noted they only did so "for the limited purpose of obtaining a response from Richer."

·WAKE UP CALL·

Yee pans Hobbs Prop 123 extension proposal

Arizona Capitol Times

Gov. Katie Hobbs announced her plan to extend Proposition 123 and increase the percentage allocated from the state's land trust to 8.9% to fund schools, raise teacher and school staff pay, and invest in school safety.

Judge rules No Labels can refuse to let candidates run under its banner

Capitol Media Services

Arizonans can't run for office under the No Labels banner unless the party gives them permission.

Mayes: Commerce Authority 'CEO forums' illegal

Capitol Media Services

The wining and dining of corporate CEOs by the Arizona Commerce Authority is unconstitutional, Attorney General Kris Mayes said Tuesday.

Gov. Hobbs plans to raise Arizona teacher pay through Prop 123

Arizona's Family

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs released a plan to raise education funding that would give teachers and school staff a raise without the need to increase taxes on Arizonans.

New and upgraded health care facilities for Native Americans open in Arizona

Arizona Daily Sun

Three new and upgraded health facilities recently opened in Arizona to provide Native Americans with better access to health care, and more are in the works.

Arizona utilities TEP and Unisource launch 825MW 'firm capacity' RFP including storage

Energy Storage News

Arizona utilities Tucson Electric Power (TEP) and UniSource Energy have launched a request for proposals (RFP) for 825MW of 'firm power', primarily energy storage, alongside 625MW of renewables.

Corporate Transparency Act takes aim at financial crime

Arizona Capitol Times

Effective January 1, 2024, the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), requires most small and medium-sized

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businesses to disclose detailed ownership information directly with the Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN").

[**AZ spending on Super Bowl, golf tickets to woo CEOs is unconstitutional, says AG**](#)

AZ Mirror

Arizona's program to woo CEOs to bring business to the state violates the state's constitution, Attorney General Kris Mayes wrote Tuesday in a letter to the Arizona Commerce Authority.

[**Kris Mayes closes the ACA's honeypot on gifts for corporate bigwigs**](#)

The Arizona Republic

Democratic Attorney General Kris Mayes may have just made it easier for the Republican-controlled Legislature to end the Arizona Commerce Authority.

[**No Pants Light Rail Ride was a no-duh bad idea for Phoenix**](#)

The Arizona Republic

One of the Valley's more peculiar celebrations was held over the weekend, a "body positive" event in which people decide to ditch their britches and ride the light rail.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Attorney General Mayes Leads Multi-State Coalition Supporting Stronger EPA Safer Choice Standards

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mayes this week led a multi-state coalition in submitting [comments](#) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), proposing significant updates to the Safer Choice Standards. The attorneys general emphasize the importance of adopting a holistic 'cradle-to-grave' approach for assessing product life cycles and the need for an in-house audit team to verify safer chemical usage in products.

"As attorneys general, we recognize the importance of ensuring the highest standards for consumer products," said Attorney General Mayes. "The proposed updates to the EPA's Safer Choice Standards reflect our commitment to safeguarding our communities and fostering a market that values sustainable, safe alternatives. Our recommendations aim to strengthen these standards, ensuring they remain effective and relevant in promoting a healthier environment and protecting public health."

Key recommendations include the strict non-certification of products containing PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), known for their harmful environmental and health impacts. The attorneys general also expressed their deep concern about the environmental impact of plastic packaging. The submitted comments urge the EPA to avoid certification of products with plastic primary packaging and to develop a phasedown plan for such currently certified products to encourage non-plastic alternatives.

The attorneys general also raised concerns about labeling certain products as "flushable wipes," emphasizing the need for these products to meet rigorous standards of flushability before being certified. This is crucial to prevent plumbing blockages and environmental issues, as many products labeled as flushable do not disintegrate effectively in water systems, leading to significant infrastructural and environmental challenges.

The attorneys general also voiced support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) seeking Safer Choice certification. This would foster innovation and compliance among all market players, ensuring safer

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products for consumers and the environment.

The EPA's Safer Choice Standards are guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify and certify products that are safer for human health and the environment. These standards focus on reducing hazardous chemicals and promoting eco-friendly ingredients in various consumer and industrial products.

Products that meet these rigorous criteria are awarded the Safer Choice label, signaling to consumers that they are choosing items with safer chemical compositions. This program plays a crucial role in guiding both manufacturers and consumers toward more sustainable and health-conscious product choices.

The comments submitted by the attorneys general also address the need for greater transparency in product profiling and call for the removal of clauses potentially undermining the program's effectiveness. These updates are proposed to ensure that the Safer Choice label remains a gold standard for environmental and human health safety in the product market.

Attorney General Mayes is joined in submitting these comments by the attorneys general of Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, Vermont, Maryland, Connecticut, Minnesota, California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Oregon. The coalition is also joined by the Corporation Counsel of the City of New York.

A copy of the submitted comments is available [here](#).

###

Kelly, Ossoff Reintroduce Ban Corporate PACs Act

Today, ahead of the anniversary of the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision that allowed corporate money to pour into our political system, Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) reintroduced the *Ban Corporate PACs Act* to reduce corporate influence in Washington by prohibiting for-profit corporations from influencing political campaigns and federal elections. They [first](#) introduced this bill in 2022.

Corporate PACs are often established by corporations to influence policy, with corporations able to fund the creation and operation of the PAC, solicit donations from their employees and wealthy stockholders, and then make contributions to political candidates at a higher legal limit than those placed on contributions from individuals.

“On issues from tackling climate change to reducing costs for working families, we’ve seen that big corporations have too much sway on what happens in Washington. Senator Ossoff and I understand that representatives need to be accountable to their constituents, not big corporations. Our bill will end the influence corporate PACs have on our political system and make Washington work better for Arizonans,” **said Kelly**.

“I don’t take contributions from corporate PACs. Corporate money corrupts the legislative process, and I’m leading this effort alongside Senator Kelly to ban corporate PACs altogether — as I said I would when I ran for the Senate,” **said Ossoff**.

“For too long, big corporations have had unfettered access and influence in the halls of Congress because they spend millions of dollars every election cycle to influence candidates,” **said End Citizens United** //

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Let America Vote Action Fund President Tiffany Muller. “The *Ban Corporate PACs Act* is a critical step in ensuring our government works for the people—not just greedy corporate special interests. We applaud Senator Kelly and Senator Ossoff for reintroducing this important piece of legislation and their continued work to make Washington reflective of the people.”

Kelly is the only member of Congress to take the following three transparency and accountability steps: place his assets in Qualified Blind Trusts, release his official Senate schedule, and not take Corporate PAC contributions to his campaign. According to *Insider*, Kelly and Ossoff are two of [only 10](#) sitting members of Congress to put their own stock portfolios in blind trusts.

The *Ban Corporate PACs Act* would:

- Eliminate the ability of for-profit corporations to establish and manage a PAC.
- Eliminate the ability of for-profit corporations or PACs to solicit contributions from corporate stockholders.
- Require that existing corporate PACs that will no longer be allowed under this Act be terminated and funds be fully disbursed within 1 year after enactment of the Act.

The reintroduction of the *Ban Corporate PACs Act* follows Kelly and Ossoff’s recent [reintroduction](#) of their bill prohibiting members of Congress, their spouses, and dependent family members from buying and selling stocks while the member holds office.

Click [here](#) to read the *Ban Corporate PACs Act*.

###

Governor Hobbs’ \$5 Million Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Funding Helps City of Globe and Other Small Public Water Systems Serve Healthy Drinking Water

PHOENIX (Jan. 17, 2024) – In response to concerns about PFAS found in three public drinking water systems serving the Globe community, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is collaborating with the City of Globe on actions and solutions that will ensure community members in the area receive healthy drinking water. This collaboration was made possible by \$5 million allocated by Governor Katie Hobbs and the Arizona Legislature to ADEQ in 2023 to identify, contain and treat Arizona water sources for PFAS chemicals.

“The City of Globe, HAV Properties and August Hills Mobile Home Park are the first three public water systems in the state to benefit from this important perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) funding from Governor Hobbs,” said ADEQ Cabinet Executive Officer Karen Peters. “ADEQ is providing engineering and technical expertise and financial resources to address PFAS found in the City of Globe drinking water and then connect two neighboring small public water systems to the City’s PFAS-free water source.”

“This partnership and investment demonstrate a commitment to the health and well-being of our community,” said City of Globe Mayor Al Gameros. “We look forward to working in close partnership with ADEQ to safeguard our water resources and ensure a continued safe water supply into the future.”

In anticipation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalizing its National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for certain PFAS compounds, which will apply to approximately 950 Arizona systems, both ADEQ and public water systems have been conducting PFAS testing to identify the extent of PFAS in Arizona drinking water. While data for large systems is still being collected under EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) testing program, estimates from ADEQ’s ongoing

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sampling, which is 90 percent complete, indicate that 70 or more small water systems (serving 3,300 or less customers) could require PFAS mitigation when EPA's regulation goes into effect.

To provide support to small water systems and disadvantaged communities that will need assistance to address PFAS, ADEQ developed and is implementing a statewide drinking water PFAS mitigation plan. ADEQ's plan leverages both the \$5 million in state funding and an additional \$42 million in federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding and includes:

- **Testing for public drinking water systems** – Confirming PFAS contamination and testing for other contaminants that can interfere with PFAS treatment.
- **Hydrogeologic evaluations** – Assessing several PFAS-impacted areas of the state where the hydrogeology is less-studied. These evaluations will help drinking water providers make decisions such as removing wells from service, relocating wells, blending water, and connecting with another system.
- **Treatment and infrastructure improvements** – Providing funding for design and construction of PFAS mitigation strategies, such as connection to a clean water source, deepening existing wells or drilling new wells, or PFAS treatment.
- **PFAS education for drinking water professionals** – Hosting a forum to discuss industry perspectives on PFAS solutions, developing technical guidance documents for engineers designing PFAS treatment systems and conducting ongoing training webinars.

Background and Resources

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals with fire-retardant properties that have been used commercially in the United States to make products like stain and water resistant carpet and textiles, food packaging, firefighting foam, as well as in other industrial processes. Some PFAS can accumulate in people, animals, and the environment over time. While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals are in water supplies. A lifetime of exposure to certain PFAS levels in drinking water is associated with negative health effects.

To learn more about ADEQ's proactive approach to PFAS and view Arizona drinking water data for PFAS, visit: azdeq.gov/pfas-resources.

###

Greater Phoenix Digital Library Ranks #11 in the World with 6 Million Digital Checkouts

MARICOPA COUNTY, Ariz. – January 17 – Maricopa County library users have reached a new milestone: 6 million digital books borrowed in 2023 from the [Greater Phoenix Digital Library consortia](#) (GPDL). According to a report released from [OverDrive](#), GPDL, consisting of eight library systems in Maricopa County, is #11 on the worldwide ranking of digital checkouts from OverDrive's Libby app.

The Greater Phoenix Digital Library is a public library consortia consisting of [Apache Junction Public Library](#), [Casa Grande Public Library](#), [Glendale Public Library](#), [Maricopa County Library District](#), [Mesa Public Library](#), [Peoria Public Library](#), [Phoenix Public Library](#), and [Scottsdale Public Library](#). By partnering together on the digital platform, the eight library systems are able to offer a more robust and diverse collection at a lower expense on each library's budget than if they were to offer the digital collection on their own.

“The Greater Phoenix Digital Library consortia is a partnership with one goal: to get more books into more hands,” said Jeremy Reeder, Maricopa County Library District Director and County Librarian. “The fact

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that our community of readers is ranked one of the highest in the world is a testament to the support of our civic leaders and residents who continue to prioritize a strong library system in our growing county.”

These 6 million digital checkouts represent only a portion of the digital content Maricopa County residents are checking out. Many members of the consortia offer additional digital library platforms including [Hoopla](#), [TumbleBooks](#), [Kanopy](#), and [more](#). In its Fiscal Year 2022-2023, Maricopa County Library District alone reached 3 million digital checkouts of books, music, and movies between all of its digital entertainment platforms. The library district’s online databases, which includes platforms for career development, education resources, small business builders, and more, were used nearly 800,000 times last fiscal year.

All Maricopa County residents can access digital content, for free, with a valid library card any of the 15 public library systems in the County. A library card is free for any Maricopa County resident at all member libraries. Readers can use any major device, including Apple®, Android™, Chromebook™ and Kindle®.

The highest-circulating title Greater Phoenix Digital Library readers borrowed in 2023 was *Verity* by Colleen Hoover. The top-circulating genre, Fiction, represents the most popular in a vast catalog that also includes mystery, romance, children/young adult and more.

The top 5 ebook titles borrowed through Greater Phoenix Library’s digital collection in 2023:

1. *Verity* by Colleen Hoover
2. *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover
3. *The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham
4. *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
5. *It Starts with Us* by Colleen Hoover

The top 5 audiobook titles borrowed through Greater Phoenix Library’s digital collection in 2023:

1. *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover
2. *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros
3. *I’m Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy
4. *Spare* by Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex
5. *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas

###

Congressman Biggs Introduces Legislation to Protect National Security Personnel Salaries Amid Spending Fight

Today, Congressman Andy Biggs introduced the “Funding A Secure America Act” to provide an alternative path to those who think Congress can only pass a bloated spending package or shut down the government. Congressman Biggs’s bill would fund the salaries of national-security related personnel—including our military, Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, TSA, and Department of Veterans Affairs—through the end of the fiscal year. Doing so relieves the pressures of the all-or-nothing funding approach that often leads Republicans to pass spending bills that are bad for the country.

“House Republicans have a huge piece of leverage against Joe Biden’s reckless policies—the power of the purse,” said Congressman Biggs. If we want the border secured, if we want spending reined in, if we want left-wing policies ended, we cannot continue to fund Biden’s current policies. I will not support a spending plan that promotes bloated, COVID-era funding levels and continues the status quo, even if it means parts

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of the government temporarily shut down until the Biden Administration secures the border.

“But we must provide for the federal employees who will continue serving on the front lines to keep our nation safe. My bill would fund their salaries until a new spending agreement is reached. This common sense path provides the breathing room House Republicans need to fight for what’s right while ensuring our national security isn’t jeopardized.”

Cosponsors of this bill are: Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT), Rep. Eli Crane (R-AZ), Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN), Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC), Rep. Eric Burlison (R-MO), and Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA).

The bill may be read [here](#).

###

Attorney General Mayes Finds ACA CEO Forums Violate Gift Clause

PHOENIX – Attorney General Kris Mayes today announced that the Arizona Commerce Authority's (ACA) CEO Forums violate the Arizona Constitution's Gift Clause. The Attorney General shared the findings with the ACA in a letter sent earlier today. This finding comes after a request for an investigation from the Arizona Auditor General in September 2023 to determine if these forums violated the state's constitutional gift rules during the ACA's sunset review.

"As they currently exist, the CEO Forums violate the Gift Clause of the Arizona Constitution," said Attorney General Mayes. "The current structure of the CEO Forums confers significant value on invited private executives and their guests without obtaining any identifiable value for the state."

The purpose of the Gift Clause is to prevent the government from giving away public assets to private businesses. As such, the Gift Clause prohibits the state from making "any donation or grant, by subsidy or otherwise, to any individual, association, or corporation."

"While the ACA may hold forums that confer a nominal value on attendees, its past forums, including last year's \$2 million Super Bowl Forum and its planned 2024 Forums, do not come close to meeting that requirement," continued Mayes. "My office fully intends to uphold the state's constitution and will seek to prevent any future illegal payment of public monies to private entities by the ACA."

A copy of the letter to the ACA is available [here](#).

###

STATEMENT: Gallego on the Expected U.S. Decision to Re-Designate the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ-03), ranking member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, released the following statement in reaction to reports that the United States will soon re-designate the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO).

Statement from Rep. Ruben Gallego:

“As a Marine who fought terrorists, a leader on the Armed Services Committee, and one of a few Democrats who called for this designation with my Republican colleagues last November, I support this

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decision. The Houthis continue to attack vessels and the surrounding region. They're a terrorist organization, and designating them as such is the correct move.”

In November, Rep. Gallego [joined a bipartisan letter](#) calling for the United States to re-designate the Houthis as an FTO. After the U.S. launched strikes against the Houthis last week, Rep. Gallego [released a statement](#) in support of the operation.

###

Valley Partnership January Friday Morning Breakfast: Polling, Pundits and Predictions for 2024

Phoenix, AZ— Valley Partnership’s January Friday Morning Breakfast will focus on political predictions for the upcoming year. As the Arizona Legislature debates policy proposals and the 2024 election season heats up, local experts will review the latest voter sentiment toward candidates, major policy issues, and their predictions for November.

Pollster Paul Bentz will provide a data based analysis of where the Arizona electorate is on the issues that matter in 2024 and will decide the upcoming elections. Political strategists Stacy Pearson and Matt Benson and moderator Steve Goldstein will cover what to expect in the upcoming session and the political dynamics leading up to the election. have decades of experience in political campaigns and policy initiatives at the Arizona Capitol.

The breakfast event is scheduled for Friday, January 19th at 7:30am, with guest registration available online at the Valley Partnership [website](#).

WHAT: Valley Partnership January Morning Breakfast

WHO:

- Paul Bentz, Senior Vice President of Research & Strategy, Highground
- Matt Benson, Partner, Veridus
- Stacy Pearson, Co-founder, Lumen Strategies
- Moderator: Steve Goldstein

WHEN: Friday, January 19th

WHERE: Phoenix Country Club: 2901 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ

TIME: Networking and Breakfast: 7:00am; Program: 7:30am-9:00

###

Senate Passes Sinema Bill Ensuring Accountability for Working Dog Programs

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate unanimously passed Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema’s bipartisan *Working Dog Health and Welfare Act* – legislation she introduced alongside Republican Senator Mike Braun (Ind.).

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Sinema's bill, which is now one step closer to becoming law, ensures the wellbeing of dogs in working dog programs by implementing best practice recommendations from the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

"I'm proud that the Senate came together to pass our commonsense legislation protecting Arizona working dogs from inhumane treatment. We're ensuring they are strong and healthy to keep Arizonans safe and secure," said Sinema.

In 2022, GAO published a report on the health and welfare of working dogs within federal programs. The report found many agency shortcomings that affect working dogs' wellbeing, including that nearly half of relevant agencies lack policies aimed at detecting abuse and neglect. Other shortcomings included agencies lacking policies that address emergency medical care, food and water, and euthanasia.

Sinema's *Working Dog Health and Welfare Act* would require agencies to implement GAO's recommendations for existing working dog programs. It would also require agencies to proactively implement GAO's recommendations when standing up new working dog programs.

Over 5,000 working dogs serve in the federal government, some of which work at airports and land ports of entry in Arizona to detect dangerous drugs and explosives. Sinema's bill will ensure these law enforcement programs can fulfill their mission to keep Arizona communities safe and secure.

###

Free Legal Information Clinic to be held in January

PHOENIX (January 17, 2024) – Whether a person is looking to change their name, receive child support, or start the process to get a divorce, the Law Library Resource Center has forms available at no cost to start these court processes.

While many people visit the Law Library Resource Center seeking help, others in need of assistance may not be able to travel to one of the four library locations in Maricopa County. To bring the resources of the Law Library closer to the communities we serve, the Law Library Resource Center, part of the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County, is hosting free Legal Information and Navigation Clinics (LINC) at public libraries around the Valley.

The clinics are open to any member of the public who needs assistance in navigating the court system. While there, members of the public can receive help in English and Spanish with court forms such as divorce, paternity, child support, guardianship and more.

Upcoming clinics include:

- January 31 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Southeast Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road in Gilbert.

While court staff can assist with court forms, they cannot provide legal advice. For those interested, the Law Library Resource Center staff can provide guidance and information about free or low-cost legal resources available in the community.

Superior court forms are available in English and Spanish in a fillable pdf format by visiting:

<https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/llrc/>

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For more information, contact the Law Library Resource Center at <https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/llrc/>, by phone at 602-506-7353 or via email at services@jbazmc.maricopa.gov.

###

Supervisors Vote to End State Contract on Immunizations

Lake Havasu City, AZ – At their board meeting on Tuesday, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors in a 3-2 decision, voted to not extend the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) contract that is linked to the CDC’s Bridge Access Program. According to Supervisor Buster Johnson, who voted in favor of extending the contract, the motion to deny the extension will mean an end to all immunizations once undertaken by the County’s health department. “I understand the majority of the Board voted this down due to the extension giving us additional funding to administer the COVID-19 vaccines to underinsured individuals; however, by doing so they rejected the contract for all immunizations for Mohave County,” Johnson stated.

The discussion surrounding the agenda item focused on the COVID-19 aspect, however; the item was simply being amended with additional funding due to the CDC now grouping the COVID-19 vaccine in with all other vaccines. “The COVID vaccine is now just another elected vaccine similar to that of the flu shot,” Johnson said. “By denying this, we not only will no longer be reimbursed by the State for the COVID vaccine, but also for the flu shot and other vaccinations such as polio and the measles,” Johnson continued. The denial also affects two major pharmacies in Mohave County, Walgreens and CVS. Both pharmacies partnered with the County to receive COVID vaccinations and reimbursement through this program. Without the County administering it, these pharmacies will no longer be reimbursed. Both pharmacies will still offer the vaccine; however, for those underinsured or uninsured, it will no longer be a reimbursable expense through the County.

According to figures from the County’s health department, between 5500-6500 children receive their immunizations from the County each year. Under Arizona revised statute, counties are mandated to provide school age children immunizations required by school districts upon a parent’s request. “Parents will still be able to come to the county and get their children’s required immunizations; however, instead of the State funding not only the cost of the immunizations but also that of the nursing staff to administer it, county taxpayers will have to foot the bill through the general fund,” Johnson explained.

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“It’s like loving your child. You can love your child, but you may not like them a lot at the moment.” — *Wilmeth on his mixed feelings for the Arizona Commerce Authority.*

January 17, 2024

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 1-18
Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 8:48:00 AM
Attachments: [01-18-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 8:45 AM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-18

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Kern looks to dumb down ASU



Kern followed through in introducing legislation to cut funding from ASU. SB1152 (Arizona state university; appropriation reduction) proposes a \$548 million in cuts to the university. Kern chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech at Arizona's Public Universities to investigate a conservative speaking

engagement at ASU last February. Dennis Prager and Charlie Kirk spoke at a university event, despite some pushback from faculty. But the host center closed in the aftermath, leading to claims of censorship and suppressed speech. ASU's own report into the incident found no free speech violations. At the final meeting of the committee, Kern independently called to cut ASU funding over the controversy. The proposal runs counter to Hobbs' budget item proposing a \$46 million one-time investment into the AZ Healthy Tomorrow Initiative, an ABOR initiative to fund efforts at the state's public universities to create and expand medical schools. ASU announced the creation of a biotech engineering focused medical school last June. An ASU spokesperson declined to comment.

Light rail line proposed within walking distance of Legislature

Though the light rail is blocked from circling around the state capitol per a bill signed last session as part of Prop. 400 negotiations, the city of Phoenix and Valley Metro announced the updated route will come somewhat close. Valley Metro modified the [Capitol Extension line](#) to run down Washington to 15th Avenue before looping in front of the Arizona Supreme Court and running back down Jefferson to the Third Avenue and Jefferson St station. Prop. 400, signed by Hobbs in August, puts 37% of funds collected from a half-cent sales tax to public transit and is slated to go to Maricopa County voters in the general election. The measure made it past the finish line in the Legislature despite some significant Republican pushback, but a key part of negotiations was a required kibosh on

the Capitol loop. SB1102 barred any light rail extension from going near the area between 17th and 18th Avenue and Adams and Jefferson. Valley Metro plans to preview the Capitol Extension, alongside other transit projects, at public forums in February and intends to hold Capitol Extension specific meetings with stakeholders down the line. Juliana Vasquez-Keating, PIO for Valley Metro, said lawmakers and court staff have been involved in the process given proximity to the legislature and courts.

Horne hires new lobbyist

The Dept. of Education hired Camilla Strongin to serve as their new director of legislative affairs. Strongin ran former state Senator and Senate president Steve Pierce's campaigns and the 2010 gubernatorial candidate Buz Mills' campaign. She served a short stint as a spokesperson for AZGOP and as a partner with the since dissolved Symington Group, which later became The Engaging Company. She previously lobbied for Banner Health and Independent Energy Group, according to her lobbyist profile. A spokesperson for ADE said she started last week.

New discovery dispute in Prop 211 challenge

Clean Elections got into another [discovery tiff](#) with the Center for Arizona Policy and the Arizona Free Enterprise Club in the pair's bid to get out of the Voters Right to Know Act on an as-applied constitutional technicality. CAP and AFEC must prove complying with the donor disclosure law would subject them to threats and harassment. James Smith, attorney for Clean Elections, sought communications between CAP, AFEC and the House Speaker, Senate President, and policy advisors to prove the two groups have not experienced government-backed harassment. Scott Freeman, attorney for CAP and AFEC, said the request was too broad and overreaching. Smith floated the idea of Freeman stipulating the fact that CAP and AFEC are not minor fringe parties advocating almost universally rejected ideas, which Freeman said he would consider. Judge Scott McCoy denied Clean Elections requests for documents and directed the parties to try and work it out among themselves. The parties are due in court for argument on preliminary injunction on Jan. 31.

·WAKE UP CALL·

Lawmakers debate whether sunset reviews becoming weaponized

Arizona Capitol Times

Arizona's Freedom Caucus leader tightened the reins on state agencies Wednesday by announcing the Senate Government Committee would recommend only two-year continuations for the 10 agencies on the agenda up for a sunset review.

Border sheriff's make their case on border to lawmakers

Arizona Capitol Times

Two border sheriffs addressed state lawmakers during a special joint legislative session calling for legislative action and support for law enforcement's border efforts.

House committee approves 'tamale bill'

Capitol Media Services

A measure designed to finally legalize the already common practice of people selling home-made tamales and similar goods cleared its first hurdle Wednesday.

Arizona AG: No recount of narrow vote margin for Tucson mayor & Council raise

AZ Mirror

January 18, 2024

Tucson's mayor and City Council received a hefty raise with a narrow ballot margin in November, and Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes issued a legal opinion Wednesday that the 289-vote edge doesn't trigger a recount under state law.

[**GOP lawmakers recommend 'revising' Arizona Commerce Authority**](#)

KJZZ

Keeping the Arizona Commerce Authority going is a priority for Gov. Katie Hobbs, but a Republican-controlled panel voted against continuing the agency.

[**The Gun Influencer Who Used Small-Town Cops to Import Machine Guns**](#)

The Wall Street Journal

James Sawyer, the police chief and only officer in Ray, N.D., spent his days waiting to catch the occasional driver going over the 25 mph speed limit where the highway hits this farm town of 700 residents.

[**Wells Fargo economists no longer expect recession, citing 'the facts'**](#)

Phoenix Business Journal

The fine print on economic forecasts usually doesn't state it explicitly, but it's implied: We reserve the right to change our minds.

[**I don't like red light cameras, either. But there's a good reason to keep them**](#)

The Arizona Republic

Most every day I pass through the intersection, the one where an SUV blasted through a red light and slammed into my young son.

[**3 simple ways to express your support for border security and not be racist**](#)

The Arizona Republic

Apparently, there are individuals among us who don't quite know if they are racist or not. We should help them.

[**Arizona Commerce Authority will pay \(politically\) for those gifts it lavished on CEOs**](#)

The Arizona Republic

Democratic Attorney General Kris Mayes may have just made it easier for the Republican-controlled Legislature to end the Arizona Commerce Authority.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Press Releases will not be in today's edition, but will return tomorrow.

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 1-24
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:57:00 PM
Attachments: [1-24-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:56 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-24

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From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-24
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7:38:51 PM
Attachments: [1-24-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:56:17 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-24

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From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 2-1
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 7:39:02 PM
Attachments: [2-1-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:35:37 PM
Cc: .Senate Republican Staff <SenateRepublicanStaff@azleg.gov>; Anthony Kern <AKern@azleg.gov>; Chris Kleminich <CKleminich@azleg.gov>; Joe Kubacki <JKubacki@azleg.gov>; John Kavanagh <JKavanagh@azleg.gov>; Liam Maher <LMaher@azleg.gov>; Mike Braun <mbraun@azleg.gov>; Molly Graver <MGraver@azleg.gov>; Pete Galvan <pgalvan@azleg.gov>; Richard Stavneak <jlbcDirector@azleg.gov>; Shane McFarland <SMcFarland@azleg.gov>; Sine Kerr <SKerr@azleg.gov>; Sonny Borrelli <sborrelli@azleg.gov>; Susie Myers <SMyers@azleg.gov>; Thomas T.J. Shope <tshope@azleg.gov>; Todd O'Brien <TO'Brien@azleg.gov>; Warren Petersen <wpetersen@azleg.gov>
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From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Cory Blumstein](#); mrodham@edf.org
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-24
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:57:00 PM
Attachments: [1-24-24.pdf](#)

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

AZGOP becomes party of bribes and extortion

Jeff DeWit resigned as chair of the AZGOP today following a released recording of a conversation where he, on behalf of people “back east,” attempts to bribe Lake to leave politics. In a statement today, DeWit claimed Lake “orchestrated the entire situation to have control over the state party.” And though he said he was initially determined to stay in his position, he decided to resign after Lake’s



team gave him an “ultimatum ... resign today or face the release of a new, more damaging recording.” DeWit said he thought it best not to take the risk. As for the audio recording already making the rounds, DeWit said the conversation was “selectively edited,” and “taken out of context.” He contends he was trying to offer “perspective, not coercion.” DeWit said the leaked recording “confirms a disturbing tendency to exploit private interactions for personal gain and increases concerns about her habit of secretly recording personal and private conversations” DeWit added that Lake was his employee at the time and said her recording of the conversation “raises serious legal and moral concerns,” as he claimed it to be a “violation of the fiduciary responsibilities of an employee.” In Lake’s 2022 [financial disclosure statement](#), she notes she was employed as a communication advisor with DeWit’s company [FeedMe Inc.](#)

Cue the fiddles, AZGOP burning

With DeWit out, GOP consultants said the Republican Party could end up cannibalizing itself if it continues to steer too far right. Consultant Chuck Coughlin said failure to appeal to more moderate Republicans and independent voters pose a significant electoral challenge for 2024. “I told Karen Fann the day she started the audit. ‘I’m going to watch the Republican Party burn to the ground.’ That’s exactly what’s happening,” Coughlin said. DeWit’s resignation comes days before the state party’s mandatory meeting Saturday. GOP consultant Barrett Marson said he had heard Liz Harris and JD Hayworth floated as potential replacements. But Hayworth told our reporter he did not plan to take up DeWit’s seat. “While I want to be helpful to my State and Party, my new job as a Host at *KFNN Radio* would preclude service as GOP State Chairman,” Hayworth said. Michelle Rugloski, first vice chairman of LD3, the state’s party’s largest LD, said she had not heard any names circulating the party just yet but noted if any nominations did come about Saturday, they would likely come from the floor. “I don’t think that they would schedule another meeting in a couple months, which will be thousands and thousands of dollars to get everybody back down here.” Rugloski said the audio recording with Lake made DeWit sound like a “used car salesman.” She noted Saturday’s meeting will draw more lines in

the sand. “We have the Democrats that we’re going up against. We have the RINOs, which are basically the Democrats. Then we have the big part of the establishment or the Uni-Party. So, like Jeff DeWit, like Liz Cheney, the McCain type people,” Rugloski said. “We sent around the message that America First, we the people are the ones who are in control, and we’re the ones who are for election integrity, for truth, for justice.”

Prevailing wage dispute goes to court

Contractor groups followed through on their promise to challenge the legality of prevailing wage ordinances adopted by cities. The Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona, Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, and Arizona Builders Alliance, represented by attorneys from the Goldwater Institute, [sued](#) the City of Phoenix for adopting a prevailing wage ordinance, a provision requiring city construction contractors to pay on par with the standard rate for the same work in the same area. The Phoenix City Council moved to adopt a prevailing wage ordinance last year, but later rescinded the ordinance given legality concerns. Mayes later issued an opinion finding cities could adopt prevailing wage ordinances as she deemed them to be a type of minimum wage. And because setting a minimum wage falls within city control, if it is not lower than the state’s, Mayes concluded cities could legally go forward with the ordinance. But in the complaint, John Thorpe, attorney for the contractor groups, points out an earlier state statute that expressly forbids cities from enacting prevailing wage laws and should render the ordinance “invalid in its entirety.” Both Phoenix and Tucson city councils adopted prevailing wage ordinances earlier this month.

Wait for the Richer tapes next

Richer asked the Arizona Supreme Court to allow his defamation case against Lake to proceed in the latest filings at the Arizona Supreme Court. Lake saw two motions to dismiss the case denied at the superior court. And after the Arizona Court of Appeals denied special action review, Lake appealed her failed motions to dismiss to the Arizona Supreme Court. Lake claims Richer’s defamation suit cannot stand under the rules of civil procedure and the state’s anti-SLAPP statute, a law requiring the dismissal of legal action brought with a “desire to deter, retaliate against or prevent the lawful exercise of a constitutional right.” In response, Richer’s attorney Daniel Maynard contends the superior court’s denial of her motion to dismiss was the “routine, straightforward and correct application” of caselaw on defamation suits. And as for the anti-SLAPP law, Maynard argued that by relying on Richer’s complaint to establish proof that he brought the suit to tread of Lake’s free speech rights, Lake failed to provide adequate evidence; especially as Richer claims Lake made statements with actual malice. Maynard asks the court to deny review and dissolve the stay on superior court proceedings.

Kaching heard in competitive districts

Campaign finance reports for 2023 were due eight days ago and competitive legislative districts are starting to see large influxes of cash as the 2024 election approaches. The reporting period covers Jan. 1, 2023, to Dec. 31, 2023. Democrats are pouring money in LD2 behind Schwiebert’s Senate campaign, who raised \$81,000 and has a cash balance of \$122,000. Bolick is not far behind and outraised Schwiebert with \$97,000 but has a cash balance of just under \$92,000. On the House side, Wilmeth raised \$52,000 and has \$70,000 now, being the top fundraiser in the district’s House race. Democrat Stephanie Simacek has \$22,000, which is more comparable to Republican Ari Bradshaw who also has \$22,000. Simacek did outraise Bradshaw by about \$3,000. Republicans are also targeting Seaman’s seat

January 24, 2024

in LD16. Republican Chris Lopez fundraised nearly \$60,000 in 2023 while Seaman has just under \$7,000 in cash balance. Democrats are trying to hold onto Terech and Marsh's seats in LD4. Terech raised about \$60,000 and Marsh raised \$83,000. Republican Carnie Werner who is running for Marsh's seat raised \$21,000 and no Republican other than Gress has filed to run in the House in the district. Gress raised over \$200,000 during 2023 and has a cash balance of \$144,000.

Rogers won't need to trespass at any voter's home at this rate

There are also some anticipated primary races. Cook has a cash balance of \$130,000 for his Senate race in LD7 and raised \$47,000, but still is far from Rogers' \$343,000 and \$600,000 raised during 2023. Leach's attempted return to the legislature has netted him \$42,000 against Wadsack's \$43,000, although Leach outraised her by close to \$7,000 in 2023.

·WAKE UP CALL·

Arizona might start regulating groundwater pumping in farming area

Arizona Daily Star

Arizona is considering ushering in regulation of groundwater pumping in the Gila Bend area that officials say is suffering some of the worst water level declines in the state.

Arizona's History Of State Ballot Measures: Approval And Defeat Rates Revealed

Zenger News

Since 1911, there have been 459 state ballot measures in Arizona. Voters approved 237 (51.63%) and defeated 222 (48.37%). Ballotpedia has a complete dataset of state ballot measures for Arizona, which became a state in 1912.

Charitable Or Criminal? Arizona Nonprofit Latest Being Punished Over Feeding Homeless Without Permits

Forbes

An Arizona nonprofit has been barred from hosting its weekly picnics for the homeless in Tempe public parks for at least a year after city officials banned the events due to what they called "repeated defiance" of local permitting laws.

ADOT looking to have 21 electric vehicle charging stations along interstates by 2025

KJZZ

The Arizona Department of Transportation is taking its first major step toward establishing a statewide network of electric vehicle charging stations.

Audio recording reveals the moment that senior Republican figure tried to bribe Kari Lake not to run for Senate

Daily Mail

An audio recording obtained by DailyMail.com reveals the extraordinary moment when what appears to be Arizona's top Republican official tried to bribe populist firebrand Kari Lake not to run in the state's Senate race.

Forest Service amending management of old-growth forest

Arizona Daily Sun

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service are soliciting comments and feedback on the creation of new management policies for old-growth forests across the county.

Fueled by conspiracy, Republicans look to ban taxes on miles driven to supplement falling gas tax

AZ Mirror

Members of the far-right Arizona Freedom Caucus want to ban any future possibility of a tax on miles

January 24, 2024

driven, a measure that some states have explored to replace falling revenue from gasoline taxes as hybrid and fully electric vehicles become more common.

[International Women's Forum Arizona announces new board of directors](#)

Daily Independent

The International Women's Forum Arizona announced its 2024 board of directors who will each help support the nonprofit's mission to advancing women's leadership and championing equality with creating an Arizona mentorship program: Women Opening Doors to Women

[Fake Arizona elector Anthony Kern has a plan to make stealing elections legal](#)

The Arizona Republic

Arizona state Sen. Anthony Kern, one of the Republicans being investigated by Attorney General Kris Mayes for falsely certifying that the state's electoral college votes should be awarded to Donald Trump instead of winner Joe Biden, has come up with a novel approach to protect election stealers in the future: Make it legal.

[Rep. Andy Biggs gives Arizona abortion rights advocates a big \(unintended\) boost](#)

The Arizona Republic

Leave it to Arizona Republican U.S. Rep. Andy Biggs to do something that provides a big shot in the arm for a cause that he desperately wants to shoot down.

[The critical role of free school meals](#)

Arizona Daily Star

All Arizona children deserve access to food at school so they can be focused, engaged learners.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Representative Matt Gress Sponsors “State Foreign Agents Registration Act”

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Matt Gress has sponsored [HB 2506](#), the *State Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)*, legislation requires transparency from foreign agents acting on behalf of adversarial countries within Arizona. Though a federal FARA exists, there are loopholes that are known to be easily exploited, with many foreign agents flying under the radar.

“I am proud to sponsor the State Foreign Agents Registration Act as a crucial step towards safeguarding our democracy,” Representative Gress stated. **“While the federal FARA has its merits, our state legislation aims to close existing loopholes that have allowed foreign agents to operate unnoticed. As foreign nations increasingly attempt to exert influence on American soil, it is important that we take proactive measures to ensure we protect Arizonans from efforts to compromise our freedom and security.”**

HB 2506 requires foreign agents from foreign adversaries to register with the Arizona Attorney General's Office. Common exceptions to the federal FARA, including for commerce, religious activities, research, or education are removed for a state law under HB 2506. Additionally, propaganda materials created and distributed by foreign agents must be clearly labeled. Penalties for failing to register include civil financial penalties and dismissal from employment or enrollment for workers and students who operate as unregistered foreign agents on behalf of American adversaries.

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The legislation would help protect U.S. citizens and foreign nationals residing in Arizona from foreign agents acting on behalf of countries such as China, Russia, and Iran who seek to impose their authoritarian rule domestically.

Matt Gress is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 4 in Phoenix. He also serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Budgetary Funding Formulas. Follow him on X/Twitter at @MatthewGress.

###

House Education Committee Greenlights Kolodin Bill Empowering Student Choice in Funding Campus Organizations

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Alexander Kolodin announced that the House Education Committee today approved [HB 2178](#), bipartisan legislation he has sponsored to empower public university students in determining the allocation of their tuition and fees to support student organizations and clubs. The bill was approved along party lines, with all Republicans supporting the commonsense policy.

“No student should be compelled to fund groups that harbor ideologies against their beliefs, especially when those groups literally seek to destroy them,” said Representative Kolodin. **“Testimony shared during the Ad Hoc Committee on Antisemitism [meeting](#) in December detailed troubling experiences of harassment and discrimination based on Jewish identity. It was clear that more must be done to address the increasing problem of antisemitism on school campuses. That’s the intent behind my sponsorship of HB 2178, which will ensure that every student, including our Jewish community, has the autonomy to support organizations aligned with their values.”**

Provisions of HB 2178:

- **Empowering Student Choice:** Mandates that each public university, when transferring funds to university-recognized student organizations or clubs, must allow every tuition-paying student to designate one or more organizations to receive a proportional share of the transferred funds.
- **Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:** HB 2178 ensures that funds are transferred in accordance with the students’ selections, promoting transparency and accountability in the allocation process.
- **Default Allocation for Unselected Students:** If a student opts not to select any student organizations or clubs, the money they contribute will be distributed according to the rules already in place by law. This ensures fair distribution even if a student doesn't make a specific choice.

HB 2178 is cosponsored by Representatives Carbone and Hernandez.

###

Senate Republicans Announce Legislation to Help Law Enforcement Combat Biden's Border Crisis

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— As the Biden Administration continues to ignore the border invasion endangering our Arizona communities with drugs and crime, Senator Janae Shamp (R-29) and Senator David Gowan (R-19) are introducing legislation today to provide law enforcement the support they need to defend our citizens against these threats. The "Arizona Border Invasion Act," sponsored by Senator Shamp, establishes in Arizona statute three border related crimes with subsequent punishments. Local, county, or state law

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enforcement officers would be granted the authority to arrest the following individuals: • any non-US citizens who enter our state from anywhere but a lawful entrance point • any non-US citizens who have been denied entry, or have already been removed from our country • any non-US citizens who have been ordered to leave because of one of the above crimes but are refusing to comply with the order Additionally, Senator Gowan's "Aggravated Unlawful Flight" bill creates tougher penalties for drivers who endanger the life of another person while attempting to flee law enforcement, prompting a high-speed chase. The bill also creates greater penalties against drivers who cause harm to another person during a high-speed chase, or those who are transporting a child under the age of 15. "Joe Biden and his administration have made it unequivocally clear that they have abandoned their duties to enforce immigration policy at the federal level," said Senator Shamp. "As a result, our communities and our citizens are suffering the dire consequences of the lawlessness associated with tens of thousands of people, many of whom are criminals, illegally entering our state each month with no repercussions. It is our duty as state legislators to ensure the safety of our citizens and our law enforcement, which is why I'm calling on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation." "This is the worst border crisis in U.S. history. Our local sheriffs are overwhelmed, outnumbered, and their lives are in danger," said Senator Gowan. "Our communities are suffering from the deadly fentanyl, rapes, murders, high-speed chases, kidnappings, human smuggling, child sex trafficking, and other heinous crimes carried out by those who are entering our state illegally. We can't just sit idly by and watch Biden's border invasion destroy Arizona. I'm urging members of the Legislature to pass our bills and for the Governor to sign them. Lives are on the line, and the hands of our local law enforcement are currently tied."

###

Arizona State Senator Brian Fernandez, Yuma Councilmember Carol Smith to Rally for Strong Clean Truck Standards Alongside Clean Transportation and Agricultural Advocates to Propel Arizona Toward Zero Emissions

(YUMA, AZ) – On Friday, January 26, Arizona State Senator Brian Fernandez and Yuma City Councilmember Carol Smith will join Yuma leaders and clean transportation and agricultural advocates for a press conference to encourage public support for the adoption of robust Clean Truck (Heavy-Duty) Standards to help put Yuma on the path to zero emissions from the transportation sector.

As the leading domestic source of carbon pollution, the transportation sector's cleaner trucks address respiratory health issues and combat climate change. Amid growing concerns about environmental and public health impacts, the conference aims to highlight the urgency of the Biden Administration and EPA's recent proposal for heavy-duty vehicle emission standards. These new standards, set to begin in the model year 2027, are a significant stride towards reducing air pollution

Speakers will discuss how the proposed Clean Truck Standards are not only crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also for enhancing the economic vitality and health standards of the local Yuma community. They will call upon the Biden Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finalize the strongest possible version of the recently [announced draft standards](#) as soon as possible.

WHO:

- Arizona State Senator [Brian Fernandez](#), District 23

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- Councilmember [Carol Smith, City of Yuma](#)
- [JoAnna Mendoza](#), Marine Corps Veteran, Board Member, VetsForward
- [Ethan Orr](#), Associate Director ANR and Economic Development, Cooperative Extension, University of Arizona

WHEN:

Friday, January 26
10:00 am MT

WHERE:

Robert J Moody Demonstration Garden
2200 W 28th St, Yuma, AZ 85364

(park in the south parking lot of the Yuma County Health Department Building @ W 28th St and S 21st Drive)

INTERVIEWS:

Press is encouraged to arrive at 9:45 am MST. Speakers will be available for questions following the press conference.

###

Statement from Chairman Jeff DeWit

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – In light of the recent revelation that Kari Lake has released a selectively edited audio recording of our private conversation, I must clearly address this deceptive tactic. The recording, from over ten months ago, is not only taken out of context but also undermines the integrity of private discussions critical for party leadership.

As Chairman, my primary duty is to strengthen our party, which often involves challenging dialogues and strategic decisions. These conversations are meant to assess and enhance the viability of our candidates. The truth is, when I took the helm, our party was in disarray – financially unstable, organizationally weak, and lacking in momentum. Today, we have made significant improvements in acquiring a new office headquarters, legal victories for election integrity, and historic fundraising achievements.

Contrary to the notion of me being an enemy of Lake's, this conversation was recorded while I was actually employing Lake in my private company. In fact, for over a year and a half we had many conversations where I was looking out for her financial interests. The ethical breach in her recording of our conversation, while Lake was my employee, raises serious legal and moral concerns. This act of recording was not just a betrayal of trust but also a violation of the fiduciary responsibilities of an employee. Contrary to accusations of bribery, my discussions were transparent and intended to offer perspective, not coercion. Our relationship was based on friendship, and the conversation that is now being scrutinized was an open, unguarded exchange between friends in the living room of her house. I genuinely believed I was offering a helpful perspective to someone I considered a friend.

Lake has a massive megaphone that I cannot compete with. I am just a business and financial guy that got recruited into this unpaid role that demands the amount of time of roughly two full time jobs – nights, weekends, holidays, and more are all workdays. My motivation for accepting this position was that I wanted to contribute positively, with the primary focus being the betterment of Arizona and our nation through the election of competent individuals. While there is much more that I could express, I must refrain from defending myself, as it could potentially undermine this objective.

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Since our conversation where I advised Lake to postpone her campaign and aim for the Governor's position in two years, she has been on a mission to destroy me. It was a suggestion made in good faith, believing it could benefit both her future prospects and the party's overall strategy. The release of our conversation by Lake confirms a disturbing tendency to exploit private interactions for personal gain and increases concerns about her habit of secretly recording personal and private conversations. This is obviously a concern given how much interaction she has with high profile people including President Trump. I question how effective a United States Senator can be when they cannot be trusted to engage in private and confidential conversations.

I said things I regret, but I realize when hearing Lake's recording that I was set up. I believe she orchestrated this entire situation to have control over the state party, and it is obvious from the recording that she crafted her performance responses with the knowledge that she was recording it, intending to use this recording later to portray herself as a hero in her own story.

This morning, I was determined to fight for my position. However, a few hours ago, I received an ultimatum from Lake's team: resign today or face the release of a new, more damaging recording. I am truly unsure of its contents, but considering our numerous past open conversations as friends, I have decided not to take the risk. I am resigning as Lake requested, in the hope that she will honor her commitment to cease her attacks, allowing me to return to the business sector—a field I find much more logical and prefer over politics.

I am a proud supporter of President Trump, having worked diligently as the COO & CFO of his 2016 campaign, served in his Administration for two years, and returned as the COO of the 2020 campaign. Like many Republicans, I am eager to see him return to the White House, bringing back low inflation, a secure border, and economic growth. President Trump is not only a successful businessman but also a passionate Patriot. We have both faced the challenge of dealing with unauthorized recordings, a situation no one should endure. While I have occasionally critiqued some of his endorsements, my admiration for his character has never faltered. My dedication remains with Arizona Republicans, our commendable elected officials, and candidates who are champions of freedom, as well as my friends in the Trump campaign, united in our goal to reclaim the White House.

Our party's focus should be unity, integrity, and the selection of candidates who can truly lead and represent our values. We are weakened by internal strife, underhanded tactics, and the erosion of trust. As someone who has dedicated countless unpaid hours to this cause, I hope that every future party Chairman is as committed to steering our party towards a future that embodies our core principles of unity, respect, and professionalism.

In closing, my actions will always reflect what's best for Arizona Republicans, our commendable elected officials, and our mission to reclaim the White House. This is all such a distraction to that mission that I am doing as Ms. Lake wishes and am stepping down as Chairman of the Arizona Republican Party.

###

Governor Katie Hobbs Joins Rep. Hamilton, Sen. Sundareshan Introducing Legislation to Protect Reproductive Healthcare

Phoenix, AZ – Today, Governor Katie Hobbs joined Representative Stahl Hamilton in introducing a package of bills that will protect reproductive freedoms for Arizonans. The bills will repeal Arizona's near-total abortion ban, enshrine the right to contraception in Arizona law, and end the invasive government practice of collecting and reporting data on abortions in the state.

“I will always defend Arizonans’ freedoms, and I refuse to back down in the face of those who want to criminalize doctors, outlaw abortion and strip away access to contraception,” **said Governor Katie Hobbs**. “Instead of restricting our freedoms, we can pass common sense legislation to expand access to healthcare. Reproductive freedom is not a partisan issue. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents agree that women

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deserve to have access to the healthcare we need, to have our individual rights protected, and to make the personal decisions we deem best for ourselves and our families.”

“Arizona is an abortion battleground state, and with Governor Hobbs in office, not only will we stop the relentless attacks on reproductive rights, we are taking direct steps to protect and enshrine those rights at the Legislature,” **said Representative Stahl Hamilton**. “I’m proud to introduce a repeal of Arizona’s draconian 1864 Civil War-era total abortion ban, the Right to Contraception Act so that birth control will be available without government or ideological interference, and a ban on invasive questions and intrusive data collection from people who seek abortions.”

Additionally, Senator Priya Sundareshan will introduce mirror legislation in the State Senate to protect access to contraception.

"As a mother and state legislator, I understand what a deeply personal decision it is to plan and have a family, one that the government has no right to insert itself into," **said Senator Priya Sundareshan**. "The outdated and life-threatening attacks on personal autonomy we are currently witnessing across the country demand an immediate and proactive response. In the face of this continued extremist attack on freedom and the right to choose, Democrats are committed to ensuring all Arizonans have access to affordable, comprehensive abortion care and contraceptives."

The bills reflect promises made in Governor Hobbs’ State of the State address to protect reproductive healthcare for Arizonans, and will be proactive steps to securing reproductive healthcare for Arizona families.

The introduced bills are:

- HB2677 to repeal the Civil War era total abortion ban.
- HB2676 to end the intrusive government practice of collecting and reporting information on abortions performed in Arizona.
- HB2678 Arizona Right to Contraception Act to protect access to contraception.

###

Mayor Gallego Launches Chilled Water Fountain Pilot Program

PHOENIX—Today, Mayor Kate Gallego, the City of Phoenix Office of Innovation, and Downtown Phoenix Inc. announced the launch of a Chilled Drinking Water pilot program ahead of the summer.

“Expanding public access to drinking water, especially in areas of high pedestrian traffic and public transit, is essential to keeping both our residents and visitors comfortable and safe, particularly in the summer,” **Mayor Kate Gallego said**. “I’m excited to see the results of this data-driven pilot project that further proves Phoenix’s commitment to experimentation and innovation in the face of shared challenges.”

In the coming months, the City will be testing heat mitigation materials and ideas that [came in part from Phoenix residents](#) who participated in a city-sponsored “Innovate Phoenix” hackathon event last April, as well as guidance from [Bloomberg Associates](#).

The two new chilled bottle-filling stations are in the heart of downtown, nestled near Phoenix City Hall in the Marvin A. Andrews Plaza and Cesar Chavez Plaza. Comprising two drinking fountains and a custom-designed, state-of-the-art refillable water bottle station, these installations mark a data-driven leap forward in sustainable urban development, emphasizing Gallego’s commitment to fostering a [resilient](#), innovative city. On Tuesday, the City of Phoenix achieved [Platinum Certification](#) for its use of data and evidence from Bloomberg Philanthropies’ What Works Cities, which recognizes local governments for their exceptional use of data to inform policy decisions, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and engage residents.

###

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Maricopa County Organizations Awarded Prop 207 Justice Reinvestment Grants For Violence Prevention, Social Cohesion, and Community Health

PHOENIX: Just Communities Arizona announced that six (6) community-based organizations in Maricopa County have been awarded a total of \$175,000 in Justice Reinvestment fund grants for 2024.

The funding will go toward supporting people returning from prison, arts engagement for justice-involved youth, a community mental health program, and assisting low-income people search for affordable housing, among other projects.

The grant proposals had to address one of four Priority Areas: Reducing/preventing violence affecting the most vulnerable people in the community; Increasing social cohesion in neighborhoods; Increasing safety, usability, and accessibility of common outdoor spaces; and Improving health and wellness of low-income residents and marginalized populations.

To be eligible for this funding, applicants must be a community-based organization based in or primarily operating in geographic areas of Maricopa County that have high rates of arrest and incarceration. They must have staff, leadership, and governance that is representative of and deeply connected to the communities served and have a demonstrated history of serving the community.

For more information about the grant criteria and process, visit www.justreinvest.org, the website for the grant process.

The organizations that were awarded funding include:

- [RE Frame Youth Arts Center](#)
- [Father Matters](#)
- [Unlimited Potential](#)
- [Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws](#) (AZRSOL)
- [Death Penalty Alternatives for Arizona](#)
- BlackNet

###

Maricopa County Organizations Awarded Prop 207 Justice Reinvestment Grants For Violence Prevention, Social Cohesion, and Community Health

Just Communities Arizona was contracted by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to act as the Fiscal Agent for distributing a portion of its share of state [Justice Reinvestment funds through Proposition 207](#), the 2020 initiative approved by Arizona voters. That initiative, also called the Smart and Safe Arizona Act, legalized adult recreational use of marijuana. In addition, it created a Justice Reinvestment Fund with a portion of the tax revenues the state collects from the sales of cannabis. The funds are distributed twice a year to the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) and to each County Health Department, per its percentage of the population “for the purpose of providing justice reinvestment programs or distributing grants to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide justice reinvestment programs in that county.”

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In December of 2023, the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) announced its grant awards via a [Director's Blog](#).

To arrange interviews with leaders from the organizations awarded grant funding, contact DeAnna Ford, deanna@justcomaz.org, 262.977.8152

###

NINA MASON PULLIAM CHARITABLE TRUST AWARDS KEYS TO CHANGE A 3-YEAR, \$2.25 MILLION GRANT FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Jan. 24, 2024): The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust has awarded Keys to Change, formerly known as Human Services Campus, Inc., a three-year, \$2.25 million grant to support the “flex” fund for homeless prevention and for general operating needs.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust seeks to help people in need, especially women, children, and families; to protect animals and nature; and to enrich community life in the metropolitan areas of Indianapolis and Phoenix.

The “flex” fund, managed by Keys to Change, is available to partner organizations across the Valley to help people at risk of housing instability remain housed, including men, women, families and children.

“Keeping people housed is key to preventing homelessness,” said Keys to Change CEO Amy Schwabenlender. “In addition to operating and managing the Key Campus, Keys to Change is a leader in the effort and conversations directed at creating systemic change to solve and end homelessness. This very generous and critically important grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust will positively impact many individuals and families who might otherwise fall into homelessness. In addition to the impact of the funds, the grant award points to the Pulliam Trust’s understanding of the needs and challenges and supports our efforts to address and develop solutions to end homelessness.”

A multi-year contract with Maricopa County for flexible prevention funds assisted more than 1,490 households. “This investment from the Pulliam Trust allows us to continue the regional effort to help people with housing stability which will reduce the inflow of households into homelessness,” Schwabenlender said. Grant funding will continue through Jan. 3, 2027.

“Besides providing shelter and wraparound services to people experiencing homelessness, Keys to Change also helps individuals with emergency funding to maintain housing stability,” said Gene D’Adamo, president and CEO of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. “We are committed now more than ever to supporting Keys to Change as they work to find solutions to Arizona’s housing crisis.”

Schwabenlender encouraged other community funders to join Pulliam Trust and Keys to Change in the effort to prevent homelessness.

The rebrand resulting in the name changes to Keys to Change and Key Campus followed a yearlong strategic process involving board members, staff and members of the community.

The new names clearly distinguish the organization from the campus location as well as better reflecting organizational goals, which extends beyond operating the campus to creating systemic change.

The tagline for *Keys to Change* is *Working Together. Ending Homelessness*. The tagline for *Key Campus* is *Unlocking The Way Home*.

In the coming months, the organization’s website and other materials will reflect the changes. For more information, visit www.hsc-az.org. A new URL will be announced soon.

###

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Goldwater Sues Phoenix Over Yet Another Illegal ‘Prevailing Wage’ Mandate

Just months after the Goldwater Institute defeated Phoenix’s last attempt to force an illegal “prevailing wage” mandate on businesses, the city government is trying again. The city council just enacted yet another mandate that restricts qualified businesses from competing for taxpayer-funded public-works projects, hurting small businesses, minorities, younger workers, and all taxpayers.

Once again, the Goldwater Institute is [stepping up to fight it, suing the city](#) on behalf of dozens of businesses over this harmful ordinance, which violates both state law and the Arizona Constitution.

Last March, the Phoenix City Council [enacted](#) a “Prevailing Wage Ordinance for City Projects” with barely 24 hours’ notice, leaving no opportunity for the countless organizations and individuals affected to weigh in. It passed the ordinance by a 5–4 vote, over concerns by council members—and even the city attorney herself—that the ordinance violated state law. Less than a month later, after considerable public opposition led by the Goldwater Institute, the council [repealed](#) that ordinance.

But now the Phoenix City Council is trying the very same failed, illegal strategy again, passing a new prevailing wage ordinance on January 9. Similar to the old version, the new ordinance restricts qualified businesses from competing for taxpayer-funded public-works projects unless they follow a host of burdensome requirements: paying their workers based on complicated formulas produced by the federal government, keeping painstaking records, and submitting lengthy paperwork to city bureaucrats every week. Worse yet, the ordinance threatens businesses with heavy fines and other penalties, even for minor or accidental violations.

This week, the Goldwater Institute [sued the city](#) in Maricopa County Superior Court on behalf of the Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona, the Arizona Builders Alliance, and the Arizona Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America. In its complaint, Goldwater argues that the prevailing wage mandate violates state law, which expressly prohibits cities from imposing just these sorts of mandates on businesses. Goldwater also argues that the ordinance violates the Arizona Constitution’s guarantee of due process of law, because it gives the city engineer—an unelected bureaucrat—virtually unlimited power to investigate and punish businesses for alleged infractions.

“Phoenix’s illegal ‘prevailing wage’ mandate will make life more difficult for countless small businesses that are already struggling to stay afloat,” said Ricardo Carlo, President of the Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona. “‘Prevailing wage’ laws drive qualified contractors out of the market and are detrimental to businesses, employees, taxpayers, and residents—disproportionately harming minorities. It’s simple: the government should *never* restrict who can compete for *taxpayer-funded* construction projects.”

“When the government imposes restrictive ‘prevailing wage’ mandates—as the federal government does, and as several other cities and states across the country have tried to do—everybody loses,” said Goldwater Institute Staff Attorney John Thorpe, lead attorney on the case. “Taxpayers have to pay more and wait longer for projects to get done; employees have a harder time finding work; and businesses, especially small businesses, suffer from higher costs and fewer opportunities.” That’s why, since 1984, Arizona [law](#) has prohibited cities from imposing burdensome and counterproductive prevailing wage mandates on contractors for public-works projects.

When private businesses compete to provide the best services at the best price, everybody wins. But when a government bureaucracy excludes qualified businesses by forcing them to jump through burdensome regulations, it hurts everybody, from entrepreneurs and workers to residents and taxpayers. But the Goldwater Institute will always stand up for economic liberty wherever government officials threaten it.

You can read about our case [here](#).

###

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Common Sense Institute Arizona and yes. every. kid. foundation Release Joint Report on Arizona ESA Efficiency and Transparency

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The Common Sense Institute Arizona in partnership with Yes. Every Kid. Foundation released a comprehensive report on the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program, highlighting the need for improvement in program administration to better serve Arizona families.

The report, titled "**Redefining Accountability: A Path to Empowerment in Arizona's ESA Program**," offers an in-depth analysis of the current state of the ESA program, noting its successes and areas needing improvement.

The findings indicate that while the ESA program has provided essential educational choices to over 70,000 students, its administrative processes pose significant challenges for participating families.

Glenn Farley, Director of Policy and Research at Common Sense Institute Arizona, emphasized the importance of the program's intent versus its implementation. "The ESA program was established to give families the freedom to choose the best educational path for their children. However, our research shows that inefficient regulations and cumbersome processes are hindering this objective. It's vital to strike a balance between responsible use of public funds and maintaining the program's core goal of empowering families," Farley stated.

The report highlights that the ESA program is currently administered in a way that places unreasonable burdens on individuals, especially when compared to other government programs. The report also highlights the necessity of timely and efficient access to funds for families, recommending a shift in focus from exhaustive scrutiny to a system of random and regular review based on risk.

"Our findings underscore that the ESA program is fundamentally a partnership between the state and parents," said **Whitney Marsh, Director of Policy Operations at yes. every. kid. foundation**. "Any administrative changes that do not respect this relationship can create unnecessary barriers. We advocate for an approach that empowers parents to make responsible educational choices for their children."

The proposed recommendations in the report aim to enhance the ESA program's efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring it continues to provide valuable educational choices for Arizona families.

For more information or to access the full report, please click [here](#).

[FULL REPORT](#)

###

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“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“I told Karen Fann the day she started the audit. ‘I’m going to watch the Republican Party burn to the ground.’ That’s exactly what’s happening.” — *Consultant Chuck Coughlin on revelations Kari Lake audio recorded AZGOP Chairman Jeff DeWit offering her a bribe to leave politics.*

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-29
Date: Monday, January 29, 2024 5:02:58 PM
Attachments: [1-29-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 4:39:51 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-29

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
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Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com



From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-1
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:50:00 PM
Attachments: [2-1-24.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke

Assistant to Senator Kavanagh

Arizona State Senate

1700 West Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Tel. 602-926-5170

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:36 PM
Cc: .Senate Republican Staff <SenateRepublicanStaff@azleg.gov>; Anthony Kern <AKern@azleg.gov>; Chris Kleminich <CKleminich@azleg.gov>; Joe Kubacki <JKubacki@azleg.gov>; John Kavanagh <JKavanagh@azleg.gov>; Liam Maher <LMaher@azleg.gov>; Mike Braun <mbraun@azleg.gov>; Molly Graver <MGraver@azleg.gov>; Pete Galvan <pgalvan@azleg.gov>; Richard Stavneak <jlbcDirector@azleg.gov>; Shane McFarland <SMcFarland@azleg.gov>; Sine Kerr <SKerr@azleg.gov>; Sonny Borrelli <sborrelli@azleg.gov>; Susie Myers <SMyers@azleg.gov>; Thomas T.J. Shope <tshope@azleg.gov>; Todd O'Brien <TO'Brien@azleg.gov>; Warren Petersen <wpetersen@azleg.gov>
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-1

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications

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From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Cory Blumstein](#); mrodham@edf.org
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-1
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:50:00 PM
Attachments: [2-1-24.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke
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YELLOW SHEET REPORT



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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Alleged fraudsters indicted in connection with bilking ESA program, AHCCCS

In July, a state grand jury [indicted three women](#), Michelle Dils, Sarah Ishler and Angela Turner, for allegedly funneling more than \$100,000 from the Empowerment Scholarship Account program and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System into private school and caretaking services, according to a



charging document obtained by our reporter. According to court documents, Dils, Ishler and Turner allegedly fabricated caretaking timecards and educational receipts under five enterprises, ACE Medical Solutions, Academic Training AZ, All Family Solutions, Love Learning LLC and Arizona School for Exceptional Kids, and used false proof of services to garner more than \$87,900 from the ESA program and \$41,774 from AHCCCS from Jan. 2017 through August 2022. The state grand jury indicted the trio in July and levied felony charges for fraud, theft and illegal control of an enterprise. Dils, Ishler and Turner pleaded not guilty in August. A Maricopa County superior court judge set a trial date for June. Richie Taylor, spokesperson for Mayes, confirmed the case is a part of a larger goal in the attorney general's office to investigate potential fraud and abuse within ESA. "We're taking a broad look at the program," Taylor said. Doug Nick, a spokesperson for the Dept. of Education, said the department had not referred any vendor accounts to the Attorney General this year, though they had referred seven ESA accounts to the State Board of Education for investigation. ADE does not have any statutory or internal authority to vet vendors. "As with any purchase of goods or services, buyers are encouraged to educate themselves on a vendor's reputation before making a decision," Nick said.

Yeah, but Abe's Trump endorsed

Resonant of last election cycle, the \$1 million contribution Abe Hamadeh reported from Arizona's Bold Era (ABE) PAC again proved to be a cash infusion from his brother Waseem Hamadeh, according to the committee's [latest campaign finance report](#). Hamadeh's campaign put out a press release earlier this month touting a nearly \$1.3 million "War Chest," with \$290,000 in contributions to his campaign, Abe for AZ, and \$1 million coming from ABE PAC. According to the latest quarterly report, ABE PAC reported a \$1 million contribution from Waseem. Hamadeh's brother's latest \$1 million investment is not the first. At the time of Hamadeh's fundraising announcement, politicians predicted a potential parallel to the last election cycle when Waseem injected a \$1 million loan into Hamadeh's campaign

ahead of the Q1 reporting deadline. Today, Hamadeh called on his CD8 opponent Blake Masters to [drop out of the race](#) after Masters, who also claimed to raise \$1.3 million, invested [\\$1 million into his own campaign and saw another \\$88,000 come from Masters Victory Committee](#). “Pot. I want you to meet Kettle,” Barrett Marson, GOP consultant, said in a text to our reporter. “You want to talk about projection? Every sentence in that Abe release could apply to Masters or Hamadeh.”

That’s quite some glitch you got there, Dems

The Arizona Democratic Party’s Q1 campaign finance report appears to be more than two weeks late on the campaign finance portal. But Morgan Dick, executive director of ADP clarified it was a technical glitch that stemmed from updates to the campaign finance reporting platform Beacon. Dick said the party “definitely submitted it on time,” and they have been in contact with the Secretary of State’s office to get it uploaded. She anticipated the report going live today or tomorrow. The portal notes ADP faces a \$175 fee for the delay, but whether the SoS will charge the party, given technical difficulties, remains to be seen. “I hope not,” Dick said. The SoS office did not respond to request for comment before our deadline.

A fake electors defense fund should go a long way to winning elections

Tyler Bowyer, RNC national committeeman, submitted [a resolution](#) calling on the RNC to create a fund to cover legal fees for fake electors, noting the “contingent” plan was cleared by chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel and RNC attorneys. He asks the RNC to make a “clear statement” that the actions taken by the Republican electors were “taken pursuant to a lawful plan” and calls for the party to ensure any participants are “vocally defended in public and in current or future litigation and prosecutions in each state.” The resolution notes the party covered legal fees for McDaniel “but not the rank-and-file members of the RNC who participated in the plan she personally approved.” Mayes is currently investigating the slate of electors in Arizona, including Kern, Hoffman and former AZGOP chair Kelli Ward.

PUSD hit with accusations of racial discrimination

A family [sued Peoria Unified School District](#) for allegedly failing to address “pervasive” racial discrimination and creating a hostile education environment for Black students. Timothy Limes and Jessica Morrison, parents of an unnamed child, sued the districts and four Vistancia Elementary School teachers, in both their personal and official capacity. The child, referred to as K.M. in the suit, enrolled in Vistancia in 2017 as a third grader. Her parents allege students used racial slurs and made insensitive and harassing comments with impunity. And they claim starting in the 2019 school year teachers also made racially insensitive comments. And in the 2021-22 school year, three teachers made comments on and touched the student's hair. Morrison filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, which was investigated by the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. In late 2022, the U.S. Dept. Of Ed returned a finding by a “preponderance of evidence” that the district failed to adequately investigate reported peer harassment based on race, color and national origin or the hostile environment created as a result, failed to offer any supports or remedies, “repeatedly responded ineffectively, or not at all, to reported harassment,” resulting in a Title VI violation. Morrison and Limes sued the district for racial

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discrimination, negligence and alleged violations of equal protection and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Sun, Shah resign within minutes of each other for different reasons](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Two Democrats in the state House of Representatives resigned Wednesday within minutes, with one member leaving before the chamber could consider a motion to expel her.

[Hodge appointed to fill House Democrat vacancy](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors appointed a Democrat who nearly beat U.S. Rep. David Schweikert, R-Ariz., to the state House of Representatives on Jan. 31.

[Kari Lake's fundraising puts her behind in Arizona Senate race](#)

Politico

Kari Lake raised more money challenging the results of her last election than she did running for a new one.

[Sinema, Her Fund-Raising Fading, Faces Ticking Clock on Senate Decision](#)

The New York Times

Senator Kyrsten Sinema is behind schedule in making a decision about whether to seek re-election in Arizona. She's also running out of time.

[Home prices headed back up in metro Phoenix](#)

Phoenix Business Journal

U.S. home prices edged downward from their all-time high in November, with 12 out of the 20 major metro markets reporting month-over-month decreases, according to the latest S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller Indices released Jan. 30.

[U of A operating in \\$177 million deficit; 5-15% budget cuts, layoffs coming](#)

Arizona Daily Star

The University of Arizona is operating in a \$177 million deficit and faces layoffs and across-the-board budget cuts of 5% to possibly 15%, according to a new report released by interim Chief Financial Officer John Arnold.

[Arizona's education department teams up with controversial conservative group](#)

Fox10 Phoenix

"The problem we had is in some classrooms only the extreme left side has been presented, and so these present an alternative," said Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne.

[Congress needs to reject Credit Card Competition Act](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

As a native Tucsonan proudly representing this city in the state Legislature, I know firsthand how crucial tourism is for our economy.

[If border deal fails, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema should run ... as far from DC as she can](#)

The Arizona Republic

Will she or won't she? As we await word on whether U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema will run again, it strikes me that the real question is this: Why on earth would she want to?

[Teachers Unions Against Teacher Pay](#)

Wall Street Journal

A common teachers union two-step is to ask voters for a raise and then spend the new cash on other things in addition to teacher pay.

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·PRESS RELEASES·**ICYMI: Governor Katie Hobbs Unveils Plan That Will “Help Everyday Families and Arizonans Save on Prescription Drugs”**

Phoenix, AZ – Yesterday, Governor Katie Hobbs and Senator Eva Burch officially introduced SB1533, a plan to bring transparency and accountability to the prescription drug industry and lower costs for Arizonans. At a local independent pharmacy in Phoenix, Governor Hobbs outlined her plan to crack down on price-gouging middlemen, lower costs for everyday Arizonans and protect taxpayer dollars.

Governor Hobbs was also joined by Teresa Dickinson, owner of Melrose Pharmacy who spoke about how price-gouging middlemen have made it more difficult for her to serve her clients; and Marshall Militano, an Arizona retiree who struggles with his bills because of the rising costs of prescription drugs.

MORE BELOW:

AZ Family: [Governor Katie Hobbs Plan Would “Help Everyday Families and Arizonans Save on Prescription Drugs”](#)

###

Statement from Chairman Jack Sellers on Need for “Real Solution” to Election Calendar Issue

“I’m very discouraged that our elected leaders have yet to appropriately address an urgent election calendar issue we’ve all known about for months.

We need 19 extra days for the Primary and 17 extra days for the General to ensure election workers in all 15 Arizona counties can do the work that’s required of them by statute, which includes an expected significant increase in automatic recounts due to a 2022 law.

A real solution must include moving the 2024 Primary Election earlier and adjusting the period for curing early ballots.

A real solution will ensure military voters and their families get the ballots to which they’re entitled by law, in enough time for them to cast their ballot and have it counted.

A real solution will ensure Arizona voters have their rightful say in who becomes the next U.S. President.

Counties proposed a real solution months ago.

It is not time for politics; it is a time for a bipartisan solution that protects all Arizona voters.

I urge the Legislature and the Governor to pass and sign a clean solution no later than February 9.”

ARIZONA COUNTIES: ELECTION CALENDAR SOLUTION CANNOT WAIT

With a Feb. 9 deadline looming, the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) calls on state leaders to put aside partisan politics and pass emergency legislation to solve a significant election calendar issue that could throw the U.S. Presidential Race into chaos. Without a fix, swing-state Arizona risks not being able to certify the General Election in time for our votes for President to be counted in the Electoral College.

“Election officials across Arizona have told the Legislature and Governor we need a clean solution to this problem no later than Friday, Feb. 9, to protect the votes of overseas military families, comply with federal

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law, and ensure Arizona’s electors for President count,” said AACo Executive Director Jen Marson. “What we don’t need is an all-you-can-legislate buffet of unrelated policy changes. An issue this significant deserves to be handled separately so that it can pass with bipartisan support and be signed into law in time.”

The calendar issue is connected to a 2022 law that lowered the threshold for triggering an automatic recount in close races. While recounts are a valuable check-and-balance and provide reassurance to voters, the current election calendar must be condensed to facilitate recounts without missing key federal deadlines.

“For months, county election officials have been clear about what will solve this problem,” Marson said. “We need to find 19 additional days for the Primary Election and 17 additional days for the General Election so that any required recounts can be conducted. No alternate solution has been presented to get us the right number of days without moving up the Primary and shortening the period to cure signatures on early ballots, among other changes.”

Since September 2023, representatives from AACo and the County Supervisor’s Association (CSA) have held multiple meetings with the Governor’s Office, legislative leaders of both parties from the House and Senate, Chairwomen of the respective election committees, and other lawmakers to explain the issue and plead for a legislative fix.

If no legislative solution is approved in the next week, it is highly likely Arizona will miss two federally-mandated deadlines this year: the Sept. 21, 2024, deadline to mail ballots to deployed military members and their families, and the Dec. 11, 2024, Electoral Certification Deadline that ensures Arizona’s electors count in the U.S. Presidential Race.

“It’s time for everyone to get serious and pass a signable solution that is a win for Arizona’s voters,” Marson said.

###

Crane Leads Effort to Ensure Justice for Former U.S. Marine Daniel Penny

Today, **Rep. Eli Crane (R-AZ)** sent [a letter](#) to New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg in support of former U.S. Marine Daniel Penny, calling on Bragg to cease attempts to convict Penny. The letter highlights Bragg’s misguided attempt to condemn Daniel Penny to 15 years in prison for stopping a criminal from threatening and terrifying residents of New York City.

In May 2023, Penny heroically protected others aboard a New York City subway train from Jordan Neely, a disturbed individual with forty-two prior arrests.

When New York City’s “progressive” criminal justice policies failed to prevent Neely from posing a threat to others, Mr. Penny stepped up to defend those around him.

Earlier this month, Daniel Penny had his request to dismiss the charges against him denied.

Addressing DA Bragg, Rep. Crane said, “When soft-on-crime prosecutors, like yourself, fail to address lawlessness and debauchery in their cities, Americans such as Daniel Penny are having to protect themselves and others now more than ever in the face of rising rate of crime.”

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“As the Left continues to push the defund the police movement, it is imperative that you do not condemn and persecute Good Samaritans who are stopping criminals.”

Democrats continue to advocate for soft-on-crime policies that tie the hands of the police and lead to dangerous, crime-infested streets that force courageous citizens like Daniel Penny to step up.

Witnesses have unequivocally defended Daniel Penny as a hero, and Rep. Crane believes that Mr. Penny acted bravely, in the defense of himself and others.

Joining Rep. Crane in support of Mr. Penny are Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Rep. Josh Brecheen (R-OK), Rep. Michael Cloud (R-TX), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL), Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL), Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN), Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT), and Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX).

[The full letter may be read here.](#)

###

Homeland Security Committee Clears Sinema Bill Strengthening Border Security, Combating Human & Drug Smuggling

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee approved Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema’s bipartisan *Continuing High-quality Evaluations of Concerning and Known Persons of Interest through National Training Updates (CHECKPOINT) Act* with bipartisan support. The legislation – introduced by Sinema, Chair of the Border Management Subcommittee, and Republican Senator Rick Scott (Fla.) – strengthens border security and combats illegal human and drug smuggling across the Southwest border.

“Our bipartisan bill delivers real solutions to crack down on dangerous human and drug smuggling at Arizona’s border, and is now one step closer to becoming law – and one step closer to bringing Arizona families peace of mind,” said Sinema, a member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

“It’s heart-wrenching and terrifying that fentanyl continues to flow across our southern border and into U.S. communities where it takes more lives every single day. We cannot allow this drug to continue endangering American families. This commonsense legislation will make several updates to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection training and procedures of the Checkpoint Program Management Office to ensure we are doing everything possible to seize these drugs from dangerous criminals before they harm our communities. I’m glad to have bipartisan support for the Continuing High-quality Evaluations of Concerning and Known Persons of Interest through National Training Updates (CHECKPOINT) Act, and I’m thankful it passed out of committee this week. I won’t stop fighting for this bill’s full passage so that we may take another step toward ending the deadly fentanyl smuggling happening at our border,” said Scott.

Sinema’s *CHECKPOINT Act* requires U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to regularly assess and update guidance related to combating drug and human smuggling – keeping instructions current and accurate to reflect the ever-evolving threat landscape and to allow CBP to effectively crack down on dangerous and illegal activity. Additionally, the *CHECKPOINT Act* enhances technology at Border Patrol checkpoints and improves drug seizures training for Border Patrol agents, improving agents’ ability to prevent deadly drugs like fentanyl from continuing to poison our communities.

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The *CHECKPOINT Act* also enhances intelligence gathering at the Southwest border, ensuring consistent data collection to improve Border Patrol's efforts to interdict human and drug smuggling.

Border Patrol Agents are currently required to collect data on checkpoint activity related to interdictions of human and drug smuggling. However, [a Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) report from June 2022](#) found that Border Patrol agents inconsistently documented certain types of data collected at checkpoints, which makes it difficult for Border Patrol to assess checkpoint effectiveness or ensure proper resourcing. The Senator's bill would implement recommendations from this report to help secure the border and keep Arizona families safe and secure.

Sinema is currently [leading negotiations](#) between both parties on a bipartisan border security proposal to deliver lasting solutions addressing the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis at the border.

###

United States Attorney's Office Releases 2023 Fourth Quarter Immigration Enforcement Statistics

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Today, the United States Attorney's Office announced its immigration enforcement statistics for October 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. These cases are prosecuted in partnership with the Tucson and Yuma Sectors of the Customs and Border Protection's U.S. Border Patrol, along with Homeland Security Investigations, and assistance from other federal, state, and county agencies. In the three-month period ending December 31, 2023, the United States brought criminal charges in Arizona against 1,662 individuals who illegally entered or re-entered the United States. In its ongoing effort to deter unlawful immigration, the United States also filed 190 cases against individuals responsible for smuggling undocumented noncitizens to and within the District of Arizona. In this time period, the United States also prosecuted 77 reactive drug cases arising out of immigration ports of entry and checkpoints. The United States remains committed to protecting our law enforcement partners, prosecuting four individuals for assaulting federal officers.

Reducing migrant smuggling and mitigating the risk to communities impacted by these offenses continues to be a priority for the Office and its law enforcement partners. Some of these prosecutions are directed against leaders and coordinators of alien smuggling organizations. Other prosecutions are aimed at deterring young adult drivers, often recruited over social media platforms, from engaging in this dangerous activity. Prosecutions against young drivers include cases brought against seven juvenile smugglers during this time period.

Protecting law enforcement officers is a key part of border vigilance. During this time period federal prosecutors brought charges against four defendants accused of assaulting federal officers.

These statistics represent United States Attorney's Office prosecutions only. The numbers do not include individuals apprehended by immigration enforcement officials and subjected solely to administrative process.

###

Gallego Votes for Bipartisan Tax Package that Enhances Child Tax Credit

WASHINGTON – Today, **Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ-03)** proudly voted to support H.R. 7024, the *Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act*, a bipartisan tax package that expands the Child Tax Credit (CTC) for hardworking Arizonans and brings needed tax-relief to Arizona small businesses and companies.

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“As the son of a single mother who worked hard to provide for me and my sisters, I know just how much of a relief a tax break can be for everyday Arizona families,” said **Rep. Gallego**. “That’s why I’m proud to support this bipartisan tax package so we can both continue to support hardworking Arizonans and build an economy in our state that will grow for decades to come.”

The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act contains a number of important tax reforms, including an extension and expansion of the CTC—a tax break for everyday families, an expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, and reforms to research and development expensing for businesses. The expanded CTC is expected to benefit **424,000 Arizona children in its first year**.

“The Greater Phoenix Chamber believes H.R. 7024 will continue the vital economic investments made by the booming semiconductor and tech sectors happening in our great state of Arizona,” said **Todd Sanders, President & CEO of the Greater Phoenix Chamber**. “We applaud Congressman Gallego for being a proponent for this vital piece of legislation that will ensure Arizona remains a competitive environment for businesses and their employees to live and work.”

Last week in Phoenix, Rep. Gallego [held a roundtable with local stakeholders on his continued fight to lower costs for hardworking Arizonans](#). At the roundtable, Rep. Gallego discussed the need to expand the CTC—a sentiment the group agreed with.

WATCH: [Representative Ruben Gallego hosts roundtable on cutting costs for Arizonans \(ABC15\)](#)

The legislation is supported by UnidosUS, ReadyNation, the Arizona Technology Council, the Technology Councils of North America, Niagara Bottling, Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, the First Five Years Fund, Save the Children, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Rural Broadband Association, and more.

###

Pro-Democracy Groups Call for Stronger Voter Protections from Arizona Lawmakers

PHOENIX — Today, the Arizona Voting Rights Coalition hosted a press conference at the Arizona Capitol to call for legislators to pass laws to protect voters and expand access to the ballot box throughout the 56th Legislature.

Amanda Lugo, All Voting Is Local Action’s Arizona Senior Grassroots Manager said, “Some state legislators in Arizona are attacking voting rights, but the Arizona Voting Rights Coalition is fighting against anti-voter bills and policies. These policies include [House Concurrent Resolution 2032](#) and [House Bill 2547](#), which is an attempt to ban vote centers, and [SCR 1014](#), which takes power away from voters to choose who will cast Arizona’s electoral votes in the presidential election and gives it to legislators. Arizona voters deserve a pro-voter agenda that expands access to the ballot and keeps power in voters’ hands.”

“As we head into another massively consequential presidential election, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring every voter has access to the support and resources they need to fully participate in our democracy,” said **Jenny Guzman, Common Cause Arizona’s program director**. “Our track record shows that our organizations are dedicated to working in the best interests of voters — not the best interest of any one party or candidate. By working across party lines, we’re implementing solutions our communities are actually asking for.”

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###

Arizona Retirees Say 'No' To Fiscal Commission

PHOENIX —Arizona retirees are saying 'no' to a [fiscal commission proposal originally co-sponsored](#) by Congressman David Schweikert—which could lead to drastic cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

In his time in Congress, Schweikert has voted 12 times to cut Social Security or Medicare. His fiscal commission bill was [voted out of committee](#) in recent weeks.

“Hundreds of thousands of Arizonans rely on the Social Security and Medicare they earned to make ends meet and get the health care they need. The next generation deserves the same benefits and secure retirement when the time comes,” said **Linda Somo, President of the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans**. “A fiscal commission paves the way to the Social Security and Medicare cuts Congressman Schweikert has long tried to enact. We're telling him firmly: do not cut the hard-earned benefits Arizonans have earned.”

The first Social Security check was issued on January 31, 1941.

###

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES URGE LAWMAKERS TO PASS HOME CONFINEMENT WITH ELECTRONIC MONITORING BILL

Phoenix, Ariz. – Arizona’s prisons cost taxpayers over \$1.5 billion each year. Early release to home confinement with electronic monitoring will provide an immediate remedy to the strain already on understaffed correctional officers where the population of Arizona state prisons is over 34,000. The bill will also address worker shortages and increase revenue for local businesses.

On Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 12-4 PM join Dream.Org Empathy Network Leader Jada Vickers, Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), American Conservative Union (ACU), Arizonans for Transparency and Accountability in Corrections (ATAC), Arnold Ventures, and local community advocates for the Day of Empathy championing for early release to home arrest to move forward this legislative session.

Individuals within certain categories of non-violent offenses that are 18-months shy of release will have the opportunity to serve the remainder of their prison sentence at home if this legislation is passed. The Federal CARES Act recidivism rate is evidence that a home confinement program is effective. Under the act, over 13,000 individuals were released. Arizona’s three-year recidivism rate is 36.3% which is far below the national average of 43%, according to the Bureau of Prisons.

The Arizona Day of Empathy is an important step as the state continues its legislative session. Interviews are also available to request ahead of the scheduled event.

Who:

- Jada Vickers Formerly Incarcerated | Dream.Org Empathy Network Leader | Victim of Crime/Survivor

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- Cordero Holmes, Formerly Incarcerated | MLK Living the Dream Award 2023 Recipient | ASU Barrett, The Honors College
- Heaven Toliver, Daughter of Incarcerated Parents | Survivor
- Julie Gunnigle, Legal Director of NORML | VP of Legal Affairs for NCJW AZ | Partner at Full Spectrum Law Collective
- Brian Koehn, Co-Founder of CEO Social Purpose Corrections
- Fmr. Sen. Steve Kaiser | 2023 Home Confinement Bill Sponsor
- Alecia Deals, First Black Woman Cannabis Dispensary Owner in Arizona | Father Currently In Prison for Cannabis

What: The Arizona Day of Empathy will feature first-hand stories from passionate community advocates, particularly justice-impacted individuals and former employees calling for change in the criminal justice system. Receive information about eligibility for rights restoration, expungement, and record sealing at our on-site rights restoration clinic staffed by volunteer attorneys.

When: Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 12-4 PM PST

Where: The Duce, located at 525 S Central Ave Phoenix, AZ, 85004

RSVP: Register [here](#) for free.

###

New Analysis Reveals Electric Vehicles Can Save Arizonans Up to \$24,900 Compared to Gas-Powered Cars Over 10 Years

January 31, 2024 — Today, Environmental Defense Fund and WSP, in partnership with Climate Power, released a new [analysis](#) that found many popular and widely anticipated electric vehicles (EVs) offer Arizona consumers thousands of dollars in lifetime cost savings. The analysis looked at net purchase cost of the vehicle, fuel costs, insurance costs, and maintenance costs over 10 years, using Arizona specific data, and found cost savings as high as \$24,900 when comparing the cost of Ford's F-150 Lightning EV with the gasoline-powered Ford F-150.

“Electric vehicles represent a win-win for Arizonans,” said Climate Power’s **Saumya Narechania**, States Managing Director. “For too long, skyrocketing gas prices have lined the pockets of fossil fuel executives while American families pay the price at the pump. Electric vehicles are [better for our environment](#) and public health, and they’re becoming more affordable and accessible by the day.”

“Consumers want choices and to save money. Those are powerful driving forces in today’s marketplace,” said **Ellen Robo**, manager of transportation and clean air policy at Environmental Defense Fund. “Electric vehicles are offering just that as they pass their gas-powered counterparts on total cost of ownership thanks to rapidly declining costs, generous cash-in-hand rebates from the Inflation Reduction Act and lower fuel and maintenance costs. Buyers want the freedom to choose the vehicle that’s right for them and EVs are proving to be the smart, cost-effective choice in states across the U.S.”

EDF’s analysis also found that there are 37 EV models available for less than \$48,000, the average purchase price of a new car last year, and 10 EV models available for less than \$35,000. Electric vehicles represent

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more than a cost-saving opportunity for Arizona: they're also bringing [9,700 new good-paying jobs](#) and \$9.7 billion in economic investment to the state, 78% of the investments announced since January 2021.

The Inflation Reduction Act is helping ensure that electric vehicles are at the core of the made-in-America manufacturing boom by requiring that EVs be assembled in North America in order to qualify for new vehicle consumer tax credits. And it's working: [39% more electric vehicles](#) were manufactured in North American factories in the first quarter of 2023 than the first quarter of 2022.

###

AARP Arizona Endorses House Bill 2653, A Milestone in Long-Term Care Reform

Phoenix, AZ – AARP Arizona announces its support for House Bill 2653, a significant piece of legislation aimed at enhancing the safety, oversight, and quality of long-term care across Arizona. Introduced by Representatives Nguyen and Bliss, H.B. 2653 revolutionizes the standard of care in assisted living facilities, protecting the rights and well-being of residents, families, and care providers.

“House Bill 2653 is a crucial step towards safeguarding the well-being of older Arizonans and enhancing the quality of long-term care in our state. Representative Nguyen’s leadership in sponsoring this bill deserves appreciation,” said Dana Marie Kennedy, AARP Arizona State Director.

Key provisions of H.B. 2653 include the implementation of electronic monitoring policies; rigorous incident and injury reporting guidelines; defined measures for reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and strengthened employee background checks.

AARP Arizona commends Representatives Nguyen and Bliss for sponsoring and co-sponsoring this vital legislation and for their commitment to the health and safety of older Arizonans.

“Since coming to the Legislature, I have made the protection of individuals, and their respective families, residing in health-related facilities a priority. HB 2653 continues my commitment to ensure their dignity, health, safety and wellbeing, whether they are in a facility on a temporary or permanent basis,” said Representative Quang Nguyen.

AARP Arizona urges passage of H.B. 2653 through the Arizona Legislature, as a demonstration of our state’s dedication to improving long-term care facilities and ensuring transparency, safety, and quality care for all residents.

“As a retired nurse, I am all too familiar with the critical importance of ensuring that individuals in assisted living and related facilities reside in a safe environment. HB 2653 is designed to provide individuals and their families with the necessary peace of mind that all facilities will operate in a transparent manner, perform proper due diligence in hiring staff and are accountable for situations that might arise,” said Representative Selina Bliss.

For more information about AARP Arizona’s advocacy efforts, please visit: <https://states.aarp.org/arizona/>.

###

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“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“We’re taking a broad look at the program.” — *Mayes spokesman Richie Taylor on the AG’s approach to investigating the school voucher program.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-5
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:46:00 PM
Attachments: [2-5-24.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke
Assistant to Senator Kavanagh
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Tel. 602-926-5170

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:44 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-5

Chierstin Susel
Deputy Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
Office: 602-926-3905
Twitter: @azsenaterepublicans
Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com



From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Cory Blumstein](#); mrodham@edf.org
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-5
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:46:00 PM
Attachments: [2-5-24.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke
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Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington St.
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Tel. 602-926-5170

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Mitchell gets Republican challenger for county attorney

Gina Godbehere Thomas filed a statement of interest to challenge Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell in the 2024 primary election. Communications director for Godbehere's campaign, Isabel Ham, said Godbehere had been "inundated" with phone calls urging her to run in the past year. Ham said Mitchell is "par for the course." "She's doing what everybody wants her to do. She's a follower. She appeases," Ham said. "We're in dire need to have leaders who get off the



par for the course train and start becoming actionable." Godbehere lost to Mitchell in the 2022 GOP primary, with Mitchell seeing 57.1% of the vote. Godbehere currently serves as a victim's rights attorney and as executive director for Speak Up, Stand Up Save a Life, a nonprofit working to provide resources for students to report crises. She previously worked in Maricopa County Attorney's Office across homicide and juvenile divisions, and as Goodyear's city prosecutor. Mitchell spoke at a conference for Godbehere's nonprofit last week. Mitchell's campaign did not return a request for comment.

Nurses group sets record straight on accusations against Pingerelli

The Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology said in a [letter to lawmakers](#) Jan. 31 that the organization had nothing to do with allegations a former board member made against Pingerelli. President Diana Lugo said in the letter that Brent Thomas hasn't been a board member of AZANA since June 16, 2023, and his comments don't represent the views of the association. "We do not believe that Representative Pingerelli has acted unethically or improperly in any way in connection with H.B. 2674 or any other legislation," Lugo wrote. "We regret that a sincere, robust policy disagreement could result in Representative Pingerelli or any public servant believing that they have become a target of a 'smear campaign' and AZANA will continue to hold itself and its agents to a high standard of public discourse." H2674 (anesthesiologist assistants; licensure) would require the Arizona Medical Board to prohibit a person from practicing as an anesthesiologist assistant without a license and Thomas, a nurse anesthetist with Arizona Anesthesia Solutions, accused Pingerelli of having "financial motives" for pushing the bill. The accusation came in a letter to Pingerelli, the Peoria lawmaker said in a Jan. 30 letter to fellow lawmakers. She also said she asked Mayes to investigate. "AZANA, its Board, and our lobbyists had no knowledge of such a communication until we received Representative Pingerelli's letter. We were not involved in creating any such communication or its content," Lugo said.

A few school districts tardy on reporting Holocaust education

The Dept. of Education extended the deadline for schools to report compliance with a state law requiring mandatory Holocaust education and noted they planned to denote, “in red letters,” any failure to respond on ADE’s School Report Card. “As Superintendent, I have the legal authority to make sure that laws pertaining to education in Arizona are being followed,” Horne said in a prepared statement. State law requires students be taught about the Holocaust and other genocides at least twice across middle school and high school, though there are no set requirements on amount of time spent or type of curriculum. Horne sent out a letter to districts and charters requesting reports on Holocaust instruction to ensure compliance with state law last month. He initially set a deadline for Jan. 24 but then extended it to Feb. 23. Doug Nick, spokesperson for ADE, said as of this morning the department had received reports back from 117 of the about 200 districts and 183 of the 550 charters, though he noted there is a small percentage of districts and charters that do not serve middle or high school students and are therefore exempt from the law. Horne also put his support behind a bill from Al Hernandez and Marshall, which seeks to add more specificity and require two three-day Holocaust and genocide education programs for students.

Prisons still in bad shape, but they’re trying

Court monitors in the long-running lawsuit against the Dept. Of Corrections found the department “has not yet made sufficient improvements,” but noted it has “not been sitting idly,” in their interim report on compliance with a federal injunction requiring sweeping improvements to medical care, confinement conditions, staffing and record keeping. The latest report covers data from September, reported in October. Marc Stern, lead monitor for the court, acknowledged the report is “unavoidably outdated.” And though areas of compliances should be seen as “positive achievements, they are limited determinations based on a single month – a ‘snap shot.’ Compliance with the Injunction will be evidenced by consistent and sustained compliance.” In the latest update to the court, he and the monitoring team found ADCRR had reduced inmates in MAX custody, increased hiring and are in the process of improving physical conditions, monitoring systems and record keeping in reports from September. But he noted staffing levels are still well below minimal levels set by the court and recruitment efforts by health care contractor NaphCare have been “woefully inadequate.” Stern commends the department for the work done but recommended the third-party health care contractor actively increase wages for current staff and to recruit new staff. “Patients are in daily danger,” Stern wrote.

Horne can use this stat in a campaign ad

The State Board of Education referred the lowest number of Empowerment Scholarship Account investigations in the last three years to the attorney general in 2023. Under state law, the Dept. of Education can investigate and send instances of ESA account misuse to the state board, and the state board then can approve and refer cases to the attorney general for collection or for criminal investigation. In 2023, the board approved 7 cases to be sent to the AG, compared to 57 in 2022 and 35 in 2021, according to SBE Executive Director Sean Ross.

Well, that’s another Lake election challenge for the books

Lake and Maricopa County Recorder’s Office will bear their own attorney’s fees and costs in the fight over access to ballot affidavit envelopes. Lake filed a public records lawsuit to secure copies of signatures on ballot affidavit envelopes to support her ongoing election contest last April after the county rejected

February 5, 2024

her request, citing an Arizona statute rendering certain voter information confidential and the privacy and best interests of the state exemptions from state public records law. Following a two-day trial, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge John Hannah found the envelopes did not fall under state public records law and ruling to the contrary would create risk of voter fraud, harassment and fear to participate. Though Hannah left the door open for the county to file an application for fees in his ruling, they did not seek any sanctions or fees from Lake. Hannah issued his final judgment today, affirming the dismissal of Lake's suit with prejudice.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Commerce Authority to use private funds to entertain corporate executives](#)

Capitol Media Services

The Arizona Commerce Authority has agreed to use mostly private funds to entertain corporate executives at the upcoming Waste Management Open.

[Arizona bill regulating what can be marketed as meat moves forward](#)

Capitol Media Services

A House Republican is questioning the legality of a measure advanced this past week by his colleagues to decide what is "meat" -- and, more to the point, who can legally use that word.

[Sinema's lackluster fundraising quarter raises eyebrows over campaign hopes](#)

Cronkite News

Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema raised a fraction of what her leading challengers brought in in the last quarter of 2023, raising new questions about her chances in what could be a bruising, three-way race.

[Borrelli, Biasiucci propose statewide zoning overhaul to boost affordable housing](#)

Kingman Daily Miner

Republicans who control the Arizona Legislature are trying again to address the state's housing affordability crisis by limiting the ability of cities and towns to set minimum standards for single-family homes.

[Asylum-seeking migrant arrivals start back up in Douglas, city officials say](#)

Herald Review

For a few days in January, Douglas city officials thought they had possibly dodged the proverbial bullet when suddenly the daily onslaught of migrants who had been arriving at the port of entry seeking asylum, stopped.

[Arizona public schools chief partners with right-wing propagandist](#)

Phoenix New Times

The move will present a "dumbed-down, whitewashed version of history" to students, critics said.

[Navajo lawmaker hopes state funding will help brighten Fort Defiance](#)

Arizona Mirror

The Navajo community of Fort Defiance sits between two mountain ridges, and that's important to know, Rep. Myron Tsosie explained to his fellow state legislators last month.

[Mayes, Dem AGs warn the court that ending DACA would have 'serious harm' on states](#)

Arizona Mirror

Dreamers pay \$9.5 billion in federal, state and local taxes every year, and they have \$25.3 billion in spending power.

[Details of proposed major overhaul of U.S. immigration law, global aid package unveiled](#)

Arizona Mirror

The Senate will vote on the deal, but GOP House leaders say it's dead on arrival.

[National Republicans to Arizona fake elector: Pay your own legal bills](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)

February 5, 2024

One of Arizona's fake electors this week asked the Republican National Committee to indemnify him and other 'contingent electors.' Here is the RNC's response: Get lost.

[Think your vote won't count this year? If you live in Arizona, that might actually be true](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)

Gov. Katie Hobbs and the Arizona Legislature have until Feb. 9 to ensure that we aren't all disenfranchised in this year's presidential election. It never should have come to this.

[Water regulation in Arizona has now devolved into a game of chicken](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Joanna Allhands)

Gov. Katie Hobbs is in a standoff with farmers and their advocates over rural water regulations, with both sides using the Gila Bend basin as a bargaining chip.

[How a new wave of Black leaders is transforming Arizona politics](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Greg Moore)

African American leaders are entering government at all levels, from city councils to the Arizona Legislature. And that is changing things.

[Teen speaks on 'Gilbert Goons' attack, reminding us what true courage looks like](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Phil Boas)

Connor Jarnagan and his mom speak important truths after 'Gilbert Goons' attack, including why we must forgive and remain civically involved.

[How local officials are working to resolve Arizona's election time crunch](#)

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Patty Hansen and Christina Estes-Werther)

If Arizona legislators can make changes to buy us more days for automatic recounts, local officials can get us across the finish line.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Republican Lawmakers Introduce Comprehensive Solution to Correct Election Deadline Conflicts and Strengthen Voter Confidence

February 5, 2024

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— After months of research, discussions, and negotiations between lawmakers, elections experts, and administrators from all 15 Arizona counties, Senate and House Republicans announce a comprehensive solution introduced today to correct unintended election deadline conflicts arising from past legislation.

In 2022, SB1008 (elections; recount margin) was signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support in an effort to improve voter confidence on tight races.

Under the law, automatic recounts in statewide elections are triggered when the margin of victory is within half of one percentage point of total votes cast, bringing Arizona in line with several other states.

The previous law required an arbitrary and much narrower margin of just 200 votes before a recount could occur.

The change is expected to increase the number of recounts in our battleground state. Subsequently, counties informed Senate and House Leadership Teams in late September 2023 that there would be potential delays in results, preventing counties from meeting several important federal deadlines:

- Mandatory mailing deadline (September 21, 2024) to send out November 2024 General Election Ballots to military and overseas citizens (UOCAVA)
- Safe Harbor (December 10, 2024) & Presidential Electors Meeting (December 16, 2024) SB1733/HB2785 establishes a permanent fix while ensuring every legal ballot cast is counted accurately to make certain the correct candidate, or ballot measure, is declared winner.

The bill provides counties with an extra 19 days in the primary election calendar and an extra 17 days in the general election calendar to give officials more time to meet federal deadlines.

Additionally, the bill provides a number of time-saving reforms that encourage efficiency, transparency, and most importantly-- integrity within our election systems.

“This commonsense solution promises to strengthen voter confidence, is backed by all Arizona county recorders, and allows our men and women who are serving in our armed forces overseas the opportunity cast a ballot in our elections,” said Senate Elections Committee Chair Wendy Rogers. “I’m hopeful this legislation will receive bipartisan support and the Governor will sign it. Anything less will throw our elections into turmoil and disenfranchise lawful Arizona voters.”

“There were many simpler ways to solve this problem, some of which do not require legislative solutions,” said Representative Alexander Kolodin, Sponsor of HB2785. “Nevertheless, we negotiated in good faith and agreed to accept this more complicated solution in exchange for signature verification and several other commonsense reforms. It should be noted that the problem this bill seeks to avoid is highly unlikely to occur in 2024.”

###

Republican Lawmakers Fight Back Against the Radical Left Agenda with Legislation to Protect Women and Girls from Male Intrusion

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Members of the media are invited to join Senate and House Republicans at a press conference Tuesday to highlight the "Arizona Women's Bill of Rights."

This important legislation aims to protect the privacy, safety, and opportunities of girls and women from male intrusion.

SB 1628 defines “sex” as a person’s biological sex, either male or female, for all purposes of state law. It also preserves single-sex spaces to ensure girls’ and women’s privacy and safety.

The bill sponsor, Senate Majority Whip Sine Kerr, will be accompanied by Paula Scanlan, a former University of Pennsylvania swimmer forced to share a locker room and compete with trans-identified male Lia Thomas.

February 5, 2024

Speakers will take relevant questions at the conclusion of their remarks. Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024
Time: 11:30 a.m. Location: Arizona State Capitol- Senate Lawn (Southwest Corner of Jefferson St. & 17th Ave., Phoenix)

###

Attorney General Mayes Urges Legislative Leaders to Pass Clean Fix on Election Timeline Issue

PHOENIX—Attorney General Mayes issued the following statement on the election timeline issue.

Any proposed solution to the election timeline issue should not make it harder for Arizonans to cast their ballots or ensure their vote was counted. The current solution proposed by legislative Republicans does not offset the harm that would be caused by shortening the cure period from five business days to five calendar days and includes policies entirely unrelated to the timeline issue. I am particularly concerned about the impact the shortened cure period would have on our state's rural, tribal, and low-income voters.

Now is not the time for partisan maneuvering. I urge legislative leaders to continue working with Governor Hobbs, Secretary Fontes, and the County Recorders on a clean solution that ensures Arizona can meet critical electoral deadlines but does not harm Arizona voters in the process.

###

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to Interview Three Sheriff Candidates on Feb. 6

Phoenix, Ariz. (Feb. 5, 2024) – The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will interview three sheriff candidates tomorrow morning, February 6, 2024. The three candidates are being considered as possible options to fill the vacancy from the time the board announces its succession plan until Maricopa County residents elect a new sheriff in November 2024.

“I would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit an application for this important position,” said Chairman Jack Sellers, District 1. “The board is considering these three applicants because of their extensive law enforcement backgrounds and commitment to public safety. During the interview process, the board hopes to learn more about their visions for serving the residents of Maricopa County.”

The interview schedule, conducted in private executive sessions, is as follows:

- 9:00-9:30am: Jeffrey Kirkham
- 9:45-10:15am: Patrick Valenzuela, Sr.
- 10:30-11:00am: Russ Skinner

Chief Deputy Sheriff Russ Skinner has filled the role since Sheriff Paul Penzone's last day in office on January 12, 2024. The board accepted applications from interested parties from January 10-19, and may reopen applications again if needed.

Per state law, the new sheriff must be a resident of Maricopa County and of the same party as the outgoing sheriff, which, in this case, is a Democrat. The Board of Supervisors plans to make a decision regarding this critical position as soon as possible.

###

National Border Patrol Council Endorses Sinema's Border Security Bill

February 5, 2024

WASHINGTON – The National Border Patrol Council today endorsed the bipartisan border security bill led by Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema, Republican Senator James Lankford (Okla.), and Democratic Senator Chris Murphy (Conn.).

“Since Joe Biden has been in office, CBP has averaged over 8,000 apprehensions per day and the vast majority of these illegal immigrants have been released under a policy known as catch-and-release. Approximately 60% of all border apprehensions are single adults, a good number of whom are military age men. The Border Act of 2024 will give U.S. Border Patrol agents authorities codified, in law, that we have not had in the past. This will allow us to remove single adults expeditiously and without a lengthy judicial review which historically has required the release of these individuals into the interior of the United States. This alone will drop illegal border crossings nationwide and will allow our agents to get back to detecting and apprehending those who want to cross our borders illegally and evade apprehension. While not perfect, the Border Act of 2024 is a step in the right direction and is far better than the current status quo. This is why the National Border Patrol Council endorses this bill and hopes for its quick passage,” said Brandon Judd, President of the National Border Patrol Council.

Click [HERE](#) to read the bill text, [HERE](#) to read a brief summary, [HERE](#) to read a section-by-section of the bill, and [HERE](#) to view a Myth v. Fact sheet.

Sinema, Lankford, and Murphy’s bipartisan package reasserts control of the border, protects border communities, disrupts the flow of fentanyl into the country, and solves the border crisis by ending catch and release, strengthening our asylum system by delivering determinations efficiently and fairly, enhancing security, and improving the legal immigration system.

The National Border Patrol Council (NBPC) is a labor union established in 1967 representing approximately 18,000 Border Patrol agents and support staff on the United States Border Patrol.

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Patients are in daily danger.” Court monitor Marc Stern on health care conditions in the state’s prison system.

February 5, 2024

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-7
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:57:00 PM
Attachments: [02-07-24-YS-FINAL.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke
Assistant to Senator Kavanagh
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Tel. 602-926-5170

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:57 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-7

Chierstin Susel
Deputy Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
Office: 602-926-3905
Twitter: @azsenaterepublicans
Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com



From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Cory Blumstein](#); mrodham@edf.org
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-7
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:58:00 PM
Attachments: [02-07-24-YS-FINAL.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke
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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Some people aren't going to get their money in Q3



A [January memo](#) from OSPB Director Sarah Brown to JLBC Director Richard Stavneak obtained by our reporter confirmed the governor's office planned to pause allotments to a list of onetime FY2024 appropriations for the third quarter. Brown informed Stavneak the governor's office in collaboration with Dept. of Administration to establish an allotment schedule of 0% in Q3 for 20 programs, including the Dept. of Education's \$10 million art and music supplies grant, \$5 million Education Career and Exploration program and a \$10 million administration funding increase, Corrections' \$5 million transitional housing grant, a \$15 million grant for K-12 alternative transportation out of ADOA, ADHS's \$5 million psilocybin research grant, and some pork allocations, namely a transportation study out of Sun City and the \$15.3

million appropriation to the Prescott rodeo (though Yee has yet to distribute any of the rodeo funds due to an ongoing lawsuit). Brown wrote that revising the allotment schedule "ensures that the Legislature has an opportunity to review the remaining unobligated amount of \$88,990,190 before the monies leave the State General Fund, while also allowing an opportunity for distribution of the available spending authority to cover the entire fiscal year's operations before the end of the fiscal year." She added though revising the allotment schedule "does not resolve the projected fiscal year 2024 and 2025 deficits, it is a step that the Executive can take now to begin the work of reconciling the budget shortfalls alongside the Legislature." Hobbs included all the paused programs, aside from the corrections' transitional housing grant fund, as proposed clawbacks in her FY2025 executive budget [presented to JLBC](#) in January.

Hobbs hush, hush on holding money earmarked for art supplies

Horne claimed in an email to school districts Hobbs' office paused distribution of a \$10 million grant for art supplies. The FY2024 budget [allocated](#) \$10 million to be parsed out in \$1,000 grants to individual arts teachers to cover supplies. The Dept. Of Ed had already approved and paid \$2.54 million and had

a pending request to disperse \$4.7 million for the second and third quarters, but Horne said Art Harding, Chief of Operations, “got word” from the governor’s office that the funding was put on hold. Horne told our reporter he had not heard anything from the governor’s office since putting out a press release this morning. A spokesperson for the governor’s office did not respond to a request for comment.

Will ‘bona fide researcher’ cards come with a favorable ruling for liberal media

The Arizona Supreme Court will decide whether journalism qualifies as “bona fide research” in an exemption to Dept. of Economic Security records otherwise deemed confidential. Amy Silverman, a freelance investigative journalist and executive producer for KJZZ’s The Show, sued DES after the department denied a request for closed cases of reports and investigations from Adult Protective Services and for incident reports received by the Department of Developmental Disabilities for a story for the Arizona Daily Star. DES claimed the records were confidential under state law, and Silverman did not qualify under a “bona fide research” exemption [written in statute](#). The superior court ruled in favor of Silverman and denied a motion to dismiss from DES. But the Arizona Court of Appeals [vacated](#) the judgment in favor of Silverman finding the record on appeal was insufficient to determine whether her request constituted “bona fide research.” But they defined “bona fide research” as research for educational, administrative, or scientific purpose and found “provided their work otherwise qualifies as research, journalists may qualify for the bona fide research exception.” Silverman appealed the finding that the record was insufficient, while DES challenged the issue of journalism as “bona fide research.” The Arizona Supreme Court [granted review](#) on both questions and noted an intent to set the case for oral argument.

Tovar leaving Corp Comm at end of term

Anna Tovar announced she would not be seeking a second term on the Corporation Commission. Tovar, a Democrat, was elected in Nov. 2020, alongside Republicans Jim O’Connor and Lea Márquez Petersen. [In a statement](#) on her departure at the end of her term, Tovar said the current commission “needs a shake-up.” O’Connor previously told our reporter he would not be seeking reelection. Commissioner Lea Marquez Peterson filed [a statement of interest](#) to run again in 2024, while Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers still have two years left in their terms.

Richer pretty confident on this lawsuit

Strong Communities Foundation and a Maricopa County voter, represented by America First Legal and attorney Jen Wright, filed an [election lawsuit](#) against Maricopa County, rehashing the same claims of irregularities in the 2022 election that have already been litigated. Though the suit plays all the hits, like unmanned drop boxes, alleged breaks in chain of custody, printer failure, voter registration cancellations and improper signature verification, ballot reconciliation and curing, they add a claim that the location of voting centers in 2022 made it “easier for Hispanics and Blacks to vote and more difficult for Whites and Native Americans.” And they contend the county used artificial intelligence in signature verification, a claim which the county has debunked multiple times. “Same input, we fully expect the same output,” Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer said. “This will lose.”

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·WAKE UP CALL·**[Election deadline fix advances](#)**

Capitol Media Services

On a party-line vote, two legislative panels approved a series of changes in election laws Tuesday that Republicans say are needed to ensure that Arizonans are not disenfranchised.

[Masters tied with Hamadeh for Arizona House as Trump factors into race: Internal poll](#)

The Washington Examiner

Blake Masters, who lost his Senate bid in Arizona last cycle and is running to represent the state's 8th Congressional District, is tied with a candidate backed by former President Donald Trump in a crowded primary for the deep-red Arizona House seat, according to an internal polling memo commissioned by Masters's campaign.

[85-year-old Arizona doctor arrested for allegedly aiding in New York suicide](#)

4 New York

An 85-year-old Arizona doctor was arrested and charged for aiding in a suicide that allegedly took place in a New York motel, according to the Kingston Police Department.

[Planned Parenthood Arizona announces new leadership](#)

KJZZ

Planned Parenthood Arizona has announced a change in leadership. The organization's new CEO will take the helm amid ongoing legal and political fights over the state's abortion laws.

[Arizona voting timeline fix passes committee stage](#)

Daily Independent

On a party-line vote, two legislative panels approved a series of changes in election laws Tuesday Republicans say are needed to ensure that Arizonans are not disenfranchised.

[ARIZONA TEAMSTERS APPLAUD INTRODUCTION OF WAREHOUSE WORKER PROTECTION BILL](#)

Yahoo Finance

The Teamsters applauded the introduction of Arizona House Bill 2682, which would create transparency around dangerous quotas in warehouses and ensure unrealistic work conditions do not interfere with legally protected breaks for workers.

[ARIZONA BILLS WOULD BAN FELONY MURDER LAW—USED TO CHARGE BYSTANDERS FOR SHOOTINGS BY POLICE](#)

The Appeal

Arizona State Sen. Anna Hernandez introduced a bill last week to repeal the state's felony murder law, which has repeatedly been used to imprison bystanders for killings committed by police officers.

[The big lie about letting in 5,000 migrants a day will kill Sen. Sinema's border bill](#)

The Arizona Republic

There was never any doubt that consummate Donald Trump bootlickers like Republican Arizona Reps. Andy Biggs, Paul Gosar and Eli Crane, along with U.S. Senate candidate Kari Lake, would follow the edict of Dear Leader and oppose the bipartisan border security legislation worked out over many months by Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma and Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

['Gilbert Goons' case shows what brass knuckles have in common with assault weapons](#)

The Arizona Republic

Attacks by the street thugs known as the "Gilbert Goons" led the Arizona Senate Judiciary committee to unanimously advance a bill that would make possession and transfer of brass knuckles a misdemeanor.

[Fake elector uses his office to investigate Attorney General Kris Mayes. Payback much?](#)

The Arizona Republic

February 7, 2024

The Arizona Senate, confronted as it is with vexing problems governing elections, water, education and a state budget that's \$1.7 billion in the red, has launched a formal investigation into Attorney General Kris Mayes.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Arizona Chamber responds to new EPA air quality mandate

PHOENIX (Feb. 7, 2024)—Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry President and CEO Danny Seiden released the following statement regarding the EPA's finalization of a standard on fine particulate matter—or PM 2.5—that will push Maricopa County into a non-attainment designation:

“The entire premise of the Clean Air Act is one of cooperative federalism, where the federal government and state governments work together to address air pollution and maintain air quality standards. Today's EPA announcement of a new, stricter standard for PM 2.5 eviscerates that idea, replacing cooperation with an unrealistic and unattainable mandate. Arizona and the Southwest face unique issues and should not be subjected to this ineffective, one-size-fits-all approach.

“Arizona job creators believe in cooperative federalism and are good faith partners in efforts to improve air quality. But the federal government's top-down regulatory approach will have real consequences for Arizona industries like manufacturing, mining, and agriculture, and jeopardizes permitting for new job-creating projects.”

###

Arizonans Endorse Sinema's Border Security Bill

WASHINGTON – A growing chorus of bipartisan Arizona officials are announcing their support for Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema's bipartisan border security bill.

The Arizonans – including Yuma Mayor Nicholls, Mesa Mayor Giles, Casa Grande Mayor McFarland, The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Governor Katie Hobbs, former Governor and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, and more – detail how the Sinema-led package will help reassert control of the border, enhance security, stop the overwhelming flow of migrants, and provide long-awaited relief to Arizona communities. Yesterday, the National Border Patrol Council [endorsed Sinema's bipartisan bill](#).

“As a border mayor, I have and continue to urge Congress to take action to protect our borders. There is a critical need for immigration reform, and this bipartisan bill is a step in support of enforcement to manage the crisis. Thank you Senator Sinema for your leadership, and for incorporating many of the specific issues that border leaders have asked be addressed,” said Yuma Mayor Doug Nicholls.

“Casa Grande and other Arizona communities have had to shoulder the burden of the federal government's failures at our border for far too long. I applaud Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema for leading the charge and writing strong border security policy that will protect Arizona families and solve the border crisis. Arizona deserves solutions and inaction here is not an option,” said Casa Grande Mayor Craig McFarland.

“I applaud this legislation and urge my Republican colleagues to set aside political games and support

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essential immigration reform. As a mayor in a border state, I've seen cities grapple with these challenges for decades. I applaud our Arizona Senator Sinema for her work to bring together both sides to deliver pragmatic solutions. This bipartisan proposal addresses our outdated immigration system, providing crucial support to our cities and dedicated border personnel. Cities and community members know that the time for decisive action is now," said Mesa Mayor John Giles.

"I want to applaud Senator Sinema for her leadership on the border security proposal. The crisis at our border has overwhelmed the personnel, funding and resources we rely on to ensure that our border is secure and our communities are safe. This bipartisan package will help address this urgent issue by providing the necessary tools to combat the persistent and pervasive challenges we are facing at our border," said Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke.

"I am saddened after all these many months, now some Senators have second thoughts about this from both parties. They need to understand from a border Mayor's perspective with limited resources, what it does to our community to now walk away from this bill. The border and flow of migrants is a problem that needs action now, not after an election or continued negotiations. Kicking the can down the road compounds any future ability to deal with this national problem. I would like to ask any of them to reverse their roles and trade places with me. How they would like to live in my home as a helicopter circled my home and neighbor at 6:30 in the morning for about an hour, as was the case today," said Bisbee Mayor Ken Budge.

"Arizona stands united for a stronger, safer border. The bipartisan Senate agreement represents a critical opportunity to achieve this. It's time for action. Congress faces a choice: bipartisan problem-solving or political gamesmanship. We must prioritize providing a safe, secure, and humane border as we work to keep our communities safe," said Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs.

"Yuma shoulders the burden of a broken immigration and border system. For too long, our community has been asked to do the impossible with little to no resources or help from the federal government. I am grateful for Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema's leadership in writing the most important bipartisan border security legislation in decades, and I hope Congress quickly passes it to help fix the broken border and give Yuma the help we need," said Yuma County Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi.

"We are grateful to Senator Sinema and her Senate colleagues for working on this significant piece of legislation. We are grateful to see real leadership on this issue. While some may think it is all politics, for those of us on the border, it is very real and the lack of inaction is affecting us every day," said Supervisor Bruce Bracker from Santa Cruz County. "If passed this bill will get much needed resources to the border and to federal enforcement authorities so they can do their job right."

"Since Joe Biden has been in office, CBP has averaged over 8,000 apprehensions per day and the vast majority of these illegal immigrants have been released under a policy known as catch-and-release. Approximately 60% of all border apprehensions are single adults, a good number of whom are military age men. The Border Act of 2024 will give U.S. Border Patrol agents authorities codified, in law, that we have not had in the past. This will allow us to remove single adults expeditiously and without a lengthy judicial review which historically has required the release of these individuals into the interior of the United States. This alone will drop illegal border crossings nationwide and will allow our agents to get back to detecting and apprehending those who want to cross our borders illegally and evade apprehension. While not perfect, the Border Act of 2024 is a step in the right direction and is far better

February 7, 2024

than the current status quo. This is why the National Border Patrol Council endorses this bill and hopes for its quick passage,” said Brandon Judd, President of the National Border Patrol Council.

“Border communities disproportionately shoulder the burden of our immigration system. The bipartisan border bill in the U.S. Senate provides needed resources to U.S. Border Patrol and the courts to do their jobs, process asylum claims and secure the border. I am pleased Senators Lankford and Sinema have facilitated a bi-partisan effort to author this legislation and I hope for swift passage of this package into law,” said former Arizona Governor and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.

“The Greater Phoenix Chamber thanks Senator Sinema and those involved in the bi-partisan negotiations on the immigration provisions contained in the emergency supplemental funding proposal being considered by the U.S. Senate. The Chamber has long advocated for comprehensive immigration solutions and this proposal addresses needed border security, asylum and key visa reforms. As a border state, Arizona has been on the frontlines of the border crisis and the status quo is simply no longer acceptable. We urge Congress to pass these critical items along with providing needed aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan,” said Todd Sanders, CEO of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

“The Chandler Chamber of Commerce is proud to support Kyrsten Sinema on the bipartisan border security deal. Arizona’s dire need for commonsense solutions cannot be overstated, and we urge Congress to act swiftly to ensure a more secure and resilient Arizona,” said the Chandler Chamber of Commerce.

“We applaud Senator Sinema and the bipartisan efforts that have been put forward in addressing a national security threat that is impacting our border communities. We have long advocated for more border security and policies that will address the issues and concerns that border states like Arizona have been plagued with. We support the efforts and feel this is the first step in addressing border security and closing the loopholes in our immigration policies that only Congress can address. The failure to act has impacted the entire county, particularly those farm and ranch families living along the border. We must make our borders safe and secure, and it is simply time for Congress to act. Every day in which we accept the status quo the problem will become even more difficult to fix. We realize this bill isn’t perfect but also know there is an opportunity to continue to work with lawmakers toward meaningful policy solutions that will further address our broken immigration system,” said Stefanie Smallhouse, President of the Arizona Farm Bureau.

Click [HERE](#) to read the bill text, [HERE](#) to read a brief summary, [HERE](#) to read a section-by-section of the bill, and [HERE](#) to view a Myth v. Fact sheet.

Sinema, Lankford, and Murphy’s bipartisan package reasserts control of the border, protects border communities, disrupts the flow of fentanyl into the country, and solves the border crisis by ending catch and release, strengthening our asylum system by delivering determinations efficiently and fairly, enhancing security, and improving the legal immigration system.

###

Sinema to Deliver Senate Floor Speech Ahead of Vote on her Bipartisan Border Security Bill

February 7, 2024

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema will deliver a speech on the U.S. Senate floor ahead of the vote on her bipartisan border security bill, where she will highlight how Arizona’s border crisis continues despite Washington’s failure to act.

Sinema introduced her bipartisan border security bill with Republican Senator James Lankford (Okla.) and Democratic Senator Chris Murphy (Conn.). The Senators’ bipartisan legislative package reasserts control of the border, protects border communities, disrupts the flow of fentanyl into the country, and solves the border crisis by ending catch and release, strengthening our asylum system by delivering determinations efficiently and fairly, enhancing security, and improving the legal immigration system.

Click [HERE](#) to read the bill text, [HERE](#) to read a brief summary, [HERE](#) to read a section-by-section of the bill, and [HERE](#) to view a Myth v. Fact sheet.

Details:

U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema’s Floor Speech on her bipartisan border security bill

When: Today, February 7, 2024

Approx. 11:45 a.m. Arizona Time (1:45 p.m. Eastern Time)

Click [HERE](#) to watch.

###

Media Advisory: Maricopa County Sheriff Appointment Tomorrow

WHAT: The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will appoint a new Sheriff to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Paul Penzone. The appointment follows Board interviews with three finalists who were among eight people to apply for the position.

WHEN: Thursday, February 8, 2024. 11 a.m.

WHERE: Board of Supervisors Conference Room. 301 West Jefferson Street, 10th floor. *Cameras welcome. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to start of meeting.*

WHO: Members of the Board of Supervisors; newly-appointed Sheriff

This event will be streamed live on [Maricopa County’s YouTube channel](#).

###

ICYMI: Sinema on CNN’s The Lead: Senators Get to Make Their Own Decisions, Choose if They Want to Secure the Border

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema [joined](#) CNN’s The Lead with Jake Tapper to detail how her bipartisan border security bill solves the unmitigated crisis at Arizona’s border. The Senator called on her colleagues to take accountability for their own actions, put partisanship aside, and pass the bill she crafted with Republican Senator James Lankford (Okla.) and Democratic Senator Chris Murphy (Conn.). Sinema, Lankford, and Murphy’s bipartisan legislative package reasserts control of the border,

February 7, 2024

protects border communities, disrupts the flow of fentanyl into the country, and solves the border crisis by ending catch and release, strengthening our asylum system by delivering determinations efficiently and fairly, enhancing security, and improving the legal immigration system.

Click [HERE](#) to read the bill text, [HERE](#) to read a brief summary, [HERE](#) to read a section-by-section of the bill, and [HERE](#) to view a Myth v. Fact sheet.

###

Arizona Woman Sentenced for Concealing Funds Intended to Support Acts of Terrorism

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Jill Marie Jones, 37, formerly of Chandler, was sentenced on Monday by United States District Judge Dominic W. Lanza to 78 months in prison, followed by 25 years of supervised release. Jones pleaded guilty to Concealment of Funds Intended to Support Acts of Terrorism.

As early as 2019, Jones regularly posted anti-American content on social media platforms because she believed the United States military unjustly treated Muslims overseas. In 2020, Jones began communicating online with a person she believed to be a member of al Qaeda, but who was in fact working for the FBI. On May 10, 2020, when asked by this individual if she supported al Qaeda and their struggle against the kuffar (non-believers), Jones responded, “Yes, I do.” Jones communicated with this individual about traveling to Afghanistan to support al Qaeda because “supporting AQ against the oppressors would be an honour.”

On May 18, 2020, when asked whether she could spare any money to buy weapons for al Qaeda to kill American soldiers, Jones responded that, while she was not well-off financially, the U.S. government’s COVID stimulus checks presented an opportunity: “The timing is interesting. Since because of coronavirus we all got government money. Free money basically. ... [I]t would be most ironic the money from that goes for this . . . They give us free money, and I turn it around on them.”

Jones agreed to send money, via a prepaid credit card. After researching prepaid cards online, Jones determined that an online purchase could be traced back to her because it required the disclosure of personal information. In order to conceal the source, ownership, and control of her funds, Jones traveled to a national retail store and purchased a \$500 prepaid credit card using the COVID stimulus money provided to her by the U.S. government. She then sent the card information to the purported al Qaeda member with the message, “may it help them to be victorious.” Jones intended for these funds to be used by al Qaeda to purchase rifle scopes for use against American soldiers in Afghanistan.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amy Chang, David Pimsner, and Lisa Jennis, District of Arizona, Phoenix handled the prosecution.

###

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Kelly, Hassan, Cassidy Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Increase Access to Job Counseling Services for Surviving Spouses of Service Members

Senators Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Eric Schmitt (R-MO) introduced a bipartisan bill to increase access to job counseling services for surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces who died while on active duty. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, housed within the Veterans' Employment and Training Service at the Department of Labor, provides every state with funding to hire specialists who provide individualized career counseling services to eligible veterans. The *Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act* would expand the program so that surviving spouses can also use these services.

"We have an obligation to stand behind the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of our country," said Kelly. "Making sure surviving spouses have the services they need to get a good-paying job to support their families after their loss is the least our government can do."

"After the terrible loss of a service member, we must do everything that we can to support their families," said Hassan. "This bipartisan bill is a commonsense way to help address the challenges that surviving spouses can face in their careers, and we must continue working to support our service members and their families."

"We often thank the wife or husband of those serving overseas for their sacrifice," said Cassidy. "If we really mean this, then a Gold Star spouse should be able to continue to access the services that they accessed when their husband or wife was alive."

###

Arizona Chamber responds to new EPA air quality mandate

PHOENIX (Feb. 7, 2024)—Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry President and CEO Danny Seiden released the following statement regarding the EPA's finalization of a standard on fine particulate matter—or PM 2.5—that will push Maricopa County into a non-attainment designation:

"The entire premise of the Clean Air Act is one of cooperative federalism, where the federal government and state governments work together to address air pollution and maintain air quality standards. Today's EPA announcement of a new, stricter standard for PM 2.5 eviscerates that idea, replacing cooperation with an unrealistic and unattainable mandate. Arizona and the Southwest face unique issues and should not be subjected to this ineffective, one-size-fits-all approach.

"Arizona job creators believe in cooperative federalism and are good faith partners in efforts to improve air quality. But the federal government's top-down regulatory approach will have real consequences for Arizona industries like manufacturing, mining, and agriculture, and jeopardizes permitting for new job-creating projects."

February 7, 2024

###

AEA RESPONDS TO PROPOSAL ON RENEWING PROPOSITION 123

This afternoon, the Arizona State Senate Education Committee will vote on SCR1034, which places restrictions on how any funds raised by a renewal of Proposition 123 could be used. Arizona Education Association President Marisol Garcia released the following statement:

“We strongly support renewing Proposition 123 in order to raise pay for Arizona's educators, and we have been meeting with legislators of both parties around the issue for months. We don't always see eye-to-eye with Republican legislators, but on this issue, we are eager to engage and willing to compromise.

Unfortunately, a handful of legislators are rushing forward with a proposal so deeply flawed that it would do more harm than good. So far, they seem to be fast tracking the bill, and have refused to take feedback or make changes.

Their proposal:

- Would replace any salary boost from a renewal of Proposition 123 with a restrictive bonus program for classroom teachers that would penalize rookie teachers and those with higher-needs classrooms, while excluding all other school staff entirely
- Would force many districts to lay off teachers and staff in response to any funding cut, like an override failing or a financial downturn
- Would create a massive new program to oversee teacher pay and evaluations, administered directly by Superintendent Tom Horne

We urge legislators of both parties to take a step back. Putting something on the ballot is a serious step, especially given that the original Proposition 123 passed only by the narrowest of margins. For any Proposition 123 renewal to succeed, it will need bipartisan support and a robust campaign. Let's work together to craft a proposal that can be effective in delivering the funding that educators, communities and students so desperately need.”

###

February 7, 2024

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet Report 2-6-24
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:56:00 PM
Attachments: [2-06-24.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke

Assistant to Senator Kavanagh

Arizona State Senate

1700 West Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Tel. 602-926-5170

From: Kim Quintero <KQuintero@azleg.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Kim Quintero <KQuintero@azleg.gov>
Subject: Yellow Sheet Report 2-6-24

Kim Quintero

Director of Communications

Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff

Office: 602-926-5418

X: @azsenaterepublicans

Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com



From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Cory Blumstein](#); mrodham@edf.org
Subject: Yellow Sheet Report 2-6-24
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:57:00 PM
Attachments: [2-06-24.pdf](#)

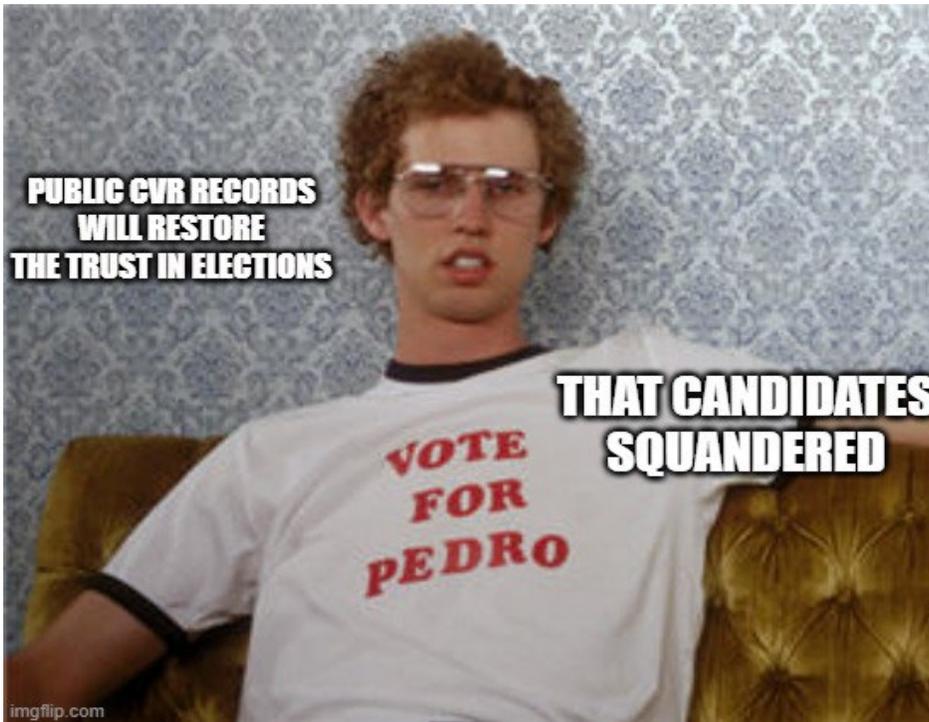
Chase Boeke
Assistant to Senator Kavanagh
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Tel. 602-926-5170

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Bill to make cast vote tallies public advances



Senate ELEC advanced SB1240 (cast vote record; public records) to make cast vote records, a record showing anonymized ballot tallies pre-canvass, accessible under public records law Monday. The bill, sponsored by Shamp, is a simplified version of legislation run last session that made CVR a public record but specified the record would “allow for verification of the accumulated vote totals for each candidate or issue together with a

summary report for each batch for counties whose election management system does not tie images of electronically adjudicated ballots to underlying ballot images.” Arizona law ensures, “electronic data from and electronic or digital images of ballots are protected from physical and electronic access, including unauthorized copying or transfer, and that all security measures are at least as protective as those prescribed for paper ballots.” Hobbs vetoed Shamp’s bill last year and wrote, “any bill that permits releasing the Cast Vote Record must ensure that voter’s privacy is protected.” The latest version puts in a provision so that the record of ballot tallies “cannot be linked to a specific voter.” The bill advanced along party lines, with those in favor claiming opening CVRs to the public would sow transparency and trust in elections and those voting against fearing the data will be construed to further fuel election conspiracies. Jennifer Liewer, deputy elections director for communications, said Maricopa County had only released the 2020 CVR per a Senate subpoena. Liewer said the county received 192 requests for the Nov. 2020 CVR, one request for the March 2022 CVR and six requests for Nov. 2022 CVR but had only released the 2020 CVR per the Senate subpoena. But access was seemingly not limited to the Senate. Conservative election integrity group We the People Arizona Alliance cited Maricopa County’s 2020 CVR in [a presentation to Senate elections](#) last session and used it to claim 10,000 ballots went missing when compared with system log files. Hamadeh similarly sought Maricopa County’s 2022 CVR in his election contest and claimed the data may prove the 2022 attorney general’s race flipping his favor. Sundareshan said she was concerned about the bill, “especially knowing that the era that we’re in leads to people jumping to conclusions and these further the lack of confidence in the elections.” But

Bennett said the bill was “exactly the type of thing we need to do to provide transparency in our elections and dispel the kind of conclusions that people jump to.”

Planned Parenthood names new leader

Planned Parenthood Arizona and the organization’s advocacy arm, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, named Angela Florez as their new joint president and CEO. Florez served on PPAZ’s board and previously worked as chief of staff and chief development officer for Women’s Foundation for the State of Arizona, and as chief development and marketing officer for Valle del Sol Community Health Center. She starts on Feb. 14. Florez joins PPAZ and PPAA as the group prepares to assist in putting a measure on the ballot to enshrine a right to abortion in the Arizona constitution and awaits a key abortion ruling from the Arizona Supreme Court on whether to uphold a pre-statehood law banning abortion outright. Arizona for Abortion Access, the committee gathering signatures announced in January they had collected 250,000 signatures. The campaign must collect 383,923 signatures by July 3 to make it on the ballot.

Maricopa County BOS doing a lot of job interviews lately

Three sheriff candidates met with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors this morning in executive session this for interviews to replace Paul Penzone. The board narrowed it down to Jeffrey Kirkham, Patrick Valenzuela, Sr. and interim sheriff Russ Skinner. State law requires the appointee to be a Maricopa County resident hailing from the same political party as their predecessor, which in this case is a Democrat. But only Valenzuela was registered as a Democrat before Penzone left office. Kirkham registered as a Democrat after just shy of 36 years as a Republican and Skinner switched his party affiliation to Democrat the day after Penzone announced his resignation. Skinner had been registered as a Republican since 1987. Kirkham works as police commander for the Apache Junction Police Department. Valenzuela serves as a police sector lieutenant for the Glendale Police Department. Skinner served as Penzone’s chief deputy and is currently serving as interim sheriff. The board said they planned to make an appointment “as soon as possible.”

Lawyers agree on way to proceed in challenge to nominee director workaround

Attorneys for Hobbs and the legislature found an evidentiary hearing unnecessary in the lawsuit challenging Hobbs’ director nomination workaround and worked out a schedule to proceed with simultaneous motions for summary judgment. Kory Langhofer, attorney for Petersen and Toma, said he wanted to avoid procedural hangups most recently seen in the signature verification case out of Yavapai County, where the judge declined to dismiss the case and effectively resolved the central issue in his ruling. But because a ruling on a motion to dismiss does not bring final judgment, the parties had to brief the same issues in motions for summary judgment. Andy Gaona, attorney for Hobbs, proposed the parties simultaneously file motions for summary judgment and responses, given a list of stipulated facts. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Scott Blaney set a March 1 deadline for motions and a March 22 deadline for responses and added he intended to schedule oral arguments around three weeks after the response deadline.

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Toma, Petersen resist extra time for transgender plaintiffs to finish discovery

Plaintiffs in the case challenging the state's transgender sports ban asked the court to extend discovery by 60 days, citing a need to resolve "a number of discovery disputes" between themselves and Petersen and Toma and schedule any depositions. Horne took no position on the extension, as he intends to supplement his document production, but the legislative leaders lodged their opposition and contended the plaintiffs have not "diligently pursued discovery" and claimed they delayed in raising issues with legislative leaders' written responses and in producing documents. Petersen and Toma note they only withheld five documents due to privilege. The legislative leaders claim extending discovery will only continue "ongoing harm" with the law under preliminary injunction. But in reply, Colin Proskel, attorney for the plaintiffs, wrote, "any such prejudice is outweighed by the need for fact discovery to complete where serious constitutional and civil rights violations have been committed by the State." And he again reiterates the plaintiffs must wait on additional document production from Horne to determine "what, if any, depositions are necessary," and then need to go about coordinating depositions. As the case proceeds at the district court, the parties are simultaneously preparing for oral argument at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Horne appealed the preliminary injunction to the Ninth Circuit and vowed to take it to the U.S. Supreme Court. The argument is scheduled for March 14.

·WAKE UP CALL·

LD5 Democrats nominate 3 candidates for House seat vacancy

Arizona Capitol Times

With two vacancies in the state House of Representatives, Democratic precinct committeemen in Legislative District 5 nominated three candidates Monday to vie for one spot, but they stalled in finding enough candidates for a second vacancy.

House debates bill to keep student fees from antisemitic groups

Capitol Media Services

Saying students should not have to fund antisemitism, the state House gave preliminary approval Monday to legislation allowing students to keep their mandated fees from going to certain organizations.

GOP, Democrats introduce dueling bills to fix election deadline mess

Capitol Media Services

A last-minute effort to fix state election deadlines could hang in part on whether Gov. Katie Hobbs and Democrats are willing to agree to enshrine more vigorous signature verification on early ballots into Arizona law.

Innovative Solutions to Arizona's Healthcare Crisis

Arizona Capitol Times Media Services

More than a medical school, ASU Health will empower people to better manage their personal health while also creating a learning and teaching ecosystem to tackle the state's urgent healthcare needs.

Arizona officials combat AI election misinformation through proposed bills, security trainings

Cronkite News

In the rapidly evolving campaign landscape of the upcoming presidential election, artificial intelligence is already a large and active participant, revolutionizing campaign strategies and communication.

Kari Lake's leaked recording is causing trust issues in the Arizona GOP

The Washington Post

When Kari Lake speaks to the Republican Party faithful, she's accustomed to cheers and adulation. But as

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the Arizona Senate candidate addressed hundreds of the state GOP's most loyal activists late last month, she was booed so loudly the sound carried through a cavernous megachurch's auditorium into the lobby.

[Ciscomani urges Senate to quickly pass Child Tax Credit expansion, help 400,000 Arizona kids](#)

KJZZ

An effort funded through the American Rescue Plan to expand the federal Child Tax Credit expired in 2022. A more modest, but similar proposal that some lawmakers say would benefit more than 400,000 Arizona children is moving through Congress now.

[Kari Lake is melting down over Kyrsten Sinema's bipartisan border plan](#)

The Arizona Republic

Could somebody please check on Kari Lake? I worry, you see. For three years, she's been screaming about the border. About the "invasion." About the release of immigrants into the country to wait for asylum hearings that are years away

[Funding Quality Child Care for Arizonans Makes Sense and "Cents"](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Arizona's child care field is at an inflection point. If lawmakers invest in child care in the state budget, it will ensure working parents keep the quality early learning they need to participate in the workforce.

[Proposed health care policies could overregulate free market](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

As Arizona's legislature reconvenes, we are looking forward to the opportunity for our leaders to continue the great work that has made Arizona one of the most attractive states to live and grow a business.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Senator Sine Kerr Introduces "Arizona Women's Bill of Rights" to Provide Protections Against Male Intrusion

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Senator Sine Kerr is sponsoring a bill critical to protecting women and girls throughout Arizona.

SB 1628 brings clarity and uniformity to state laws governing sex discrimination and equality of the sexes. This bill helps preserve sex-specific spaces and clarifies relevant definitions to ensure the safety and well-being of girls and women in Arizona. Under SB 1628, "sex" is defined as a person's biological sex, either male or female, for all purposes of state law.

It preserves single-sex spaces to ensure girls' and women's safety and privacy in those spaces, while not changing current law or creating new restrictions on anyone's legal rights.

"Laws should be based in objective reality and uniform for all Arizonans," said Senator Kerr. "Men and boys have been encroaching on girls' and women's private spaces, like locker rooms and showers, as well as sports teams, robbing women from athletic opportunities and putting them in danger as they face physically stronger males in competition.

SB 1628 supports women and girls in their rights to privacy, fairness, and safety on the playing field."

Former University of Pennsylvania swimmer and Independent Women's Voice Ambassador Paula Scanlan joined Senator Kerr at a press conference today and spoke with lawmakers about the importance of this bill. Scanlan was forced to share a locker room and compete with Lia Thomas, a trans-identifying male swimmer. Even under immense pressure to keep silent, Scanlan is bravely speaking out against the abuses women and girls are dealing with. "I am happy to support the introduction of the Women's Bill of Rights in Arizona. With more than 3.5 million women living in the state, this bill would have an incredible impact in providing scientifically-sound protections for women and their personal spaces. Having experienced firsthand the injustices of inviting males into women's private areas and allowing them to steal athletic accolades from

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young ladies dedicating their lives to their chosen sports, I know the incredible importance of having legislation that stops these reckless new norms."

"Girls and women deserve to be safe in the places where they are most vulnerable, and we have seen far too many examples of girls and women physically injured, relegated to the bench, and bumped off the winner's podium by males competing as females," added Senator Kerr.

###

Representative Matt Gress Sponsors Legislation to Address Homelessness & Drug Control in Homeless Service Zones

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Matt Gress has introduced the “**Arizona Homeless Protection and Drug Control Act**,” [HB 2782](#), legislation which aims to bring significant amendments to existing laws to reduce homelessness and drug-related crime within designated homeless service zones.

“This legislation is an important step towards reducing chronic homelessness and drug-related crime, ensuring that Arizona’s vulnerable populations are effectively supported while ensuring public safety,” Representative Gress stated. **“Establishing accountability within homeless service zones will help safeguard our communities from drug-related crime and offer a more structured and supportive environment for our homeless population to rebuild their lives.”**

The bill introduces new sections under Title 13, Chapter 34, focusing on the unlawful presence and activities related to dangerous drugs in homeless service zones. It also revises existing sections under Title 41 to establish a permanent Homeless Shelter and Services Fund, allowing money to be used for temporary emergency shelter while also providing clear guidelines for mixed hoteling in homeless service facilities.

“We are taking decisive action to improve the quality of life in these zones, ensuring that they are safe and conducive to rehabilitation and support services,” added Gress. **“Our goal is to help people and address the root causes of homelessness, which ultimately leads to safer, healthier communities across Arizona.”**

###

House Republicans Call for Repeal of Federal Land Grab & Establishment of “Reverse 30x30 Initiative”

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Majority Leader Leo BIASIUCCI today announced that he and Representatives John Gillette, Gail Griffin, and Austin Smith have each introduced measures to push back against Democrat President Joe Biden’s abuse of power and control over lands in Arizona.

House Concurrent Memorial 2007 ([HCM 2007](#)), sponsored by Majority Leader Leo Biasiucci, urges the President to repeal the recent designation of the Grand Canyon Footprints National Monument in Northern Arizona and oppose any such designation in the state of Arizona in the future.

“In 2023, despite vehement state opposition, Democrat President Joe Biden designated the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument outside the Grand Canyon National Park,” said **Majority Leader Biasiucci**. “This restricted access to approximately 1 million acres of state and federal land located in Northern Arizona, which contain some of the state’s best land for ranching, farming, mining, logging, hunting, recreation – activities that local communities depend on for social and economic support.

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It also contains some of the largest deposits of high-quality uranium in the world. If allowed to stand, it will forever close this area to new uranium production and will continue America's reliance on uranium supplied from foreign nations."

House Concurrent Memorial 2005 ([HCM 2005](#)), sponsored by Representative Austin Smith, pushes back against President Biden's "30x30" agenda, which seeks to take 30 percent of all federal lands out of economic production (such as mining, energy, and agriculture) and, thereby, reduce our ability to provide for national food security and energy and mineral independence. It calls on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, a "Reverse 30x30" initiative to give 30 percent of all federally controlled land in the West to their respective states by 2030.

"The federal government is the largest landowner in the United States, controlling almost one-third of the entire land in the country," stated **Representative Smith**. "Over 90 percent of this land is in Western States. In Arizona, 42 percent of the land is controlled by the federal government. Under the equal footing doctrine of the U.S. Constitution, this land should have been given to their respective Western States upon statehood."

House Concurrent Memorial 2008 ([HCM 2008](#)), sponsored by Representative John Gillette, calls for the Antiquities Act of 1906 to be repealed or amended to reaffirm that entire landscapes, animate life, such as birds and mammals, and common plants and vegetation are not considered "landmarks, structures, or objects" under federal law. In 1950, Congress amended the Antiquities Act to provide an exemption for the state of Wyoming, which requires the "express authorization of Congress" to declare any additional national monuments in that state. HCM 2008 calls on Congress and the President to extend the exemption to all Western States.

"The Act, which was intended to preserve only historic landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest, has been repeatedly misused to set aside vast parcels of real property," **Representative Gillette** said. "The Act requires the President to designate only 'the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects,' but, since 1906, the size of each designation has increased with each additional monument. Since 1906, over 23 national monuments have been declared in Arizona, totaling 3.7 million acres, with Arizona now containing more national monuments than any other state (19 in total)."

House Concurrent Memorial 2006 ([HCM 2006](#)), sponsored by Representative Gail Griffin, calls for Congress to enact legislation that requires the express authorization of Congress, the state, and each county affected before any additional federal land grabs may be declared in Arizona.

"The intrusion and overreach of the federal government, including President Biden's economically harmful 30x30 initiative, pose the greatest threat to Arizona's lands, further preventing the state from deciding what is best for its citizens," said **Representative Griffin**. "The federal government has been unable to financially support and maintain its existing federal lands and has done an exceedingly poor job of stewarding these resources, both economically and ecologically, which often results in lands that are squandered, mismanaged, and closed to the public. The federal government should be giving existing federal lands to the states, not taking more land out of local control. State ownership is more efficient, thoughtful, accountable, and locally driven, which improves public access, environmental health, and economic productivity. Congress must enact legislation to protect the local customs, cultures, and historical uses of federally controlled lands by prohibiting the federal government from taking any additional federal mineral, land, water, or other national resources within Arizona's borders out of economic production without the express consent of Congress, the legislature, and affected counties."

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House Concurrent Memorial 2004 ([HCM 2004](#)), also sponsored by Representative Austin Smith, urges Congress to promptly enact legislation requiring the federal government to give to an affected state or county one acre of federal land for every acre the federal government removes or withdraws from the respective state or county.

“Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the federal land policy shifted from disposal, where land could enter the local property tax base, to permanent federal retention as untaxable federally controlled land,” said **Representative Smith**. “Recent federal initiatives have attempted to further erode property rights, pilfer more federally controlled land, and redesignate multi-use land as conservation land. Imposing federal preservation management on Arizona lands obstructs our state’s land management objectives and reduces rural communities’ ability to provide local public services. Arizona has been damaged by the inordinate cost and substantial uncertainty regarding the national government’s infringement on Arizona’s sovereign control of federally controlled lands within its borders. Had the federal government disposed of all land in Arizona at the time of statehood, Arizona would have generated substantial tax revenues to the benefit of public schools and the common good. It is time to start giving federal lands back to the states.”

###

ACC Move to Scrap Renewable Energy and Efficiency Rules is Bad News for Arizona Ratepayers

Today the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) is considering proposals by Chairman Jim O’Connor and Commissioner Kevin Thompson to do away with Arizona’s very modest 15% Renewable Energy Standard & Tariff (REST) and its energy efficiency standard.

“Scrapping these two important energy rules is a boneheaded move that will hamstring the state economy and guarantee higher electric bills for Arizonans,” said CRS president David Jenkins. *“For a state that swelters much of the summer under 100+ degree temps, the adage ‘waste not want not’ has never been more on point. Energy efficiency standards for utilities is a common-sense strategy to help keep down energy costs.”*

It’s worth noting that ratepayers in neighboring Nevada, which has a robust 50% by 2030 renewable energy standard, pay more than \$20 less per month for electricity than Arizona ratepayers.

“O’Connor’s logic on scuttling REST is baffling. Just because utilities are aiming much higher than the state’s meager 15% renewable standard is no reason to essentially rip out the floor by doing away with the standard,” Jenkins said.

“Folks really need to ask, why is the utility commission for the sunniest state in the nation so hell bent on—at the expense of its ratepayers—favoring expensive, out-of-state, fossil fuels over much cheaper in-state solar and storage?”

###

Mayor Gallego Celebrates New Plastics Microfactory Opening

PHOENIX—Today, Mayor Kate Gallego joined Arizona State University, Hustle PHX, Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona and the City of Phoenix Public Works and Community and Economic Development Departments to open a plastics microfactory, a facility where plastic waste is remanufactured on-site into new products, creating a circular system. The new program is part of Phoenix’s [Climate Action Plan](#) goals to reach 50% waste diversion by 2030 and zero waste by 2050.

“As we continue working with a mission of reaching our sustainability goals here in Phoenix, we are taking a fresh look at how we can extend the lifecycles of everyday products in order to prevent waste,” **Gallego**

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said. “This first-in-kind microfactory will not only help us keep plastic out of landfills, but in collaboration with Hustle PHX, will also support the creation of good, green jobs. I can’t wait to see the results of this new collaborative program.”

The microfactory flips the plastics value chain on its head by extracting the economic and social value tied to waste. It does so by adhering to a new system that can be distributed, decentralized and replicable, hence the “micro” in its name. This new factory will convert materials that would otherwise reach a landfill and remanufacture them into pellets and ultimately new products. And it supports development of social capital: as a cooperative business model, the microfactory will empower its workers to be owners, too.

Phoenix continues leading the way on innovative solutions that bring together different parts of the community, from academic experts to local organizations and businesses. Just last week, Gallego joined restauranteurs and the City Office of Environmental Programs to cap off "[Project REDUCE](#)," a 10-week program to help nine local restaurants on Historic Grand Avenue and Roosevelt Row reduce their food waste. The goal is to stop food from ending up in landfills by helping restaurants prevent waste, donate surplus food, and compost scraps. She also [recognized City of Phoenix Green Business Leaders](#) last week who are leading the way in sustainable practices.

###

EVIT event previews new housing for foster care students

Gov. Katie Hobbs will be the featured speaker at the Beam Signing Ceremony for HopeTech, a residential center at the East Valley Institute of Technology for youth in foster care

Media Contact: CeCe Todd, ctodd@evit.edu

Gov. Katie Hobbs will be the featured speaker at the EVIT Beam Signing Ceremony for HopeTech at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9 at the EVIT Main Campus in Mesa.

In 2022, state lawmakers allocated \$10 million to the East Valley Institute of Technology, a Career Technical Education District (CTED) with two central campuses in Mesa, to build residential housing for students who are aging out of the state foster care system.

Construction is now well under way at HopeTech, where these students will have a safe place to live while they complete their high school education, learn a trade in one of 50 EVIT career programs and receive additional support services.

“Statistics show that youth who are getting ready to transition out of the foster system face an uphill climb. They are more likely to drop out of school, become homeless, experience hunger and have difficulty becoming employed,” said EVIT Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson. “At HopeTech, we are going to give these students the support they desperately need to become independent adults.”

HopeTech, an apartment-style community on the east side of the EVIT Main Campus, will open in July with 16 students to start. Eventually, it will house up to 64 students ages 18 to 21 who are or were in foster care at age 18.

They will pay a maximum rent of \$500 and will be required to work a part-time job and spend 35 hours a week on academic requirements, internships, volunteer commitments and more. (See attached information sheet for more details.)

“Imagine what it was like for you when you turned 18 or when your children turned 18. What would that have been like if you had no home, no family to support you or if your children had no one to support them? That’s the scary prospect that teenagers aging out of foster care face,” Wilson said. “At HopeTech, we are going to wrap our arms around these students and provide them with the security, structure and support they need to step into life on their own.”

EVIT provides 50 career training programs for East Valley high school students and Phoenix-area adults, including Surgical Technology, Nursing and a wide range of health-care technician programs, Industrial

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Trades such as Welding, HVAC and Construction, and many more such as Cosmetology, Collision Repair, and Firefighting.

EVIT students have a 98% high school graduation rate, two out of three go on to college, and over 90% are in jobs related to their training, college or the military within a year of completing their program. For more information about EVIT, visit www.evit.edu. For more information about HopeTech, visit www.evit.edu/hopetech.

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“We did not want to move the primary date.” – *Kolodin on the GOP’s bill to fix the election deadline problem.*

From: [Stacey Farrell](#)
To: [Marsha Hood](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-7
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 7:55:00 AM
Attachments: [02-07-24-YS-FINAL.pdf](#)

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Some people aren't going to get their money in Q3



A [January memo](#) from OSPB Director Sarah Brown to JLBC Director Richard Stavneak obtained by our reporter confirmed the governor's office planned to pause allotments to a list of onetime FY2024 appropriations for the third quarter. Brown informed Stavneak the governor's office in collaboration with Dept. of Administration to establish an allotment schedule of 0% in Q3 for 20 programs, including the Dept. of Education's \$10 million art and music supplies grant, \$5 million Education Career and Exploration program and a \$10 million administration funding increase, Corrections' \$5 million transitional housing grant, a \$15 million grant for K-12 alternative transportation out of ADOA, ADHS's \$5 million psilocybin research grant, and some pork allocations, namely a transportation study out of Sun City and the \$15.3

million appropriation to the Prescott rodeo (though Yee has yet to distribute any of the rodeo funds due to an ongoing lawsuit). Brown wrote that revising the allotment schedule "ensures that the Legislature has an opportunity to review the remaining unobligated amount of \$88,990,190 before the monies leave the State General Fund, while also allowing an opportunity for distribution of the available spending authority to cover the entire fiscal year's operations before the end of the fiscal year." She added though revising the allotment schedule "does not resolve the projected fiscal year 2024 and 2025 deficits, it is a step that the Executive can take now to begin the work of reconciling the budget shortfalls alongside the Legislature." Hobbs included all the paused programs, aside from the corrections' transitional housing grant fund, as proposed clawbacks in her FY2025 executive budget [presented to JLBC](#) in January.

Hobbs hush, hush on holding money earmarked for art supplies

Horne claimed in an email to school districts Hobbs' office paused distribution of a \$10 million grant for art supplies. The FY2024 budget [allocated](#) \$10 million to be parsed out in \$1,000 grants to individual arts teachers to cover supplies. The Dept. Of Ed had already approved and paid \$2.54 million and had

a pending request to disperse \$4.7 million for the second and third quarters, but Horne said Art Harding, Chief of Operations, “got word” from the governor’s office that the funding was put on hold. Horne told our reporter he had not heard anything from the governor’s office since putting out a press release this morning. A spokesperson for the governor’s office did not respond to a request for comment.

Will ‘bona fide researcher’ cards come with a favorable ruling for liberal media

The Arizona Supreme Court will decide whether journalism qualifies as “bona fide research” in an exemption to Dept. of Economic Security records otherwise deemed confidential. Amy Silverman, a freelance investigative journalist and executive producer for KJZZ’s The Show, sued DES after the department denied a request for closed cases of reports and investigations from Adult Protective Services and for incident reports received by the Department of Developmental Disabilities for a story for the Arizona Daily Star. DES claimed the records were confidential under state law, and Silverman did not qualify under a “bona fide research” exemption [written in statute](#). The superior court ruled in favor of Silverman and denied a motion to dismiss from DES. But the Arizona Court of Appeals [vacated](#) the judgment in favor of Silverman finding the record on appeal was insufficient to determine whether her request constituted “bona fide research.” But they defined “bona fide research” as research for educational, administrative, or scientific purpose and found “provided their work otherwise qualifies as research, journalists may qualify for the bona fide research exception.” Silverman appealed the finding that the record was insufficient, while DES challenged the issue of journalism as “bona fide research.” The Arizona Supreme Court [granted review](#) on both questions and noted an intent to set the case for oral argument.

Tovar leaving Corp Comm at end of term

Anna Tovar announced she would not be seeking a second term on the Corporation Commission. Tovar, a Democrat, was elected in Nov. 2020, alongside Republicans Jim O’Connor and Lea Márquez Petersen. [In a statement](#) on her departure at the end of her term, Tovar said the current commission “needs a shake-up.” O’Connor previously told our reporter he would not be seeking reelection. Commissioner Lea Marquez Peterson filed [a statement of interest](#) to run again in 2024, while Kevin Thompson and Nick Myers still have two years left in their terms.

Richer pretty confident on this lawsuit

Strong Communities Foundation and a Maricopa County voter, represented by America First Legal and attorney Jen Wright, filed an [election lawsuit](#) against Maricopa County, rehashing the same claims of irregularities in the 2022 election that have already been litigated. Though the suit plays all the hits, like unmanned drop boxes, alleged breaks in chain of custody, printer failure, voter registration cancellations and improper signature verification, ballot reconciliation and curing, they add a claim that the location of voting centers in 2022 made it “easier for Hispanics and Blacks to vote and more difficult for Whites and Native Americans.” And they contend the county used artificial intelligence in signature verification, a claim which the county has debunked multiple times. “Same input, we fully expect the same output,” Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer said. “This will lose.”

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·WAKE UP CALL·**[Election deadline fix advances](#)**

Capitol Media Services

On a party-line vote, two legislative panels approved a series of changes in election laws Tuesday that Republicans say are needed to ensure that Arizonans are not disenfranchised.

[Masters tied with Hamadeh for Arizona House as Trump factors into race: Internal poll](#)

The Washington Examiner

Blake Masters, who lost his Senate bid in Arizona last cycle and is running to represent the state's 8th Congressional District, is tied with a candidate backed by former President Donald Trump in a crowded primary for the deep-red Arizona House seat, according to an internal polling memo commissioned by Masters's campaign.

[85-year-old Arizona doctor arrested for allegedly aiding in New York suicide](#)

4 New York

An 85-year-old Arizona doctor was arrested and charged for aiding in a suicide that allegedly took place in a New York motel, according to the Kingston Police Department.

[Planned Parenthood Arizona announces new leadership](#)

KJZZ

Planned Parenthood Arizona has announced a change in leadership. The organization's new CEO will take the helm amid ongoing legal and political fights over the state's abortion laws.

[Arizona voting timeline fix passes committee stage](#)

Daily Independent

On a party-line vote, two legislative panels approved a series of changes in election laws Tuesday Republicans say are needed to ensure that Arizonans are not disenfranchised.

[ARIZONA TEAMSTERS APPLAUD INTRODUCTION OF WAREHOUSE WORKER PROTECTION BILL](#)

Yahoo Finance

The Teamsters applauded the introduction of Arizona House Bill 2682, which would create transparency around dangerous quotas in warehouses and ensure unrealistic work conditions do not interfere with legally protected breaks for workers.

[ARIZONA BILLS WOULD BAN FELONY MURDER LAW—USED TO CHARGE BYSTANDERS FOR SHOOTINGS BY POLICE](#)

The Appeal

Arizona State Sen. Anna Hernandez introduced a bill last week to repeal the state's felony murder law, which has repeatedly been used to imprison bystanders for killings committed by police officers.

[The big lie about letting in 5,000 migrants a day will kill Sen. Sinema's border bill](#)

The Arizona Republic

There was never any doubt that consummate Donald Trump bootlickers like Republican Arizona Reps. Andy Biggs, Paul Gosar and Eli Crane, along with U.S. Senate candidate Kari Lake, would follow the edict of Dear Leader and oppose the bipartisan border security legislation worked out over many months by Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma and Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

['Gilbert Goons' case shows what brass knuckles have in common with assault weapons](#)

The Arizona Republic

Attacks by the street thugs known as the "Gilbert Goons" led the Arizona Senate Judiciary committee to unanimously advance a bill that would make possession and transfer of brass knuckles a misdemeanor.

[Fake elector uses his office to investigate Attorney General Kris Mayes. Payback much?](#)

The Arizona Republic

February 7, 2024

The Arizona Senate, confronted as it is with vexing problems governing elections, water, education and a state budget that's \$1.7 billion in the red, has launched a formal investigation into Attorney General Kris Mayes.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Arizona Chamber responds to new EPA air quality mandate

PHOENIX (Feb. 7, 2024)—Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry President and CEO Danny Seiden released the following statement regarding the EPA's finalization of a standard on fine particulate matter—or PM 2.5—that will push Maricopa County into a non-attainment designation:

“The entire premise of the Clean Air Act is one of cooperative federalism, where the federal government and state governments work together to address air pollution and maintain air quality standards. Today's EPA announcement of a new, stricter standard for PM 2.5 eviscerates that idea, replacing cooperation with an unrealistic and unattainable mandate. Arizona and the Southwest face unique issues and should not be subjected to this ineffective, one-size-fits-all approach.

“Arizona job creators believe in cooperative federalism and are good faith partners in efforts to improve air quality. But the federal government's top-down regulatory approach will have real consequences for Arizona industries like manufacturing, mining, and agriculture, and jeopardizes permitting for new job-creating projects.”

###

Arizonans Endorse Sinema's Border Security Bill

WASHINGTON – A growing chorus of bipartisan Arizona officials are announcing their support for Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema's bipartisan border security bill.

The Arizonans – including Yuma Mayor Nicholls, Mesa Mayor Giles, Casa Grande Mayor McFarland, The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Governor Katie Hobbs, former Governor and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, and more – detail how the Sinema-led package will help reassert control of the border, enhance security, stop the overwhelming flow of migrants, and provide long-awaited relief to Arizona communities. Yesterday, the National Border Patrol Council [endorsed Sinema's bipartisan bill](#).

“As a border mayor, I have and continue to urge Congress to take action to protect our borders. There is a critical need for immigration reform, and this bipartisan bill is a step in support of enforcement to manage the crisis. Thank you Senator Sinema for your leadership, and for incorporating many of the specific issues that border leaders have asked be addressed,” said Yuma Mayor Doug Nicholls.

“Casa Grande and other Arizona communities have had to shoulder the burden of the federal government's failures at our border for far too long. I applaud Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema for leading the charge and writing strong border security policy that will protect Arizona families and solve the border crisis. Arizona deserves solutions and inaction here is not an option,” said Casa Grande Mayor Craig McFarland.

“I applaud this legislation and urge my Republican colleagues to set aside political games and support

February 7, 2024

essential immigration reform. As a mayor in a border state, I've seen cities grapple with these challenges for decades. I applaud our Arizona Senator Sinema for her work to bring together both sides to deliver pragmatic solutions. This bipartisan proposal addresses our outdated immigration system, providing crucial support to our cities and dedicated border personnel. Cities and community members know that the time for decisive action is now," said Mesa Mayor John Giles.

"I want to applaud Senator Sinema for her leadership on the border security proposal. The crisis at our border has overwhelmed the personnel, funding and resources we rely on to ensure that our border is secure and our communities are safe. This bipartisan package will help address this urgent issue by providing the necessary tools to combat the persistent and pervasive challenges we are facing at our border," said Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke.

"I am saddened after all these many months, now some Senators have second thoughts about this from both parties. They need to understand from a border Mayor's perspective with limited resources, what it does to our community to now walk away from this bill. The border and flow of migrants is a problem that needs action now, not after an election or continued negotiations. Kicking the can down the road compounds any future ability to deal with this national problem. I would like to ask any of them to reverse their roles and trade places with me. How they would like to live in my home as a helicopter circled my home and neighbor at 6:30 in the morning for about an hour, as was the case today," said Bisbee Mayor Ken Budge.

"Arizona stands united for a stronger, safer border. The bipartisan Senate agreement represents a critical opportunity to achieve this. It's time for action. Congress faces a choice: bipartisan problem-solving or political gamesmanship. We must prioritize providing a safe, secure, and humane border as we work to keep our communities safe," said Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs.

"Yuma shoulders the burden of a broken immigration and border system. For too long, our community has been asked to do the impossible with little to no resources or help from the federal government. I am grateful for Arizona Senator Kyrsten Sinema's leadership in writing the most important bipartisan border security legislation in decades, and I hope Congress quickly passes it to help fix the broken border and give Yuma the help we need," said Yuma County Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi.

"We are grateful to Senator Sinema and her Senate colleagues for working on this significant piece of legislation. We are grateful to see real leadership on this issue. While some may think it is all politics, for those of us on the border, it is very real and the lack of inaction is affecting us every day," said Supervisor Bruce Bracker from Santa Cruz County. "If passed this bill will get much needed resources to the border and to federal enforcement authorities so they can do their job right."

"Since Joe Biden has been in office, CBP has averaged over 8,000 apprehensions per day and the vast majority of these illegal immigrants have been released under a policy known as catch-and-release. Approximately 60% of all border apprehensions are single adults, a good number of whom are military age men. The Border Act of 2024 will give U.S. Border Patrol agents authorities codified, in law, that we have not had in the past. This will allow us to remove single adults expeditiously and without a lengthy judicial review which historically has required the release of these individuals into the interior of the United States. This alone will drop illegal border crossings nationwide and will allow our agents to get back to detecting and apprehending those who want to cross our borders illegally and evade apprehension. While not perfect, the Border Act of 2024 is a step in the right direction and is far better

February 7, 2024

than the current status quo. This is why the National Border Patrol Council endorses this bill and hopes for its quick passage,” said Brandon Judd, President of the National Border Patrol Council.

“Border communities disproportionately shoulder the burden of our immigration system. The bipartisan border bill in the U.S. Senate provides needed resources to U.S. Border Patrol and the courts to do their jobs, process asylum claims and secure the border. I am pleased Senators Lankford and Sinema have facilitated a bi-partisan effort to author this legislation and I hope for swift passage of this package into law,” said former Arizona Governor and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.

“The Greater Phoenix Chamber thanks Senator Sinema and those involved in the bi-partisan negotiations on the immigration provisions contained in the emergency supplemental funding proposal being considered by the U.S. Senate. The Chamber has long advocated for comprehensive immigration solutions and this proposal addresses needed border security, asylum and key visa reforms. As a border state, Arizona has been on the frontlines of the border crisis and the status quo is simply no longer acceptable. We urge Congress to pass these critical items along with providing needed aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan,” said Todd Sanders, CEO of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

“The Chandler Chamber of Commerce is proud to support Kyrsten Sinema on the bipartisan border security deal. Arizona’s dire need for commonsense solutions cannot be overstated, and we urge Congress to act swiftly to ensure a more secure and resilient Arizona,” said the Chandler Chamber of Commerce.

“We applaud Senator Sinema and the bipartisan efforts that have been put forward in addressing a national security threat that is impacting our border communities. We have long advocated for more border security and policies that will address the issues and concerns that border states like Arizona have been plagued with. We support the efforts and feel this is the first step in addressing border security and closing the loopholes in our immigration policies that only Congress can address. The failure to act has impacted the entire county, particularly those farm and ranch families living along the border. We must make our borders safe and secure, and it is simply time for Congress to act. Every day in which we accept the status quo the problem will become even more difficult to fix. We realize this bill isn’t perfect but also know there is an opportunity to continue to work with lawmakers toward meaningful policy solutions that will further address our broken immigration system,” said Stefanie Smallhouse, President of the Arizona Farm Bureau.

Click [HERE](#) to read the bill text, [HERE](#) to read a brief summary, [HERE](#) to read a section-by-section of the bill, and [HERE](#) to view a Myth v. Fact sheet.

Sinema, Lankford, and Murphy’s bipartisan package reasserts control of the border, protects border communities, disrupts the flow of fentanyl into the country, and solves the border crisis by ending catch and release, strengthening our asylum system by delivering determinations efficiently and fairly, enhancing security, and improving the legal immigration system.

###

Sinema to Deliver Senate Floor Speech Ahead of Vote on her Bipartisan Border Security Bill

February 7, 2024

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema will deliver a speech on the U.S. Senate floor ahead of the vote on her bipartisan border security bill, where she will highlight how Arizona’s border crisis continues despite Washington’s failure to act.

Sinema introduced her bipartisan border security bill with Republican Senator James Lankford (Okla.) and Democratic Senator Chris Murphy (Conn.). The Senators’ bipartisan legislative package reasserts control of the border, protects border communities, disrupts the flow of fentanyl into the country, and solves the border crisis by ending catch and release, strengthening our asylum system by delivering determinations efficiently and fairly, enhancing security, and improving the legal immigration system.

Click [HERE](#) to read the bill text, [HERE](#) to read a brief summary, [HERE](#) to read a section-by-section of the bill, and [HERE](#) to view a Myth v. Fact sheet.

Details:

U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema’s Floor Speech on her bipartisan border security bill

When: Today, February 7, 2024

Approx. 11:45 a.m. Arizona Time (1:45 p.m. Eastern Time)

Click [HERE](#) to watch.

###

Media Advisory: Maricopa County Sheriff Appointment Tomorrow

WHAT: The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will appoint a new Sheriff to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Paul Penzone. The appointment follows Board interviews with three finalists who were among eight people to apply for the position.

WHEN: Thursday, February 8, 2024. 11 a.m.

WHERE: Board of Supervisors Conference Room. 301 West Jefferson Street, 10th floor. *Cameras welcome. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to start of meeting.*

WHO: Members of the Board of Supervisors; newly-appointed Sheriff

This event will be streamed live on [Maricopa County’s YouTube channel](#).

###

ICYMI: Sinema on CNN’s The Lead: Senators Get to Make Their Own Decisions, Choose if They Want to Secure the Border

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema [joined](#) CNN’s The Lead with Jake Tapper to detail how her bipartisan border security bill solves the unmitigated crisis at Arizona’s border. The Senator called on her colleagues to take accountability for their own actions, put partisanship aside, and pass the bill she crafted with Republican Senator James Lankford (Okla.) and Democratic Senator Chris Murphy (Conn.). Sinema, Lankford, and Murphy’s bipartisan legislative package reasserts control of the border,

February 7, 2024

protects border communities, disrupts the flow of fentanyl into the country, and solves the border crisis by ending catch and release, strengthening our asylum system by delivering determinations efficiently and fairly, enhancing security, and improving the legal immigration system.

Click [HERE](#) to read the bill text, [HERE](#) to read a brief summary, [HERE](#) to read a section-by-section of the bill, and [HERE](#) to view a Myth v. Fact sheet.

###

Arizona Woman Sentenced for Concealing Funds Intended to Support Acts of Terrorism

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Jill Marie Jones, 37, formerly of Chandler, was sentenced on Monday by United States District Judge Dominic W. Lanza to 78 months in prison, followed by 25 years of supervised release. Jones pleaded guilty to Concealment of Funds Intended to Support Acts of Terrorism.

As early as 2019, Jones regularly posted anti-American content on social media platforms because she believed the United States military unjustly treated Muslims overseas. In 2020, Jones began communicating online with a person she believed to be a member of al Qaeda, but who was in fact working for the FBI. On May 10, 2020, when asked by this individual if she supported al Qaeda and their struggle against the kuffar (non-believers), Jones responded, “Yes, I do.” Jones communicated with this individual about traveling to Afghanistan to support al Qaeda because “supporting AQ against the oppressors would be an honour.”

On May 18, 2020, when asked whether she could spare any money to buy weapons for al Qaeda to kill American soldiers, Jones responded that, while she was not well-off financially, the U.S. government’s COVID stimulus checks presented an opportunity: “The timing is interesting. Since because of coronavirus we all got government money. Free money basically. ... [I]t would be most ironic the money from that goes for this . . . They give us free money, and I turn it around on them.”

Jones agreed to send money, via a prepaid credit card. After researching prepaid cards online, Jones determined that an online purchase could be traced back to her because it required the disclosure of personal information. In order to conceal the source, ownership, and control of her funds, Jones traveled to a national retail store and purchased a \$500 prepaid credit card using the COVID stimulus money provided to her by the U.S. government. She then sent the card information to the purported al Qaeda member with the message, “may it help them to be victorious.” Jones intended for these funds to be used by al Qaeda to purchase rifle scopes for use against American soldiers in Afghanistan.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amy Chang, David Pimsner, and Lisa Jennis, District of Arizona, Phoenix handled the prosecution.

###

February 7, 2024

Kelly, Hassan, Cassidy Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Increase Access to Job Counseling Services for Surviving Spouses of Service Members

Senators Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Eric Schmitt (R-MO) introduced a bipartisan bill to increase access to job counseling services for surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces who died while on active duty. The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, housed within the Veterans' Employment and Training Service at the Department of Labor, provides every state with funding to hire specialists who provide individualized career counseling services to eligible veterans. The *Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act* would expand the program so that surviving spouses can also use these services.

"We have an obligation to stand behind the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of our country," said Kelly. "Making sure surviving spouses have the services they need to get a good-paying job to support their families after their loss is the least our government can do."

"After the terrible loss of a service member, we must do everything that we can to support their families," said Hassan. "This bipartisan bill is a commonsense way to help address the challenges that surviving spouses can face in their careers, and we must continue working to support our service members and their families."

"We often thank the wife or husband of those serving overseas for their sacrifice," said Cassidy. "If we really mean this, then a Gold Star spouse should be able to continue to access the services that they accessed when their husband or wife was alive."

###

Arizona Chamber responds to new EPA air quality mandate

PHOENIX (Feb. 7, 2024)—Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry President and CEO Danny Seiden released the following statement regarding the EPA's finalization of a standard on fine particulate matter—or PM 2.5—that will push Maricopa County into a non-attainment designation:

"The entire premise of the Clean Air Act is one of cooperative federalism, where the federal government and state governments work together to address air pollution and maintain air quality standards. Today's EPA announcement of a new, stricter standard for PM 2.5 eviscerates that idea, replacing cooperation with an unrealistic and unattainable mandate. Arizona and the Southwest face unique issues and should not be subjected to this ineffective, one-size-fits-all approach.

"Arizona job creators believe in cooperative federalism and are good faith partners in efforts to improve air quality. But the federal government's top-down regulatory approach will have real consequences for Arizona industries like manufacturing, mining, and agriculture, and jeopardizes permitting for new job-creating projects."

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###

AEA RESPONDS TO PROPOSAL ON RENEWING PROPOSITION 123

This afternoon, the Arizona State Senate Education Committee will vote on SCR1034, which places restrictions on how any funds raised by a renewal of Proposition 123 could be used. Arizona Education Association President Marisol Garcia released the following statement:

“We strongly support renewing Proposition 123 in order to raise pay for Arizona's educators, and we have been meeting with legislators of both parties around the issue for months. We don't always see eye-to-eye with Republican legislators, but on this issue, we are eager to engage and willing to compromise.

Unfortunately, a handful of legislators are rushing forward with a proposal so deeply flawed that it would do more harm than good. So far, they seem to be fast tracking the bill, and have refused to take feedback or make changes.

Their proposal:

- Would replace any salary boost from a renewal of Proposition 123 with a restrictive bonus program for classroom teachers that would penalize rookie teachers and those with higher-needs classrooms, while excluding all other school staff entirely
- Would force many districts to lay off teachers and staff in response to any funding cut, like an override failing or a financial downturn
- Would create a massive new program to oversee teacher pay and evaluations, administered directly by Superintendent Tom Horne

We urge legislators of both parties to take a step back. Putting something on the ballot is a serious step, especially given that the original Proposition 123 passed only by the narrowest of margins. For any Proposition 123 renewal to succeed, it will need bipartisan support and a robust campaign. Let's work together to craft a proposal that can be effective in delivering the funding that educators, communities and students so desperately need.”

###

February 7, 2024

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

From: [Heather Covert](#)
To: [Josh Kredit](#); [Grant Hanna](#); [Rusty Crandell](#); [Kate Sawyer](#)
Cc: [Gina Jenkins](#)
Subject: FW: Issued Opinion I24-001 / Opinion Request R23-020
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:23:00 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[2024-01-17 Issued Opinion I24-001 Governor's Memo.pdf](#)

From: Fifer, Sarah <Sarah.Fifer@azag.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:01 AM
To: 'bdul@az.gov' <bdul@az.gov>; Warren Petersen <wpetersen@azleg.gov>; Ben Toma <btoma@azleg.gov>; 'sosadmin@azsos.gov' <sosadmin@azsos.gov>
Cc: Mitzi Epstein <mepstein@azleg.gov>; Juan Mendez <jmendez@azleg.gov>; Andres Cano <ACano@azleg.gov>; Lupe Contreras <lcontreras@azleg.gov>; Susan Aceves <saceves@azleg.gov>; Krystle Isvoranu <KIsvoranu@azleg.gov>; Josh Babel <JBabel@azleg.gov>; Tim Fleming <t Fleming@azleg.gov>; Jennifer Holder <JHolder@azleg.gov>; Chris Kleminich <CKleminich@azleg.gov>; Bendor, Joshua <Joshua.Bendor@azag.gov>
Subject: Issued Opinion I24-001 / Opinion Request R23-020

Attached please find a copy of Arizona Attorney General Issued Opinion No I24-001.

Sarah Fifer
Paralegal



Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes
Solicitor General's Office
2005 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004
Direct: 602-542-8045
Sarah.fifer@azag.gov
<http://www.azag.gov>

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KRIS MAYES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ARIZONA

TO: The Honorable Katie Hobbs, Governor
The Honorable Adrian Fontes, Secretary of State
The Honorable Warren Petersen, President of the Senate
The Honorable Ben Toma, Speaker of the House of Representatives

FROM: Kris Mayes, Attorney General

DATE: January 17, 2024

RE: Attorney General Opinion I24-001

Attached is a copy of Attorney General Opinion I24-004, which discusses whether the final results for Proposition 413 require the City of Tucson to conduct a recount.

cc: The Honorable Denise Epstein, Minority Leader, State Senate, MEpstein@azleg.gov
The Honorable Juan Mendez, Assistant Minority Leader, State Senate, JMendez@azleg.gov
The Honorable Lupe Contreras, Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
LContreras@azleg.gov
The Honorable Oscar De Los Santos, Assistant Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
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Susan Aceves, Senate Secretary, saceves@azleg.gov
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STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

<p>ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION</p> <p>By</p> <p>KRIS MAYES ATTORNEY GENERAL</p> <p>January 17, 2024</p>	<p>No. I24-001 (R23-020)</p> <p>Re: Whether Proposition 413 is subject to an automatic recount under A.R.S. § 16-661.</p>
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To: Adrian Fontes
Secretary of State
1700 West Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Questions Presented

Whether the City of Tucson is required to recount its November 7, 2023 election on Proposition 413 under A.R.S. § 16-661, the state’s automatic recount statute, because of the narrow margin of votes by which Proposition 413 passed.

Summary Answer

A.R.S. § 16-661’s reference to automatic recounts of “referred measures” only encompasses statewide ballot measures and does not include municipal measures like Proposition 413. As such, no recount is required.

Background

On November 7, 2023, the City of Tucson held a special election on Proposition 413, a ballot measure referred to Tucson voters by the Mayor and City Council to amend the city charter to increase the Mayor's and councilmembers' salaries.

City voters approved Proposition 413 by a margin of 289 votes out of 94,014 total votes cast. That margin represents less than half of one percent of all votes cast.

On November 21, 2023, the City of Tucson approved the canvass of Proposition 413. *See* City of Tucson Resolution No. 23697. Because of the narrow margin, the City also approved a motion directing the City Clerk and City Attorney to notify the Secretary of State and Attorney General of the Proposition 413 vote margin and canvass and to seek advice regarding the applicability of the automatic recount statute to the Proposition 413 election. The motion also authorized the City Attorney to file a legal action if necessary to confirm whether a recount is required under Arizona law for Proposition 413.

Analysis

Title 16, Chapter 4, Article 12 governs recounts of Arizona elections. *See* A.R.S. §§ 16-661-67. Specifically, A.R.S. § 16-661(A) provides:

A recount of the vote is required when the canvass of returns in a primary or general election shows that the margin between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for a particular office, or between the number of votes cast for and against initiated or referred measures or proposals to amend the Constitution of Arizona, is less than or equal to one-half of one percent of the number of votes cast for both such candidates or on such measures or proposals.

Subsection B excludes certain elections from an automatic recount, namely, "elections for precinct committeemen, school district governing boards, community college district governing boards, fire district boards or fire district chiefs or secretary-treasurers or boards of other special districts."

A.R.S. § 16-661(B).

To determine whether the recount statutes apply to a municipal measure such as Proposition 413, we examine the meaning of “referred measures” in § 16-661(A) and assign the statutory text its ordinary meaning. *State v. Luviano*, 255 Ariz. 225, 530 P.3d 388, 391 ¶ 10 (2023). Viewed in isolation, “referred measures” would appear to encompass all potential referred ballot measures, including statewide, county, and municipal referred measures, because there is no indication in § 16-661(A) itself that “referred measures” should be limited to certain levels of government. Under that view, § 16-661(A) would apply to a municipal referred measure such as Proposition 413.¹

However, the meaning of statutory text must be assessed “in view of the entire text, considering the context and related statutes on the same subject” and text should not be read in isolation. *See Molera v. Hobbs*, 250 Ariz. 13, 24 ¶ 34 (2020) (citation omitted). The statutes that follow § 16-661 make clear that the term “initiated or referred measures” in the recount statutes refer only to *statewide* initiatives or measures. Put another way, the statutes do not contemplate recounts of local initiatives or referred measures.

First, A.R.S. § 16-662 governs which official should certify the facts requiring a recount and in which court that certification should be filed. “[I]n the case of an office to be filled by electors of the entire state, a congressional district, a legislative district or a subdivision of the state greater than a county, initiated or referred measures or proposals to amend the constitution,” the secretary of state shall certify the facts requiring a recount, and he shall do so in Maricopa County

¹ Proposition 413 was sent to voters in a special election. Section 16-661(A) states that it only applies to primary and general elections; however, because A.R.S. § 16-537 clarifies that “[t]he powers and duties conferred or imposed by law upon any public officer with respect to regular elections are conferred and imposed upon such officers with respect to special elections,” § 16-661(A) also applies to special elections. *See also* Tucson City Charter XIV § 18 (providing that special elections be conducted in the same manner as general elections).

Superior Court. A.R.S. § 16-662. By contrast, “[i]n the case of an office to be filled by the electors of a county or subdivision of a county or precinct,” the county board of supervisors shall certify the facts, and they shall do so in “the superior court in the county in which the canvass was conducted.” *Id.* Similarly, “in the case of an office to be filled by the electors of a city or town, the city or town council of that city or town shall certify the facts requiring a recount,” and they shall do it in the superior court in the county in which the canvass was conducted. *Id.* In other words, initiated or referred measures are included in § 16-662 only where the secretary of state is the filing officer; all other filing officers certify facts for a recount only for candidates.

This statute thus breaks elections down into two categories: (1) elections at greater than the county level, and (2) elections at the county level or lower. In the former category, the secretary of state is the initiating officer for a recount, and the recount action is filed in Maricopa County Superior Court. In the latter category, local officials are the initiating officers, and the recount action is filed in the county in which the election was conducted and canvassed.

Relevant here, § 16-662 places “referred measures” in the former category, of elections at greater than the county level. Whenever there is a recount for a referred measure, it must be initiated by the secretary of state in Maricopa County, just like elections for statewide office. That would make little sense if “referred measures” included measures voted on only by the voters of a single county, city, or town. It indicates that, in this statutory context, “referred measures” means statewide measures, not local ones.

Second, § 16-665 categorizes elections in a distinct but related way that similarly indicates that referred measures, in this context, means statewide measures. That section requires that the result of a recount be presented to a court, which announces the result and issues an order. A.R.S. § 16-665(A). Then, the certified copy of that order shall be delivered as follows:

1. To the governor with respect to an initiative or referendum measure, or proposal to amend the Constitution of Arizona. The governor shall forthwith issue a proclamation reciting the total number of votes cast for or against the initiative or referendum measure, or amendment to the constitution, as certified by the court, and declaring such measure or amendment as approved by a majority voting thereon, as certified by the court, to be the law.

2. To the secretary of state with respect to offices to be filled by electors of the entire state, a congressional district, a legislative district or a subdivision of the state greater than a county. The secretary of state shall forthwith deliver to the candidate entitled thereto, as certified by the court, the certificate of election.

3. To the clerk of the board of supervisors with respect to offices to be filled by electors of the county or a subdivision of a county, or a precinct, or in the case of an office to be filled by the electors of a city or town, to the city or town clerk. The clerk of the board of supervisors or the city or town clerk shall forthwith deliver to the candidate entitled thereto, as certified by the court, the certificate of election.

A.R.S. § 16-665(B). This statute groups measures referred to the people with other changes made by the people to state law (initiatives and constitutional amendments), all of which are certified and announced by the governor. By contrast, the only elections for which local officials receive the certificate are elections for local offices; referred measures are not included in this category of elections for which certification is a local matter. This too indicates that the term “referred measures” in § 16-661 refers to statewide measures, not local ones.

Third, A.R.S. § 16-666 allocates the expenses of recounts in a manner that, once again, indicates that referred measures in the recount statutes are statewide affairs. The statute provides:

The expenses of the recount of the votes as provided in this article, if for an office to be filled by state electors, or if upon an initiative or referendum measure, or proposal to amend the constitution, shall be a state charge, and if for an office to be filled by the electors of a county or a subdivision of a county, or precinct, shall be a county charge. In the case of an office to be filled by the electors of a city or town, the expenses of the recount shall be a city or town charge.

A.R.S. § 16-666. If there’s a recount of a “referendum measure,” the State pays the cost. By contrast, a county or city is responsible for the cost of a recount only for elections for offices of a county or city, respectively. *Id.* Again, it would make little sense for the State to be responsible for

the cost of recounts for local referenda or initiatives, but not for the cost of recounts for local offices.

Legislative history also provides some helpful context. In 2004, the Legislature passed S.B. 1244, amending the recount statutes to clarify that they applied to municipal *candidate* elections after a dispute about whether the then-operative version of the statute requiring recounts for county officer elections also encompassed city and town officer elections. *See* A.R.S. § 16-661(6) (2004).

As explained in the Senate Fact Sheet:

In 2003, the margin between two candidates for a council election in Youngtown was two votes. Maricopa County election officials determined the current statute did not apply to municipalities. Although county officials performed the recount in that instance, they informed Youngtown that the County did not believe it was responsible for administering the recount. Prior to that incident, Maricopa County had automatically conducted recounts for city and town elections where the difference in votes was equal to or less than one-tenth of one percent or ten or less votes. S.B. 1244 specifies that the recount statute also applies to municipal elections.

See S.B. 1244 Senate Fact Sheet as Enacted, (May 10, 2004), https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/46leg/2r/summary/s.1244jud_finalamended.doc.htm.

S.B. 1244 amended § 16-661(6) to explicitly confirm that city and town *officer* elections were subject to recount if there was a ten-vote margin. A.R.S. § 16-661(6) (2004). S.B. 1244 made similar conforming changes to the surrounding recount statutes. *See* A.R.S. § 16-662 (2004) (clarifying that municipal recounts in officer elections should be presented to the court in which the canvass was conducted); § 16-665(3) (2004) (clarifying that the city or town clerk shall deliver certificate of election after municipal recounts in officer elections); § 16-666 (2004) (clarifying that the city or town shall bear cost of municipal officer election recounts). These amendments all were made with respect only to elections to “an office”—the type of election underlying the dispute which prompted the amendment.

Although the Legislature could have also amended the recount provisions (in 2004 or at any other time) to clarify that the statutes apply to all municipal elections, it did not do so. In light of this legislative silence, and the way referred measures are treated in sections 16-662, -665, and -666, applying § 16-661 to municipal ballot measures would inappropriately “read into a statute something which is not within the manifest intention of the [L]egislature as indicated by the statute itself.” *Mussi v. Hobbs*, 255 Ariz. 395, 532 P.3d 1131, 1138 ¶ 34 (2023) (citation omitted); *see also State v. Fink in & for Cnty. of Santa Cruz*, ___ Ariz. ___, 539 P.3d 543, 546 ¶ 9 (Ariz. Ct. App. Nov. 7, 2023) (citation omitted) (The “mere fact a statute is silent as to a particular scenario neither makes it ambiguous nor permits [a court] to read provisions into it.”).

Finally, we note that the Legislature’s decision to not explicitly list municipal ballot measures in § 16-661(B) as a type of election not subject to the recount provisions does not counsel a different result. The fact that subsection (B) specifically excludes certain officer elections that would otherwise be subject to recount under subsection (A) sheds no light on whether the Legislature intended municipal ballot measures to be subject to recount. Furthermore, because the rest of the recount article indicates that municipal ballot measures are not included under § 16-661(A), there is no reason to exclude them under § 16-661(B).

Conclusion

Read in the context of the recount article, the term “referred measures” in § 16-661 encompasses only statewide referred measures, not municipal measures. If the legislature had intended to expand the recount article to encompass municipal elections more broadly, as opposed

to just municipal officer elections, it could have said so. It did not. Therefore, the City of Tucson is not required to recount the election for Proposition 413.

Kris Mayes
Attorney General

From: [Heather Covert](#)
To: [Warren Petersen](#)
Subject: FW: Weekly Newsletter -- Needs Review!
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:18:00 PM
Attachments: [Caucus Weekly Newsletter 2-3.pdf](#)

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:55 PM

To: Janae Shamp <JShamp@azleg.gov>; Shawna Bolick <SBolick@azleg.gov>; Sonny Borrelli <sborrelli@azleg.gov>; David Farnsworth <DFarnsworth@azleg.gov>; J.D. Mesnard <JMesnard@azleg.gov>; J.D. Campaign <jd@jdmesnard.com>; Sine Kerr <SKerr@azleg.gov>; Warren Petersen <votewarren@gmail.com>; Jake Hoffman <jake@jakehoffman.com>; Thomas T.J. Shope <tshope@azleg.gov>; Justine Wadsack <JWadsack@azleg.gov>

Cc: Galen Kimmick <gkimmick@azleg.gov>; Cory Blumstein <CBlumstein@azleg.gov>; Dominic Rodgers <DRodgers@azleg.gov>; Dan Gardner <dgardner@azleg.gov>; Marsha Hood <mhood@azleg.gov>; Heather Covert <HCovert@azleg.gov>; Tammy Phillips <TPhillips@azleg.gov>; Sebastian Rembao <SRembao@azleg.gov>; Isaac Glover <IGlover@azleg.gov>; Stacey Farrell <SFarrell@azleg.gov>

Subject: Weekly Newsletter -- Needs Review!

Hi Senators,

We had a ton to highlight this week, well done!

Please review your section of the newsletter and let me know if you have any edits by 3pm Friday.

Thank you,

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
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February 3, 2024

A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH TEXAS

I commend Texas Governor Greg Abbott for his efforts to defend his state from the border invasion our nation is enduring at the hands of the Biden Administration. I believe very strongly Governor Hobbs should follow his lead. This week, I introduced SCR 1042 to express the Legislature's commitment of support for Texas, to call on Hobbs to do the same, and to demand Joe Biden fulfill his constitutional duty to fight back against the invasion. Senate President Petersen and House Speaker Toma also signed onto a letter with more than two dozen state attorneys general urging Biden and his Department of Homeland Security to either enforce our immigration laws and protect our southern border, or get out of the way so Texas can. Our law enforcement resources are outnumbered, and our communities are in peril from the millions of people who have entered our country illegally since Biden took office. We're experiencing numerous horrific crimes daily.



-Senator Shawna Bolick



ARIZONA STARTER HOMES ACT

Hardworking Arizonans are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase their first home and begin their pursuit of the American dream. With the average home sale price in our state currently surpassing \$400,000, many young families and young professionals have been priced out of the market. This week, House Majority Leader Biasiucci and I hosted a press conference to bring attention to this issue and to urge lawmakers to pass the Arizona Starter Homes Act. This legislation is a step in the right direction in bringing prices down by eliminating some of the government bureaucracy contributing to increased costs on homebuilding. We heard from a fellow Marine who shared the difficulties our men and women in service are encountering as they try to purchase a home, as well as a single mom of three working multiple jobs to no avail. Unfortunately, big government overreach at the local and county levels has limited our housing supply and continues to drive prices up.



-Senator Sonny Borrelli





February 3, 2024

SCHOOL CHOICE IS EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

I came to the legislature in 1994, and what we have in Arizona today was a dream for us back then, when we first started the conversation on school choice. I have seven children and 32 grandchildren. Each grandchild has different needs. I have a granddaughter who is severely autistic. I have some grandchildren who are incredibly brilliant. Some are in public schools, others are in charter schools, and some are homeschooled. I'm grateful my seven children have the freedom here to choose what's best for each individual child and their needs. I shared this message at a press conference with state Superintendent Horne and President Petersen to set the record straight on false information being pushed by Governor Hobbs, Democrats, and teacher unions. Our message: not only do ESAs provide countless opportunities for our youth, they also save taxpayer dollars. State funding for education, including ESAs, currently has a projected \$28 million surplus!



-Senator David Farnsworth

REPUBLICANS SPEARHEAD TEACHER PAY FUND

Two months after Senate Republicans first announced plans to provide teachers with pay raises as part of our Caucus priorities this year to combat inflation, we officially introduced our legislation on the matter this week. I sponsored SCR 1027, and Senator Hoffman introduced SCR 1034. They are both ballot referrals that, if approved by voters, would increase distributions from the State Land Trust Fund to 6.9%, with that money solely directed to providing K-12 public district and charter school teachers with raises of about \$4,000 on average, all without raising taxes. This will increase the average salary to just over \$60,000, slightly above the national average. While we appreciate the Governor embracing our idea to use funding from the State Land Trust in this fashion, her proposal of increasing distributions to 8.9% in order to provide money to a variety of other educational initiatives is not a fiscally responsible, realistic, or sustainable move and would detrimentally rob the trust.



AZ-SEN-24-0092-A-000127

-Senator J.D. Mesnard

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT



February 3, 2024



RURAL ARIZONANS FIGHT HOBBS' ABUSE OF POWER

Dozens of generational farmers, ranchers, and land owners from Gila Bend and other parts of rural Arizona converged at the Capitol to speak out against Governor Hobbs' abuse of power on groundwater management. At issue is her Administration's plans to designate Gila Bend Basin as an Active Management Area, which is something no Governor has ever done in the 44 years since the passage of the Groundwater Management Act. Disdain and disrespect for rural Arizona, and especially the agriculture community, have been on full display by the Governor since she first formed her "Water Policy Council," when her administration chose to silence their voices on how to best manage their own aquifers. My bill, SB 1221, represents months of discussions with rural Arizonans from all over the state to create a viable solution for a local groundwater tool. Despicably, the Governor is using fear and intimidation of big government and is threatening their livelihoods.



-Senator Sine Kerr

DEFENDING ELECTION INTEGRITY

I delivered on a promise this week to initiate legal action against our Secretary of State for attempts to disenfranchise voters and subvert state election laws within the latest edition of the Elections Procedures Manual. Both the Secretary and our Governor have a track record of not following the law. As a result, House Speaker Toma and I filed a lawsuit to protect the integrity of our elections. This reckless EPM opens the door to unlawful activity and undermines the voter confidence measures Republican lawmakers have implemented over the years. We are requesting Maricopa County Superior Court throw out a number of provisions in the EPM, which violate or conflict with current election laws. Some of the more egregious elements include an unlawful attempt to delay implementation of a 2021 state law that helps prevent voter fraud until 2027, as well as allowing people who aren't residents of Arizona to vote in our elections. Read more on this issue [here](#).



AZ-SEN-24-0092-A-000128
-President Warren Petersen

AMERICAN
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February 3, 2024

PROMOTING PRO-AMERICAN VALUES IN SCHOOLS

I proudly joined PragerU CEO Marissa Streit, Superintendent Horne, and many of my Republican colleagues for a press conference to announce a new partnership with PragerU that will support teachers and students in Arizona. PragerU is offering free, transparent, truth-based curriculum and supplemental material to teachers and school districts all across our state, which will be accessible through the Arizona Department of Education's website. The lessons PragerU developed are fun, interactive, and entertaining. They'll provide teachers the opportunity to implement content grounded in traditional American values that inspire self-reliance, patriotism, and resiliency. The subjects include civics, life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, Western civilization, and others. This relationship is about setting up Arizona's children for educational success, so that they may become well-rounded adults.



-Senator Jake Hoffman

COMBATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SCAMS

Artificial Intelligence technology is becoming more sophisticated, and criminals are taking advantage of it. Scammers now have the ability to create realistic audio that sounds like the voices of unsuspecting victims' loved ones. Scottsdale resident Jennifer DeStefano testified on Capitol Hill in D.C. last year, shining a light on her disturbing experience with scammers cloning her daughter's voice and demanding \$1 million in ransom. In an effort to prevent this type of fraud from happening to others, I introduced SB 1599 this week, which will establish AI as a weapon, so that there may be legal consequences when this technology is used to commit crimes. I can't imagine getting a call from who I believe is my child that's been kidnapped. That type of encounter has lasting traumatizing effects that impact your sense of security and safety. Unfortunately, this isn't an isolated incident. Having the legal tools to fight back is absolutely necessary.



AZ-SEN-24-0092-A-000129
-Senator Justine Waasack



February 3, 2024

ENSURING TREATMENT FOR 'DETRANSITIONERS'

My heart goes out to the growing number of children and young adults struggling with their gender identity who were or will be pushed towards physically altering their bodies as a solution, rather than receive the mental health care they deserve. Although there's a rise in the number of people transitioning, there's also a rise in the amount of people wanting to detransition. I'm sponsoring a bill that would require insurers and providers of gender-altering drugs and surgeries to also provide and cover detransition procedures. My inspiration for this legislation is a young woman named Chloe Cole, who as a child, was pushed by doctors to take puberty blockers and undergo a double mastectomy to change her gender. Although she has since detransitioned, she still lives with the very real pain and struggles from fall out from the so called "gender-affirming care". She joined me at the State Capitol for a press conference this week where she shared her testimony and support for SB 1511.

-Senator Janae Shamp



FIRST REPUBLICAN BILLS TO PASS THE SENATE

We passed our first batch of bills out of the Senate this week, and I'm happy to report my bill, SB 1067, made the cut, with bipartisan support. This bill requires the Department of Child Services to report employees of child welfare agencies contracted by DCS if they're suspected of child abuse. We passed Senator Hoffman's SB 1005 and SB 1014, which aim to stop the Left's attempts at infiltrating financial institutions and entities that use taxpayer dollars with discriminatory and racist ideologies as part of their routine business practices. We passed Senator Rogers' photo radar ban, SB 1003, because we believe their current use is unconstitutional. Senator Kavanaugh's bill, SB 1073, also passed, because protestors should not have the right to block traffic for hours, threatening lives and livelihoods of motorists en route to medical treatment, their jobs, picking up their children from school, etc. These bills, and several others, are now headed to the House for consideration.



AZ-SEN-24-0092-A-000130

-Senator T.J. Shope





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SENATOR JANA E SHAMP	LD 29	(602) 926-3499	JSHAMP@AZLEG.GOV
MAJORITY LEADER SONNY BORRELLI	LD 30	(602) 926-5051	SBORRELLI@AZLEG.GOV

STAY CONNECTED

Arizona Legislature: azleg.gov

azsenaterepublicans.com



From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Parja Moua](#)
Subject: FW: Request to speak with Sen Rogers on election timeline issue
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:14:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Respectfully,

Angelica Rodriguez

Assistant to

Senator Wendy Rogers

wrogers@azleg.gov

602-926-3042

From: Jen Fifield <jfifield@votebeat.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Kim Quintero <KQuintero@azleg.gov>; Angelica Rodriguez <ARodriguez@azleg.gov>; Wendy Rogers <WRogers@azleg.gov>
Subject: Request to speak with Sen Rogers on election timeline issue

Hi Sen. Rogers, Kim and Angelica,

I am looking to speak with Sen. Rogers for a story I'm working on regarding the election timeline and potential special session. I'd like to share research I've done on the topic regarding other states' timelines and how they fit their duties into the same or even shorter timeframe than AZ, and get her thoughts for an article I'm writing due tomorrow. I'd also like to see if she would like to comment on her priorities and thoughts on the general issue and how negotiations are going.

Please help pass this message along that I'm looking to speak to her, my cell is 480-476-0108.

Thanks,

Jen

Jen Fifield

Reporter, [Votebeat.org](https://votebeat.org)

480-476-0108 (cell)

jfifield@votebeat.org

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Shawna Bolick](#)
Cc: [Cory Blumstein](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bill is scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1375 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Thomas T.J. Shope](#)
Cc: [Stacey Farrell](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bill is scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1084 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Janae Shamp](#)
Cc: [Galen Kimmick](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bill is scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1158 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Anthony Kern](#)
Cc: [Parja Moua](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bill is scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SCR1014 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Jake Hoffman](#)
Cc: [Isaac Glover](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1009, SB1288 are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [David Gowan](#)
Cc: [Sarah Griffith](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1662, SB1666, SB1668, SB1674, SCR1043, SCR1044 are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Ken Bennett](#)
Cc: [Bonny Solheim](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1116, SB1429, SB1651, SB1653, SB1656, SB1657 are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [J.D. Mesnard](#)
Cc: [Marsha Hood](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1278, SCR1023, SCR1041 are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Wendy Rogers](#)
Cc: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:42 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1217, SB1261, SCR1011 are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Wendy Rogers](#)
Cc: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0212.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1217, SB1261, SCR1011 are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/12/2024 at 2:00 P.M. in SHR 1.

Agendas can be obtained via the Internet at <https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/AgendaSearch>
 Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the Senate Secretary's Office: (602) 926-4231 (voice). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-sixth Legislature - Second Regular Session

MEETING NOTICE

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

DATE: Monday, February 12, 2024

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

ROOM: SHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:
<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2024021049>

SENATORS:	Borrelli Bravo Hernandez	Kavanagh Shope Sundareshan	Bennett, Vice-Chairman Rogers, Chairman
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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Presentation
5. Consideration of Bills

Bills	Short Title	Subject of Strike Everything Amendment
SB1009	_____ voting registrations; ballot requests; source (Hoffman)	
** SB1084	_____ appropriations; secretary of state; conflicts (Shope)	campaign
SB1116	_____ voter registrations; payment prohibited (Bennett)	
SB1158	_____ presidential candidates; qualification; no exclusion (Shamp: Borrelli, Carroll, et al)	
SB1217	_____ county committee; vacancy; precinct committeeman (Rogers)	
SB1261	_____ school districts; mail elections; prohibition (Rogers: Farnsworth, Shamp)	
*/** SB1278	_____ technical correction; juvenile offenders; notice (Mesnard)	elections
** SB1288	_____ electronic ballot adjudication; prohibition (Hoffman)	elections

**Subject of Strike Everything
Amendment**

Bills

Short Title

SB1375	_____	ballots; categories; count; identification number (Bolick: Bennett, Borrelli, et al)
SB1429	_____	candidates; electronic signatures; limit (Bennett)
SB1651	_____	elections; hand count audit; selection (Bennett)
SB1653	_____	images; voter lists; records; penalties (Bennett: Hernandez C)
SB1656	_____	ballots; ballot paper; custody (Bennett)
SB1657	_____	early voting; two-factor authentication; pilot (Bennett)
SB1662	_____	candidate late fees; candidate ineligibility (Gowan)
SB1666	_____	local ballot measures; supplemental filing (Gowan)
SB1668	_____	school elections; county administration; recorder (Gowan)
SB1674	_____	schools; governing board; unexpired term (Gowan)
SCR1011	_____	voting; qualifications; methods. (Rogers: Farnsworth, Kavanagh, et al)
*** SCR1014	_____	presidential electors; constitutional appointments (Kern)
SCR1023	_____	general election day; all offices (Mesnard)
SCR1041	_____	ballot measures; challenges (Mesnard)
SCR1043	_____	cities; towns; elections (Gowan: Carroll, Shamp, et al)
SCR1044	_____	judicial retention elections (Gowan: Shamp)

* Pending Committee Assignment

** Strike everything amendment may be offered

*** Pending Introduction, First Reading and Committee Assignment

02/06/2024
ar

From: [Gina Jenkins](#)
To: [Gina Swoboda](#)
Subject: FW: DRAFT- Election Deadlines Fix Statement- PLEASE REVIEW
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:30:00 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT- Election Deadlines Fix Statement - House Edits.docx](#)

From: Andrew Wilder <AWilder@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Kim Quintero <KQuintero@azleg.gov>; Michael Hunter <mhunter@azleg.gov>; Matt Specht <mspecht@azleg.gov>; Linsey Goodwin <LGoodwin@azleg.gov>
Cc: Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Gina Jenkins <gjenkins@azleg.gov>; Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Subject: RE: DRAFT- Election Deadlines Fix Statement- PLEASE REVIEW

Updated draft with House edits attached. This is good to go on our end. Thanks!

-Andrew

From: Kim Quintero <KQuintero@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:16 PM
To: Andrew Wilder <AWilder@azleg.gov>; Michael Hunter <mhunter@azleg.gov>; Matt Specht <mspecht@azleg.gov>; Linsey Goodwin <LGoodwin@azleg.gov>
Cc: Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Gina Jenkins <gjenkins@azleg.gov>; Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Subject: DRAFT- Election Deadlines Fix Statement- PLEASE REVIEW
Importance: High

Please see the attached proposed statement. It needs a House quote. Please flag any requested edits and send back ASAP. Thanks!

Kim Quintero

Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
Office: 602-926-5418
X: @azsenaterepublicans
Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com





Arizona State Legislature

1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 5, 2024

Republican Lawmakers Introduce Comprehensive Solution to Correct Election Deadline Conflicts and Strengthen Voter Confidence

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— After months of research, discussions, and negotiations between lawmakers, elections experts, and administrators from all 15 Arizona counties, Senate and House Republicans announce a comprehensive solution introduced today to correct unintended election deadline conflicts arising from past legislation.

In 2022, [SB1008](#) (elections; recount margin) was signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support in an effort to improve voter confidence on tight races. Under the law, automatic recounts in statewide elections are triggered when the margin of victory is within half of one percentage point of total votes cast, bringing Arizona in line with several [other states](#). The previous law required an arbitrary and much narrower margin of just 200 votes before a recount could occur. The change is expected to increase the number of recounts in our battleground state. Subsequently, counties informed Senate and House Leadership Teams in late September 2023 that there would be potential delays in results, preventing counties from meeting several important federal deadlines:

- Mandatory mailing deadline (**September 21, 2024**) to send out November 2024 General Election Ballots to military and overseas citizens (UOCAVA)
- Safe Harbor (**December 10, 2024**) & Presidential Electors Meeting (**December 16, 2024**)

(Bill numbers SB1XXX/HB2785) establishes a permanent fix while ensuring every legal ballot cast is counted accurately to make certain the correct candidate, or ballot measure, is declared winner. The bill provides counties with an extra 19 days in the primary election calendar and an extra 17 days in the general election calendar to give officials more time to meet federal deadlines. Additionally, the bill provides a number of time-saving reforms that encourage efficiency, transparency, and most importantly-- integrity within our election systems.

“This commonsense solution promises to strengthen voter confidence, is backed by all Arizona county recorders, and allows our men and women who are serving in our armed forces overseas the opportunity cast a ballot in our elections,” said Senate Elections Committee Chair Wendy Rogers. “I’m hopeful this legislation will receive bipartisan support and the Governor will sign it. Anything less will throw our elections into turmoil and disenfranchise lawful Arizona voters.”

“There were many simpler ways to solve this problem, some of which do not require legislative solutions,” said Representative Alexander Kolodin, Sponsor of HB2785. “Nevertheless, we negotiated in good faith and agreed to accept this more complicated solution in exchange for signature verification and several other commonsense reforms. It should be noted that the problem this bill seeks to avoid is highly unlikely to occur in 2024.”

###

For more information, contact:

Kim Quintero

Director of Communications | Arizona State Senate Republican Caucus

kquintero@azleg.gov

Andrew Wilder

Director of Communications | Arizona State House of Representatives Republican Caucus

awilder@azleg.gov

From: [Josh Kredit](#)
To: [Kim Quintero](#); [Rusty Crandell](#); [Greg Jernigan](#)
Cc: [Chierstin Susel](#)
Subject: RE: REVISED: DRAFT- EPM Lawsuit Statement
Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 10:56:00 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT- EPM Lawsuit jk edits.docx](#)

Attached with a few edits. Before we send to Jen F, let's get the President's approval on the release and his quote.

Thanks everyone.

From: Kim Quintero <KQuintero@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:10 PM
To: Rusty Crandell <RCrandell@azleg.gov>; Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Greg Jernigan <GJernigan@azleg.gov>
Cc: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Subject: RE: REVISED: DRAFT- EPM Lawsuit Statement

Revised with one more edit. This is the latest version.

Kim Quintero

Director of Communications
Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
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Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com



From: Kim Quintero
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:08 PM
To: Rusty Crandell <RCrandell@azleg.gov>; Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Greg Jernigan <GJernigan@azleg.gov>
Cc: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Subject: REVISED: DRAFT- EPM Lawsuit Statement

Revised with Rusty and Greg's edits. See attached.

Kim Quintero

Director of Communications

Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
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From: Kim Quintero
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:36 PM
To: Rusty Crandell <RCrandell@azleg.gov>; Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Greg Jernigan <GJernigan@azleg.gov>
Cc: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Subject: DRAFT- EPM Lawsuit Statement
Importance: High

Please see attached. Happy to make changes.

Kim Quintero

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Arizona State Senate

1700 West Washington St
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

President Petersen Launches Legal Battle Against Secretary of State for Attempts to Disenfranchise Voters, Create New Election Laws through Elections Procedures Manual

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Senate President Warren Petersen is delivering on a promise to launch a legal battle against Secretary of State Adrian Fontes for attempts to disenfranchise voters and subvert state election laws within the latest edition of the Elections Procedures Manual (EPM).

"Both the Secretary and our Governor have a track record of not following the law. As a result, I'm taking action to protect the integrity of our elections," said President Petersen. "This reckless EPM opens the door to unlawful activity and undermines the voter confidence measures Republican lawmakers have implemented over the years."

House Speaker Ben Toma joined President Petersen in filing a lawsuit today in the Maricopa County Superior Court, requesting the court throw out a number of provisions in the EPM, which violate or conflict with current Arizona election laws.

The EPM serves as a rulebook for how county officials must administer elections in accordance with state law. After a shortened public comment period on an updated EPM draft last year, Governor Katie Hobbs and Attorney General Kris Mayes released a final draft of the EPM in late December, with an additional 17 pages of content never before seen by the public. The end result is a manual that permits election practices that violate statute in at least six areas:

Active Early Voter List Effective Date- One of the most notable errors is an unlawful *attempt to delay two-year delay* in the implementation of a 2021 state law *until 2027*. *This law* helps prevent voter fraud by requiring county recorders to remove any voters from the active early voter list who have not cast a ballot during two consecutive election cycles and have not responded to notification from the recorder that they wish to continue their participation on that list.

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Non-Residency on Juror Questionnaire- Arizona law requires cancellation of a voter registration if a citizen swears on a juror questionnaire that they are no longer an Arizona resident and later fails to confirm they are a resident. The EPM disregards this law, allowing people who admit they are not residents to *still* vote in our elections.

Investigations of Citizenship Status- Arizona law requires a county recorder to take steps to investigate individuals on voter rolls who are reasonably suspected of being non-U.S. citizens. The EPM rewrites *the* statute, requiring county recorders to disregard information from third parties, even when *they are* credible law enforcement complaints, weakening protections preventing non-U.S. citizens from voting in our elections.

Validity of Circulator Registrations- To ensure integrity and transparency in signature gathering for proposed ballot measures, Arizona law requires circulators to provide basic contact information used to reach out to the circulator in the event questionable signatures are submitted. The EPM eliminates this requirement, contrary to the law.

County Canvass- The EPM allows the Secretary of State to throw out the votes of an entire county if its board of supervisors *does not* rubberstamp a canvass. However, Arizona law does not require boards to vote a certain way. If a board improperly fails to certify election results, the proper solution is to turn to the courts for help, not disenfranchise all voters within an entire county.

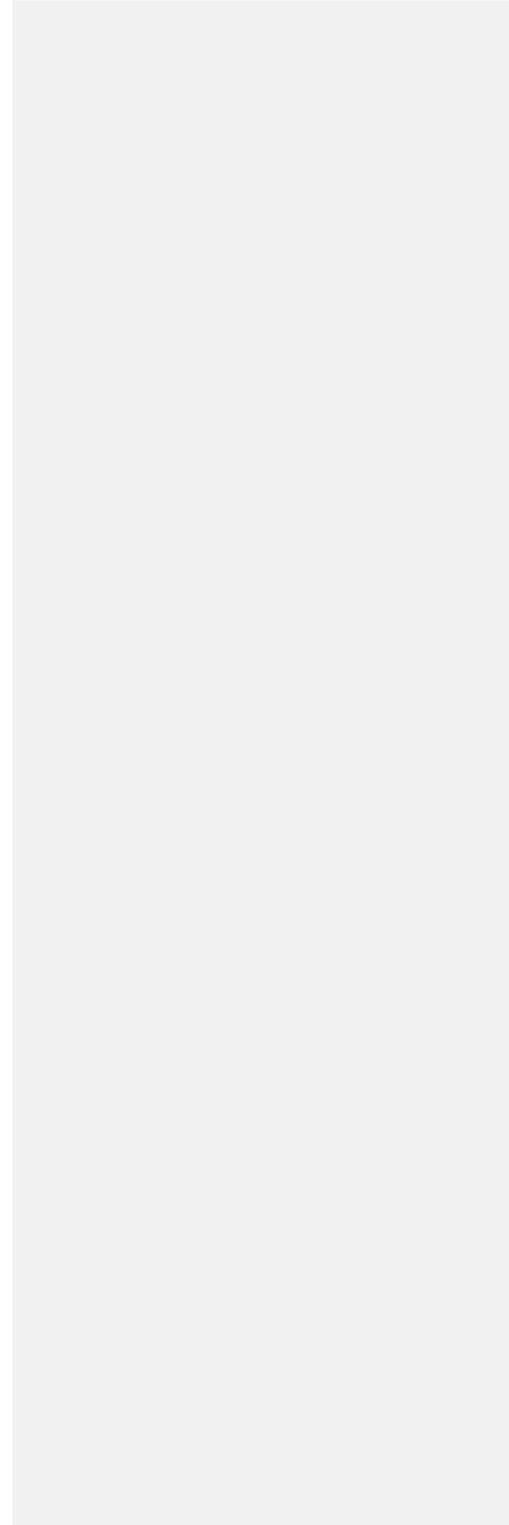
###

For more information, contact:

Kim Quintero

Director of Communications | Arizona State Senate Republican Caucus

kquintero@azleg.gov



From: [Gina Swoboda](#)
To: [Kim Quintero](#); [Josh Kredit](#); [Grant Hanna](#)
Cc: [Chierstin Susel](#)
Subject: GS EDITS RE: DRAFT- Elections Fix Passes
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:43:00 AM
Attachments: [GS EDITS DRAFT- Elections Fix Passes Senate.docx](#)

From: Kim Quintero <KQuintero@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:46 PM
To: Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Gina Swoboda <GSwoboda@azleg.gov>; Grant Hanna <GHanna@azleg.gov>
Cc: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Subject: RE: DRAFT- Elections Fix Passes

Revised with Senator Rogers edits. Gina, please review this draft.

Kim Quintero

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Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com



From: Kim Quintero
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:20 PM
To: Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Gina Swoboda <GSwoboda@azleg.gov>; Grant Hanna <GHanna@azleg.gov>
Cc: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Subject: RE: DRAFT- Elections Fix Passes

Revised first paragraph. Please advise if there are any additional edits requested.

Kim Quintero

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From: Kim Quintero

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:28 PM

To: Josh Kredit <jkredit@azleg.gov>; Gina Swoboda <GSwoboda@azleg.gov>; Grant Hanna <GHanna@azleg.gov>

Cc: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>

Subject: DRAFT- Elections Fix Passes

Importance: High

Please review and send over your edits. I will send to Senator Rogers for review after I receive your feedback.

Thanks!

Kim Quintero

Director of Communications

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Arizona State Senate

1700 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-926-5418

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Major Win for Arizona Voters: Senate Republicans Pass Election Reform to Ensure Every Legal Vote is Accurately Counted in a Timely Fashion

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— A bipartisan bill championed by Senate Republicans to improve Arizona's election systems with time-saving reforms that encourage efficiency, transparency and integrity is on its way to the Governor's desk.

SB 1733 corrects unintended election deadline conflicts stemming from [2022 legislation](#) signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support to improve voter confidence on tight races. As part of the reforms outlined in SB 1733:

- County elections officials are provided with an extra 19 days in the primary election calendar and an extra 17 days in the general election calendar in order to meet several important federal deadlines.
- Men and women who are serving our armed forces overseas are guaranteed the opportunity to cast a ballot in our elections.
- For the first time since mail ballots were introduced in Arizona, Signature Verification standards will be enshrined into statute
- This year, a hard count of early ballots dropped off at the polls by voters on election day is required to improve security and confidence that all lawful votes will be counted accurately.
- ~~In 2026, voters are allowed to bring their early ballots to the polls on election day and have them counted on the spot after showing identification, allowing voters to skip signature verification so that results can be tabulated in a prompt manner and the correct winner is declared in a timelier fashion.~~
- In 2026, voters will have more choices for polling locations, as state and county buildings will be designated as official sites.

"This legislation is a major win for Arizona voters and important for election integrity," said Senate Elections Committee Chair Wendy Rogers. "After months of painstaking discussions between lawmakers, elections experts, administrators, county officials, and the executive branch, I'm proud that we were able to craft a commonsense solution that all 15 Arizona counties support. It will ensure our heroes serving our country abroad will have their voices heard on election day, and it will allow us to accurately determine a winner sooner rather than later."

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For more information, contact:

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