

Subject: RE: Public Records Request (AZ-SEN-24-0209)
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:08:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Pete Galvan
To: AO Records
Attachments: Results; AO0209.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: Pete Galvan
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:06 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: RE: Public Records Request (AZ-SEN-24-0209)

This request has been received and will be processed. I will reach out with updates/results as they become available.

Pete

Pete Galvan

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

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:33 PM
To: Pete Galvan <pgalvan@azleg.gov>
Subject: Public Records Request (AZ-SEN-24-0209)

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-24-0209

From: [Ken Bennett](#)
To: [Ken Bennett](#)
Subject: Fwd: PC Training Postponed
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 5:47:00 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Coconino County Republican Committee** <info@coconinocountyrepublicans.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 13, 2024 at 2:46 PM
Subject: PC Training Postponed
To: <kjbennettaz@gmail.com>

Coconino County

Republican Committee

February 13, 2024

PC TRAINING POSTPONED

The PC training session scheduled for this Saturday, February 17, 2024, has been postponed. The new date is MARCH 2, 2024, 10:00-1200, location to be determined.

Thanks, Bill

[Hand Count Road Show Info](#)

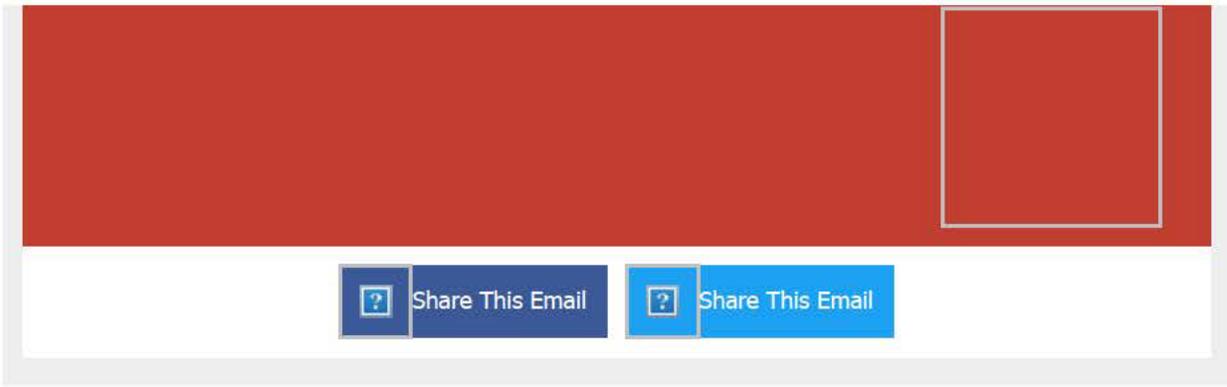
[February Call to Meeting, Agenda, and Zoom Link](#)

[2023 Proxy Form](#)

[CCRC Bylaws](#)

[Coconino County Republicans](#)





Coconino County Republican Committee, LLC | [809 W Riordan Rd, Suite 100](#)-145, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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Sent by info@coconinocountyrepublicans.com powered by



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From: [Ken Bennett](#)
To: [George Ruffner](#)
Subject: Re: ASDB
Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 4:38:45 PM

Specifically to ASDB, as you know, we had quite a fight last year with some legislators, wanting a two-year extension while I and others supported the normal eight years. It was agreed to compromise at four, but I think this might not be the best session to try to change it back to eight. There isn't a bill to address the ASDB Sunset period because that was already done last year. I will look for an opportunity this year to fix it, but it might be best to happen next year when a couple of difficult legislators are not going to be back.

Thx again,

Ken

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 19, 2024, at 4:34 PM, Ken Bennett <KBennett@azleg.gov> wrote:

George,

Yes, there are some Republicans trying to do that. I am not one of that group, and I will continue to be reasonable and professional in the sunset process.

When an agency goes through the Sunset process (usually every 8 years) it usually involves the state auditor general's office, doing a review of the state agency and their compliance with the statutes that they are supposed to comply with. If problems are discovered in that audit, then we need to get assurances from the agency that they will correct any deficiencies, but most of them readily agree to do so, and the legislators that are trying to use this as a club are wrong, in my opinion.

Thank you for your observations.

Ken Bennett

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 19, 2024, at 5:18 AM, George Ruffner
<cibolero@gmail.com> wrote:

Ken, i,m not going away....i see republicans are using the sunset provision as a club. The COURTESY of a reply is EXPECTED.

George

On Mon, Jan 15, 2024 at 5:10 AM George Ruffner

<cibolerro@gmail.com> wrote:

Ken, you may recall telling me in the willow creek safeway last year that you had a plan for restoring the 10-year sunset provision for ASDB. OK, friend, i'm asking again...what is your plan?

The courtesy of a reply is expected.

Best to you and your family. George

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **George Ruffner** <cibolerro@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 2:29 PM

Subject: ASDB

To: <KBENNETT@azleg.gov>, George Ruffner
<cibolerro@gmail.com>

Ken, what is your plan for getting ASDB back onto the regular schedule? We spoke of this last year and you indicated this year's session would restore the 10-year renewal. Time to get it done.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

George Ruffner

From: [Clay, Jacqui](#)
To: [Tim Carter](#); [Barbara Uren](#)
Cc: [Barry M. Aarons](#); [Bryan Boling](#); [Donna McGaughey](#); [Dru Waggoner \(dwaggoner@lapazcountyaz.org\)](#); [Dustin Williams](#); [Jalyn Gerlich](#); [Joy Whiting](#); [Ken Bennett](#); [Mango-Paget, Cheryl](#); [Megan Kintner](#); [Michael File](#); [Peter Laing](#); [Renee Raskin](#); [Roy Sandoval](#); [Steve Watson](#); [Tom Hurt](#); [avelasquez@co.santa-cruz.az.us](#); [chuck essigs; jbroussard@pinalcso.org](#); [ptighe@azsa.org](#)
Subject: Re: FW: SB 1119
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 8:25:20 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you so much Tim and Barry for the clarification.

With Warmest Regards
Jacqui

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Tim Carter <Tim.Carter@yavapaiaz.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:46:59 AM
To: Barbara Uren <barbarauren7@gmail.com>
Cc: Barry M. Aarons <aarons1231@aol.com>; Bryan Boling <bboling@greenlee.az.gov>; Clay, Jacqui <JClay@cochise.az.gov>; Donna McGaughey <DMcGaughey@graham.az.gov>; Dru Waggoner (dwaggoner@lapazcountyaz.org) <dwaggoner@lapazcountyaz.org>; Dustin Williams <Dustin.Williams@pima.gov>; Jalyn Gerlich <Jalyn.Gerlich@navajocountyaz.gov>; Joy Whiting <joy.joywhiting@gmail.com>; Ken Bennett <KBennett@azleg.gov>; Mango-Paget, Cheryl <cmango-paget@coconino.az.gov>; Megan Kintner <mkintner@azcounties.org>; Michael File <filem@mohave.gov>; Peter Laing <peter.laing@pima.gov>; Renee Raskin <Renee.Raskin@yavapaiaz.gov>; Roy Sandoval <royasandoval@gmail.com>; Steve Watson <Steve.Watson@mcesa.maricopa.gov>; Tom Hurt <THurt@apsc.org>; avelasquez@co.santa-cruz.az.us <avelasquez@co.santa-cruz.az.us>; chuck essigs <cessigs@asbo.org>; jbroussard@pinalcso.org <jbroussard@pinalcso.org>; ptighe@azsa.org <ptighe@azsa.org>
Subject: RE: FW: SB 1119

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL*

It would have been nice if they had shared this at the front of this process.

Hmmmm.

Of well, we are good now.

Thanks.

Tim Carter
Yavapai County School Superintendent
Yavapai County Education Service Agency
2970 Centerpointe East
Prescott, Az. 86301
928-442-5146 (Office)

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

AZ-SEN-24-0209-A-000005

928-925-6560 (Cell)



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From: Barbara Uren <barbarauren7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6:46 AM
To: Tim Carter <Tim.Carter@yavapaiaz.gov>
Cc: Barry M. Aarons <aarons1231@aol.com>; Bryan Boling <bboling@greenlee.az.gov>; Clay, Jacqui <JClay@cochise.az.gov>; Donna McGaughey <DMcGaughey@graham.az.gov>; Dru Waggoner <dwaggoner@lapazcountyaz.org> <dwaggoner@lapazcountyaz.org>; Dustin Williams <Dustin.Williams@pima.gov>; Jalyn Gerlich <Jalyn.Gerlich@navajocountyaz.gov>; Joy Whiting <joy.joywhiting@gmail.com>; Ken Bennett <KBennett@azleg.gov>; Mango-Paget, Cheryl <cmango-paget@coconino.az.gov>; Megan Kintner <mkintner@azcounties.org>; Michael File <filem@mohave.gov>; Peter Laing <peter.laing@pima.gov>; Renee Raskin <Renee.Raskin@yavapaiaz.gov>; Roy Sandoval <royasandoval@gmail.com>; Steve Watson <Steve.Watson@mcesa.maricopa.gov>; Tom Hurt <THurt@apscc.org>; avelasquez@co.santa-cruz.az.us; chuck essigs <cessigs@aasbo.org>; jbroussard@pinalcso.org; ptighe@azsa.org
Subject: Re: FW: SB 1119

Thank you for the information Superintendent Carter. I will pass it along to The Trust.

Barbara U'Ren, Superintendent
The Trust County Coordinator
Educational Consultant
Phone: (928) 300-3623

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OVERSIGHT

AZ-SEN-24-0209-A-000006

recipient, and have received this communication in error, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy/delete all copies of the original message. Thank you.

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 4:21 PM Tim Carter <Tim.Carter@yavapaiaz.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon County Superintendents, et al,

As you know there were several districts around the state that had expressed a concern about being able to demolish buildings that were no longer being used and that were beyond their useful life.

This was also a concern for the Trust.

We had reached out in various fashions to SFOB and were told the only way that could happen was if they building was being torn down for another building to be built.

We discussed the issue with Senator Ken Bennett, the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and he worked with us to develop SB 1119.

New staff has been hired at SFOB and this issue came to their attention. They contacted Barry to let him know there was actually an avenue by which a local Board could use their own funds to demolish a building, if the building was determined to be “excludable space”, defined in the attached policy under section E. In fact, the last sentence of E.2 is very clear that a Governing Board may take this action if it is shown on their profile as excluded space. It states, “Excluded space does not generate capacity, and therefore SFOB Board approval is not required for the reduction of excluded space”.

We have advised Senator Bennett that we greatly appreciate his support, but this information resolves the need for legislation. We greatly appreciate the Senator’s efforts on our behalf.

Please share this with schools in your county that might be impacted by this.

Please see below for information from Amber Peterson of the SFOB, about how to access this information online, where anyone can see the school facility profile for a public school. If a school has excludable space and it is not showing on the profile, it could be added by following A.R.S. 15-341 G.

Best wishes.

Tim Carter

Yavapai County School Superintendent

Yavapai County Education Service Agency
[2970 Centerpointe East](#)
[Prescott, Az. 86301](#)
928-442-5146 (Office)
928-925-6560 (Cell)



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From: Amber Peterson <Amber.Peterson@azdoa.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 2:58 PM

To: aarons1231@aol.com; Tim Carter <Tim.Carter@yavapaiaz.gov>

Cc: cmontiaz@gmail.com; Jimmy Arwood <jimmy.arwood@azdoa.gov>; Callie Tyler <callie.tyler@azdoa.gov>; Rebecca Perrera <Rebecca.Perrera@azdoa.gov>; Amber Peterson <Amber.Peterson@azdoa.gov>

Subject: SB 1119

Good afternoon Mr. Aarons and Superintendent Carter. To summarize our discussion, SFOB approval is not required for a school district to demolish square footage that is excluded. This is specified in our Policy III Capital Plans (attached), Section E.2.

A district can verify that a building is excluded by looking at their building inventory on our website (<https://sfb.az.gov>). They would click on "District Access", then under the 'Main' tab click on "Choose District" and select their district name. Under the 'Facilities Reports' tab, click on "District-wide Building Report", then "OK". If the building's square footage is listed in the "Gross Excluded" column, and the "Net Area" column reflects 0 square feet, then the building is excluded and the district may proceed without SFOB approval.

If the building in question is not excluded, the district will need to obtain SFOB approval prior to demolition, per A.R.S. 15-341 G. There is guidance for the district in the attached policy, but in short they need to submit a District Governing Board resolution identifying the building and explaining the reason for demolition. This should be directed to Katie Robinson (katie.robinson@azdoa.gov).

Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Thank you,

Amber

--

NOTE: My email address has changed from apeterson@azsfb.gov to amber.peterson@azdoa.gov. Please update your contact list(s) with this change to ensure uninterrupted communications.

Amber Peterson

Finance Manager, School Facilities Division
Arizona Department of Administration | State of Arizona
[100 North 15th Avenue; Suite 302, Phoenix, AZ 85007](#)
[\(602\) 339-2493](tel:(602)339-2493) | amber.peterson@azdoa.gov

How am I doing? Please take a moment to answer a few questions.

Survey link - <https://forms.gle/CdKsw4vzRSffqZsE7>

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From: [Shelby Busch](#)
To: [Ken Bennett](#); [Shawna Bolick](#); [Sonny Borrelli](#); [Frank Carroll](#); [David Farnsworth](#); [David Gowan](#); [Jake Hoffman](#); [John Kavanagh](#); [Anthony Kern](#); [Sine Kerr](#); [J.D. Mesnard](#); [Warren Petersen](#); [Janae Shamp](#); [Thomas T.J. Shope](#); [Justine Wadsack](#); [Leo Biasiucci](#); [Selina Bliss](#); [Michael Carbone](#); [Neal Carter](#); [Joseph Chaplik](#); [David Cook](#); [Lupe Diaz](#); [Tim Dunn](#); [John Gillette](#); [Travis Grantham](#); [Matt Gress](#); [Gail Griffin](#); [Justin Heap](#); [Laurin Hendrix](#); [Rachel Jones](#); [Alexander Kolodin](#); [David Livingston](#); [Teresa Martinez](#); [David Marshall](#); [Cory McGarr](#); [Steve Montenegro](#); [Quang Nguyen](#); [Barbara Rowley Parker](#); [Jacqueline Parker](#); [Kevin Payne](#); [Michele Pena](#); [Beverly Pingerelli](#); [Austin Smith](#); [Ben Toma](#); [Julie Willoughby](#); [Justin Wilmeth](#)
Subject: Timeline Extension Bill
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:14:25 PM

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Statutes to impose standards for signature verification has been neglected for years. With mail-in ballot voting increasing significantly over the years and now representing the largest method of voting in Arizona, we NEED accountability.

If you believe in the people's right to an honest and transparent election, you MUST advocate to increase standards and reduce vulnerability to fraud.

This cannot wait for a House Bill or Senate Bill. This must take effect to impact the 2024 election and should remain in the negotiations for the timeline Extension Bill requested by the counties.

We the People elected you to represent us and our interests, NOT the Counties.

Show the American people that you believe in honest elections and impose immediate signature verification standards in the timeline Extension Bill.

Verifying the legitimacy of each vote is a provision in our Arizona Constitution. This is not a partisan issue, but a common sense standard for the people. The security of our elections are not to be used as bargaining chips in negotiations.

Thank you,

Shelby Busch

Chairman
We the People AZ Alliance

1st Vice Chair
Maricopa County Republican Committee

From: [Shelby Busch](#)
To: [Ken Bennett](#); [Shawna Bolick](#); [Sonny Borrelli](#); [Frank Carroll](#); [David Farnsworth](#); [David Gowan](#); [Jake Hoffman](#); [John Kavanagh](#); [Anthony Kern](#); [Sine Kerr](#); [J.D. Mesnard](#); [Warren Petersen](#); [Janae Shamp](#); [Thomas T.J. Shope](#); [Justine Wadsack](#); [Leo Biasiucci](#); [Selina Bliss](#); [Michael Carbone](#); [Neal Carter](#); [Joseph Chaplik](#); [David Cook](#); [Lupe Diaz](#); [Tim Dunn](#); [John Gillette](#); [Travis Grantham](#); [Matt Gress](#); [Gail Griffin](#); [Justin Heap](#); [Laurin Hendrix](#); [Rachel Jones](#); [Alexander Kolodin](#); [David Livingston](#); [Teresa Martinez](#); [David Marshall](#); [Cory McGarr](#); [Steve Montenegro](#); [Quang Nguyen](#); [Barbara Rowley Parker](#); [Jacqueline Parker](#); [Kevin Payne](#); [Michele Pena](#); [Beverly Pingerelli](#); [Austin Smith](#); [Ben Toma](#); [Julie Willoughby](#); [Justin Wilmeth](#)
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Thank you,

Shelby Busch

Chairman
We the People AZ Alliance

1st Vice Chair
Maricopa County Republican Committee

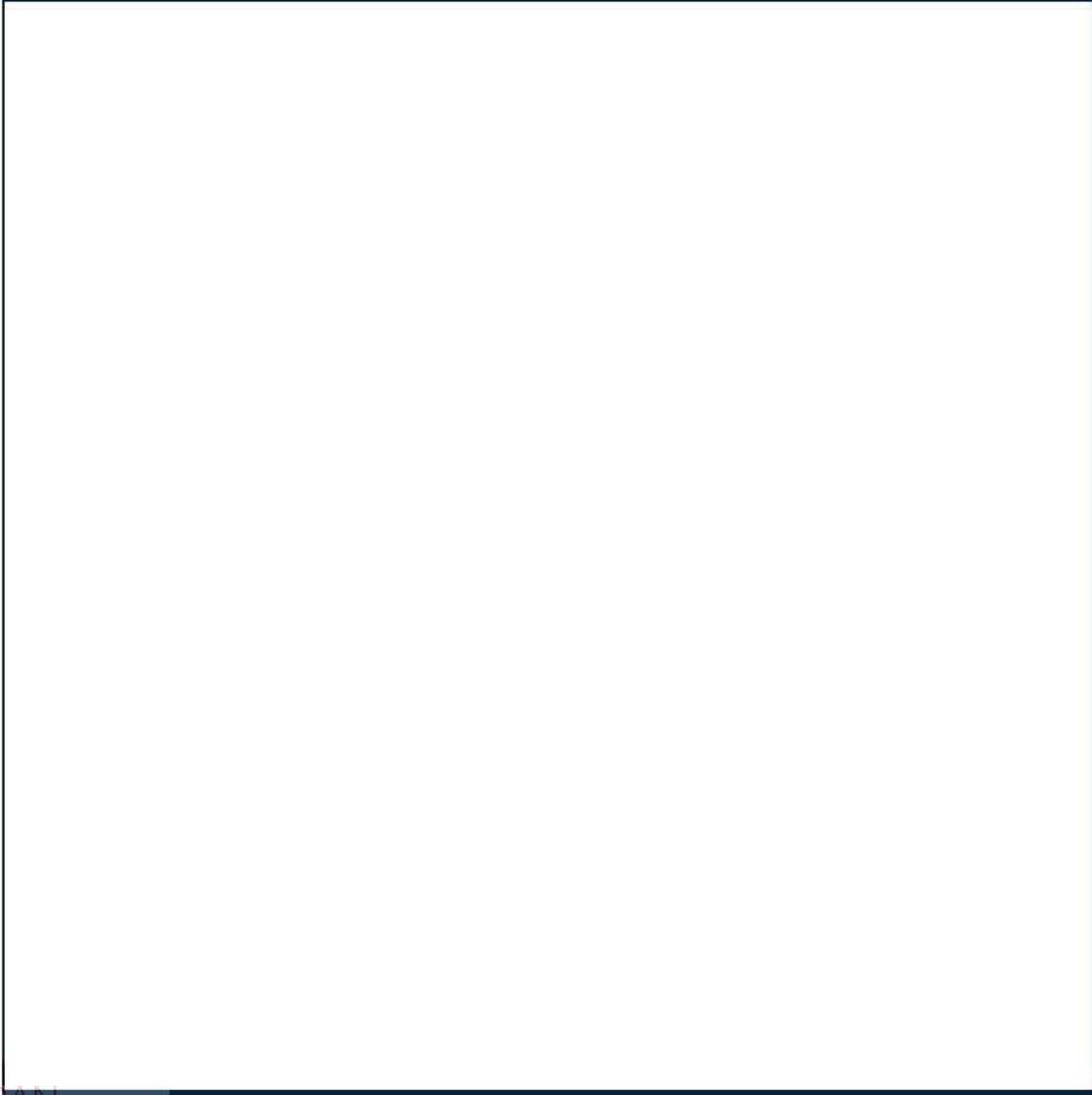
From: [Sonny Borrelli](#)
To: [David Gowan](#)
Subject: FW: Report—Cochise Technology District Performance Audit
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:02:00 PM

FYI

From: Arizona Auditor General <notices@azauditor.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:30 PM
To: Sonny Borrelli <sborrelli@azleg.gov>
Subject: Report—Cochise Technology District Performance Audit

The Arizona Auditor General

has just issued the following school district performance audit report:



Cochise Technology District

District did not comply with some State conflict-of-interest laws and USFR requirements, limiting transparency into its activities; did not comply with important internal control requirements, increasing risk of errors, fraud, and unauthorized purchases; and lacked key outcome data preventing it from demonstrating how the \$4.5 million it spent on CTE programs in fiscal year 2022 effectively prepared students for high-need occupations

Report 24-203

[Full Report](#)

[Report Highlights](#)

[Response](#)

If you have any questions regarding the content of this report, please contact Christine Haidet, Division of School Audits Manager, at chaidet@azauditor.gov or (602) 553-0333.

Use the links below to read our latest school district performance audit reports:

- [Globe Unified School District](#)
- [Northeast Arizona Technological Institute of Vocational Education](#)
- [Heber-Overgaard Unified School District](#)

Copies of all reports we issue are available on our website at <https://www.azauditor.gov>.

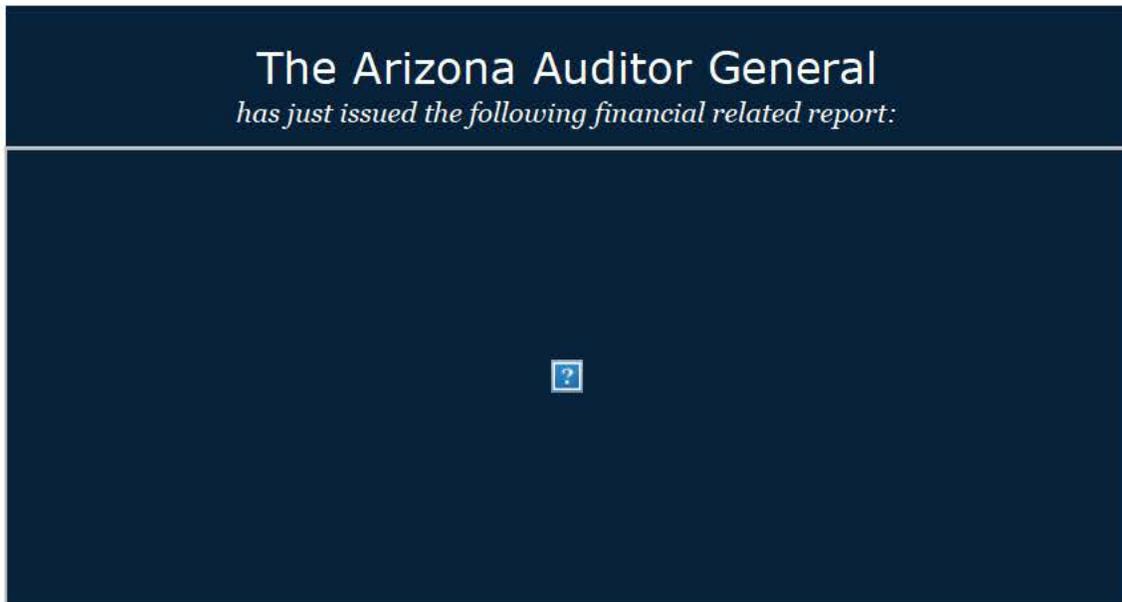
We maintain RSS feeds for many of the reports we publish. If you would like to be automatically notified when a new report is available on our website, please subscribe to the feeds that interest you by going to the following address: <https://www.azauditor.gov/rss-feeds>. Our RSS feeds generally provide both a link to our report and a brief summary.

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Arizona Auditor General · 2910 N 44th St Ste 410 · Phoenix, AZ 85018-7271 · USA

From: [Sonny Borrelli](#)
To: [Leo Biasiucci](#)
Subject: FW: Report—Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District Financial Audit
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:42:00 PM

fyi

From: Arizona Auditor General <notices@azauditor.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:33 PM
To: Sonny Borrelli <sborrelli@azleg.gov>
Subject: Report—Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District Financial Audit



Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College District Annual Financial and Single Audit Reports, June 30, 2023

The reports link below includes the combined Annual Financial and Single Audit Reports. It includes our audit opinions on the District's financial statements that are reported in the Annual Financial Report, and our audit found that the information is reliable. It also includes our reports on the District's internal control and compliance over financial reporting and major federal programs.

We reported internal control weaknesses over financial reporting that are included in the Single Audit Report. Our Report Highlights summarize our reports.

[Reports](#)

[Report Highlights](#)

If you have any questions regarding the content of these reports, please contact Don Bohart, Financial Audit Manager, at dbohart@azauditor.gov or (602) 553-0333.

Use the links below to read our prior District financial related reports, our Financial Report User Guide to help you identify and understand the important and useful financial information contained in the District's Annual Financial Report, and our Internal Control and Compliance Reports User Guide to help you identify and understand the important and useful information contained in the District's internal control and compliance reports:

- [Prior District financial related reports](#)
- [Financial Report User Guide](#)
- [Internal Control and Compliance Reports User Guide](#)

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From: [Brott, Symantha](#)
To: [Dominic Rodgers](#)
Subject: PRR 23-033 & PRR 23-034
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:02:41 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[FW Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate.msg](#)
[Cochise County Recorder Foyer Request.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

I had received two public records requests on January 26, 2023 from Darius Diggs at email ddiggs@azleg.gov. I emailed the below status update for PRR 23-033 and received the message that he no longer works at the Senate and provided you as a contact.

Please let me know if you still require these public records requests.

Very Respectfully,

Symantha Brott
Paralegal III
Public Record Coordinator
Cochise County Attorney's Office

P.O. Drawer CA
Bisbee, AZ 85603
Phone: (520) 432-8756
Fax: (520) 432-8778

From: Brott, Symantha
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:31 AM
To: ddiggs@azleg.gov
Subject: PRR 23-033

Good morning,
I'm reaching out to provide a status update on your Public Records Request.
We are working diligently to prioritize your request. Your place in queue is 13.

Thanks in advance for your patience,

Very Respectfully,

Symantha Brott
Paralegal III
Public Record Coordinator
Cochise County Attorney's Office

P.O. Drawer CA
Bisbee, AZ 85603
Phone: (520) 432-8756
Fax: (520) 432-8778



David W. Stevens BS/CIS, TS/SCI, CSM, CERA(p)
Cochise County Recorder
520-432-8350
dstevens@cochise.az.gov

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From: Darius Diggs <DDiggs@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Stevens, David <DStevens@cochise.az.gov>
Subject: Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL*

Good Morning Recorder Stevens,

Attached is a Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate- Senator Sonny Borrelli. Thank you!

Respectfully,



Darius Diggs

Assistant to the Majority Leader - Sonny Borrelli
Legislative District 30
602-926-4111
ddiggs@azleg.gov

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From: [Marra, Lisa M](#)
To: [Gonzales, Dawn](#)
Subject: FW: Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:44:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Cochise County Director Foyer Request.pdf](#)

Hi Dawn

Please log and respond. Let me know if you want IT to search or if you would like me to. The records would come from Arizona Assoc of Counties, Jen Marson, Ryan Boyd or Megan Kintner.

I'm not sure what a foyer request is – but it could be lurking in a hallway as opposed to a FOIA request that lives in the federal government world. Good Lord.

L

Lisa M. Marra, CERA, CPM

Director of Elections

1415 Melody Lane, Building E

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-432-8975 Phone

520-432-8995 (fax)

520-727-1390 (cell)

-
Public Programs...Personal Service

www.cochise.az.gov

-

From: Darius Diggs <DDiggs@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:40 AM
To: Marra, Lisa M <LMarra@cochise.az.gov>
Subject: Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL*

Good Morning Director Marra,

Attached is a Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate- Senator Sonny Borrelli. Thank you!

Respectfully,



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SENATOR SONNY BORRELLI
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE S
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-5051
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404
sborrelli@azleg.gov

DISTRICT 30 |



Arizona State Senate

MAJORITY LEADER

SENATE COMMITTEES
Rules
Vice-Chairman
Elections

Health and Human Services

**Military Affairs, Public Safety,
and Border Security**

January 26, 2023

The Honorable David S. Stevens
Cochise County Recorder's Office
1415 Melody Lane, Bldg. B
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

Dear Mr. Stevens,

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 39-121, I am requesting all records of communication between The Cochise County Recorder's Office and the Arizona Association of Counties from the time interval of December 01, 2022, to January 26, 2023, under the Arizona Public Records Law. I certify the request is for non-commercial purpose. Please submit electronic records to sborrelli@azleg.gov within 10 business days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonny Borrelli".

Senator Sonny Borrelli
Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate
Legislative District 30

From: [Brott, Symantha](#)
To: [Dominic Rodgers](#)
Subject: RE: PRR 23-033 & PRR 23-034
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 1:11:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thank you so much for the prompt response! I have updated the point of contact for these requests.

Very Respectfully,

Symantha Brott
Paralegal III
Public Record Coordinator
Cochise County Attorney's Office

P.O. Drawer CA
Bisbee, AZ 85603
Phone: (520) 432-8756
Fax: (520) 432-8778

From: Dominic Rodgers <DRodgers@azleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 1:09 PM
To: Brott, Symantha <SBrott@cochise.az.gov>
Subject: RE: PRR 23-033 & PRR 23-034

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL*

You can send them to me please. I will be handling Senator Borrelli's office moving forward. Thank you!

Dominic Rodgers
Assistant to the Majority Leader, Sonny Borrelli
Arizona State Senate
Legislative District 30
602-926-4111



From: Brott, Symantha <SBrott@cochise.az.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 1:08 PM

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

AZ-SEN-24-0209-A-000025

To: Dominic Rodgers <DRodgers@azleg.gov>

Subject: RE: PRR 23-033 & PRR 23-034

Thank you. Do you want me to change the point of contact for you or is there someone else who will be the point of contact for these requests?

Very Respectfully,

Symantha Brott

Paralegal III

Public Record Coordinator

Cochise County Attorney's Office

P.O. Drawer CA

Bisbee, AZ 85603

Phone: (520) 432-8756

Fax: (520) 432-8778

From: Dominic Rodgers <DRodgers@azleg.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:42 PM

To: Brott, Symantha <SBrott@cochise.az.gov>

Subject: RE: PRR 23-033 & PRR 23-034

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL*

Yes, the request is still needed.

Dominic Rodgers

Assistant to the Majority Leader, Sonny Borrelli

Arizona State Senate

Legislative District 30

602-926-4111



From: Brott, Symantha <SBrott@cochise.az.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:02 PM

To: Dominic Rodgers <DRodgers@azleg.gov>

Subject: PRR 23-033 & PRR 23-034

Good afternoon,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT I had received two public records requests on January 26, 2023 from Darius Diggs at email

AZ-SEN-24-0209-A-000026

ddiggs@azleg.gov. I emailed the below status update for PRR 23-033 and received the message that he no longer works at the Senate and provided you as a contact.

Please let me know if you still require these public records requests.

Very Respectfully,

Symantha Brott
Paralegal III
Public Record Coordinator
Cochise County Attorney's Office

P.O. Drawer CA
Bisbee, AZ 85603
Phone: (520) 432-8756
Fax: (520) 432-8778

From: Brott, Symantha
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:31 AM
To: ddiggs@azleg.gov
Subject: PRR 23-033

Good morning,
I'm reaching out to provide a status update on your Public Records Request.
We are working diligently to prioritize your request. Your place in queue is 13.

Thanks in advance for your patience,

Very Respectfully,

Symantha Brott
Paralegal III
Public Record Coordinator
Cochise County Attorney's Office

P.O. Drawer CA
Bisbee, AZ 85603
Phone: (520) 432-8756
Fax: (520) 432-8778

From: Gonzales, Dawn
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 3:28 PM
To: DDiggs@azleg.gov
Subject: FW: Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate

Hello,

Your attached record request has been received and being processed.

In the future to avoid delays, please submit records request using the Cochise County website: <https://www.cochise.az.gov/FormCenter/County-Attorney-4/Public-Records-Inspection-Copy-Request-F-53>

We appreciate your patience during this time.

*Thank you,
Dawn Panagiota Gonzales*

Public Record Request Coordinator
Paralegal III
Cochise County Attorney's Office
150 Quality Hill Road
P.O. Drawer CA
Bisbee, AZ 85603
Phone: (520) 432-8756
Fax: (520) 432-8778

From: Stevens, David <DStevens@cochise.az.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:45 AM
To: Gonzales, Dawn <DGonzales@cochise.az.gov>
Subject: FW: Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate

I'll get this to you today

David



David W. Stevens BS/CIS, TS/SCI, CSM, CERA(p)
Cochise County Recorder
520-432-8350
dstevens@cochise.az.gov

Public Disclosure Notice: This message and any messages in response to the sender of this message may be subject to a public records request. The content of this email is for general informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal, tax, or other professional business advice and does not constitute solicitation for such services. The information contained in the

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AZ-SEN-24-0209-A-000028

email should not be used as a substitute for engaging the advice of legal counsel, tax advisor, or other professional business individual. You should contact your attorney, accountant or other professional business representative to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.

From: Darius Diggs <DDiggs@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Stevens, David <DStevens@cochise.az.gov>
Subject: Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL*

Good Morning Recorder Stevens,

Attached is a Public Records Request from the Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate- Senator Sonny Borrelli. Thank you!

Respectfully,



Darius Diggs

Assistant to the Majority Leader - Sonny Borrelli
Legislative District 30
602-926-4111
ddiggs@azleg.gov

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This E-mail is from an **EXTERNAL** address. **DO NOT click on links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.** If you suspect this message to be phishing, please report it using the Phish Alert Button at the top of the email, or forward to cochise.az.gov@missedspam.com or contact IT support at 520-432-8301.

From: [Shelby Busch](#)
To: [Ken Bennett](#); [Shawna Bolick](#); [Sonny Borrelli](#); [Frank Carroll](#); [David Farnsworth](#); [David Gowan](#); [Jake Hoffman](#); [John Kavanagh](#); [Anthony Kern](#); [Sine Kerr](#); [J.D. Mesnard](#); [Warren Petersen](#); [Janae Shamp](#); [Thomas T.J. Shope](#); [Justine Wadsack](#); [Leo Biasiucci](#); [Selina Bliss](#); [Michael Carbone](#); [Neal Carter](#); [Joseph Chaplik](#); [David Cook](#); [Lupe Diaz](#); [Tim Dunn](#); [John Gillette](#); [Travis Grantham](#); [Matt Gress](#); [Gail Griffin](#); [Justin Heap](#); [Laurin Hendrix](#); [Rachel Jones](#); [Alexander Kolodin](#); [David Livingston](#); [Teresa Martinez](#); [David Marshall](#); [Cory McGarr](#); [Steve Montenegro](#); [Quang Nguyen](#); [Barbara Rowley Parker](#); [Jacqueline Parker](#); [Kevin Payne](#); [Michele Pena](#); [Beverly Pingerelli](#); [Austin Smith](#); [Ben Toma](#); [Julie Willoughby](#); [Justin Wilmeth](#)
Subject: Timeline Extension Bill
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:14:25 PM

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Statutes to impose standards for signature verification has been neglected for years. With mail-in ballot voting increasing significantly over the years and now representing the largest method of voting in Arizona, we NEED accountability.

If you believe in the people's right to an honest and transparent election, you MUST advocate to increase standards and reduce vulnerability to fraud.

This cannot wait for a House Bill or Senate Bill. This must take effect to impact the 2024 election and should remain in the negotiations for the timeline Extension Bill requested by the counties.

We the People elected you to represent us and our interests, NOT the Counties.

Show the American people that you believe in honest elections and impose immediate signature verification standards in the timeline Extension Bill.

Verifying the legitimacy of each vote is a provision in our Arizona Constitution. This is not a partisan issue, but a common sense standard for the people. The security of our elections are not to be used as bargaining chips in negotiations.

Thank you,

Shelby Busch

Chairman
We the People AZ Alliance

1st Vice Chair
Maricopa County Republican Committee

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [Chase Boeke](#)
Subject: FW: Meeting Request with Sen. Kavanagh re: SB1342 & SB1651
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:51:00 PM

yes

From: Samantha Orth <samantha@pinnacle-pa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:32 AM
To: Chase Boeke <CBoeke@azleg.gov>
Cc: John Kavanagh <JKavanagh@azleg.gov>
Subject: Meeting Request with Sen. Kavanagh re: SB1342 & SB1651

Good morning Chase,

I'm reaching out to request a meeting with Senator Kavanagh to discuss **SB1651: Elections; hand count audit; selection** and **SB1342: Elections; parties; hand count audits**. Might Senator Kavanagh be available for a meeting with me and Pele Fischer in the next week or so? We can accommodate in-person or virtual.

If the senator is available, we'd greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss these bills.

Thank you,

Samantha Orth

Associate, Pinnacle Public Affairs

Mobile: 623.696.6672

Email: samantha@pinnacle-pa.com

Address: 4455 East Camelback Road, Suite D-145, Phoenix, AZ 85018

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-2
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 5:15:42 PM
Attachments: [01-02-24-YS-FINAL.pdf](#)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 9:29:31 AM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-2

Chierstin Susel

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

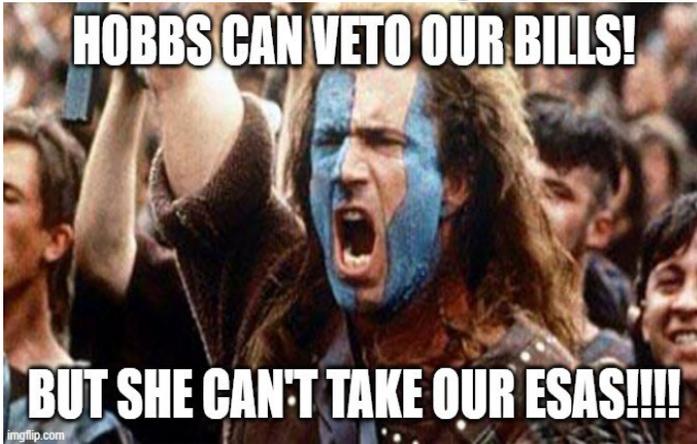


YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

The 2024 ESA conflict begins



Hobbs today proposed reimplementing an eligibility requirement to curb the number of Empowerment Scholarship Account students hailing from outside the public school system as part of an eight-point plan to check the program in her 2024 executive budget and in the next legislative session. Beyond attempts to limit enrollment, Hobbs published proposals to require education standards and fingerprint clearance cards for private school educators, deploy further audits of the program and private school spending by the Arizona

Auditor General, and ensure private schools provide disability accommodations and halt price gouging tuition. Hobbs also proposed the Dept. of Education manually review purchases over \$500, but Horne noted the department already reviews all expense requests regardless of the amount. As for the other proposals, Horne said in a prepared statement, "My job is to administer the ESA program in line with state law, and if changes are made the Department of Education will follow them." But Hobbs' proposal is already meeting resistance from GOP leaders. "Empowerment Scholarship Accounts are wildly popular with Arizona parents because they leverage private sector solutions to offer the best educational opportunities for their children," Toma said in a statement. "Meanwhile, Governor Hobbs and Democratic Party legislators now seek to strangle ESAs and private education with bureaucracy and regulation. I won't allow that to happen."

Divided government keeps third branch busy

Petersen and Toma plan to lodge a lawsuit challenging provisions of the Elections Procedure Manual by the end of the month, according to Senate GOP spokeswoman Kim Quintero. Fontes, Mayes, and Hobbs signed off on the 2023 EPM on Dec. 30, right in time for the end-of-the-year deadline and were swiftly hit with threats of legal action from Petersen and the Arizona GOP. Though lawmakers are still looking over the entirety of the EPM, one of the key provisions is a delay in implementing a 2021 law requiring county recorders remove voters who have not cast a ballot in the past two election cycles from the active early voting list. The provision had previously been corrected by the SoS, but the change did not make it into the final draft. On top of the AEVL, 17 pages were added to the manual that lawmakers had not seen before. Quintero said they are currently "scouring over" any additions. The AZGOP similarly aired concerns and claim the EPM raises free speech concerns in its provisions to prevent voter intimidation, restricts voter challenges to poll workers, excludes GOP authority over choice of central count and signature verification board members and ignores a preliminary, not precedential, ruling from a Yavapai County judge narrowing down signatures apt for the voter registration record and signature verification. A press release from the AZGOP noted the party was considering legal action

in line with the Legislature. But whether the two will join forces remains to be seen. Quintero said they are not sure who plans to join the Legislature's suit just yet.

7 candidates for job with low pay, long hours, a little power

LD8 Democrats are moving quickly to appoint a candidate to Salman's seat. Salman's resignation became effective Dec. 31 and LD8 Democrats plan to hear from the candidates seeking to replace her during a candidate forum on Thursday. Jevin Hodge, the Democrat who lost to Schweikert in the 2022 election, has shown interest in the seat. The *Arizona Republic's* Mary Jo Pitzl reported on Dec. 29 that six others are vying for the seat, including LD8 Democrats first vice-chair Jacob Raiford and second vice-chair Kendra Flory. Other candidates include Janeen Connolly, who filed a statement of interest to run for the House in LD8 during the 2024 election, Tempe Neighborhood Advisory Committee commissioner Jana Lynn Granillo, Progressive Victory Coalition Lead Nick Mink and former LD24 Democrats chair Deborah Nardozi. LD8 Democrats will elect three nominees for the Maricopa County Board of Supervisor's consideration on Jan. 9.

Lawmakers to take DCS to task

The state Department of Child Safety and Foster Care Review Board are up for sunset reviews Wednesday and legislators will likely grill the agencies with questions. Last month, Shope and Farnsworth jabbed at DCS for removing too many children from their homes and alluded to tomorrow's meeting as an opportunity they will take to air their grievances with the agency. "I can't name a single agency that probably has a tougher job than that agency," Shope said. "However, there are significant deficiencies." Shope said he will be outspoken against children suffering further neglect upon entering the system. "Families are breaking up; more divorces, drugs, alcohol, some things we've dealt with forever and there are a lot of new things," Farnsworth said. "I think the system's overwhelmed quite frankly, they need to slow down and not take as many out." Farnsworth cited that 80 percent of children are taken from homes due to neglect, to which he asked, "What is the definition of neglect?" Every 10 years when DCS is up for continuation, Shope said similar conversations arise as to whether the agency encouraging keeping children in their homes is the best play. "Here we are as lawmakers trying to figure out what that healthy balance is," Shope said. "I know that the Auditor General report that we received on the agency was not one of the best I've ever seen. So, I know that there will be a lot of questions." Auditor General Lindsey Perry's final sunset review report on DCS highlighted the agency's failure to implement prior recommendations from special audit reports, including recommendations having to do with court report timeliness and quality. Specifically, Perry's report took issue with the fact that DCS "did not submit 69 percent of 67 juvenile court reports we reviewed at least 15 days prior to hearings as required by court rules." Additionally, the department failed to ensure nine foster home applicants met background-check standards – such as fingerprinting – prior to issuing a license, the report reads. Other findings had to do with IT security and conflict-of-interest requirements. DCS Executive Deputy Director David Lujan was agreeable in his response statement and all 25 recommendations of the Auditor General should be implemented.

Don't California our 2nd Amendment

Toma and Petersen [joined](#) 26 states in appealing California's "Assault Weapon Control Act," on grounds that it violates the Second Amendment and would "outlaw hundreds of semiautomatic rifles and handguns commonly used by law-abiding citizens for self-defense," [according to a post on X](#). The law limits manufacture, transportation, sale and possession of firearms the state deems "assault weapons." A brief written by the Attorneys General for the states claims the act "further encourages other governments to experiment with the people's rights." The brief cites the *Heller* decision in 2008 and the similar *McDonald* decision in 2010, claiming the cases exhibit the California law has already been proven unconstitutional. The brief reads it is against the Second Amendment for California to limit firearm rights to whatever it considers "suitable for self-defense" seeing that the people have a "preexisting" right to bear arms, which cannot be specifically dictated by law. "That is not how the Second Amendment works," the Attorneys General wrote.



Prop 211 appeal incoming!

Petersen and Toma's attempt to block the Voters Right to Know Act was torpedoed by a Maricopa County Superior Court judge on Friday, but the legislature's challenge to the law will likely continue to the Arizona Court of Appeals. The legislature claimed Prop. 211, a 2022 ballot initiative requiring heightened campaign finance disclosures, gave the Arizona Citizens Clean Election Commission "unfettered authority" in enacting and enforcing the law and treaded on the legislature's duties in the process. But in his ruling, Judge Timothy Ryan found the challenge from the legislature failed "to allege how Prop. 211 harms or restrains the Legislature in any concrete way and hit at the attempt to curtail the measure. "Under the Arizona Constitution, the Legislature is not empowered to repeal or detract from voter-approved measures based on its displeasure with those enactments. Displeasure with the voters' choices is not a palpable harm that allows the Legislature to do in courts what it cannot do through legislation," Ryan wrote. He added Petersen and Toma delayed nine months in their challenge to the measure and failed to intervene in a challenge brought by the Center for Arizona Policy and the Arizona Free Enterprise Club and provided "no competent evidence" explaining the delay. But the time crunch created by the delay could poise the lawsuit for a special action appeal. During oral argument, Ryan told the parties he thought the case to be a contender given statewide importance ahead of the 2024 election. Petersen and Toma's attorney did not respond to a request for comment on next steps. The parties are due for a status conference on Jan. 12.

Former lawmaker Fillmore's New Year's resolutions



Former Republican state Rep. John Fillmore announced he's running for the legislature on New Year's Eve, admitting that he shouldn't have made the post while he was drinking. Fillmore filed a statement of interest to run for a House seat in LD7 in December 2022 but he outlined some of his priorities in his under-the-influence Facebook post on Sunday, telling people to "just deal with" him running again. He also wrote that he wants someone to fund a "white" entertainment television channel so he can make a show that makes "funny of people of color" and call people who don't use binary pronouns "it." He also plans to be a "better person" and hug his granddaughter more. Fillmore will be

running in the LD7 House Republican primary against Marshall, former Rep. Walt Blackman and Gila County Republican precinct committeeman Andrew Costanzo.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Hamadeh makes new challenge to election loss](#)

Capitol Media Services

Rebuffed in prior legal attempts to overturn his loss in the race for attorney general, Abe Hamadeh now is trying to get a judge to declare that Kris Mayes is holding office illegally.

[Challenge to Prop 211 fails](#)

Capitol Media Services

Arizona voters have an absolute right to enact laws requiring disclosure of "dark money" political donations – even if Republican lawmakers don't like it, a judge ruled Friday.

[Kolodin grills former justice on Election Day printer failures](#)

Capitol Media Services

An attorney for a failed candidate challenging the 2022 election results used his unrelated position as chairman of a legislative panel to elicit testimony Thursday from a former Supreme Court chief justice that ultimately could benefit his client in court.

[Federal-only voters are mostly on college campuses](#)

Votebeat

Young adults living on or near college campuses in Arizona are disproportionately affected, and potentially disenfranchised, by the state's unique voting laws requiring documented proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in state and local elections, a Votebeat analysis found.

[Arizona's growth expected to boost political influence](#)

Arizona Daily Star

If the current population trends continue, Arizona will have a bit more influence in Washington after the 2030 census.

[Arizona voters want more action on air pollution, climate change](#)*KNAU*

A new poll shows that most Arizona voters support strong clean air and climate change actions.

[The New Star on the Political Scene: The Chip Industry](#)*The Wall Street Journal*

Semiconductors have played the starring role in state visits. Nvidia's chief executive was feted by heads of state like a visiting dignitary. Government delegations have shuttled around the globe hobnobbing with chip makers.

[Governor Defiance Tries to Usurp Washington's Role](#)*The New York Times*

In mid-December, just one day after Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas signed into law a radical new immigration bill, immigrant rights groups challenged it in court as ridiculously unconstitutional.

[Here are the races in Arizona's 2024 election that could change it all](#)*The Arizona Republic*

Behold, it's election year, that hallowed time when aspiring leaders come together, in celebration of democracy, to thoughtfully and respectfully debate ... Oh, who am I kidding?

[No Labels Is Pushing a Lie That Will Elect Trump](#)*Politico*

With a rematch between President Joe Biden and Donald Trump almost set in stone, it's time to put a farce to rest: The notion that a third-party candidate could actually win the presidency in 2024.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Governor Katie Hobbs Announces Plan for ESA Accountability and Transparency

Phoenix, AZ – Today, Governor Katie Hobbs announced her plan to increase accountability and transparency in the ESA voucher program that is projected to cost the state nearly \$1 billion in the current fiscal year. The plan, which will be introduced in the upcoming legislative session and executive budget, will increase student safety, promote financial accountability, and hold private schools receiving taxpayer dollars to similar standards as public schools.

Governor Hobbs' plan will increase transparency and accountability by:

- **Increasing Student Safety:** Just like public schools, educators at private schools that receive taxpayer dollars will be required to pass a fingerprint background check in order to provide instruction to ESA students. This common-sense measure ensures a safe learning environment for every student.
- **Protecting Rights for Students with Disabilities:** Require private schools to provide accommodations and services in accordance with an ESA student's Individualized Learning Plan or Section 504 Plan.
- **Requiring Accountability for Taxpayer Dollars:** End spending on luxury expenses like ski passes and luxury car driving lessons, and require manual approval of purchases over \$500 to ensure purchases are utilized for an academic purpose.
- **Expanding Auditor General Authority:** Create audit authority for the Auditor General to monitor and report on how ESA voucher money is spent by private schools. This critical oversight mirrors practices at public schools.

- **Prohibiting Price Gouging:** Stop private schools receiving taxpayer dollars from hiking the cost of tuition and fees at a rate higher than inflation.
- **Raising Educational Standards:** Require private schools receiving taxpayer dollars to have minimum education requirements for classroom educators that provide instruction to ESA students.
- **Establishing Program Transparency:** Require the Department of Education to disclose the parental and student rights that are relinquished when leaving the public school system for the ESA voucher program and report graduation and chronic absenteeism rates.
- **Reinstating Eligibility Requirements:** Students participating in the universal ESA voucher program must have attended a public school for 100 days at any point in their education prior to becoming eligible for the ESA voucher program.

“The ESA program lacks accountability and transparency,” **said Governor Katie Hobbs.** “With this plan, we can keep students safe, protect taxpayer dollars, and give parents and students the information they need to make an informed choice about their education. Arizonans deserve to know their money is being spent on educating students, not on handouts to unaccountable schools and unvetted vendors for luxury spending. My plan is simple: every school receiving taxpayer dollars must have basic standards to show they’re keeping our students safe and giving Arizona children the education they deserve.”

“Legislative Democrats have been the most consistent advocates for student safety and success,” **said Senate Democratic Leader Mitzi Epstein.** “The Republican expansion of government to universal ESA vouchers has put our state’s financial security at risk, and our students at risk without any safeguards. We included the work that Democrats have done for years in developing this plan with Gov. Hobbs. These safeguard policies are common sense and vitally important to help children learn and to keep children safe.”

“With all the issues and pressing needs we have as a state, Republicans knew that an unaccountable subsidy for private schools was more than our taxpayers can afford,” **said House Democratic Leader Lupe Contreras.** “This plan provides common-sense guardrails and fiscal responsibility that this program — that any taxpayer-funded program — should have.”

###

Mayor Gallego Named to New Federal Advisory Panel on Transportation Innovation

PHOENIX— Mayor Kate Gallego has been named to serve on the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) new Transforming Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC), a small group of national leaders who will provide advice to Secretary Pete Buttigieg and the department about plans and approaches for transportation innovation.

Gallego is the only mayor who will serve on the Committee, which is comprised of professionals, subject matter experts, academics, and leaders in the field of transportation technology. The first meeting will be held on January 18.

“I am honored and excited to serve as Phoenix’s voice on the Transforming Transportation Advisory Committee,” **Gallego said.** “Cities like Phoenix are ground zero for innovation in transit and transportation, and as we continue benefitting and learning from major federal infrastructure investments, I am looking forward to how this group will use its exchange of expertise and knowledge to improve folks’ lives across the country.”

According to USDOT, the Committee will explore and consider issues related to:

- Pathways to safe, secure, equitable, environmentally friendly and accessible deployments of emerging technologies
- Integrated approaches to promote greater cross-modal integration of emerging technologies, in particular applications to deploy automation
- Policies that encourage innovation to grow and support a safe and productive U.S. workforce, as well as foster economic competitiveness and job quality
- Approaches and frameworks that encourage the secure exchange and sharing of transformative transportation data, including technologies and infrastructure, across the public and private sectors that can guide core policy decisions across DOT’s strategic goals
- Ways the Department can identify and elevate cybersecurity solutions and protect privacy across transportation systems and infrastructure
- Other emerging issues, topics, and technologies

Gallego, known nationally as a “[Transit Mayor](#),” has been advocating for [improved public transit](#) and cleaner transportation options since she was elected to Phoenix City Council in 2013. After experiencing a seizure that same year and temporarily losing her ability to operate a vehicle, Gallego found herself relying on public transportation to get around, which was easy to do in downtown Phoenix, but difficult in many other parts of the city.

That’s what led Gallego to spearhead [Phoenix's Transportation 2050](#) plan, a bipartisan, voter-approved project that is providing residents with expanded bus service, additional light rail corridors, a mobile fare-collection system, and roadway and mobility improvements, with an emphasis on bringing service to historically underserved areas.

In 2023, Gallego played a key role in negotiations to extend the region’s half-cent sales tax for transportation investments (Proposition 400). As Chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Gallego [pushed for more light rail](#) funding and investments in sustainable transportation options. The compromise will be on the ballot for voters to approve in November 2024.

For more information on TTAC and a full list of appointees, click [HERE](#).

###

Media Advisory: Meet the New Chairman

WHAT: The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will elect a new Chairman at the 2024 Passing of the Gavel ceremony. The new Chairman will give a “State of the County”-style speech outlining his vision for the next year. *Topics will include: elections, infrastructure investments, and public safety funding.*

WHEN: Wednesday, January 3, 2024. 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Board of Supervisors Auditorium. 205 West Jefferson Street. *Cameras welcome. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to start of meeting.*

WHO: Supervisors Jack Sellers (District 1), Thomas Galvin (District 2), Bill Gates (District 3), Clint Hickman (District 4), and Steve Gallardo (District 5).

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

###

Arizona State Senate Makes Greater Push to Protect Children

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Senator David Farnsworth is proud to announce the Senate Committee on Transportation and Technology has been changed to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Technology and Missing Children. Senator Farnsworth is the chairman of the committee, which will hold 10 hearings throughout the legislative session. These hearings will provide the committee, comprised of Republican and Democrat legislators, with important information and testimony that will help craft legislation to fight this issue and protect Arizona's children. "According to the Arizona Department of Public Safety's website, there are over 1,100 missing children in Arizona as of today," said Senator Farnsworth. "This is both disturbing and unacceptable. Protecting vulnerable children who are being kidnapped, murdered, or forced into the sex trafficking world needs to be a priority, especially when it's due to state negligence. We must create more oversight and accountability and work together to find ways to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children. I'm looking forward to having necessary and meaningful conversations about what can be done and using the information to enact change." The first Senate Committee on Transportation, Technology and Missing Children hearing will be on January 9th.

###

Signed Into Law: Sinema-Shaped Annual Defense Bill with Key Arizona Priorities

WASHINGTON – The annual bipartisan defense legislation was signed into law with multiple Arizona priorities secured by Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema. In the law, Sinema secured critical funding for projects and support at Arizona's military installations – like Luke Air Force Base, Yuma Proving Ground, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Fort Huachuca, Arizona Air National Guard, and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma – as well as her bipartisan *COMFORT Act* and *Military Spouse Employment Act*.

“At a time when terrorists and fascists seek to do harm and destabilize democracies across the globe and here at home, we secured key military investments in our bipartisan annual defense legislation so Arizona – and America – remain safe, strong, and ready,” said Sinema.

“AZDIC sincerely thanks Senator Kyrsten Sinema for her unwavering dedication to passage of the FY 2024 NDAA, a crucial piece of legislation that ensures the maintenance and growth of military projects in Arizona and advances industry innovation and production. Her commitment to breaking down bureaucratic barriers was instrumental in swiftly advancing this legislation which in turn will support capabilities at home and foster security worldwide,” Lynndy Smith, President of the Arizona Defense Industry Coalition.

“Over her many years in the U.S. Congress, no one has fought as long and hard for Arizona's defense industry as our U.S. Senator, Kyrsten Sinema. Throughout her tenure in the Senate, Kyrsten has led on critical funding issues to keep Arizona's defense industry strong and growing, and understands our needs and opportunities in northern Arizona once again reflected in this year's NDAA. We are continually grateful for the good work,” said Julie Pastrick, President/CEO Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce.

"Senator Sinema's leadership continues to be instrumental in reinforcing Arizona's role as a pivotal player in the defense of our nation. Her commitment to securing key investments for Arizona's military

installations, notably the proposed Western Regional Range Complex, showcases Sinema's unwavering dedication to ensuring that Arizona and the U.S. remain vigilant against global threats," said Southwest Mission Acceleration Center (SW MAC) CEO Drew Trojanowski. The SW MAC, empowered by Sinema and these investments, works with the DoD to continuously deliver critical technology to the warfighter to not only address but advance our nation's technological capabilities for national security. With Senator Sinema's continued leadership, it's only a matter of time before Arizona is synonymous with creating innovative defense solutions that will power America against our adversaries."

"MIDC thanks Senator Sinema for her support of Arizona installations and leadership in passage of the National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA is critical to our nation's security and supportive of Arizona industry which provides needed products and components to our military and allies. Senator Sinema's attention to our state's key military assets enables our military's capabilities and strengthens our communities," Sally Harrison, Mesa Industry and Defense Council President.

"The Defense Authorization Act will provide desperately needed funding for a water treatment plant at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, enable completion of the YPG Ready Building, and ensure the Barry M. Goldwater Range continues to support military training in southern Arizona. The Yuma 50 and Yuma community are grateful to Sen. Sinema for his work to secure funding for these essential investments," said Julie Engel, Chair of Yuma 50.

"The Huachuca 50 is thrilled that the US Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA focuses on specific priorities in Southern Arizona to include strengthening Sentinel Landscapes, addressing the capacity for testing and training of electromagnetic warfare operations, organizes the Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations Executive Committee, and directs the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force to brief a plan for joint aerial intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. What is more, it is requiring a report on Military Healthcare System partnerships in rural communities that increase military medical readiness. This is especially important given the relationship between Fort Huachuca and Canyon Vista Medical Center that improves care for soldiers and their families in Cochise County. Finally, the Huachuca 50 commends Senator Sinema for her support in passing this bill. Her leadership led to a bill that addresses local, regional, and national security challenges," said Dr. Randy Groth, President of Fort Huachuca 50.

"Not only is Davis-Monthan AFB critical to our national security and integral to our community, it also provides an enormous economic boost to the city of Tucson and Pima County. Most recent numbers show that Davis-Monthan along with the Arizona Air National Guard at TIA have an economic impact of over \$3.5 billion annually. Additionally, DM accounts for a large percent of the more than 78K jobs that military installations generate statewide. The DM50 continues to advocate for future flying missions at Davis-Monthan and we believe the additional combat search and rescue assets as well as the Special Forces Power Projection Wing will be a tremendous addition to the base and the local community. Additionally, we are very appreciative of the continued advocacy and support of the entire Arizona delegation as we work together to ensure the future of DM," Jay Bickley, DM50 President.

Sinema's bipartisan [COMFORT Act](#) strengthens access to counseling services on military installations by allowing Military and Family Life counselors to work outside of the state in which they are licensed. Sinema's bipartisan legislation addresses the nation-wide shortage of behavioral health professionals serving the military and veteran community.

Sinema's bipartisan *Military Spouse Employment Act* grants federal agencies the authority to hire military spouses for remote work and allow military spouses to retain their positions should they be transferred to another location, providing certainty that they can care for their families despite the disruption of regular relocation.

Additionally, Sinema secured key investments providing a pay raise for servicemembers and bringing new missions to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

See below for a breakdown of specific Arizona provisions in the annual defense law:

Luke Air Force Base

Includes \$2.6 million towards upgrading the Control Tower, Fire Station, and Base Operations Complex at a consolidated building at the Gila Bend Auxiliary Airfield, which is used by Luke Air Force Base (AFB) pilots for training.

Pushes DOD to provide installations with necessary funds to deliver maintenance solutions at facilities like Luke AFB's Munitions Storage Area.

Includes \$2.7 million for the planning and design of the Child Development Center at Luke AFB, a key site for increased construction funds in the next Air Force budget.

Procures 48 F-35As for the Air Force, to continue growing the F-35A fighter fleet whose pilots are trained at Luke AFB.

Yuma Proving Ground

Adds \$10 million in funding for the Radar Range Replacement Program to continue modernizing advanced test sites like Yuma Test Center at YPG.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

Over \$194 million to procure state of the art Compass Call electronic attack aircraft stationed at Davis-Monthan.

Over \$66 million to conduct research, development, test, and evaluation work on the Compass Call aircraft, further enhancing the fleet's effectiveness. This asset continues to keep Davis-Monthan at the forefront of Air Force missions now and long into the future.

Since 2020, Sinema, Kelly, and the Arizona Delegation have consistently engaged Air Force leadership to bring new, durable flying missions to Davis-Monthan and secure the long-term future of the base. Last year's NDAA [included](#) language to prioritize DM as the Air Force determines locations of future flying missions. In April, Sinema and Kelly led a [letter](#) to the Secretary of the Air Force urging collaboration with the Tucson community and the congressional delegation after they were briefed on the Air Force's [plan](#) for the future of the base, which includes advanced electronic warfare, rescue, and special operations components. Key NDAA provisions include:

- \$5 million to carry out the ongoing site review and planning to establish the new Special Operations Power Projection wing at DM.*

- *Directs Department of Defense (DOD) to provide the committee a full accounting of anticipated steps, timeline, and budget plans for actions necessary to complete the restructure plan.*
- *Adds \$8.5 million for the Air Force Reserve's Guardian Angel Preservation of the Force and Family Facility which will support troop readiness by providing space for exercise, physical therapy, rehabilitation, mental health, and family counseling.*
- *Encourages the Air Force to make progress on funding for training simulators to support the Compass Call fleet based entirely at DM, for which Sinema and Kelly secured funding for four additional aircraft in last year's NDAA.*
- *Supports the HH-60W combat rescue helicopter procurement and restructure activities that will bring additional rescue assets to DM over the next three year.*
- *Requires a report on the feasibility of locating all of the 214th Attack Group's MQ-9 remotely piloted aircraft elements at DM to improve mission efficiency, allow for 24/7 launch ability, save thousands of hours of commute time, and free up space for new mission opportunities at Fort Huachuca.*

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma

\$8.9 million for the planning and design of the upgraded water treatment plant at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. There was an expedited \$5 million for planning and design in last year's NDAA.

Procures 16 F-35Bs for the Marine Corps. MCAS Yuma is home to four F-35B squadrons that are critical for supporting U.S. military operations all around the world.

Ft. Huachuca

Authorizes a demonstration of a new Western Range Complex that would connect multiple non-kinetic ranges for exercises in the region, including Fort Huachuca.

Directs the Department of Defense (DoD) to renew focus on Electronic Warfare and Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations, which Fort Huachuca will play a central role in executing.

Requires a report from the Secretary of Defense on increasing the use of the Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) at Ft. Huachuca. This report will explore the possibilities for expanding the Army's use of Ft. Huachuca and potentially initiating realistic electronic warfare training.

Directs the Joint Chiefs of Staff and DoD Research & Engineering to examine capability gaps at electronic warfare ranges like Fort Huachuca.

Directs the Army to provide an update on plans to complete the land conveyance between Fort Huachuca and the City of Sierra Vista which supports both municipal use and the Fort's master plan.

Supports partnerships between military health facilities and local hospitals and directs an independent study on opportunities to strengthen these partnerships in rural communities near military installations.

Requires a review of the Army's approach to planning for future aerial intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions, including training, with acknowledgment of Fort Huachuca's proximity to Air Force electronic warfare and fighter assets and experience providing instruction in this mission area.

Increases Impact Aid program funding, which benefits Arizona schools including the Fort Huachuca School District and Sierra Vista Public Schools.

Barry M. Goldwater Range

Extends the existing military land withdrawal for the Barry M. Goldwater Range, for an additional 25 years, to ensure continuous support for training in Arizona.

Camp Navajo

Directs an assessment of the readiness benefits of improving bridge infrastructure at the base entrance.

Requires DOD to review their Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) infrastructure on military installations, like Camp Navajo, to assess the need for potential upgrades that could support contingencies in Europe and the Pacific.

National Guard and Reserve Forces

Requires a plan for modernizing Air National Guard fighter force structure in order to provide long-term planning for Air Force airpower and fighter squadrons like the 162nd Wing, which flies F-16s in Tucson.

\$15 million for the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Surprise.

\$17 million to support Army Reserve maintenance activities in San Tan Valley.

\$12 million for the Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity facility in Queen Creek.

\$11.6 million for the Air National Guard to construct emergency defense infrastructure at the Tucson International Airport.

\$12 million to begin construction of the entry control point for the Morris Air National Guard Base. The current gate poses traffic safety and security issues, creating congestion on Valencia Road in Tucson. This project relocates the existing installation entrance to a new site in order to meet standoff and traffic requirements.

Requires the Secretary of the Air Force to develop and brief Congress on a plan to transfer KC-135 air refueling aircraft to the National Guard. The activity duty Air Force is in the process of bringing new KC-46A aircraft into service, while older KC-135 aircraft still have years of useful life left and could be used in units like the Arizona National Guard 161st Air Refueling Wing.

PFAS

Increases the research, planning, and phase-out efforts on PFAS – commonly known as toxic “forever chemicals” – and environmental cleanup efforts.

Establishing a Strategy for 5G Wireless Broadband at all Military Installations

Requests the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a strategy to deploy tailored 5G connectivity to military bases and facilities.

Support for Training National Guard on Wildfire Prevention and Response

Allows for the U.S. Department of Defense to support training National Guard forces on wildfire prevention and response.

Extension of Special Pay and Bonuses

Taken from Sinema's Military Housing Affordability Act, which allows for the U.S. Department of Defense to temporarily increase housing allowances where Basic Housing Allowance has not kept up with rising home prices.

Cold Weather Special Duty Pay

Includes special duty pay for soldiers assigned to the Yuma Proving Ground Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) in Alaska.

Electricity Resilience

Requires the U.S. Department of Defense to give guidance on specifications for medium voltage gas insulated switchgear, microgrids, and microgrid controllers. Guidance language will lead to a more secure supply chain, ensuring that contracts to procure and operate microgrids are not sourced from prohibited actors. Sinema crafted this legislative language with input from local Arizona partners such as Arizona State University. This provision will benefit local Arizona installations, such as Ft. Huachuca and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) / Sentinel Landscape Support

Authorized the continuation of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program. The U.S. Department of Defense would partner with conservation trusts to acquire lands outside military installation boundaries. This acquired land is then used as a buffer and easement to protect military installations from commercial and residential encroachment that would undermine training.

Additional Arizona Priorities

Directs DOD to provide a comprehensive report to Congress on the prevalence of Valley fever – which is endemic to Arizona – in the military and its effect on military readiness to provide a better understanding of the value of developing of a preventative Valley fever vaccine.

Extends the authorization for protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft.

Directs a briefing on the Army's Degraded Visual Environment Pilotage System (DVEPS), including plans to incorporate DVEPS into the helicopter fleet.

Requires the creation of at least three new commercial solutions openings for emerging technologies and dual-use products and services each year, as well as a feasibility study and recommendations on ways to improve the acquisition of commercial products and services.

Directs a briefing on lessons learned from combatant command partnerships with private industry to better identify, leverage, and experiment with emerging capabilities and commercial technologies.

Authorizes the replacement of substandard enlisted barracks using various funding sources for five years.

Requires that enlisted housing meets the same basic standards as all other government-owned military housing.

###

Pima County expands lawn and garden equipment replacement program

PIMA COUNTY, Jan. 2, 2024 – Pima County has added a sixth drop-off site to the Cut Down Pollution program, making it easier for Marana-area residents to access vouchers for electric or battery-operated lawn and garden equipment.

The voluntary program, operated by the [Pima County Department of Environmental Quality](#) (PDEQ), allows residents and commercial businesses in Pima County to turn in working gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment in exchange for vouchers toward the purchase of electric equipment or manual landscaping tools. Since the program’s launch four years ago, more than 1,150 lawn mowers, chainsaws, leaf blowers, etc. were retired, reducing air pollution by nearly 600 tons and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, by an estimated 1,800 tons.

While some commercial businesses have made the switch, most of the lawn mowers and other equipment have been turned in by residents who use the equipment to maintain their personal properties.

“Many participants enjoy the ease of working with electric equipment in contrast to dealing with [smelly, cumbersome, and finicky gasoline-powered equipment](#),” said PDEQ’s Karen Wilhelmsen, who operates the Cut Down Pollution program.

“Electric equipment is also quieter than gasoline-powered, helping to keep the peace with neighbors who would otherwise hear the loud noise through closed windows and doors. They also feel satisfaction about [doing their part to help keep our blue skies blue](#).”

The process starts with an online application at www.pima.gov/CutPollution. Once the application is approved, the participant receives an email with one Drop-Off Verification Form per piece of equipment accepted. They take the form(s) with the equipment to one of the six drop-off sites, which are listed on the form.

Staff at the drop-off sites accept the equipment, which will be rendered inoperable and recycled as appropriate. The forms, signed, dated and stamped, are given back to the participant, who emails the forms to CutPollution@pima.gov as proof that the equipment was relinquished. PDEQ then issues vouchers toward the purchase of electric lawn and garden equipment or manual landscaping tools at any of the six Home Depot stores in metropolitan Tucson.

Residents may turn in one gas lawn mower (\$150 voucher) and up to five different gas handheld devices such as one leaf blower, one string trimmer, one edger, etc. (\$50 voucher each) for a total of \$400 worth of vouchers. Commercial businesses may turn in an unspecified number of mowers (\$200 vouchers) and devices (\$50 each).

To learn more about the program, visit www.pima.gov/CutPollution or call 520-273-9898. The program is funded by a grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

###

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

I won't allow that to happen." — *Toma on Hobbs' proposals to reform the ESA program, which he says will strangle the program and private education with bureaucracy and regulation.*

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-4
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 8:27:09 PM
Attachments: [01-04-24.pdf](#)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 5:10:45 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-4

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications
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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Dems looking to do what Kaiser couldn't



An affordable housing working group of House and Senate Democrats led by Ortiz and An Hernandez pitched several housing bills for the 2024 session today in a press conference. Quinonez said he's reintroducing a bill from last year that would have created a first-generation homebuyer program. This time, the bill will also extend to first-time homebuyers to help people buy a home if their parents also were able to buy a home, Quinonez said. He said the explanation he received from a Republican colleague for

why his bill wasn't put up for a vote on the House floor was because it was "too noble" of a bill that would give up the legislative majority for Republicans if they helped it pass. He didn't name the representative who told him that but said he wants to focus on the policy of his bill this year. He said he has had conversations with GOP members about potential amendments that he hopes could get the bill through the legislature. "I'm going to do my best to simply highlight the policy and hope that my colleagues can come on board with the policy," he said. Schwiebert said another priority for Democrats is to prevent large corporations from out of state buying properties in Arizona and raising prices for the residents who live at those properties. It's another bill from last year in which Schwiebert got support from Wilmeth and former Sen. Steve Kaiser that would give condominium residents a defined fair market value for their units if a condominium association was terminated. De Los Santos also said he has a bill that would prevent corporations from pricing families out of their homes. Crews said she will introduce bills that give recorder's offices pathways to remove redlining language from housing deeds. "It's 2023. It's about time we have a way to remove this language. Whether it's enforceable or not, it's still harmful," Crews said. Democrats are also expanding on the city of Phoenix's legalization of casitas, or accessory dwelling units on properties, Hernandez said. A lesson Ortiz said Democrats have learned is to introduce smaller housing bills that have bipartisan support since Kaiser's bipartisan housing package from last year didn't make it across the finish line as many members had various issues with smaller parts of the bill.

More testimony slated on Sun's alleged threat/bitch slap comment

The House Ethics committee has scheduled a second evidentiary hearing for Sun. Committee members got a letter today informing them of the hearing and its purpose is to hear testimony from Liz Goodman and Kayla Destiny Ruiz-Davidian. The hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m., Jan. 11. Goodman is a lobbyist who works with HB Strategies who was the recipient in the conversation of Sun's alleged death threat to Tolleson lobbyist Pilar Sinawi, although Sun denies ever making this threat. Sun named Goodman as part of that conversation in a six-page response she submitted to *12News* in October and has admitted to calling Sinawi a "bitch" and saying she would "bitch slap" her. Ruiz-Davidian also is a lobbyist with HB Strategies.

Ortiz plans prison oversight bill

Ortiz told our reporter she plans to re-run [a bill from last session](#), originally promulgated by former Rep. Walt Blackman, to create an Independent Corrections Oversight Committee. As a member of Hobbs' prison oversight commission, Ortiz noted the need for full-time staff, investigative authority and independence from the governor's office. She clarified the need to break free from the governor did not stem from any incident under Hobbs but to ensure the commission survives changes in administration. "Regardless of who is the governor, and regardless of who is the director, this Commission needs to be in place to ensure the humane treatment of people who are incarcerated," Ortiz said. "Ultimately, it is making sure that there can't be a new governor who comes in and gets rid of the commission or a new director who comes in and is hostile to the commission." As for the prospect of outsourcing performance audits and investigations to the Auditor General, Ortiz said she thinks it is crucial to include formerly incarcerated people and their family members, corrections officers and other key stakeholders. "Those are the voices that need to be at the table because they know what to look for. They know when DOC is lying, and they know what true rehabilitation looks like."

ADOT today's sunset review piñata

The long-term fate of another state agency looks dim after transportation committees met today to mull over the sunset review recommendation for the Arizona Department of Transportation. Ultimately, all but one lawmaker voted to encourage ADOT to be continued when the specific bill is deliberated in the legislative session. Performance Audit Manager Monette Kiepke revealed the Motor Vehicle Department faced some issues in receiving compliance from third-party vendors in following state protocols in staff training and day-to-day procedures. "Do we really think training is going to take care of this?" Kern asked Kiepke. "This Leviathan of an agency? They're not doing it now. What makes us think that if we do training down the road that's going to help?" Kern was the only legislator to vote against recommending the agency continue – likely in protest due to co-Chairs Cook's and Farnsworth's recommendation that it continues for four to six years – as he encouraged a short two-year continuation. The Auditor General's office also revealed the agency "failed to fully address fraud and security incidents, potentially not notifying affected customers and not recovering public monies," according to their report. MVD Director Eric Jorgenson said a Fraud Task Force was established for this very reason. A few committee members raised their concerns about delays in road construction and Performance Audit Manager Miguel Mateus highlighted that ADOT had issues following through with construction legislation as it lacked specifics or funding for the entire scope of some projects. "For example, in the 2021 legislative session, the department received an appropriation of \$47 million to re-pave State Route

95 in Mojave County,” Mateus said. “The department reported that after working with legislators and officials to obtain more details about this project, it identified that the intended scope included additional upgrades not referenced in the appropriation, such as new lighting and sidewalks.” Barry Aarons recommended that the committee produce more specific legislation that will allow for MVD compliance and further opportunities to open new locations. Two individuals gave testimony as to how they feel it is an “embarrassment” that ADOT has promised to reopen the Apache Junction trail, to no avail. However, newly appointed Director of ADOT Jennifer Toth assured the agency is on the right track to reopening the trail and following through with audit recommendations. Toth also said some road construction delays were caused by “supply issues” and contracting problems. The Auditor General’s office said ADOT was compliant with their sunset review recommendations, and some have already been implemented.

So much for civility and respect

Republican state Rep. Austin Smith [leaked Democrats’ unfiled](#) bills encompassing birth certificate gender changes on X Wednesday. His post did make it seem as though he was unaware Hernandez had not filed the bill yet, however Sen. An Hernandez bounced back with a fiery response. “Hey @azaustinsmith, tag me next time because I’m here for all the smoke,” Hernandez wrote in a post on X. “1. None of the bills have been pre-filed or shared publicly. 2. It’s really bad form to share other members’ legislation that has not been officially introduced. 3. You’re a trash ass legislator.” Smith responded with a sarcastic apology. “I thought I might be doing you a favor keeping your name off this trash. Now the public can see how insane your ‘policy’ ideas are,” Smith wrote.

Will Wadsack and Parker allow one in their backyards?

Wadsack and B. Parker proposed secure long-term care residential facilities as a potential solution for the state’s issues in behavioral health care. They discussed the issue during Wednesday’s lengthy Joint Legislative Psychiatric Hospital Review Council meeting and heard emotional testimony from “Mad Moms,” a group of women who have children with serious mental illnesses that are advocating for better treatment of people with chronic and serious mental illness. “Clearly we have not been much help because we have the facilities, we have the programs, and then you have the police, the law enforcement; and they’re not able to connect with the actual people that are ready to get the help,” Wadsack said. Miranda and C. Hernandez said Republicans had to be willing to work with Democrats on whatever bills are introduced as they will need approval from Hobbs. Miranda and Shope have already expressed bipartisan interest in psychiatric care reform, including removing Arizona Dept. of Health Services’ oversight duties for Arizona State Hospital since the agency also operates the hospital. “I’m going to challenge my pro-life colleagues in this legislature to be pro-life in action,” Miranda said. “Let’s take care of that baby after its born because all those babies are walking around our streets all grown up now, sick, addicted, with mental illness.” Parker also criticized the city of Mesa with its recent approval of a hotel housing program which city officials say is designed to help seniors, veterans, families with young children and single women experiencing homelessness. Parker called the program “human trafficking” for “churning” people every 90 days and billing them with Medicaid and said the state should prioritize “state-of-the-art” long-term treatment facilities. Wadsack said she plans to schedule another hearing on the issue to hear from judges about court-ordered treatments and AHCCS for information about bed capacity numbers.

Kern calls for defunding universities, calls Crow a 'disaster'

Five Republicans and a lone Democrat offered broad recommendations to strengthen free speech protections for university students, faculty, administrators and staff at the final meeting of the joint committee convened to cover a conflict over a conservative speaking engagement at ASU last year. Though an action item to pull university funding failed to make it into the formal recommendations, Kern independently called to target university budgets, though he left the details to be figured out down the line. Kern convened the committee in July after a February speaking engagement at ASU featuring conservative radio

host Dennis Prager and Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk stirred a letter of protest from most of Honors College faculty and later led to the closure of the host center, the T.W. Lewis Center for Personal Development, after the donor pulled his funding, bringing the executive director's job with it. The first hearing brought testimony from Prager, and former center director Ann Atkinson. Kern called for an internal report from ASU on the events leading up to and following the event, with a particular focus on whether students or Atkinson saw their speech suppressed. ASU returned a report finding no wrongdoing on their part. At the final meeting today, Kern, Wadsack, Smith, Carter, Farnsworth and Crews, the lone Democrat in attendance, unanimously forwarded general recommendations to strengthen speech of both students and faculty and shield students from any grade impacts associated with free speech. Kern said they would be filing legislation to match in the coming days. In final comments, Republican lawmakers expressed the need to go beyond the committee recommendations, or at the very least see those recommendations actualized in the legislative session. "Now, I'd like to see us get out of the talking about it phase and getting to the doing something about it phase," Wadsack said. Kern headed the charge to target university funding. "I'm not comfortable in just legislatively doing something. I think the only way we can get to them is through their pocketbook," Kern said. He called out ASU president Michael Crow by name, dubbing him a "disaster." "Dude, climb off your ivory tower," Kern said.



Cox caught sneaking fees into fixed bills

Mayes announced a \$13 million settlement with Cox Communications over an investigation and lawsuit alleging the company disguised price increases as routine fees. Mayes filed the complaint in December alleging violations of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act as Cox offered "price lock" TV plans to customers but discretely raised bills by listing price increases as fees, and similarly listed telephone service increases alongside government taxes, fees and surcharges. According to the consent decree,

Cox must pay \$10 million to the state's [Consumer Protection-Consumer Fraud Revolving Fund](#) and \$3 million to eligible Cox customers, and refrain from imposing further price increases on customers who are in price locked or guaranteed plans in the future.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Arizona's population growth expected to boost political influence](#)

Capitol Media Services

If the current population trends continue, Arizona will have a bit more influence in Washington after the 2030 census.

[Arizona voters passed an anti-dark money law. Republicans want it gone.](#)

The Copper Courier

A Maricopa County Superior Court judge on Friday rejected Arizona Republicans' request to stop the state's new anti-dark money law from going into effect.

[Long-awaited Valley light rail extension set to open in late January](#)

The Phoenix Business Journal

The long-awaited extension of Valley Metro's light rail system into northwest Phoenix will open on Jan. 27.

[These issues, challenges and trends will define Arizona's 2024 elections](#)

Fronteras

It is officially 2024, and that means the next presidential election year is upon us. And Arizona is set to be the center of the political universe as it plays out.

[Convicted Democrat election fraudster is appointed Vice Mayor of Arizona city](#)

Daily Mail

A local politician who was convicted of ballot fraud has been named the vice mayor of San Luis, Arizona at a city council meeting last month.

[Northern Arizona school district had financial resources and food wasted](#)

The Black Chronicle

A school district in Apache County will make changes following financial findings from the Arizona auditor general.

[Former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey Loves Barry Goldwater and Milton Friedman](#)

Reason

During his two terms as governor of Arizona, Doug Ducey managed to pass a flat income tax with a rate of 2.5 percent, reform public sector pensions, universalize important school choice measures, reform occupational licensing rules, turn a budget deficit into a surplus, and substantially shrink the size of the government workforce.

[What's going on? Polls show Latinos back Donald Trump over Joe Biden](#)

The Arizona Republic

The story of Latino America is one of rapid growth in population, wealth and political influence.

[What to know about the Arizona for Abortion Access Act](#)

Daily Independent

The Arizona for Abortion Access ballot measure amends the Arizona constitution to include the right for a person to make their own decision on abortion.

[Lukeville may reopen, but Biden hasn't solved key problems at the border](#)

The Arizona Republic

It finally dawned on the feds that closing the Lukeville Port of Entry to legal crossers between Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, wasn't smart.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Legislature’s Border Democrats Applaud Lukeville Port of Entry Reopening; Continue Call for Additional Crisis Management Funding

PHOENIX – The Lukeville port of entry was reopened this morning, a month after it was shut down because of increased migrant arrivals. While Legislative Democrats who represent border communities celebrate the reopening, they continued their call for the federal government to increase its funding and resources for Arizona border towns. The members stressed that the closure of the Lukeville port of entry resulted from lack of resources from the federal government for southern Arizona communities to manage the ongoing influx of migrants. Instead of sending money and resources to Arizona, and other southern border states, the federal government has consistently underfunded their greatest partners in executing humane, swift crisis management.

“I am happy to see the Lukeville port of entry reopen. The month-long closure created negative economic impacts on Arizona’s surrounding border cities and towns, including Nogales and Naco,” said **Senator Rosanna Gabaldón**. “On top of the economic impacts, the closure also created humanitarian issues by separating families who once were able to cross the border and visit relatives easily. While opening the Lukeville port of entry is a good first step, the Biden administration still needs to send a surge of resources and staffing to Southern Arizona and start working with Congress to deal with the root causes of migration and develop a coordinated and long-term federal response. The financial and humanitarian costs are too high for us to ignore this issue any longer. This is as much a matter of the heart as it is a matter of policy – it’s time to put away partisanship and fix our immigration system and invest in our crisis management abilities.”

“As a Representative of the district that includes Lukeville and after advocating directly to President Biden, I’m pleased to see the port of entry reopen today,” said **Representative Mariana Sandoval**. “Border communities like Why and Ajo have been hurt economically by the closure. However, they won’t be the only ones that feel the brunt without critical funding from the federal government. Pima County spends almost \$4 million a month in federal funds to address the humanitarian crisis at the border but will run out of that funding within the next few months. Once gone, our southern Arizona communities will no longer be able to provide agencies with the critical resources they need to assist asylum seekers.”

Senator Brian Fernandez added, “Opening the Lukeville port of entry is a good first step in helping Arizona address the influx of migrants seeking asylum but that does not change the fact that the federal government’s decision last month to shut down the port of entry was a direct result of the dereliction of federal responsibility. Even with the port of entry reopened, the migrant situation is unsustainable and growing worse each day as Congress ignores the human and economic impact in southern Arizona. Our border communities deserve safety and security. It is vital that this funding finds its way to southern Arizona immediately.”

“Arizona communities are on the frontlines of this humanitarian crisis at the southern border. We have seen a record number in asylum petitions at our southern border and the financial responsibility of this process should not fall solely on state and city governments,” said **Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton**. “We continue to urge Congress to provide the needed funding to address this crisis and to assure we hold intact the dignity and respect of every migrant as they move through the immigration process.”

###

Tucson Man Fined and Ordered to Pay \$180,000 in Restitution for Molino II Fire

TUCSON, Ariz. – Michael J. Sobczynski, 64, of Tucson, was ordered last week by United States Magistrate Judge Michael A. Ambri to pay a fine and \$180,000 in restitution to the United States Forest Service for his role in the fire dubbed as the “Molino II Fire.” Sobczynski pleaded guilty to Use of Incendiary Ammunition. On April 30, 2023, Sobczynski was target shooting in the Molino Basin target shooting area of the Coronado National Forest. His shotgun was loaded with incendiary rounds, which ignited multiple small fires and ultimately caused a wildfire that burned within the Coronado National Forest. Fire suppression costs exceeded \$200,000.

Investigators from the United States Forest Service conducted the investigation in this case. The United States Attorney’s Office, District of Arizona, Tucson, handled the prosecution.

###

Governor Katie Hobbs to Speak at Legislative Forecast Luncheon

Phoenix, AZ – Tomorrow, Governor Hobbs will join the Arizona Chamber for the annual Legislative Forecast Luncheon. The event will serve as a preview to the 2024 legislative session.

WHO: Governor Katie Hobbs, Arizona Chamber of Commerce members and leadership

WHEN: Friday, January 5, 2024 at 12pm

WHERE: Chase Field – 401 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix, AZ 85004

The governor will not be available for questions

Additionally, you are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes early if you have equipment to set up.

###

Continuing to Protect Pay for Wildland Firefighters, Sinema Backs Bipartisan Bill Removing Other Barriers to Fair Pay

WASHINGTON – Building on her work to protect fair pay for wildland firefighters through her *Wildland Firefighter Paycheck Protection Act*, Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema cosponsored the *Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act* – bipartisan legislation fixing existing wildland firefighter salary caps to ensure they’re fully compensated for the overtime work they put in.

Currently, an annual salary cap limits the amount of overtime for which wildland firefighters can be paid. During increasingly lengthy fire seasons in states like Arizona, firefighters routinely exceed the annual pay cap – resulting in overtime work without additional compensation. The Sinema-backed *Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act* provides a permanent fix ensuring firefighters are adequately compensated for overtime work by increasing possible take-home pay.

“We’re doubling down on our efforts to ensure fairer pay for wildland firefighters as they put their lives on the line to protect Arizona communities,” said Sinema, lead sponsor of the *Wildland Firefighter Paycheck Protection Act*.

Wildland firefighters within the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture earn a base salary and are paid overtime when they exceed eight hours a day. However, the annual salary cap limits the amount of

overtime for which they can be paid – leading to many firefighters completing overtime work without additional compensation.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates that up to 500 supervisors either stop working or continue to work without additional compensation upon hitting the pay cap each year. Sinema’s bill corrects this harm by providing a permanent fix ensuring firefighters are adequately compensated for overtime work by increasing possible take-home pay.

Sinema is championing efforts to support federal wildland firefighters. Earlier this year, the Senator introduced the *Wildland Firefighter Paycheck Protection Act* – protecting the [pay raise secured for wildland firefighters in Sinema’s bipartisan infrastructure law](#).

###

Attorney General Mayes Announces \$13 Million Settlement with Cox Communications for Disguising Price Increases as Routine Fees

PHOENIX – Attorney General Kris Mayes announced today that her office had secured a settlement with Cox Communications for more than \$13 million, resolving an investigation and lawsuit alleging the telecommunications company failed to adequately disclose additional fees to customers.

The settlement includes a \$10 million payment to the State and \$3,042,494 distributed by Cox to current and former customers who signed up for television services between January 2017 and March 2021.

Attorney General Mayes’ lawsuit alleged that Cox deceived Arizonans who purchased television services to enter long-term contracts through promises of a “price lock guarantee” and other fixed-pricing “deals.”

“As Attorney General and a former utilities regulator, I have always fought to ensure that consumers are provided clear and accurate information about the services they receive,” said Attorney General Kris Mayes. “This substantial settlement holds Cox accountable for years of deceptive charges and false promises. We’re sending a clear message that businesses must fairly and honestly disclose all fees and honor the guarantees that they make to Arizonans.”

Between January 2014 and March 2021, Cox reserved the ability to regularly raise the bills of price-locked customers through increases in company-imposed fees. The telecommunications company allegedly failed to fully explain these fees, known as the Broadcast Surcharge Fee (“BSF”) and Regional Sports Surcharge (“RSS”), as well as its telephone-related Carrier Cost Recovery Fee (“CCRF”), to Arizonans.

By disguising price increases as fees, Cox routinely raised the bills of customers who thought they had secured a locked-in price.

The lawsuit also alleged that Cox’s advertising, billing statements, and representations relating to CCRF charges associated with its long-distance telephone services deceived Arizonans because Cox falsely implied that the CCRF charge was a tax or government fee by listing the fee alongside government taxes, fees, and surcharges.

Cox will distribute the payments required by this settlement as account credits to eligible customers who still have active Cox accounts at the time the credit is issued and electronic funds transfers to eligible consumers who no longer have active Cox accounts.

All eligible Cox customers will be directly contacted by and paid by Cox, so there is no need for consumers to take further action. For more information about consumer eligibility for payments, consumers may visit cox.com/azrefund

In addition to the payments, Cox is required to:

- Accurately and clearly disclose any and all material terms or conditions to consumers at the time of sale;

- Refrain from imposing any unilateral pricing increases on its residential customers in Term Agreements if Cox advertised that those customers would have “locked,” “set,” “guaranteed,” or other otherwise fixed monthly pricing;
- Continue to offer plans to new and existing customers that do not include the BSF, RSS, or CCRF surcharges; and
- Ensure that its Product and Pricing Guide is easily found and accessible to consumers on the Cox website (www.cox.com)

Assistant Attorney General Nathan Whelihan, Senior Litigation Counsel Alyse Meislik, and Assistant Attorney General Vince Rabago of the Consumer Protection and Advocacy Section handled this case.

If you believe you have been the victim of consumer fraud, you can file a consumer complaint by visiting the Attorney General’s [website](#). If you need a complaint form sent to you, you can contact the Attorney General’s Office in Phoenix at (602) 542-5763, in Tucson at (520) 628-6648, or outside the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas at (800) 352-8431.

A copy of the complaint is available [here](#). A copy of the consent decree is available [here](#).

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Dude, climb off your ivory tower.” — *Kern in calling out Arizona State University President Michael Crow and threatening to take away university funding.*

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-5
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 6:33:12 PM
Attachments: [01-05-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:20:57 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-5

Chierstin Susel

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

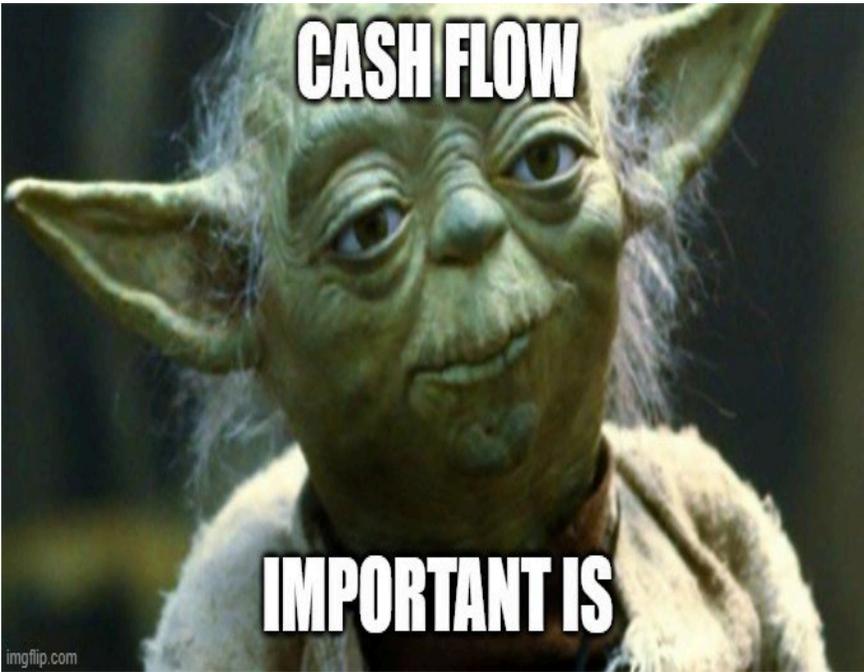


YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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•NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP•

Less money to spend means shorter session



A report from the non-partisan research organization Common Sense Institute published today gives recommendations for how lawmakers should tackle the budget with a projected \$400 million deficit. The report, authored by CSI Director of Policy Glenn Farley, attributes the budget shortfall to “rapid” spending growth, highlighting \$6.3 billion that has been spent on one-time initiatives over the last two fiscal years, accounting for a growth increase of about 20% per year while the general fund

has grown by \$4 billion since the implementation of the flat tax. “This current shortfall is not the result of ongoing revenues being insufficient,” said CSI Executive Director Katie Ratlief. “It is the result of not leaving a sufficient buffer for any volatility and spending too much one-time money.” The organization projects that budget deficit issues can stabilize after fiscal year 2026 if lawmakers reduce one-time spending to about 5% a year rather than the 20% numbers of the last two budgets. Farley said no ongoing cuts to program services and agency operating budgets should be necessary. Also, if lawmakers take other steps, including extending Prop 123, without new spending commitments, which adds \$275 million annually to the general fund. Farley recommends lawmakers delay or cut some of the one-time spending commitments from the previous two budgets that haven’t been spent yet and transfer surplus “other” funds with state agencies to build up cash reserves. Legislative leaders spoke about the budget during an Arizona Chamber of Commerce luncheon today. Toma said lawmakers need to “refocus” and delay some of the spending that’s occurred over the previous two years. “This is not a structural problem. This is a short-term cash flow problem,” Toma said. De Los Santos said the shortfall is a result of tax cuts from Gov. Doug Ducey’s administration and an “off-the-rails” ESA program. “Every single month ... the revenue numbers are coming in way under projection,” De Los Santos said. “We’ve got to take a look at the ESA program and put in place some commonsense accountability and transparency measures.” House and Senate Republican and Democrat leaders all projected the session to adjourn sine die at about 100 days because of the budget limitations and little room to negotiate spending. Petersen said Republicans have already asked Democrats about their initial asks for the budget and are ready to negotiate immediately. He also predicted the session would end in 90 days.

Trial held on No Labels suit against Fontes

A federal judge is now considering whether to allow No Labels to solely run a presidential candidate and block any other candidates running under the party's banner from the ballot. The party first filed suit after two candidates filed statements to run for Corporation Commission and U.S. Senate under the No Labels banner. Since the lawsuit, three more No Labels candidates have filed to run as U.S. and state representatives. At a bench trial this morning, Andrew Pappas, attorney for No Labels Arizona, argued Arizona law makes it so parties must "intend" or "desire" to run candidates in the primary election and cannot be made to do so. District Judge John Tuchi said Pappas was "not necessarily giving (the law) a fair read," and noted the statute was plural and included a provision allowing parties to nominate candidates for all offices. Pappas said the statute was conditional and must account for some circumstances where a party does not want to make nominations. Kara Karlson, attorney for Fontes, argued that once a party makes one nomination, they open the door to allow any candidate to run. "We are not saying that that language means they have to field people on every single race, it just means they are entitled to representation, and they are entitled to run." Karlson added the party included an intent to participate in the primary on their initial signature petitions. But Pappas contended, "Candidates have been on notice for a long time that No Labels doesn't intend to run candidates." Tuchi noted there was no statutory scheme for a party to opt-out or notify the secretary of state if they did not intend to run candidates and added the letters No Labels had sent to the Fontes "clearly didn't work here." "Some people didn't get the memo," Tuchi said. Pappas said a specific scheme was not necessary and the law should be construed consistent with the party's constitutional rights. But Karlson argued No Labels should be precluded because there is "no mechanism under state law in which a party could elect to run this way." Tuchi took the matter under advisement.

Pay big issue for LD8 candidates

Two more Democrats in LD8 are seeking the appointment to replace Salman. The district's Democratic precinct committeemen met Thursday to hear from the candidates. Precinct committeemen will vote for three nominees during the party's Tuesday meeting to be considered by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, who will then choose their appointment. "It's been work just trying to put all this together and make sure that we can have someone in the Legislature," LD8 Democratic Chair Steven Jackson said during the candidate forum. "I do appreciate every candidate for stepping up, for putting your name in the hat. It's not an easy thing to do." The nine candidates are: Jana Lynn Granillo, LD8 PC and retiree; Brian Garcia, former Tempe Union High School District board member; Jacob Raiford, LD8 Democrats vice chair; Deborah Nardoizzi, former LD24 chair; Kelsey Files, president of Tempe Leadership Council; Janeen Connolly, running for the House in LD8 in 2024; Kendra Flory, LD8 second vice chair; Jevin Hodge, former U.S. House candidate in CD1; Nick Mink, coalition leader at Progressive Victory. Each candidate that was present delivered opening statements about their backgrounds and answered questions from precinct committeemen about their interest in the seat and how they would perform the job. Mink was not in attendance during the forum. One common theme among the candidates was that the \$24,000 annual salary for a legislator is not a sufficient wage for the job which prevented some candidates from seeking re-election if they are appointed. Most candidates said they're not seeking election to the seat if they don't get appointed.

Hodge, Connolly, Raiford and Garcia said they would seek re-election if they're appointed. Connolly is the only candidate who has filed a statement of interest to run for the seat in 2024 regardless whether she's appointed but Garcia said he was leaning toward running. Granillo, Nardozi, Files and Flory said they won't seek re-election if they are appointed. "That's something that we should work on," Jackson said. "Being able to pay people who are doing this really difficult job effectively, so we get good candidates ... Everybody should be able to run."

Speaker, President pushing judge so they can appeal his ruling

Petersen and Toma confirmed they intend to appeal their failed challenge to Prop 211 and seek an expedited resolution. But they need a signed order from Judge Timothy Ryan first, per court rules. Ryan rejected the legislative leaders' attempt to strike down the 2022 campaign disclosure measure at the end of December, but prior to ruling, he told the parties he considered the issue to warrant an appeal as he found it to be of statewide importance. The parties are due for a status conference on Jan. 12.

Cutting sunset review periods is topic du jour

Members of the state House and Senate transportation committees on Thursday continued to probe questions raised during another sunset review earlier this week about the traditional practice of granting state agencies a 10-year continuation. Some legislators are now questioning whether an eight-year term is also excessively long for an agency to operate without oversight. "The custom was ten years, that was sort of a default number that was accepted, and I was one of the ones that rebelled against that and said, "As legislators we are termed out in eight years, why are we giving agencies ten?" Farnsworth said. "Now, that's simply a custom that is not anything that's required of us. That's why I say we have an important choice to make today." Auditor General Lindsay Perry said she understands why the Legislature has moved to normalize an eight-year continuation but assured that under her authority further auditing of agencies will be maintained, beyond when the office is inherently required to perform an audit due to a sunset review taking place. At the DCS sunset review recommendation hearing Wednesday, a four-year continuation was ultimately decided on. Thursday's hearing concluded with a "four to six year" continuation recommendation by the committee chairs, which will be deliberated when actual legislation takes hold in the session.

Wadsack, Parker take aim at DCS

Two senators unleashed their disdain toward the result of the Department of Child Safety's Sunset Review recommendation hearing held on Wednesday. Wadsack and Parker, the sole legislators who voted against the agency's continuation, said they are "disappointed" with the outcome of the hearing, on the grounds DCS has failed the last four special audits and has not been receptive to suggested improvements. The release said the two voted against the motion "because it did not offer alternative solutions for oversight." "We've had crimes committed, but there have been zero consequences or accountability at the agency," Wadsack said in the release. "How could I vote to allow this dysfunction to continue?" Parker weighed in on her frustrations with the five missing foster children in her district. "The legislature has broad powers to revise or correct agencies and has the duty to provide checks and balances," Parker said in the release. "These hearings allow for several options of reform for an agency that's failing to live up to its legal statutory responsibilities, and I feel we could

have done more with that.” Parker also said that as Hobbs failed to allow the Senate to confirm agency director nominations, any policy action taken by newly appointed DCS CEO David Lujan could open the door for legal challenge.

Environmental groups band together for legislative session

A coalition of state environmental advocacy groups collaborated to request legislative support from the governor and lawmakers in the 2024 session. Central to their policy priorities is addressing water supply issues, coining the phrase “save water, save life.” “Every law, rule, and other supporting policies must be considered through a lens regarding their impacts on the immediate community and on communities that have historically been disproportionately affected by harmful water policies,” the priority list read. The groups condemned the Groundwater Management Act for not understanding the bigger picture and said supply from the Colorado River has been overallocated. Additionally, the groups jabbed the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority for relying too heavily on out-of-state water supplies, such as “harmful desalination projects in the Gulf of California.” They also suggest the legislature amend the water surface quality program to include ephemeral waters to further protect desert washes and divert funds to the Dept. of Environmental Quality to ensure safe drinking water for all Arizonans.

·WAKE UP CALL·

Committee urges shorter sunset review period for ADOT

Arizona Capitol Times

The long-term fate of another state agency looks dim after transportation committees met today to mull over the sunset review recommendation for the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Lawmakers to address state psychiatric treatment

Arizona Capitol Times

Lawmakers are seeking reform for state psychiatric treatment during the upcoming 2024 session as complaints about behavioral health care proliferate.

Panel forwards ideas to strengthen free speech on state campuses

Arizona Capitol Times

Five Republicans and a lone Democrat offered broad recommendations to strengthen free speech protections on university campuses at the final meeting of a joint committee convened to cover a conflict over a conservative speaking engagement at ASU last year.

Lawmakers consider tightening oversight of Department of Child Safety

Arizona Capitol Times

In a debate over how long the Arizona Department of Child Safety should be allowed to continue, a state representative denounced the agency at a sunset review hearing Wednesday and two legislators voted against recommending the agency’s continuation.

Senate Dems plan to put sunshine on sunset reviews

Arizona Capitol Times

A clash last year over the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind’s sunset review has sparked Democratic lawmakers to focus on ensuring state agencies get a fair chance when they are up for review next session.

Sellers elected chairman of Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

Arizona Capitol Times

The new chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors said he's seeking new funding solutions to the county's jail infrastructure.

[Tamale bill returns with changes to get Hobbs' OK](#)

Capitol Media Services

Stung by a veto last year, Rep. Travis Grantham has introduced a new version of his proposal to expand what kinds of home-cooked foods can be sold to the public.

[Perry High School, Iowa, is site of the first mass shooting we'll forget in 2024](#)

The Arizona Republic

April 20, 2024, will mark the 25th anniversary of the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., where two student gunmen killed 12 other students, a teacher, then themselves.

[Gov. Katie Hobbs won't kill school vouchers. In fact, her controls just might save them](#)

The Arizona Republic

That thud you heard this week? That was the sound of the school voucher squad, falling over in a hyperventilated heap over the idea of putting a few controls on the state's runaway school voucher program.

[How Rep. Andy Biggs proves House Speaker Mike Johnson's Texas border bonanza was bogus](#)

The Arizona Republic

Arizona Rep. Andy Biggs was at the border community of Eagle Pass, Texas, on Wednesday, part of a group of 60-plus Republicans led by House Speaker Mike Johnson, all of whom made the trip to make speeches, make the news, make (perhaps) some campaign cash, and accomplish ... nothing.

·PRESS RELEASES·

President Petersen Urges U.S. Supreme Court to Overturn Dangerous Ruling Threatening to Throw 2024 Presidential Election into Chaos

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Senate President Warren Petersen is joining 27 states in urging the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a dangerous ruling out of Colorado, barring former President Donald Trump from the GOP primary ballot in the 2024 presidential election. On December 19, 2023, in an egregious abuse of power, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled former President Trump isn't eligible to run as a presidential candidate, under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Congress passed Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to disqualify Confederates who had "engaged in insurrection" from holding elected office. Not only has former President Trump never been convicted of engaging in insurrection, but the Constitution also reserves the power to determine the political question of what constitutes an "insurrection" to Congress—not rogue courts. Consistently, the Civil War Era Congress issued multiple, authoritative pronouncements putting confederates on clear notice that they were engaged in an insurrection. No such thing exists with respect to former President Trump. The Colorado Supreme Court's edict to the contrary is as undemocratic as it is unconstitutional. Today, President Petersen and House Speaker Ben Toma joined an amici curiae brief arguing the U.S. Supreme Court must immediately overturn the ruling, as the 14th amendment only grants Congress the power to enforce the stipulations of this clause, and not the judicial system. Additionally, the question of what constitutes an insurrection is a political judgment that the Colorado Court should have never taken up. "If the high court does not immediately act, we anticipate election chaos will ensue over former President Trump's eligibility as a candidate," said President Petersen. "This is clearly a case of judicial activism and a violation of the separation of powers. Leftist bias and prejudice are on full display from the Colorado Supreme Court. These justices are only playing partisan games by

recklessly feeding a false media narrative that seeks to disenfranchise voters. I'm confident the U.S. Supreme Court will strike down this dangerous attack on our democracy."

###

Arizona Department of Administration awarded nearly \$5 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education

PHOENIX (January 5, 2024) - The U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) eight new grant awards under the [Supporting America's School Infrastructure](#) (SASI) program to bolster the capacity of states to support school districts in improving school facilities. The goal is fair access to healthy, sustainable, and modern learning environments for all students.

The Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) will receive \$4,997,500 over five years to enhance the capacity of the Arizona School Facilities Division (SFD) within ADOA, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education, to support public school districts with navigating complex school facilities needs and processes, especially for aging buildings.

ADOA received endorsements from the Legislature, Governor's Office, school districts and statewide education organizations in its pursuit of the SASI grant, demonstrating broad, bipartisan support for modernizing and improving services for school infrastructure.

"This is an incredible and novel opportunity for the state to have dedicated resources to enhance its systems and services to improve public school infrastructure over the long-haul," said Callie Tyler, Assistant Director, School Facilities Division.

The project will modernize the State's capacity to collect and analyze school facilities conditions data – providing better and faster information for ADOA and state policymakers to engage in data-driven decision making to support local educational agencies (LEAs) with building renewal, new school construction, and preventative maintenance needs.

The primary activities of the project include:

- Providing technical assistance, training, and support for Arizona's top 50 high-need public school district cohort (approximately 25% of traditional school districts) based on a needs assessment.
- Establishing a Tribal liaison position to provide targeted engagement with school districts on or adjacent to Tribal Nations.
- Enhancing and developing live and on-demand, online resources for training and supporting school district administrators with preventive maintenance and facility improvements.
- Improving state data and information systems related to public school infrastructure, including:
 - Modernizing Arizona's Building Inventory Database
 - Developing and implementing a Facilities Conditions Index (FCI) for maintaining standardized information on building system components and useful life, with the goal of more efficiently maximizing dollars across the state for building renewal.
 - Completing a School Facilities Cost Study to better understand the real costs of building and maintaining modern facilities that will enhance learning and health, ensure safety, and help save funding over time.

For more information about these awards, please visit the SASI award page [here](#).

###

Arizona Freedom Caucus Hosts Press Conference on Hobbs' Plan to Dismantle Educational Opportunities for Children

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— The Arizona Freedom Caucus and Legislative Republicans are inviting members of the media to join them in a press conference on Katie Hobbs' plan to dismantle Arizona's historic school choice program, currently benefiting more than 70,000 Arizona children. Conservative lawmakers championed the expansion of Universal Empowerment Scholarship Accounts in 2022, garnering national attention as a standard of excellence in providing all Arizona families with educational freedom, no matter their zip code or household income. The lawmakers will be joined by several Arizona families who will share personal stories on how ESAs have positively impacted their children's learning environment and enabled academic success. Speakers will take relevant questions at the conclusion of their remarks.

###

Auditor General Report Highlights DCS Failures, Sunset Review Committee Members Believe More Options Were Available

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Senator Justine Wadsack (R-17) and Representative Barbara Parker (R-10) are expressing their disappointment in the outcome of the Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Child Safety during Wednesday's hearing of the Senate and House Health & Human Services Committees of Reference. The legislature has the obligation to rein in agencies which are found not to be in compliance of state law. The House and Senate are also required to periodically review state agencies and may take one of four actions: 1) continuation, 2) revision, 3) consolidation, or 4) termination. This review process typically occurs every 8-10 years, but Wednesday, the Committee voted to continue DCS for four years. Senator Wadsack and Representative Parker voted against the motion because it did not offer alternative solutions for more oversight. "DCS has failed the last four special audits conducted by the Auditor General," said Senator Wadsack. "This \$1.2 billion agency is not following state law nor national standards. There are cases of child abuse, neglect, rape, trafficking, and even death within the agency, yet there's no recourse for a parent if they suspect neglect or abuse of their child by a DCS employee. We've had crimes committed, but there have been zero consequences or accountability at the agency. How could I vote to allow this dysfunction to continue?" "In the past few weeks, five children from foster homes in my legislative district alone went missing," said Representative Parker. "One was found dead, and two others were found trafficked. You can't trust an agency to make changes when children's lives and well-being are at risk, you revise it. The legislature has broad powers to revise or correct agencies and has the duty to provide checks and balances to the executive branch. These hearings allow for several options of reform for an agency that's failing to live up to its legal statutory responsibilities, and I believe we could have done more with that." "Furthermore, because of Governor Hobbs' refusal to follow the law and submit state agency director nominations for Senate confirmation, any policies created by CEO David Lujan could be legally challenged," said Representative Parker. "Hobbs doesn't even have an agency that's properly functioning, and this gives me grave concerns." Senator Wadsack and Representative Parker are encouraged by Senator Shope and Representative Montenegro's efforts to increase oversight and accountability as chairmen of the Health and Human Services Committees, and vow to join them in working on legislation to address the heartbreaking issues within the Department of Child Safety.

###

Sinema Applauds Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Acquisition Made Possible by Her Bipartisan Legislation

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema applauded the Pascua Yaqui Tribe’s acquisition of 25.53 acres of tribally-owned lands in Pima County, made possible by the Senator’s bipartisan *Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition* law that she [led through Congress](#) in 2022.

On December 29, 2023, the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs made a final agency determination to acquire in trust tribally-owned lands for promoting economic opportunities, new housing options for the community, and other purposes under the Sinema-led *Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition* law.

“Restoring this land to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe is essential to the Tribe’s long-term success and economic resilience – and I couldn’t be prouder to help make it a reality,” said Sinema, lead sponsor of the *Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition* law.

“This acquisition was necessary in order to create additional economic opportunities for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona and its members,” Pascua Yaqui Chairman Peter Yucupicio said in a statement. “The Act and the process acknowledged the relationship between the Pascua Yaqui and the City of Tucson, and is reflective of numerous stakeholder meetings and negotiations, and allows the tribe to preserve our traditional homelands while promoting economic opportunities and new housing options for the community. We are thankful for and appreciate the bipartisan support, which was essential for passage. The acquisition is a recognition of the work of our ancestors, an investment for our future generations, and we are blessed it became law,” Chairman Yucupicio continued, “Senators Schatz’s and Sinema’s direct and timely negotiations ensured passage of the Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act.”

Sinema’s law strengthens economic opportunities and development by recognizing the Tribe’s need to develop a larger land base and designate an area of land to transfer for the Tribe’s benefit.

In December 2022, Sinema secured the passage of the *Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act*. The legislation was initially excluded from the end of the year government funding package, but Sinema ensured unanimous passage through direct bipartisan negotiations with her Senate colleagues.

###

AHCCCS Meets End-of-Year Renewal Deadline

PHOENIX – The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has met the requirements of state statute A.R.S. §36-2905.05 to determine Medicaid eligibility for members who had maintained coverage during the pandemic despite potentially being over the income limit.

When the Public Health Emergency (PHE) began in March 2020, the federal government required states to maintain Medicaid coverage for all enrollees regardless of known changes in their income that may have put them over the Medicaid income limit.

Because AHCCCS continued its renewal processes throughout the pandemic, the agency was able to estimate that approximately 675,000 individuals were potentially no longer eligible (known as the “COVID Override” group).

Within the COVID Override group, members who were “factually ineligible,” meaning over the Medicaid income limit, represented about half of the total and were prioritized for eligibility redetermination when regular renewal procedures began in April 2023.

The monthly progress of renewing the COVID Override group is documented in the [AHCCCS Renewals dashboard](#) beginning on page 16.

###

January 8th Memorial offers opportunity to remember and reflect

Pima County, Jan. 5, 2024 - Monday, Jan. 8, is the 13th anniversary of the 2011 shootings in Pima County that killed six and wounded 13 more, forever transforming the community.

The January 8th Memorial, situated west of the Pima County Historic Courthouse, honors those killed and wounded at the “Congress on Your Corner” event hosted by Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, offering us a place of remembrance, reflection and inspiration.

At the Jan. 9 meeting of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, District 1 Supervisor Rex Scott plans to offer a few words and share a short video paying tribute to the victims.

The memorial represents the loving, embracing arms of the community that came together to honor the victims and survivors of that day. It features quiet reflecting pools and gardens as well as symbols that were meaningful to each of the 19 victims. Visitors simply scan the QR codes that allow them to learn more about each person.

The memorial is part of the Southern Arizona Heritage and Visitor Center. It’s open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Learn more at the [January 8th Memorial webpage](#).

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“This is not a structural problem. This is a short-term cash flow problem.” — *Toma on the projected \$400 million budget deficit.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 1-11 & 1-12
Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 4:07:00 PM
Attachments: [01-11-24.pdf](#)
[01-12-24.pdf](#)

Chase Boeke
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From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-11
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024 9:59:05 PM
Attachments: [01-11-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 4:58:30 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-11

Chierstin Susel

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Hamadeh leading CD8 in fundraising - and legal bills

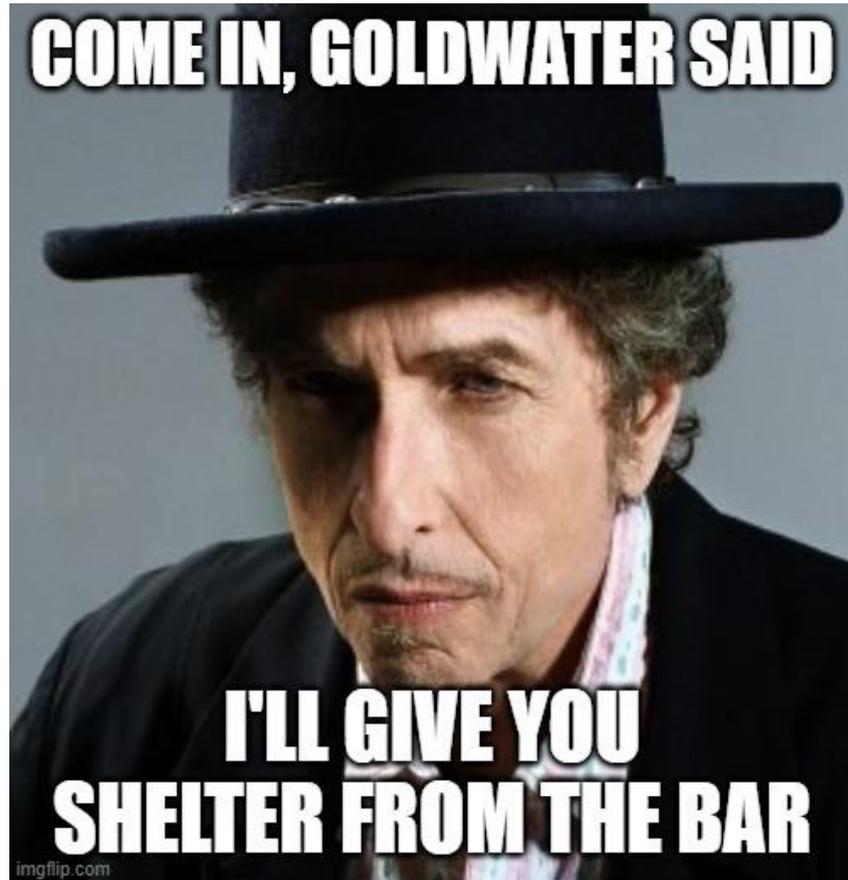


In the crowded GOP race for Lesko's seat in CD8, Toma brought in \$340,000. And Kern told our reporter he raised about \$115,000. Meanwhile, Abe Hamadeh seems to be leading the pack as he raised about \$1.3 million, though \$290,000 came from his campaign, and \$1 million came from [Arizona's Bold Era \(ABE\) PAC](#). The numbers seemed reminiscent of the last election cycle. Hamadeh's brother, Waseem Hamadeh, [injected a \\$1 million loan](#) into his

campaign ahead of the Q1 reporting deadline, which he paid back after receiving an endorsement from Trump, leading some to speculate Hamadeh inflated his campaign's financial health to nab the former president's support. Consultant Chuck Coughlin said Hamadeh's numbers, if true, are a "comfortable" place to be, but added he should "still be wanting to put the pedal to the metal," given Toma's fundraising momentum. Coughlin noted a candidate in a particularly competitive district like CD8 would want \$500,000 to \$750,000 at least to be competitive. Former Senate candidate Blake Masters has yet to announce his fundraising haul for Q4, nor has former rep. Trent Franks. FEC Q4 reports from candidates are due Jan. 31 and Q4 reports from committees are due Jan. 16. With the dawning of Prop 211, barring a last-minute injunction from the courts, committees and campaigns will have to start disclosing original donors for contributions exceeding \$5,000. "I believe there's going to be a lot of organizations that are going to drop out of Arizona until they get clarification on that law," Coughlin said.

Bob Dylan quotes, daily affirmations may have been tipping point

Attorneys for the Goldwater Institute petitioned the Arizona Supreme Court to amend court rules and narrow State Bar membership fees to only cover regulatory activities, claiming certain services and activities by the bar fall outside the realm of regulating law practice and in certain cases compels attorneys to support speech they may not agree with. “Arizona’s State Bar regularly engages in non-germane political and ideological speech. It engages in activities similar to those of a trade association— including lobbying activities and activities completely irrelevant to the legal profession, such as public communications including Bob Dylan quotes reminding its compelled members to



breathe, and to practice ‘mindfulness’ and ‘self-kindness,’” attorney Stacey Skanky wrote. “And it does all of this with dues attorneys are forced to pay.” The second petition recommends a rule change to streamline the application process for out-of-state attorneys in good standing. The court considers rule changes once a year and allows hopeful amenders to file petitions on or before Jan. 10. The court then decides whether to open petitions to public comment and later act on any petitions at the annual rules conference, typically held in August or September. The Arizona Supreme Court has been the sole overseer of the State Bar since 1985. A prior version of the rule, drafted in 1973, split oversight between the court and the legislature, but an amendment in 1985 made it the sole responsibility of the courts.

Phoenix still fighting in court over ‘the Zone’

Despite clearing out the downtown homeless camp “the Zone” in September, the city of Phoenix is still on the path to get out of the permanent injunction requiring it to do so, claiming the court “short-circuited the legislative process and substituted its preferences for forced relocation of unsheltered

persons over the policies established by the City’s elected officials and policy experts.” Attorneys for the city claim the permanent injunction will continue to impede legislative and law enforcement discretion “in perpetuity” and “essentially guaranteeing Appellees a private right of action any time they do not think laws are being stringently enforced.” And they claim Ninth Circuit precedent limiting when sleeping and camping ordinances can be enforced makes it so cities must have discretion. As the city appeals, they are still held to a federal court order requiring the city to notify and hold any seized property and refrain from enforcing sleeping and camping ordinances unless homeless individuals have another shelter or adequate public space to sleep. The case is still in limbo as a district judge mulls whether to reignite discovery or dismiss on a motion from intervenors, the plaintiffs in the superior court case. Ben Rundall, an attorney for the nonprofit plaintiff, the Fund for Empowerment, wants to make clear the federal case deals with the entirety of the city of Phoenix, not just the Zone, but said the area’s evacuation exacerbated existing problems. “There’s a lot of people now that are just displaced and constantly on the move.” In recent court filings, Rundall claims the city is still unlawfully citing people and seizing property. Rundall claimed to our reporter the city’s number to reclaim property does not work and “there has not been anybody that we’re aware of who’s been able to collect their properties.” The City of Phoenix denied the allegations from the plaintiffs and asked district judge Murray Snow to stall discovery until he rules on a pending motion to dismiss.

Cochise County sued for allegedly not fulfilling public records requests

Elections watchdog group American Oversight filed a public records suit against the Cochise County Board of Supervisors and Recorder David Stevens for failing to produce requests for communications and documents covering the board’s efforts to conduct a full hand count and delay the election canvass and subsequent litigation costs. The group also sought records related to the reorganization of election duties under Stevens and the later decision to hire Bob Bartelsmeyer as election director. Though the county provided some documents to a request for hand count litigation, American Oversight claims the records coordinator failed to conduct a thorough search. The initial records request for communications on hand count ballot plans named outside election denial groups, as well as 18 Arizona legislators and staff and the Arizona Attorney General’s office and has yet to be fulfilled more than a year later. And subsequent requests have been pending for anywhere from three to nine months. The group asks the court to compel production, claiming the county is “in flagrant disregard of their obligations under Arizona’s Public Records Law.”

·WAKE UP CALL·

LD8 nominates 3 for vacant House seat

Arizona Capitol Times

Democrats in Legislative District 8 picked three candidates for consideration to fill a vacant seat in the state House of Representatives.

Phoenix passes prevailing wage ordinance, contractors promise legal challenge

Arizona Capitol Times

Phoenix became the first city in the state to adopt a prevailing wage ordinance, a provision requiring

contractors working on city construction projects to ensure worker pay is on par with the average rate in the field and area.

[Chamber to fight bill to repeal Commerce Authority](#)

Capitol Media Services

Calling it a “problem-riddled agency,” a Republican senator wants to abolish the Arizona Commerce Authority.

[Family of an Arizona professor killed on campus reaches multimillion-dollar deal with the school](#)

The Associated Press

The family of a University of Arizona professor who was fatally shot on campus in the fall of 2022 has reached a multimillion-dollar agreement with the school, attorneys for the man’s wife and sons said Tuesday.

[Will Arizona close a loophole that lets developers build without water?](#)

Tucson Sentinel

When a small Arizona community called Rio Verde Foothills lost its water supply one year ago, forcing locals to skip showers and eat off paper plates, it became a poster child for unwise desert development.

[Kari Lake can't escape trial in defamation lawsuit, appeals court says](#)

Arizona Daily Star

An appeals court says Kari Lake can't escape having to convince a jury she didn't defame Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer.

[New funding from Gov. Hobbs goes to combat homelessness in Arizona](#)

12 News

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs and the Arizona Department of Housing are awarding \$89 million to combat homelessness and provide affordable housing throughout the state.

[Donald Trump, Kari Lake and others invent a whole new kind of terrorism](#)

The Arizona Republic

In August, a man named Frederick Francis Goltz — enflamed by the conspiracy nonsense disseminated about Arizona’s elections — was sentenced to 3½ years in prison for threatening the lives and families of Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer, County Attorney’s Office Civil Division Chief Tom Liddy and election poll workers.

[After more than 40 years, we say a loving goodbye to Steve Benson](#)

AZ Mirror

Like so many other longtime Arizonans, searching out the latest Steve Benson cartoon has been a part of my regular routine.

[Elon Musk throws in with the Arizona election conspiracy crowd](#)

The Arizona Republic

For all those who believe Arizona’s elections are stolen ... because, well, they just do ... I give you Elon Musk, who on Tuesday insinuated to his 168.6 million followers that Arizona is a hotspot for illegal voters.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Arizona Legislators to Celebrate National Religious Freedom Day at State Capitol

STATE CAPITOL, ARIZONA – National Religious Freedom Day will be celebrated at the Arizona State Capitol on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. State legislators, led by House Majority Whip Teresa Martinez, will

hold a news conference at 11:00 a.m. in the Capitol Rose Garden to address the importance of religious freedom. Members of both parties are invited to participate, and media is welcomed to attend.

Members are also encouraged to invite guests, whether it be their person of faith, clergy, spiritual advisor, priest, pastor, cleric, chaplain, rabbi, and bishop to shadow them on Tuesday and to be their guest in the House Gallery during floor session, which is scheduled to start at 1:15 p.m.

Teresa Martinez is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 16, which includes portions of Pinal and Pima Counties. She is also the House Majority Whip. Follow her on Twitter at @TMartinez4AZ.

###

Lab-Meat Ban Proposed in Arizona Reflects Growing Public Concern

Washington, DC -- The Center for the Environment and Welfare ([CEW](#)) Executive Director Jack Hubbard had this to say in response to [news](#) that legislation has been proposed in Arizona that would ban the sale of lab-grown meat:

"Arizona legislators are joining a growing chorus of consumer voices concerned about lab-grown meat - and rightfully so. Similar bills have been introduced in Florida, Texas, and internationally. The lab-grown meat sector is facing increasingly strong headwinds as the public learns more about the use of 'immortalized cells' and the absence of long-term nutritional and health studies."

BACKGROUND

CEW is working to educate the public about the truth behind lab-grown meat. Available resources include an [educational TV ad](#), an [animated explainer video](#) that addresses how lab-grown meat is manufactured, and the website [LabMeat.com](#).

International Bans of Lab-Grown Meat

Italy [has banned](#) the sale of lab-grown meat. The bill is similar to [one proposed](#) in France to ban the production, processing, and marketing of lab-grown meat. [Austria](#) and [Croatia](#) may soon follow suit.

Domestic Interest in Banning Lab-Grown Meat

A Texas bill has [been introduced](#) to ban the sale, production, or distribution of lab-grown meat. A similar bill has also been introduced [in Florida](#).

###

More Than \$12.8 Million Investment Coming from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Strengthen Arizona's Electric Vehicle Charging Network

A total of \$12,898,571 will be invested in strengthening Arizona's electric vehicle charging network from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law led by Senator Kyrsten Sinema and shaped by Senator Mark Kelly.

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program — created by Kelly and Sinema’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law — awarded \$11,898,571 to the City of Mesa, \$500,000 to Cochise County, and \$500,000 to the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

“Building more electric vehicle charging stations is key to fueling our booming clean energy economy. Thanks to investments from our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Arizona is accelerating EV charger deployments — creating good paying jobs and enabling cleaner travel,” **said Kelly.**

“I’m incredibly proud to deliver more than \$12.8 million to strengthen Arizona’s electric vehicle charging network through my bipartisan infrastructure law — taking another step towards a cleaner, healthier, and safer Arizona,” **said Sinema, co-author and lead negotiator of the bipartisan infrastructure law.**

Below are the Arizona recipients:

Project Name	City/Place of Performance	Amount	Project Description
City of Mesa Electric Mobility Charging Hub Network	Mesa	\$11,898,571	The City of Mesa, Arizona will receive \$11.8 million to increase access to electric vehicle charging and support multi-modal electrification. The project will install 48 electric vehicle charging ports, charging docks for e-bikes and e-scooters, and solar canopies to support electricity generation at the stations. The project emphasizes equity by increasing the number of stations in disadvantaged communities by 167%.

Cochise County, Arizona CFI-Community Project	Cochise County	\$500,000	Cochise County Arizona will receive \$500,000 to add six solar powered and NEVI-compliant Level-2 EV chargers in Sierra Vista, Bisbee, and Wilcox, Arizona. Stations will be either located near major highways or near public transport stops and will serve historically disadvantaged communities. By upgrading existing infrastructure, the county can adequately accommodate expected increases in traffic and promote equity in EV charging access.
EV Charging Port Infrastructure Project	San Carlos Apache Reservation and Safford	\$500,000	The San Carlos Apache Tribal Council will receive \$500,000 to install four EV charging station sites within the Reservation and one additional station in Safford, Arizona. The project will benefit the San Carlos, Peridot, and Bylas communities by providing healthier air quality, creating positive environmental impacts, stimulating the local economy, and will provide critically necessary services.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in clean energy transmission and electric vehicle infrastructure in U.S. history, electrifying thousands of school and transit buses across the country, bolstering critical materials supply chains, improving energy efficiency, and building out a national network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Sinema led bipartisan Senate negotiations with Republican Senator Rob Portman of Ohio that included Kelly and senators from both parties.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was supported by groups including The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, The National Association of Manufacturers, The AFL-CIO, The National Retail Federation, The Bipartisan Policy Center, North America’s Building Trades Unions, the Outdoor Industry Association, The American Hotel and Lodging Association, The National Education Association, as well as hundreds of mayors across all 50 states.

Kelly, Bipartisan Colleagues Call on Agriculture Committee Leadership to Address Long-Term Drought in Farm Bill

Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) joined Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE), and 14 bipartisan Senate colleagues, calling on Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry leaders to address long-term drought in the upcoming Farm Bill.

“Agriculture is the economic backbone for rural communities in our states. However, severe, long-term drought is devastating these rural areas. During periods of droughts, our farmers and ranchers face diminishing crop and livestock outputs. These negative effects reverberate through the community, affecting not just individual producers, but the broader local economy and food system,” **wrote the senators.**

The natural patterns of droughts have become more frequent, severe, and longer because of our changing climate. Since 2000, the American West has experienced some of the driest conditions on record, and the American Southwest continues to suffer an unprecedented period of extreme drought.

“We urge the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee under your leadership to consider these risks as you draft the upcoming Farm Bill. The farmers and ranchers in our states are counting on a multi-year Farm Bill that provides support to conserve water, improve watershed scale planning, upgrade water infrastructure, protect land from erosion, and create long-term resiliency on changing landscapes for growers in drought-affected regions,” **concluded the senators.**

In addition to Kelly, Bennet, and Fischer, Senators John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), James E. Risch (R-ID), Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), Laphonza Butler (D-CA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Patty Murray (D-WA), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), and Alex Padilla (D-CA) also signed the letter.

You can read the letter [here](#).

###

1.4 Million Arizonans Have Maintained Medicaid Coverage Since Renewals Began Last April

PHOENIX – Since the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) returned to the regular Medicaid renewal processes last April, 1.4 million Arizonans have maintained coverage and 18%, or 457,753, have been discontinued.

“Making sure Arizonans have health care coverage, whether that be through Medicaid, an employer, or from the Healthcare.gov marketplace, has always been our goal through the return to regular Medicaid renewals,” Carmen Heredia, AHCCCS cabinet executive officer, said. “Because of our team’s well-planned approach and tireless efforts, AHCCCS has met the requirements to determine eligibility for everyone who had been continued during the pandemic, and has done so with utmost efficiency.”

AHCCCS was able to “auto renew” 82% of the renewals initiated last month, meaning these renewals needed no additional information from the member.

“We have built new tools to make sure the return to regular Medicaid renewals was as smooth as possible for AHCCCS members,” Kristen Challacombe, deputy director of business operations, said. “This included new

ability to text and email members when renewals were due, and building a new chatbot that can update contact information without a member having to log into their account and do it themselves.”

More than 67,900 members who have been disenrolled since April for not responding to the agency’s request for information have then completed their renewal within the 90-day window and had coverage reinstated without having to start a new application.

Find the renewals dashboard on the [AHCCCS Return to Regular Renewals web page](#).

###

Attorney General Mayes Demands Answers from 23andMe on Data Breach

PHOENIX – Last week, Attorney General Kris Mayes sent a [letter](#) to 23andMe, Inc., in response to a [data breach](#) affecting nearly 7 million customers.

“Arizonans deserve full transparency regarding the unauthorized access of their most personal data – their genetic information,” said Attorney General Mayes. “I expect comprehensive answers from 23andMe as quickly as possible.”

The Attorney General is seeking detailed information on the number of Arizonans affected, the specific nature of compromised data for Arizona residents, the timeline and method of notification to affected individuals, compliance with Arizona’s data breach notification statute, and the potential exposure of this data on the dark web.

Particularly alarming is the reported breach of data belonging to one million users of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage and 100,000 users of Chinese ancestry.

“The hacking of sensitive data identifying specific racial or ethnic groups is particularly reprehensible given the national rise in hate crimes, including antisemitic and anti-Asian incidents,” said Mayes. “Profiting from the collection of such data, only for it to land in the hands of cybercriminals, is wholly indefensible. And it is long overdue for companies with substantial information technology capabilities to stop blaming victims for predictable data security incidents, particularly where those companies fail to use available security measures.”

Additionally, the Attorney General has requested thorough information on 23andMe's security protocols and future measures to prevent similar breaches.

“Since this breach became public, Arizonans are rightly concerned about the safeguarding of their sensitive genetic data,” said Mayes. “It is imperative that 23andMe address these concerns immediately and transparently.”

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

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“And it does all of this with dues attorneys are forced to pay.” — *Goldwater Institute attorney Stacey Skanky on irrelevant matters the State Bar of Arizona pushes on members such as Bob Dylan quotes and reminders to breathe, and to practice mindfulness and self-kindness.*

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-12
Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 8:11:45 PM
Attachments: [01-12-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 4:04:56 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-12

Chierstin Susel

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

LD3 seeks soap opera status

A chairman of one of the split rival Republican committees in LD3 is accusing AZGOP chair Jeff DeWit of felony bribery after he allegedly offered a grand in exchange for a signature on a resolution to allow the two rival boards to continue to operate as separate entities. But the rival chair called



the accusations “baseless.” The drama stems back to last year’s LD3 chair election. After claims of fraud poured in in the aftermath of the LD’s leadership elections, the Maricopa County Republican Committee stepped in to organize a second vote to elect new leadership. Original LD3 chair Candace Czarny challenged the “usurpation” of her position in Maricopa County Superior Court and claimed the second election, orchestrated by MCRC, was illegal. But a judge rejected the claim and found both elections to be valid, effectively leaving two warring LD3 boards in their place. In a newsletter sent out by AZ Republican Press, Bob Gomez, chair of the second board, alleges Jeff DeWit offered cash to the LD in exchange for a signature on a resolution to allow the two county boards to continue running separately until the next leadership election. “I’m trying to sweeten the pot for everybody,” DeWit allegedly said. “Upon the execution of this. We will give you each a \$1,000 check too ... You both end up much better, because we are going to kick in, what could be 4 or 5 grand. Make it sweeten the pot for everyone financially.” Gomez claims DeWit committed bribery in offering money to sign the resolution he believed violated Arizona law. But Czarny told our reporter, “It is normal and proper for State Parties to transfer money to County and District Party Committees based on certain metrics and conditions. It's completely ridiculous to claim that sending a \$1,000 check from the state party to an LD account for the PCs to use to register voters and get out the vote is anything but admirable,” Czarny said. Czarny added DeWit is “particularly focused on resolving issues in LD3 and uniting members to concentrate on winning elections. His actions are not only lawful but also reflect commendable leadership.” DeWit did not respond to a request for comment.

Horne, Hobbs, Mayes, ‘exhaustively’ argue in court

A superior court judge is now deciding whether Horne’s legal bid to see dual language learning models declared illegal can continue. Horne sued Mayes, Hobbs and 10 school districts seeking a declaration that dual language, a learning model that splits instruction for English language learners

into a half day of English and a half day of Spanish, violates a voter measure requiring all students in Arizona be taught English by being taught in English. Attorneys for Mayes, Hobbs and the 10 named school districts contend Horne lacked the authority to bring the lawsuit in the first place and made a fatal error by failing to name the State Board of Education, the governing body that adopted and approved dual language as an acceptable learning model, as a defendant. “The superintendent claims that although he can't identify a specific statutory authorization, he can still sue everyone because he's the chief executive officer of education,” Nathan Arrowsmith, assistant AG, said in today’s oral argument. But Dennis Wilenchik, Horne’s attorney, said express authority was not necessary to sue and added if Horne did not move to enforce the law, no one would. He noted SBE did not need to be a defendant as the executive director of the board said they intended to adhere to the court’s ruling. Wilenchik said they are merely asking the court to declare what the law is. But Judge Katherine Cooper asked, “How does that have any impact over the board if the board isn’t here to be heard?” She told the parties at the end, “things were already well briefed, and now they have been exhaustively argued” and took the matter under advisement.

High court takes AZGOP’s challenge of sanctions in elections case

AZGOP may get out of sanctions after the Arizona Supreme Court [granted review](#) of attorney’s fees levied against the party for bringing a case against Maricopa County for a “political” reason. In the order, the court reframes the case to a single question, “Were the awards of attorney fees by the superior court and the court of appeals appropriate?” Both the superior court and the court of appeals rejected AZGOP’s lawsuit against the county board and recorder for using voting centers, not precincts, in hand count audits. The superior court dismissed the case and granted attorney's fees as they found the suit was motivated by “political reasons,” namely mistrust in elections, which they deemed an improper purpose. The Court of Appeals affirmed. The AZGOP filed a petition to review only the sanctions and argued political reasons do not constitute bad faith and maintained that holding would violate Arizona law and the First Amendment. The Arizona Supreme Court granted review and set oral argument for March 12.

Discovery could start soon in Prop 211 challenge

Petersen and Toma’s appeal on their rejected attempt to void Prop 211 is stuck on the typical court briefing schedule after the Arizona Court of Appeals [denied a motion](#) to expedite the case. But the appellate court noted the order should not prevent parties from filing before court deadlines and added the court did not anticipate granting any extensions. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Timothy Ryan denied the legislative leader’s attempt to block the donor disclosure law, rejecting the argument that the measure gave “unfettered authority” to Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission. In a status conference today, Ryan directed parties to submit a briefing on whether to stay the proceedings during the appeal and set oral argument for Feb. 15. James Smith, attorney for Clean Elections, said if the case did go to discovery, they would seek information on any legislation or actions by the legislature allegedly impeded by Prop. 211, as Petersen and Toma claim, and further information on how exactly the act impacts the upcoming election.

Correction

The Jan. 11 edition of the Yellow Sheet misspelled Goldwater Institute attorney Stacy Skankey's last name. Skankey petitioned the Arizona Supreme Court to amend State Bar rules so dues can only be used to cover regulatory activities.

•WAKE UP CALL•

Court rejects Lake's appeal in defamation case

Capitol Media Services

Kari Lake can't escape having to convince a jury she didn't defame Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer.

Lab grown meat not on menu, but food for thought in Legislature

Capitol Media Services

An Arizona lawmaker wants to be sure that the next time you buy something called "meat" it actually came from something that had at least two legs, if not more.

Supreme Court considers right to face accusers in Yuma drug case

Gila Herald

Supreme Court justices grappled Wednesday with the question of when testimony from an expert crosses the line into evidence that a defendant should have the right to challenge in court.

State Bar of Arizona disciplines attorney in Mark Finchem election lawsuit

KJZZ

The State Bar of Arizona disciplined another attorney who presented baseless challenges to the results of the 2022 election.

Why Arizona is worried about finishing the presidential election on time but other states aren't

Votebeat Arizona

The officials who run Arizona's elections put out a blunt reminder last week: If lawmakers don't soon change key dates related to the upcoming presidential election, military voters may get their ballots late, and results might not be delivered to Congress in time.

Retired Arizona prisons chief takes plea deal after armed standoff with police

Fox News

Former Arizona prisons chief Charles Ryan is scheduled to be sentenced Thursday after pleading no contest to a disorderly conduct charge stemming from when police say he fired a gun inside his Tempe home and pointed a firearm at two officers during a three-hour standoff in 2022.

Lake, Gallego neck and neck in hypothetical Arizona Senate match-up: Poll

The Hill

Former gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake (R) and Rep. Ruben Gallego (D) are neck and neck in a new poll of Arizona voter preferences in a hypothetical 2024 Senate match-up.

Numbers don't lie: Republican lawmakers are utterly wrong about school vouchers

The Arizona Republic

With Arizona facing a \$400 million budget deficit, now seems like a good time to talk about the impact of the universal voucher program on the state budget.

Group sues to stop Cochise County's 'stolen election' zealots from stealing 2024 election

The Arizona Republic

We have reason to believe there are people in authority within Cochise County who might be willing to subvert the election process in order to help preferred candidates.

[What we have here is a failure to communicate](#)

Arizona Daily Star

That's the ominous threat to prisoner Paul Newman in the movie "Cool Hand Luke." Luke becomes "cool hand" by going "all in" with a big bluff and wins the high stakes pot.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Gallego on the U.S.-Led Strikes Against Houthi Rebels in Yemen

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, 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 the strikes initiated by the United States and the United Kingdom against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

"The decision to strike the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen is necessary to maintain stability and security in the Gulf. The U.S. has dealt with this aggression for far too long, and it is in our nation's interests to maintain the free flow of commerce. Terrorism has no safe harbor anywhere."

###

House votes to overturn job-killing joint-employer rule

WASHINGTON (Jan. 12, 2024) – American Hotel & Lodging Association President & CEO Chip Rogers released the below statement today after the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) dangerous joint-employer regulation.

"Today's House vote is a victory for common sense. Neither companies nor their employees want this job-killing regulation, which will destroy the franchise model that supports millions of small business jobs," said **AHLA President & CEO Chip Rogers**. "The bipartisan nature of this vote underscores how destructive this misguided Biden Administration rule would be to our fragile economy, and we thank Dr. Foxx, Rep. James, and Speaker Johnson for making this a priority. We urge the Senate to stand up for America's workers and pass this resolution as soon as soon as possible."

Background

In October, the NLRB released a [final regulation](#) unjustifiably expanding the "joint-employer standard" under the National Labor Relations Act. It is scheduled to take effect on February 26.

AHLA is fighting to save hoteliers from this misguided attack on our industry and has [filed a lawsuit](#) in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas challenging joint employer's legality.

The NLRB's joint-employer regulation is all about coercing businesses to the bargaining table with workers they do not actually employ to increase unionization.

The regulation makes it easier for the NLRB to declare joint employment status in business relationships, such as franchising, and it will enable unions to organize by company rather than property by property.

Joint employer will take a wrecking ball to the franchise model by classifying franchisors as a joint employer of a franchisee's staff, even if the franchisor has no direct control over workplace rules and conditions.

About AHLA

The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) is the largest hotel association in America, representing more than 30,000 members from all segments of the industry nationwide – including iconic global brands, 80% of all franchised hotels, and the 16 largest hotel companies in the U.S. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AHLA focuses on strategic advocacy, communications support, and workforce development programs to move the industry forward. Learn more at www.ahla.com.

###

**“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”**

It's completely ridiculous to claim that sending a \$1,000 check from the state party to an LD account for the PCs to use to register voters and get out the vote is anything but admirable.” — *LD3 chair Candace Czarny on allegations AZGOP Chair Jeff DeWit offered a bribe to allow two rival LD3 boards to continue to operate.*

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](#)

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

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-16
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 8:41:20 PM
Attachments: [01-16-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 4:48:39 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-16

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·

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

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

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.

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*

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

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

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.**

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.

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.*

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: dijkavanagh@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 1-17
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:45:00 PM
Attachments: [1-17-24.pdf](#)

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:49 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-17

Chierstin Susel

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From: [John Kavanagh](#)
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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:48:38 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-17

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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.”

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

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

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** //

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

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

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

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

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.).

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/>

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.” — *Wilmet* on his mixed feelings for the Arizona Commerce Authority.

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 1-3
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 5:15:54 PM
Attachments: [1-3-24.pdf](#)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 4:40:46 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 1-3

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications
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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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•NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP•

Hickman 'tired,' passes gavel to Sellers

New Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack Sellers said today the three elections Maricopa County is administering this year are his highest priority and called on residents to help by volunteering in local election positions. "The eyes of the free world will once again be on Maricopa



County," Sellers said, moments after outgoing chairman Clint Hickman passed him the gavel. Supervisor Thomas Galvin will be the board's new vice chairman. In his state of the county address, Sellers listed some ways the county has worked to support election officials, including purchasing more high-speed tabulators and printers at vote centers. "This board and this county will follow the law in running elections just as we have every year since I've held this office and we will push back hard as we have done for the past four years against false claims and dishonest narratives that try to undermine the will of the people," Sellers said. He also announced the formation of a Public Safety Funding Citizens Committee to look at long-term funding sources for criminal reform and public safety. Jail facilities and programs are funded by the one-fifth cent Jail Excise sales tax established in 1998. Voters renewed the tax for 20 years in 2007 and Sellers said the committee will provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors later this year. However, any proposal must be approved by the Legislature before it is referred to voters. The supervisors also complimented Hickman before he passed the gavel. Galvin said the toll that Hickman has endured as chairman from election deniers has been high, citing an Iowa man being sentenced to 30 months in prison for threatening Hickman over President Joe Biden's win in Arizona's 2020 presidential election. "I'm very thankful that I get to pass this gavel today because – I don't know man – I'm tired," Hickman said.



Didn't we reform DCS 10 years ago?

In a toss-up over how long the state Dept of Child Safety should be allowed to continue, a state representative denounced the agency at a sunset review recommendation hearing today while two legislators said the agency should not be continued. Parker, who voted against the agency's continuation alongside Wadsack, has been a loud advocate for change in DCS since five foster children went missing in her district a few weeks ago. A foster mother testified that her 10-month-old child was picked up multiple times by a "yellow taxicab with no car seat" to be taken to parent visitation. Borrelli and Parker maintained that if legislators are required to vet themselves for their positions every two years, it is only fair that underperforming state agencies undergo sunset reviews just as often. "The last thing that I think

should ever come into play in this discussion is politics," Parker said. "It's enough, time's up," Borrelli said. "Child safety, which is paramount to what our oath is – public safety is our first and foremost responsibility – taking care of protecting those that can't protect themselves." On the other hand, Epstein and Gonzalez maintained a six-year continuation period would be best to allow the agency to enact change under their new Executive Deputy Director, David Lujan. In a rare turn of events, all committee members agreed the agency had some serious problems that need to be addressed per the Auditor General's recommendations. Committee chairs Shope and Montenegro both advocated for a four-year continuation recommendation.



**Dems messaging
with sacred cow**

Though acknowledging the proposals may not go the distance with a Republican-controlled legislature, public school advocates lauded Hobbs’ Empowerment Scholarship Account accountability plan as a “common sense” start to the session. “I think that they've put together a proposal that is in line with what voters want. I think Republicans should really heed that and come to the table,” Beth Lewis, executive director of Save Our Schools Arizona said. “It will all come down to how firm the governor's office is on this and what

kind of compromise can be achieved.” But compromise does not seem to be on the table for GOP lawmakers or ESA advocates. Hobbs proposed further audits by the Auditor General, a public-school eligibility requirement and provisions to require private schools accommodate students with disabilities, vet teachers and cap tuition prices. The package caught immediate opposition from Toma and ESA proponents. Toma told our reporter Hobbs “clearly” fails to understand the ESA program and added the proposals are “not serious,” given a lack of stakeholder input. “It doesn't appear to be anything more than Twitter fodder, or X fodder or whatever it is now. It's just talking points really on a complex issue,” Toma said. He said the proposals stood virtually no chance of passing in the next legislative session. Matt Beienburg, Director of Education Policy for the Goldwater Institute, one of the main originators of the ESA program, countered Hobbs's plan too, point by point in a policy article. He told our reporter the proposals attempt to turn private schools into “carbon copies” of the public school system. “Ultimately, they together come about and make clear that the intent is to increase control over the private education environments of students,” Beienburg said. “And so that's not something that I think invites compromise.”

Next year's LD8 likely to have familiar faces in different seats

M. Hernandez announced yesterday she's seeking a chamber switch and is running for the Senate in LD8. She is termed out of the House in 2028 but Mendez is running for the House since he's termed out of the Senate at the end of 2024. Hernandez said in a written statement she was inspired to run for office after she became a paramedic and saw how "imperfect" the health care system is. "My guiding compass since being elected has continued to be the well-being of the people not only in my district, but in all of Arizona," Hernandez said. "I have not done any of this alone, as being an effective public servant is not easy. It takes patience, humility, and open-mindedness. Today I couldn't be prouder of all that we have accomplished together." Former Rep. Athena Salman's departure from the Legislature and Hernandez's run for the Senate leaves the safe Dem district without an incumbent in 2024, although Hernandez and Mendez may likely trade seats. Democrat Janeen Connolly has also filed to run for the House in LD8 along with two Republicans.

How do you solve a problem like corrections?

After Hobbs' prison oversight commission returned only recommendations to restructure and rehouse the commission itself due to time and resource limitations, lawmakers and lobbyists started floating other ideas for corrections oversight. Former lawmaker Walt Blackman told Howie Fischer with *Capitol Media Services* he was working with Ortiz on legislation to enact some type of corrections oversight mechanism for the next session. Blackman proposed an Independent Corrections Oversight Committee, with a \$2 million annual fiscal note, in 2022, but the bill never got a hearing. Ortiz sponsored a mirror bill last session that met the same fate. Donna Hamm, executive director of Middle Ground Prison Reform, said any proposition resonant with the Independent Corrections Oversight Committee ignores what she sees as an obvious solution. Hamm penned a letter to the governor and legislators suggesting delegating further performance audits of the Dept. of Corrections to the Arizona Auditor General. Hamm contended the Auditor General's office has "no skin in the game" and would likely require less funding than corrections oversight committee proposed in past legislative sessions. "They made recommendations about how to spend a couple of million dollars a year to create another bureaucratic agency in government and I don't think that serves anyone well," Hamm told our reporter. "Especially because the Auditor General is ready and willing to do their job." The Auditor General's Office did not respond to a request for comment. But for the office to take on additional reviews of the Dept. Of Corrections, they would need a resolution from the Joint Legislative Audit Committee or a successful piece of legislation. Hamm said they had not heard back from the governor nor any lawmakers yet but planned to push the issue once session starts.

·WAKE UP CALL·

Hobbs takes aim at regulating school vouchers

Capitol Media Services

Gov. Katie Hobbs released an eight-point plan to curtail the Empowerment Scholarships Account program, but the proposals, slated to run in Hobbs' executive budget and in the upcoming legislative session, caught near-immediate opposition from Republican leadership who claimed the governor fundamentally misunderstands the program.

[Vital Crossing Between Mexico and Arizona Set to Reopen This Week](#)

The New York Times

A remote Arizona border crossing that was shuttered last month to help strained immigration authorities cope with a surge in migrants in the nearby desert will reopen this week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said on Tuesday evening.

[2024 outlook for Colorado River less rosy after banner year](#)

Arizona Daily Star

It was a banner water year for the Colorado River Basin, with water use in the three Lower Basin states including Arizona way below normal and water supplies in the river running well above normal in 2023.

[Here are the key Arizona election dates to know in 2024](#)

KTAR

With 2024 here, it's officially an election year and Arizona will once again be at the forefront of the political discussion.

[Talk of groundwater law spurs surges of deeper wells](#)

Arizona Center For Investigative Reporting

In 2022, when the southeastern Arizona community of Willcox confronted state regulations that would've halted new groundwater irrigation in the largely agricultural area, voters and special interest groups mobilized to defeat the ballot measure by almost two to one.

[Fugitive accused of laundering \\$10.2 million extradited to Arizona](#)

Riviera Maya News

A Mexican man accused of laundering more than \$10 million USD has been extradited to the U.S. On Tuesday, the Attorney General of the Republic (FGR) extradited Jorge "S", a fugitive, to Arizona.

[Child Crisis Arizona acquires Whispering Hope Ranch nonprofit](#)

Phoenix Business Journal

Child Crisis Arizona has acquired Whispering Hope Ranch, a provider of therapeutic and recreational programs for youths. The deal closed Jan. 1.

[A school voucher showdown is coming. Gov. Katie Hobbs shouldn't back down this time](#)

The Arizona Republic

Gov. Katie Hobbs on Tuesday proposed that the state take a few steps to at least try to ensure that our money is being spent wisely in the state's runaway school voucher program.

[Judge foils \(for now\) Arizona Republicans' effort to keep 'dark money' in the dark](#)

The Arizona Republic

Between Christmas and New Year's, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge gave the voters of Arizona the gift of ... light.

[How the Federal Government Can Rein In A.I. in Law Enforcement](#)

The New York Times

One of the most hopeful proposals involving police surveillance emerged recently from a surprising quarter — the federal Office of Management and Budget.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Governor Katie Hobbs Responds to Reopening of Lukeville Port of Entry

Phoenix, AZ – Following the announcement that the Lukeville Port of Entry will be reopened, Governor Katie Hobbs released the following statement:

“The closure of the Lukeville Port of Entry caused a month of strain and concern for Arizona’s border

communities. While the reopening is welcome news, this closure shouldn't have happened in the first place. Arizona's ports of entry are vital to national security and trade, and it's critical that the federal government sends more resources to ensure this does not happen again. While Lukeville will be reopened soon, it's clear we have work to do to secure our border. As Governor, I am committed to keeping our communities safe and prosperous, and look forward to working with border communities to get that done."

###

Irresponsible and Reckless: Lukeville Closure Should Have Never Happened

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— After an unprecedented and economically devastating month-long closure of the Lukeville Port of Entry, Senator T.J. Shope is demanding the Biden Administration never again take such a detrimental action against our citizens and secure our open border that's endangering Arizona communities. "This was an irresponsible and reckless move that should have never happened. Not only did this create financial turmoil for border communities within Arizona who rely on the tourism traffic to and from Rocky Point to support their families, but the closure of the Lukeville Port of Entry also put unnecessary stress and strain on our citizens and commerce who depend on a safe and direct route to this popular destination," said Senator Shope. "While I'm glad Lukeville is reopening on Thursday, the official statement from the federal government includes an absurd claim that 'CBP will continue to prioritize our border security mission as necessary in response to this evolving situation,' which is a blatant lie. The American people aren't dumb. Nothing has changed at the border to prompt the opening of Lukeville. Thousands of illegals, many of which are criminals and terrorists, continue to pour into our state on a daily basis, overwhelming our brave law enforcement personnel. This was purely a political move after Republican lawmakers put immense pressure on the Biden Administration to open this critical artery for commerce and legal traffic. I'm grateful for the support of Arizona's Congressional Delegation who pressed Secretary Mayorkas to reverse this closure. I will continue to demand Joe Biden secure our border once and for all, and to never again resort to closing our ports of entry."

###

Jack Sellers Elected Chairman of Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

Phoenix, Ariz. (January 4, 2024) – Jack Sellers has been unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. In his “Passing of the Gavel” address, Sellers identified elections, infrastructure, housing, workforce development, and budget transparency as his top focus areas for the year ahead.

“My highest priority in 2024 is to provide our county elections team with the resources and support they need to continue administering lawful, free, and fair elections in March, August, and November,” said Sellers.

As the country prepares for another competitive election cycle in 2024, Sellers believes “the eyes of the free world will once again be focused on Maricopa County,” making collaboration and unity among county departments more important than ever before.

He invited the public to support upcoming elections by signing up to become a poll worker, early ballot processor, truck driver, or volunteer at [GetInvolved.Maricopa.Vote](#).

Beyond elections, Chairman Sellers is prioritizing the expansion of Arizona's economy by “developing critical infrastructure that is needed for our future success”. This includes planning and investing in roads and transportation systems, broadband, and water supplies.

Taking steps to address our housing insecurity is also a priority. “I'd invite community members to have empathy and a clear understanding of who is suffering during this housing crisis,” said Sellers. “It is our

teachers, our veterans, and more and more, our elderly population. I can assure you that I will continue to support the County's efforts to meet the housing needs of our community."

While the County has already invested in affordable housing, Chairman Sellers says that workforce development must also be prioritized. He is committed to not only connecting job seekers with fulfilling careers, but also equipping employers with a qualified workforce to support Arizona's growing economy.

"In the coming year, we will continue to deploy resources to educate and train our residents for the jobs that can lead to a meaningful career and provide a livable wage," pledged Sellers.

Finally, the Chairman announced the formation of a Public Safety Funding Citizen's Committee to "look at long-term funding options for our public safety and criminal justice system" and ensure transparency and excellent value for taxpayers.

"Being mindful that the State is facing revenue shortfalls, we must be vigilant to ensure that their budget solutions don't adversely impact our county services," stated Sellers. "I will be working closely with elected leaders and department heads in the coming months to craft a countywide budget that is impactful, efficient, conservative, and laser-focused on countywide strategic priorities, not pet projects."

Jack Sellers has served on the Board of Supervisors, representing District 1, since his appointment in February 2019, and previously served as Chairman in 2021. He now succeeds Clint Hickman as Chairman.

###

Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee Releases 2023 Accomplishments and Doubles Assets

PHOENIX, AZ – Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee released her 2023 accomplishments, which include historic records in investment performance, record earnings distributed and assets under management. Total assets under management have more than doubled by 100.6% to over \$30.8 billion since Treasurer Yee took office in January 2019.

"I'm proud to share that in the first year of my second term as Treasurer, my administration continued to reach record earnings, historic growth in investments by doubling assets under management, and increased financial distributions to schools, state agencies, and local governments at unprecedented levels. This means less taxes and more money for the people of Arizona," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "It is my honor to continue to serve the great State of Arizona as Treasurer and remain steadfast in our pursuit of a prosperous future for Arizona."

Since taking office in January 2019, Treasurer Yee has distributed over \$3.75 billion in investment earnings. In Fiscal Year 2023, Treasurer Yee oversaw the distribution of a record-high \$1.215 billion in investment earnings, with \$432.7 million distributed to Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund (PLETF) beneficiaries, \$562.2 million distributed to State Agencies and \$212.6 million to Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) clients. For the first six months of Fiscal Year 2024, the Arizona Treasury has already distributed \$746 million, making it the largest six-month period of earnings distributed in the state's history.

Both the PLETF and LGIP have continued to outperform previous months, both hitting record highs in assets under management at the end of 2023. The LGIP hit a new high of \$6.78 billion in AUM, which means it has doubled in size in the 5 years Treasurer Yee has been in office. The PLETF also reached a record high of \$8.2 billion to close 2023 and is up 49% since Treasurer Yee took office.

Treasurer Yee has remained committed to enhancing financial literacy through several impactful initiatives in 2023. As the chair of the Financial Literacy Task Force, Treasurer Yee appointed members into working

groups to identify specific areas where financial literacy can be improved. Additionally, in collaboration with the University of Arizona, Treasurer Yee awarded three dedicated Arizona teachers who teach financial literacy in their classrooms with a full scholarship to pursue a Master of Legal Studies degree.

Since taking over the AZ529 Education Savings Plan in October 2020, AZ529 accounts have increased by a record high of 34,538 accounts, increasing assets by 24.8% in that same time frame to \$2.02 billion as of November 30, 2023. Treasurer Yee has continued to enhance the AZ529 Plan, earning an upgrade to a Silver-Medalist Rating in Morningstar's annual national 529 ratings, citing the AZ529 Plan as one of the best plans in the country. Her focus remains on expanding awareness to reach diverse communities to discuss the importance of saving for higher education, including skills training and college.

As Arizona's chief banking and investment officer, Treasurer Yee is a statewide constitutional officer. Treasurer Yee safeguards approximately \$30.8 billion in assets and stewards the cash management of Arizona's \$64.7 billion state budget and related payments to state agencies, local governments and public schools. Treasurer Yee is also the Administrator of the AZ529 Education Savings Plan and serves as the Vice Chair of the National College Savings Plan Network.

Please see below for the report of Treasurer Kimberly Yee's accomplishments for her fifth year as Arizona's State Treasurer. The report is also available [here](#).

###

PRESS CONFERENCE: Working Group Unveils Affordable Housing Solutions

PHOENIX — Despite shrinking inflation and a growing state economy, Arizona rents remain too high, affordable housing is too difficult to find and build, and evictions were at an all-time high in September 2023. Families and workers who serve our communities – like teachers, firefighters and nurses, are struggling to pay rent and can't afford to purchase a home. Corporate landlords continue to buy up properties across our state, raising prices and further decreasing our housing supply.

Coming forward with common-sense solutions, Representative **Analise Ortiz**, Senator **Anna Hernandez** and members of a legislative affordable housing working group will have a press conference at 10 a.m. Thursday at the State Capitol. Members will preview and discuss legislation to strengthen tenants' rights, to encourage and finance affordable housing projects, to encourage zoning and land use decisions to allow more affordable housing options, to limit corporate landlords from manipulating prices, and to keep struggling Arizonans from becoming homeless.

WHO: Rep. Analise Ortiz, Sen. Anna Hernandez, and other members of the Legislature's Affordable Housing Coalition.

WHAT: Introducing legislation to deliver on affordable housing solutions.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Thursday, January 4, at the Arizona State Capitol Rose Garden, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix.

###

New Federal Law Requires Small Business Owners Provide 'Another Duplicative Layer of Information'

PHOENIX (Jan. 3, 2024) – In a [conversation](#) with ABC 15's Ben Brown, NFIB State Director Chad

Heinrich discussed new beneficial ownership reporting requirements for small business owners, which took effect January 1, 2024. Under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), more than 32 million businesses will be required to report information about their business and business owners to a new federal database maintained by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

“It’s really intrusive in the amount of personal information it’s asking for,” Heinrich said. “At a very basic level, the state governments require that when you create a company that is incorporated, that’s not you personally, that you disclose an address and contact information. This federal law adds another duplicative layer of information going further into the depths, including your birthdate, federal identification numbers, such as your passport or ID and other personal information.”

Worse yet, Heinrich added, few small business owners are aware of the new requirements.

“We have roughly 300,000 members in the country and from our research, 90% of our members who are pretty engaged small business owners didn’t even know of the requirement.”

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the full interview.

Background:

NFIB [opposed](#) the *Corporate Transparency Act*, which requires corporations and limited liability companies (LLCs) with 20 or fewer full-time employees to file new reports with the Treasury Department’s FinCEN bureau containing the personally identifiable information of small business owners.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

About NFIB:

For 80 years, NFIB has been the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit www.NFIB.com.

###

Annual Homelessness Count Takes Place January 23

PHOENIX (January 3, 2024) – Hundreds of volunteers will scan alleys, parks, riverbeds, streets, doorways, and other areas January 23, 2024, in an annual effort to count the number of people experiencing homelessness in the region at a specific point in time.

The count, which is coordinated by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), provides a one-night snapshot of the number of men, women and children living in unsheltered situations or on the streets. Those who are in shelter also will be counted the same night to achieve a total Point in Time count. Those interested in volunteering for the count can [contact a coordinator](#) in their area.

“While the Point in Time count is only a small snapshot of the homelessness crisis, we know that gathering data is an important way to drive progress,” said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, chair of MAG. “As MAG brings together Valley leaders to confront homelessness head-on, monitoring and assessing trends can help us better understand the challenge and ultimately inform our policy decisions.”

More than 1,000 volunteers from local governments, nonprofits, and faith-based communities will participate in the count by fanning out across the Valley in teams. Where possible, they will conduct a brief survey of individuals to identify specific homelessness situations and determine most-needed resources. *Media wishing to gather photos or video of the count are asked to coordinate with MAG as soon as possible and no later than Thursday, January 18, 2024, to ensure we can match you with a team.*

[Last year’s homelessness Point in Time count](#) tallied 9,642 people experiencing homelessness in the region, an overall increase in homelessness of nearly 7 percent. Numbers showed a decline in the number of people living on the street, but a rise in those living in shelters. Data from the 2024 count will be available in April.

Vicki Phillips is co-chair of the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care, which seeks to develop regional solutions to end homelessness. She notes that the Point in Time count is just one of [many data sources](#) that the board relies on to understand the homelessness picture.

“Our primary source of homelessness data comes from the Homeless Management Information System, which is gathered daily when someone interacts with the homeless services system,” says Phillips. “Using this database, we produce a [quarterly homelessness trends report](#) that highlights trends in the populations experiencing homelessness as well as system performance measures in Maricopa County. All of these data points help us better understand the greatest needs and best manage limited resources.”

The results of the count are used in the MAG consolidated application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support homeless assistance programs. Since 1999, the Continuum of Care has received over \$550 million of funding and now supports more than 32 homeless assistance programs within 11 different agencies. This award has been an important and consistent source of funding for the community.

Individuals can make a difference in addressing homelessness. See these [tips for getting involved](#).

###

Sinema’s *Military Spouse Employment Act* Signed Into Law

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema’s *Military Spouse Employment Act* was signed into law as part of the annual bipartisan defense legislation. Sinema’s law ensures military spouses can continue their careers no matter where life takes them.

“Arizona servicemembers and their families make difficult sacrifices to keep us safe and secure – it’s our responsibility to ensure they’re supported. Our law empowers military spouses to continue succeeding in their careers no matter where life takes them,” said Sinema, a member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Military spouse unemployment is [much higher](#) than the national average. A [survey](#) found that spouse unemployment consistently ranks as the biggest stressor for servicemembers and their partners.

Military spouses face unique challenges in finding and maintaining employment, including frequent relocation due to new orders and the high cost of childcare. Sinema’s legislation grants federal agencies the authority to hire military spouses for remote work and allow military spouses to retain their positions should they be transferred to another location, providing certainty that they can care for their families despite the disruption of regular relocation.

Last year, Sinema [held a roundtable discussion with military spouses](#) at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to discuss solutions to the challenges they face finding, keeping, and growing their careers.

###

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“I’m very thankful that I get to pass this gavel today because – I don’t know man – I’m tired.” — *Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman after enduring threats for years from election deniers as chairman.*

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](#)

Chase Boeke
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1700 West Washington St.
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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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Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:56:17 PM
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Chierstin Susel

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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](#)

Chase Boeke
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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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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

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

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.

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

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

- 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.

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

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.

###

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.”

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.

###

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](#).

###

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](#)

###

“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: [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

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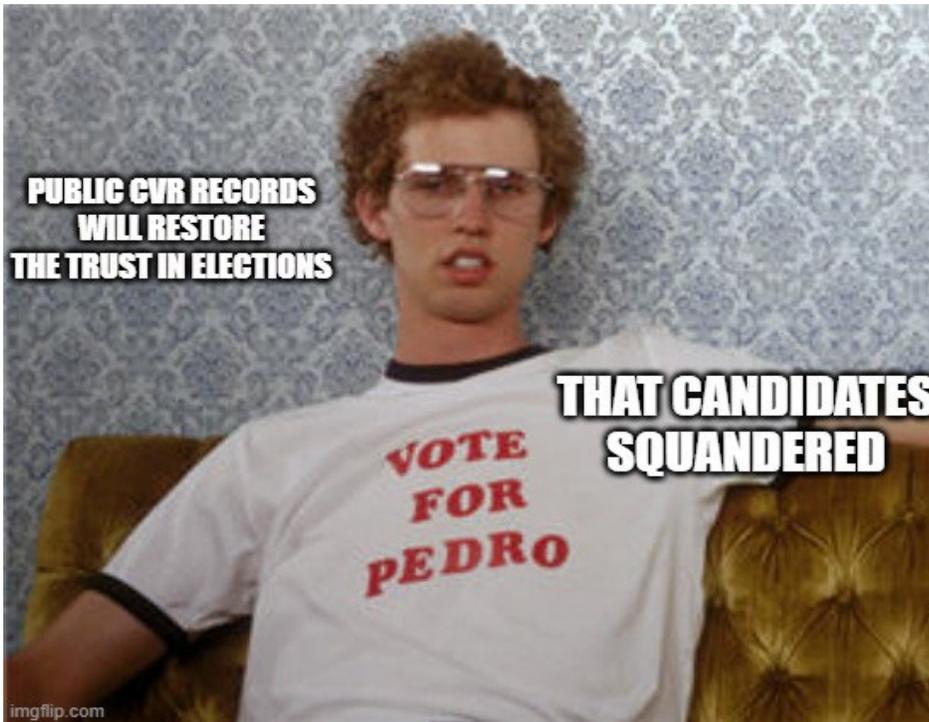


YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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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-cavvass, 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.

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

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

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 Basiucci 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 Basiucci, 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 Basiucci**. “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.

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."

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**

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 restaurateurs 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

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: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Cory Blumstein](#); mrodham@edf.org
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-9
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 3:37:00 PM
Attachments: [2-9-24-1.pdf](#)

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Bill takes aim at judicial retention



[SCR 1044](#) (judicial retention elections), a constitutional resolution to hinge judicial retention elections on “good behavior” instead of term limits, is scheduled for a hearing in Senate ELEC next week. The measure, sponsored by Gowan and Shamp, would still require judges and justices to undergo judicial performance review but would make it so they would only need to stand for retention if they failed to meet standards, received a reprimand or a recommendation that the judge

should be disqualified, censured, suspended, retired or removed from office, or if they faced a felony conviction, a conviction involving fraud or dishonesty. The act would apply retroactively after Oct. 2024 and ensures the retention or rejection votes in the 2024 election “shall not be included in the official canvass or result.” The move to circumvent retention elections comes as the courts brace for further politicization of retention elections in 2024. In 2022, three Maricopa County Superior Court judges were not retained by voters, despite the Judicial Performance Review Commission only deeming one unfit for the bench. And in the aftermath, JPR formed a taskforce to overhaul JPR rules and outreach given “voter confusion” and partisan campaigns to misconstrue judicial performance reports. The concern for further politicization going forward continues to mount amid claims of “lawfare” and “corrupt” judges, especially aimed at those overseeing election contests, leading political consultants and judicial commissioners to recommend judges be prepared to form campaign committees in 2024. The resolution goes before Senate ELEC on Monday.

Ryan sentenced, making amends

Former Corrections director Charles Ryan was sentenced to two years unsupervised probation today for an armed standoff with Tempe police in early 2022. Ryan plead no contest to the disorderly conduct charge in November and saw the unlawful firearm discharge charge dismissed as part of a plea deal. Leslie Lemense, prosecuting attorney, asked the court to designate the charge a felony, pay \$8,500 to cover investigative costs, attend substance abuse treatment and forfeit the gun and ammunition involved in the standoff. Craig Penrod, Ryan’s attorney, asked the court to leave Ryan’s offense undesignated. Penrod told the court Ryan was in a “blackout mode” during the standoff. “If it wasn’t for alcohol this would have never happened,” Penrod said. Ryan said he had been 25 months sober and attended 700 AA meetings since the incident. “I have apologized to my family, friends and neighbors, apologized to Tempe Police Dept. I’ve fully realized the errors of my way.” Judge Geoffrey Fish sentenced Ryan to two years of probation and designated the charge a felony. “Designation of felony is punishment enough at this time,” Fish said.

Dem ESA bills to be heard

Two of Hobbs’ ESA “transparency and accountability” proposals are slated to go in front of the Senate Education committee next week. Marsh sponsored SB1354 (ESAs; children with disabilities;

requirements), which would require private schools to accommodate students with disabilities, and SB1353 (ESA program; ADE; funding estimates), which would require the Dept. of Ed to include an updated estimate of amount to fund ESA accounts for the next fiscal year in their budget proposal. Hobbs previously said at a press conference the fact ESA legislation had yet to see a hearing was an “indicator” of Republican lawmakers’ hardline stance on any changes to ESA. But Bennett, Senate Ed chair, put two of the bills on the agenda for next week.

No Labels: Fontes lost in trial court on same arguments for appeal

Attorneys for No Labels Arizona opposed Fontes’ request to stay an injunction barring his office from allowing No Labels candidates, aside from the presidential election, to appear on the primary or general election ballot. David Rosenbaum, attorney for No Labels, claims Fontes “rehashes the same arguments he made and lost at trial” in his motion for stay and contends he is unlikely to succeed on the same arguments on appeal. U.S. District Judge John Tuchi found the Secretary of State’s office allowing candidates to run under the No Labels banner in races the party wanted “nothing to do with” infringed on their associational rights. Fontes sought a stay of the order to “preserve the rights of Arizonans who have joined the No Labels party to participate as candidates and voters,” as his office appeals the ruling. His attorney also noted a lack of direction in what the SOS office was to do with the candidates who had already filed statements of interest. Rosenbaum notes the SOS’s motion “has not shown that irreparable harm is likely or even possible” as there is no caselaw or law supporting a “right” for candidates to run under a particular party’s banner or for voters to select a nominee for an office outside the party’s purview. Fontes appealed the district court’s judgment to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Democrat replaces judge who ruled in favor of Senate audit subpoenas

Hobbs appointed Democrat Lauren Guyton to the Maricopa County Superior Court to fill a vacancy left by retirement of Judge Timothy Thomason. Guyton formerly served as a court commissioner and as a Maricopa County public defender. Thomason, appointed by Brewer in 2014, retired from the court in October after serving nine years across civil, family and criminal court. He presided over the 2022 recount and ruled the Senate’s subpoena for access to ballots and election equipment for the 2020 audit to be legal. The Maricopa County Commission on Trial Court Appointments sent [10 nominees](#), six Democrats, three Independents and one Republican, to the governor in December.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Three more candidates nominated for second LD5 House vacancy](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Democratic precinct committeemen in Legislative District 5 succeeded in nominating three candidates for a second legislative vacancy in the district after failing earlier in the week.

[Bill seeks to ban Satan from public property](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

A bill introduced by the state Freedom Caucus leader brought members of the Church of Satan to the Capitol on Feb. 7, sparking disapproval from Republican senators.

[Spending put on hold for programs, grants](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

A handful of one-time allocations spanning grants, lawmaker pet projects and other programs included in the 2024 budget are being put on pause in the third quarter, according to a Jan. 2 memo from the Governor's Office.

[Mondays mean Senate hears true stories of mental health crisis](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

A Democrat Senator who has spearheaded efforts to reform mental health treatment in the state garnered bipartisan support for her legislation which aims to increase oversight of mental health services and broaden screening procedures – particularly those that are often overlooked.

[West Valley economic leaders align on development potential of key highway corridor](#)

Phoenix Business Journal

As land around the major freeways in the West Valley continues to be built out, city leaders have already started looking ahead to the next wave of growth. It's known as State Route 30.

[Tovar won't seek reelection to Arizona Corporation Commission, says it 'needs a shake-up'](#)

Yahoo Finance

Anna Tovar, one of five members of the Arizona Corporation Commission and the only Democrat, has announced she will not seek reelection after her current first term expires in January 2025.

[Arizona prevents election recount nightmare scenario with a bipartisan fix](#)

NBC News

Arizona lawmakers dodged a possible electoral nightmare this week, with members from both parties coming together to overwhelmingly approve a legislative tweak to the battleground state's election policies ahead of the 2024 presidential contest.

[Arizona tax credit empowers communities](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

I believe in a world where every person is thriving and has the hope of a promising future. As the CEO of Advance Community, a nonprofit health organization committed to improving health and providing hope with a vision of health equity for all, I know the importance of what accessing services can mean to an individual in an under-resourced community.

[Preferred pronouns for GOP lawmakers attacking Arizona's transgender youth are ruth/less](#)

The Arizona Republic

In an election year, politicians will do anything to stir up the party faithful. So, while Republicans on the national level thwart efforts to solve the border crisis so they can campaign on there being a border crisis, Republicans at the Arizona Legislature are attacking — children.

[This Arizona legislator is protecting bad doctors and throwing out reporters who ask why](#)

The Arizona Republic

So, you're wondering if that doctor you're about to go see has shown up to work drunk. Or maybe he removed a woman's ovaries without asking or accidentally operated on the wrong knee.

[Would Kari Lake deport 'Dreamers'? Cue the tap dance](#)

The Arizona Republic

One thing you can say about Kari Lake. She's got moves. The Republicans' presumptive nominee for the U.S. Senate can tap dance around a question like no one I've ever seen.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Governor Hobbs Announces Appointment Of Lauren Guyton to Maricopa County Superior Court

Phoenix, AZ – Today, Governor Katie Hobbs announced the appointment of Lauren Guyton to the Maricopa County Superior Court. Commissioner Guyton has served on the court as a commissioner since 2016. Prior to that, she served for over fifteen years in the Maricopa County Public Defender’s Office.

“Commissioner Guyton has shown her dedication to helping people and the community both before and throughout her legal career,” said **Governor Katie Hobbs**. “From her background as a social worker to her time as a public defender and court commissioner, she has proven that she has the personal and legal skills necessary to understand the people in her courtroom and to be an effective superior court judge.”

Judge Guyton’s appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Timothy Thomason.

###

Legislation Remediating AZ Election Calendar Issues Passes House and Senate Overwhelmingly

The Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) sincerely thanks Governor Hobbs, legislators and county elections officials who helped craft legislation that resolves an election calendar crisis that threatened to disenfranchise Arizona military members stationed overseas, as well as potentially void our state’s presidential electors following the 2024 General Election. Today, that legislation – SB 1733 and HB 2785 – passed the House and Senate with the requisite supermajority support, allowing it to take effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature.

“The Arizona Association of Counties is grateful to legislators, Governor Hobbs and her team, and county leaders and election officials who helped make today possible,” said AACo Executive Director Jen Marson. “Common ground may be uncommon in today’s political environment, but this compromise legislation will protect every Arizona voter – including military members stationed overseas – and ensure county elections offices have the time and tools needed to conduct lawful elections and any necessary recounts this year and beyond.”

Without a statutory fix, county officials have warned there is not enough time to complete any post-Primary recounts while still distributing General Election ballots in time for them to be voted and returned by military members and their families deployed overseas. Likewise, an Arizona presidential recount following the General Election would almost certainly result in the state missing the Dec. 11, 2024, federal deadline for certification – calling into question whether Arizona’s 11 electors would count toward the Electoral College.

Boards of Supervisors representing all 15 counties, along with all 15 county Election Directors, endorsed SB 1733 and HB 2785. The measures now are under consideration by Governor Hobbs, who has indicated she is supportive.

###

Attorney General Mayes Urges Federal Government to Protect Workers from Occupational Heat Exposure

PHOENIX – Attorney General Kris Mayes is joining a coalition of 11 attorneys general to protect workers from the dangers of exposure to extreme heat in the workplace. Today, Attorney General Mayes and the

coalition petitioned the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to implement a nationwide emergency extreme heat standard to take effect this summer to protect workers from heat exposure.

“Despite rising temperatures and intensifying heat waves, and the grave dangers they pose to workers, OSHA currently has no occupational heat standard in place,” said Attorney General Mayes. “2023 was the hottest year on record and 2024 is expected to be even hotter. Congress and OSHA must move with urgency to implement emergency heat standards and protect Arizona workers.”

The attorneys general also called on Congress to pass pending legislation directing OSHA to promulgate an interim heat standard while it continues its rulemaking for a permanent standard, and they urged the White House to support these efforts to protect the nation’s most heat-vulnerable workers.

Extreme heat refers to a period of excessively hot weather with above average temperatures, usually combines with high humidity. Climate change is increasing the severity, duration, and frequency of extreme heat events. Extreme heat exposure affects millions of workers across the country and can cause a range of heat-related illnesses, including heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Prolonged, repeated exposure to extreme heat can even cause chronic kidney disease. Extreme heat can also negatively impact preexisting medical conditions, such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and can even worsen psychiatric conditions.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, [at least 436 workers died from heat exposure](#) from 2011 through 2021. Summer 2023 was the hottest summer ever recorded in the Northern Hemisphere, bringing soaring temperatures and unrelenting heatwaves to communities across the United States. As a result, vulnerable workers such as farm and construction workers labored through unprecedented heat and humidity, ultimately resulting in deaths:

- In July 2023, a 26-year-old farmworker and father of two died of heat stroke after collapsing in a field near Yuma, Arizona as temperatures soared above 110°F.
- In June 2023, a 46-year-old construction worker died from hyperthermia at an outdoor construction site in East Texas, when the region was experiencing daily high temperatures around 100°F.
- In June 2023, a 66-year-old postal worker who had delivered mail in Dallas, Texas for 35 years died of heat stroke while working in extreme heat conditions.
- In July 2023, a 29-year-old Guatemalan immigrant died while picking fruit on a farm in Homestead, Florida during an unprecedented heatwave.
- In August 2023, a warehouse worker died while working in part of a distribution center in Memphis, Tennessee that did not have air conditioning.

Summer 2024 is expected to be even hotter than 2023, putting workers at even greater risk of heat-related illness, injury, and death.

In the petition, the coalition reminds OSHA that the agency is legally obligated to set an emergency temporary standard if it finds that workers are exposed to a grave danger in the workplace and an emergency standard is necessary to protect workers from that danger. The potential dangers and impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable workers meet these factors for a range of occupations and are particularly evident for farmworkers and construction workers.

Farmworkers are 35 times more likely to die of heat exposure than other members of the general population, and construction workers account for 36 percent of heat-related workplace deaths each year. Based on this evidence, the coalition calls on OSHA to fulfill its legal obligation to workers and issue an emergency

temporary standard, including a heat exposure threshold and required preventative measures such as water breaks and shade, for farmworkers and construction workers – at a minimum – by May 1, 2024.

In addition, the coalition is calling on Congress to pass and the White House to sign the Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness, Injury, and Fatality Prevention Act ([H.R. 4897/S. 2501](#)), legislation that would direct OSHA to establish near- and long-term measures to protect workers from extreme heat. The legislation is named for Asunción Valdivia, a farmworker who died of heatstroke after picking grapes for 10 hours in extreme heat.

Illness, injury, and death from heat exposure disproportionately impacts workers of color and low-wage workers who are overrepresented in those occupations most vulnerable to extreme heat, including labor-intensive outdoor work like agriculture and construction. OSHA has previously [recognized](#) that certain workers are at an increased risk of occupational heat illness not only because of the nature of their work, but also because of factors such as race, ethnicity, or language.

Joining Attorney General Mayes petitioning OSHA and sending letters to Congress and the White House are the attorneys general of New York, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Copies of the letters are available [here](#).

###

AHCCCS Releases RFP for Housing and Health Opportunities Program Administrator Services

PHOENIX – The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit vendors to provide Housing and Health Opportunities program administrator services.

The H2O program is an innovative new effort to enhance and expand housing services and interventions for specific populations of AHCCCS members who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.

Proposals are due on May 1, 2024 by 3:00 p.m., with awards expected to be announced July 1, 2024. The new contracts are planned to be effective October 1, 2024, for a contract term of three (3) years with options to extend up to an additional two (2) years.

For more details, including a copy of the RFP, see the AHCCCS [Open Solicitations web page](#).

###

Attorney General Mayes Supports Federal Trade Commission’s Rule Outlawing Junk Fees

PHOENIX – Attorney General Kris Mayes this week joined a coalition of 19 state Attorneys Generals in supporting the Federal Trade Commission’s (“FTC”) proposed Trade Regulation Rule on Unfair or Deceptive Fees.

“The price advertised by a business should be the price paid by a consumer and businesses should be fully transparent about the nature and purpose of fees,” said Attorney General Mayes. “Using ‘bait and switch’

pricing and junk fees is unfair and deceptive to consumers. I strongly support the FTC’s proposed rule on this issue as it will help ensure Arizonans aren’t misled or tricked into paying more than expected.”

The comment [letter](#) was filed on Wednesday in response to an FTC notice of proposed rulemaking, which allowed for comments on the proposed rule’s provisions, including:

- Prohibiting ‘bait and switch’ advertising by requiring businesses, from the outset, to clearly and conspicuously disclose the total price, inclusive of any mandatory fees;
- Requiring businesses to more prominently display the total price when pricing information is advertised;
- Prohibiting businesses from misrepresenting the nature and purpose of any fee, and;
- Requiring businesses to clearly and conspicuously disclose the nature and purpose of certain fees (such as shipping charges and optional fees) before the consumer consents to pay.

In their letter, the Attorneys General support the FTC’s proposed rule and highlight their enforcement efforts in protecting consumers from deceptive fee practices.

Joining Attorney General Mayes are the Attorneys General from Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

###

Statement from Chairman Jack Sellers on Election Calendar Legislation Passing

“Counties have been clear and consistent about what we need to meet all statutory deadlines and comply with federal election law in 2024. The legislation passed by the House and Senate today solves the calendar issue we’ve been warning about for months, and for that, we’re grateful. These changes will have little impact on the voting experience while allowing our staff the additional time needed to complete any automatic recounts in August and November. I appreciate all the legislators who put in the effort and the willingness of Speaker Toma, President Petersen, and the Governor to hammer out a bipartisan compromise. We look forward to the Governor signing the legislation tomorrow.”

###

Kelly and Budd’s SOAR Act, Legislation to Ensure Tracking and Identification of High-Altitude Balloons, Passes Committee

Today, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly and North Carolina Senator Ted Budd’s *SOAR Act* that ensures high-altitude balloons operating in United States airspace can be tracked and identified [passed out](#) of the Senate Commerce Committee—a key step towards becoming law. The bill was included and passed with small technical changes as part of the *Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act*.

Kelly and Budd introduced the *SOAR Act* in March of 2023 following the federal government’s response to four unknown aerial objects over North America, including one Chinese surveillance balloon, which were shot down by U.S. fighter jets.

“We need to be able to identify whether objects in our airspace are a threat or not, and now we’re one step closer to getting that done,” **said Kelly**. “I’m glad to be partnering with Senator Budd on this, and we’ll keep working to get it passed into law and implemented.”

“In order to better protect our nation’s skies, we must do a better job of tracking and identifying objects flying over American airspace. That is exactly what the SOAR Act seeks to do. I am pleased we were able to get this important piece of legislation included in the FAA Reauthorization bill and look forward to working with Senator Kelly going forward to get it across the finish line and signed into law,” **said Budd**.

While high-altitude balloons are utilized for a variety of purposes, like forecasting the weather, imaging, conducting science experiments, and testing new technologies, Kelly and Budd’s legislation would ensure that the U.S. military can quickly and efficiently differentiate between threats and authorized objects in our airspace. The bipartisan *SOAR Act* will:

- Require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to issue, within two years, new regulations to require that all high-altitude balloons operating 18,000 feet above sea level be equipped with a tracking system that will transmit the balloon’s altitude, identity, and location.
- Also require the FAA to work with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to develop equivalent standards for high-altitude balloons launched elsewhere in the world.
- Direct the FAA to establish an Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) made up of industry, aviation safety experts, researchers, educators, and representatives from the Department of Defense and other federal agencies which conduct high-altitude balloon operations. The ARC must issue recommendations for how best to update existing FAA regulations to track high-altitude balloons, which will be used by the FAA to issue new regulations to identify and locate high-altitude balloons.

Click [here](#) for a complete summary of the *Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act*.

Click [here](#) for the full bill text.

###

Opportunity Arizona applauds bipartisan fix to the recount timeline and expand voting access

Opportunity Arizona applauds the bipartisan fix negotiated by the governor and Democrats to the recount timeline that ensures Arizona’s presidential electors are counted without confusion or delay, protects military families’ access to voting without sacrificing the rights of other Arizona voters, gives counties stability to implement the upcoming elections, and includes more access to early voting for everyone.

Common sense and bipartisanship beat extremists who want to undermine Arizona voters and our elections. That’s a win for voters and something we can all celebrate. This bipartisan legislation ensures Arizona’s presidential electors represents the will of the voters, protects voting access for Arizonans serving in our military forces overseas, and increases opportunities for Arizonans to vote early, including:

- Extending voting center hours before election day to reduce confusion
- Requiring ballot curing notices for voters starting the first day of early voting to have more time to confirm their vote is counted

Opportunity Arizona applauds Governor Hobbs and state lawmakers who have now updated the calendar and set the foundation for a free and fair election in 2024.

Opportunity Arizona is a non-partisan organization advocating for policies that grow opportunities for Arizonans to earn a dignified living with access to voting. To learn more, visit our website at opportunityarizona.org.

###

ICYMI: Arizona Utility Regulators Vote to Gut Energy Efficiency and Renewable Standards

Phoenix, AZ — This week, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) [voted](#) to roll back the state's energy efficiency and renewable standards. This dangerous move, spearheaded by the Commission's four Republicans, comes as other states are moving to expand energy efficiency standards to help usher in our clean energy transition.

“Clean energy is creating good-paying jobs and saving money for consumers,” said Climate Power States Managing Director **Saumya Narechania**. “Rather than heeding what Arizonans want—which is access to cheap, clean energy that never runs out—the Arizona Corporation Commission is attempting to cut down clean energy innovation and take opportunities away from everyday Arizonans. If it succeeds, the state of Arizona will be left behind as the rest of the nation reaps the benefits of the clean energy boom—or possibly forced to buy cheap clean power from states like Nevada and California, instead.”

President Biden's clean energy plan has so far created more than [13,000 jobs](#) and led to more than \$10 billion in investment in the state. Arizona currently ranks second in the [nation for solar potential](#), with more than [8,000 workers](#) employed in the state's solar economy. Arizona's utilities are currently aiming to [hit a target](#) of 15% renewable energy by 2030, a far cry from Nevada and New Mexico's goal of 50%. The ACC is also clearly on a different wavelength than [Arizona Public Service \(APS\)](#), which is targeting 100% clean energy by 2050.

“I worry that being the only state in the country to repeal what is already an extremely modest [renewable portfolio standard] sends the wrong signal to the industry. It says ‘take your business, your jobs, and your dollars elsewhere’,” Autumn Johnson of the Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association [told](#) Arizona's NBC affiliate.

The Arizona Corporation Commission will now begin drafting rules that would repeal the Renewable Energy rules and mandates and the Electric and Gas Energy Efficiency rules and mandates. **Arizonans will have the opportunity to make their voices heard during the [public comment period](#), which will begin after the Commission releases their draft rules.**

###

Unified Democratic Caucuses Deliver Critical Votes to Fix Elections Issue

PHOENIX- Military and overseas voters will get their 2024 ballots on time, and Arizona will deliver its 11 electoral votes in the upcoming presidential elections – even in the event of a recount – after the Arizona Legislature passed a bi-partisan package of emergency fixes today. Governor Hobbs is expected to sign House Bill 2785. The new law will move up Arizona's 2024 primary election date and adjust the five-day ballot curing period with new processes to ensure as many eligible votes as possible can be counted.

Every Senate and House Democrat voted yes to pass the critical negotiated fixes with an emergency clause so county recorders and elections officials can implement the changes immediately. The measure passed first in the House by a vote of 56-2 with all Democrats voting yes. In the Senate, the bill passed 24-2.

“From the moment negotiations began we had the simple request that the fix to this issue must not be weaponized to harm voters, and today I can confidently say that we have been successful,” **Senate Democratic Leader Mitzi Epstein** stated. “I applaud the work of Senator **Priya Sundareshan** and our staff that made sure this hard-fought bipartisan solution made it across the finish line. This is a moment of celebration because collaboration works. Arizonans have asked time and again for us to find common-sense bipartisan solutions to the state’s biggest problems and we have delivered.”

"Our goal was a clean fix, and this bill comes very close. It's not perfect, but it is a true bi-partisan compromise that will protect voters and help keep our elections free, fair, and secure," said **House Democratic Leader Lupe Contreras**. "I'm proud of the work our members did to keep this plan alive and moving forward, including Representative **Laura Terech** who was instrumental to our success."

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

. “I have apologized to my family, friends and neighbors, apologized to Tempe Police Dept. I’ve fully realized the errors of my way.” - *Former DOC director Charles Ryan at his sentencing.*

From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 2-12
Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 8:34:36 PM
Attachments: [2-12-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 6:05:26 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-12

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 2-12
Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 5:07:00 PM
Attachments: [2-12-24.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·

Attorney argues no crime to vote your conscience

Attorneys for indicted Cochise County Supervisor Tom Crosby contend the [criminal statute](#) at the center of election interference and conspiracy charges is “vague and ambiguous and overbroad, and unconstitutional,” as applied to a county supervisor. Crosby, and his fellow supervisor Peggy Judd, pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and interference with an election officer, two class five felony charges lodged by the state grand jury for delaying the county canvass for the 2022 election. But in [a motion to dismiss](#), Crosby’s attorney, Dennis Wilenchik, claims there was no interference as then Secretary of State Hobbs canvassed the state election on time, in line with statute. He notes the duties in statute are solely to canvass the election, not to make efforts to solicit canvasses from individual counties. “It is frankly unknown to anyone, in advance of being charged with criminal activity, what her ‘efforts’ here are at all,” Wilenchik wrote. Wilenchik further argues the criminal statute at hand was intended to prevent bribery or corruption, or to deter interference by citizens with election officers on election day, not in the post-election period. And per this reading, the statute should not have been applied to a county supervisor. “(t)here is no unlawful act let alone any conspiracy by Supervisors voting their conscience,” Wilenchik wrote. He argues the indictment was brought for “purely political purposes by the Attorney General and is an egregious abuse of her powers” and asked the court to dismiss the charges as a matter of law and the prosecution be dismissed with prejudice. Judd and Crosby’s trial is currently scheduled for May.



Candidates, mark your calendars

With the primary election moved up a week, candidate nominating petition deadlines followed suit. Signatures are now due April 1, instead of April 8, and whether the lost week to garner signatures weighs on candidates’ efforts depends on the strength of the candidate, according to political consultants. Matt Grodsky, Dem consultant, said in a text to our reporter that he thought the deadline change to be a “huge deal if you are behind on signatures in a race at any level.” Grodsky noted response to the deadline change is contingent on the candidate, but at this stage, campaigns may need to think about investing in digital outreach to gather E-Qual signers. And he noted campaigns may need to put in resources to educate voters on new deadlines. Barrett Marson, GOP consultant, said the week shouldn’t make a difference to strong candidates. “If your operation is so shoddy, that seven days is make or break, maybe you’re not ready to be a candidate anyway,” Marson said. Ballot measure signature deadlines remained unaffected by the shift in election schedule. “God bless,” said Chuck Coughlin, the consultant and chair

of the Make Elections Fair PAC, the committee working to put the “Make Elections Fair Arizona Act” on the ballot.

Martin Quezada seeks LD22 seat

One potential candidate for the vacant LD22 House seat has decided not to seek appointment. Former Rep. Lorenzo Sierra announced in a Sunday post on X that now is not the right time for him to reenter public office, despite the encouragement he’s received from people wanting him to represent the district. “My support of Arizona continues through community and public service, and my best wishes are with whomever receives the appointment,” Sierra wrote in his post. LD22 Democrats are meeting tonight to nominate three candidates for the vacancy. According to an email sent Sunday from LD22 Democratic Chair Tina Gamez, nine candidates are seeking appointment including former state Sen. Martin Quezada. The other candidates are Steven Chapman, Natacha Chavez, Roberta Garcia, Sharon Hendrickson, Bryan Kilgore, Elda Luna-Najera, Betsy Munoz and Paul Valach. Chapman was a write-in candidate for LD22’s Senate race in 2022, as was Diaz. Valach and Kilgore also had some interest in the Senate seat. Kilgore withdrew from the Senate race in 2022 and Valach received few votes in a race that had 10 candidates running. Hendrickson is running for the House in the district. Chavez also ran in the Democratic primary for a LD22 House seat in 2022, but wasn’t elected as a nominee. Luna-Najera is the president of the Tolleson Union High School District.

State leaders go to court to grab land back

Petersen, Toma, Yee, Mohave County, Colorado City and Fredonia, Arizona, filed a lawsuit against the federal government claiming the designation of nearly 1 million acres of land near the Grand Canyon as a national monument constitutes an “unlawful land grab.” In August, Biden relied on the Antiquities Act to expand and recognize the Baaj Nwaavjo P’tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, effectively protecting the area from uranium mining in the process and garnering sweeping support from tribal communities. But a slate of Senate and House Republicans met ahead of the designation and signed a resolution unanimously opposing the “land grab” and later promised legal action against the Biden administration. The legislative leaders followed through today and claim the designation is a violation of the Antiquities Act, which they contend covers national monument designations for only “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government” and attached land parcels, that must be “confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” And as for harm to the state, they claim the move unlawfully cuts off State Trust Lands and creates harm to the legislature, treasurer, counties and cities as it stands to decrease “revenue Arizona could receive from mining on the land” or in developing the land, and claim potential impact to the state budget, given a hit to the state land trust fund. They ask the court to reverse the designation and find the move to be in violation of separation of powers and the Antiquities Act, or otherwise find the Antiquities Act to be entirely unconstitutional.

That’s a Hell No!

A district court judge denied a bid by Fontes to stay an injunction barring the Secretary of State’s office from accepting statements of interests or printing any No Labels candidates outside of the presidential race on the primary and general election ballot. Judge John Tuchi found “nothing” in Fontes’ motion to stay “changes the Court’s disposition of Plaintiff’s claims in this matter or the reasoning the Court

provided in its Order.” Tuchi previously enjoined any No Labels candidates outside the presidential race from the ballot as requiring a party to support candidates in races it wanted “nothing to do with” would tread on associational rights. Fontes appealed the order to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[GOP, conservative group challenge new elections procedures](#)

Capitol Media Services

The Arizona Free Enterprise Club is asking a judge to void proposed rules that say its members have no right to photograph, approach, question and even seek “documentation” of voters who are using drop boxes.

[As Arizona Supreme Court weighs abortion law, both sides brace for ruling](#)

Cronkite News

It’s been nearly two months since the Arizona Supreme Court heard arguments over the state’s abortion law, and its ruling in that case could all but ban abortions in the state or allow them to continue up to 15 weeks.

[Hobbs played defense on election deadline fix](#)

Capitol Media Services

Gov. Katie Hobbs acknowledged Friday she really didn’t get anything out of the deal she cut with Republican lawmakers to resolve election deadline issues.

[Closed door meetings, tears: How Arizona leaders compromised to fix the state’s election timeline crisis](#)

Votebeat

Arizona has fixed a looming crisis for the election in a way that election officials say will allow them to submit presidential results to Congress in time. Republicans are touting the fix as a boon for election integrity, and Democrats say it protects voters in the long run.

[Arizona communities grapple with the cost of a green energy future — more mining](#)

Fronteras

On a breezy morning late last year, Roger Featherstone, director of the conservation group Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, hovered over a microphone attached to headphones and stared out of the window of a tiny plane.

[Arizona wildlife officials investigate illegal killing of a desert bighorn sheep; \\$6500 reward offered](#)

Fox News

Wildlife officials in Arizona are investigating the illegal killing of a desert bighorn sheep that was left for dead last month and offering a reward for information that leads to the arrest of those responsible.

[Arizona cancer diagnoses likely to climb in 2024](#)

Axios

Arizonans are estimated to receive 42,670 cancer diagnoses this year, according to new American Cancer Society data.

[Smart step toward ending boating tragedies](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Last year, the state was rocked by a series of devastating boating accidents, including a 6-year-old girl who was run over by her family’s boat at Lake Pleasant and killed. These tragic events, which claimed 13 lives, injured 60 people are more than just numbers – they’re a dire warning that we cannot ignore.

[There is a good reason why Arizona should honor this 'enemy of the people'](#)

The Arizona Republic

A bill has passed in the Arizona House that would allow for a memorial to Don Bolles at the state Capitol.

[Preferred pronouns for GOP lawmakers attacking Arizona's transgender youth are ruth/less](#)

The Arizona Republic

In an election year, politicians will do anything to stir up the party faithful. So, while Republicans on the national level thwart efforts to solve the border crisis so they can campaign on there being a border crisis, Republicans at the Arizona Legislature are attacking — children.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee as State Land Surveyor-General Joins Lawsuit Against the Biden Administration for Unlawful Land Grab

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee is suing the Biden Administration for violation of the Antiquities Act, with the creation of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

President Biden created the new monument last year, which comprises over 900,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land in Mohave County and Coconino County in Northern Arizona. In doing so, he isolated tens of thousands of acres of state trust lands, causing economic harm to the beneficiaries, primarily K-12 education in Arizona.

“We must protect the value of state trust lands for the future of Arizona. This unlawful land grab by the Biden Administration will directly affect Arizona's economy and the livelihoods of our citizens,” said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. “The Federal Government needs to compensate the permanent school fund for the tens of thousands of trust land parcels left economically isolated by the stroke of the pen by President Biden. This big hand of government will hurt our K-12 education beneficiaries the most.”

The monument designation prohibits further use and development of the BLM land which surrounds the state trust land, even though those lands are available for the mining of important natural resources, such as uranium, that financially benefit Arizona's state and local governments and schools.

The complaint, which was filed today in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, demands judicial intervention to stop this unlawful land grab.

"The suit affirms that Congress passed the Antiquities Act to protect just that: antiquities. It did not pass the law to allow the Biden Administration to declare every inch of federal land a monument," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee.

Treasurer Yee joined the suit as she is responsible for the receipt and investment of all revenue from Arizona state trust land. Treasurer Yee also serves as the Surveyor-General for the selection of lands and a member of the State Land Selection Board, which assigns beneficiaries for all state trust lands and approves all annexations of state land. Treasurer Yee has joined the lawsuit alongside the Arizona State Legislature, Mohave County and the towns of Colorado City and Fredonia.

###

Representative Matt Gress Applauds Town of Paradise Valley for Human Trafficking Combat Certification

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Matt Gress commends the Town of Paradise Valley for its proactive efforts in combatting human trafficking, as demonstrated by the recent achievement of the CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation) Designation. This certification, presented by the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network, highlights the town’s commitment to addressing sexual exploitation comprehensively.

On January 25, the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network recognized the Town of Paradise Valley for its dedication to training all municipal employees in combating sexual exploitation and trafficking. This milestone makes Paradise Valley the first municipality to achieve a 100 percent employee training rate.

“As we continue to raise awareness and take steps towards combating human trafficking, the Town of Paradise Valley stands as a leader,” said Representative Gress. **“I commend their dedication and urge other municipalities to join the fight against this heinous crime and work towards a future where no one falls victim to exploitation.”**

CEASE, a program administered by the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network, equips cities across the state with essential tools and resources to effectively combat sexual exploitation. To earn the CEASE Designation, municipalities must ensure that over 75 percent of their employees complete comprehensive training and commit to ongoing education annually.

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.

###

First Responders, Veterans Join Senator T.J. Shope to Highlight Effort to Legalize Psilocybin Mushrooms as Treatment for Mental Health Conditions

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Members of the media are invited to join Senator T.J. Shope and other Senate Republicans at a press conference Tuesday to highlight SB 1570 (psilocybin services; regulation; licensure). This legislation would legalize the use of psilocybin mushrooms as treatment for mental health conditions.

The lawmakers will be joined by a first responder, a combat veteran, physicians, mental health attorneys, and researchers in support of the proposal. Speakers will take relevant questions at the conclusion of their remarks.

Immediately following Senate floor proceedings Tuesday afternoon, SB 1570 is scheduled for consideration in the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services. Bob Parsons—United States Marine Corps Veteran, Philanthropist, and Founder of GoDaddy & PXG—will share personal testimony on how psilocybin has helped him combat PTSD acquired from serving in Vietnam, as well as what this treatment could mean for others suffering from similar mental health conditions. Members of the media are encouraged to attend the hearing.

Date:Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Press Conference Time:

12:45 p.m.

Press Conference Location:Arizona State Capitol- Senate Lawn (Southwest Corner of Jefferson St. & 17th Ave., Phoenix)

Committee Time:

1:30 p.m.

(or at the conclusion of floor proceedings)

Committee Location:

Senate Hearing Room 1

###

President Petersen Leads Coalition in Legal Battle Against Joe Biden's Unlawful, Dictator-Style Land Grab in Arizona

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— As promised, Senate President Warren Petersen is suing the Biden Administration following an unlawful, dictator-style land grab last summer in northern Arizona.

[The complaint](#), filed today in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, attempts to reverse Biden's confiscation of nearly a million acres of land within Coconino and Mohave Counties, now designated as a "national monument."

Joining the lawsuit with President Petersen on behalf of the Arizona State Legislature is House Speaker Ben Toma. State Treasure Kimberly Yee, Mohave County, Colorado City, and Fredonia are also part of the coalition seeking to terminate Biden's unilateral move establishing the monument.

The parties argue the Biden Administration's land seizure is a violation of the Antiquities Act. This limited statute Congress enacted in 1906 allows presidents to reserve small tracts of federal land to protect historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, or other objects of historic or scientific interest. Under the Act, the president is to reserve "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." The coalition asserts this did not happen, and the guardrails Congress established to create a check on the president's power have been violated.

"This federal confiscation promises to wreak havoc on our local and state economies, jeopardize the livelihoods of our citizens, and compromise national security, all in an attempt to score cheap political points with radical environmentalists," said President Petersen. "Biden's maneuver is incredibly disingenuous, as it has nothing to do with protecting actual artifacts. Instead, it aims to halt all mining, ranching, and other local uses of federal lands that are critical to our energy independence from adversary foreign nations, our food supply, and the strength of our economy. Needless to say, I'm incredibly disappointed our Attorney General has once again failed to carry out the duties of her office in defending our state against this reckless federal

overreach and is instead showing her complicity with Biden's extremist agenda. Nonetheless, we look forward to prevailing in court and for the president's abuse of power to be reined in."

###

ADVISORY: Sen. Kelly to Hold Senate Water and Flood Control Hearing in Flagstaff

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works [Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#), will hold a hearing in Flagstaff—the first Senate field hearing in the city in over 30 years—on the water infrastructure needs of small and rural communities in the western United States. As a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Kelly secured critical investments in Arizona flood control and water infrastructure in the [Water Resources Development Act of 2022](#).

As Arizona communities cope with the impacts of both drought and destructive flooding, Kelly will use the hearing to highlight flood control and water conservation challenges in Arizona and across the West, as well as how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can play a larger role in addressing them. The hearing will feature testimony from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local government leaders, including Flagstaff Mayor Becky Dagget, Navajo County Supervisor Alberto Peshlakai, and Pascua Yaqui Chairman Peter Yucupicio.

[RSVP here](#)

About: Sen. Kelly to hold Senate hearing on water infrastructure

When: Thursday, February 15 at 10:30 am MST

Where: Flagstaff, details upon RSVP

Who:

U.S. Senator Mark Kelly

Col. Andrew Baker, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mayor Becky Daggett, City of Flagstaff

Supervisor Alberto L. Peshlakai, Navajo County Board of Supervisors

Chairman Peter Yucupicio, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Council

A media availability and walking tour of the [Rio De Flag Flood Control Project](#) site in downtown Flagstaff will follow the hearing

###

State Representatives Request Attorney General Investigation of Yuma County's Approval of Expensive Broadband Project

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Laurin Hendrix and five other House members, including Representatives Joseph Chaplik, Justin Heap, Alexander Kolodin, David Marshall, and Barbara Parker, are requesting that Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes undertake an SB 1487 investigation of a taxpayer-funded public works project in Yuma County that could involve violations of state law and the Gift Clause of the Arizona Constitution, as well as favoritism and abuse through a fundamentally flawed and potentially illegal procurement process.

In a letter sent today to the Attorney General, the lawmakers point out that millions in federal COVID-19 relief funds that were supposed to bring broadband to underserved areas of Yuma County are being handed to an out-of-state unlicensed contractor.

“[W]e cannot ignore Yuma County’s apparent disregard of Arizona law and the lack of oversight and accountability surrounding this critical project,” the lawmakers stated.

A copy of the House members’ full letter to the Attorney General and supporting materials is available here: <https://bit.ly/42zFJq1>.

Under [A.R.S. §41-194.01](#), legislators may request of the Arizona Attorney General to investigate and report as to whether an ordinance violates state law. Once submitted, the Attorney General’s Office has 30 days to issue a report of its conclusion.

Laurin Hendrix is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 14 in Gilbert and as Chairman of the House Regulatory Affairs Committee. Follow him on X/Twitter at @LaurinHendrix.

###

Legislative Audit Committee Sheds Light on Millions in Taxpayer Dollars Lost Due to Fraudulent Schemes Within K-12 Public School Districts & Arizona State University

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Senate Majority Leader Sonny Borrelli is raising awareness about fraudulent schemes carried out within several Arizona K-12 Public School Districts and Arizona State University, leading to the loss of millions in taxpayer dollars over the past two years.

During Monday's Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Arizona Auditor General Lindsey Perry presented her findings from [financial investigations](#) conducted in 2023, which uncovered more than \$1.8 million in losses and 34 criminal charges against five individuals within Arizona State University, Hyder Elementary School District, Gila Bend Unified School District, and the Department of Education. The charges related to theft, misuse of public monies, fraudulent schemes, forgery, conspiracy, and computer tampering.

In 2022, a similar [financial investigation](#) by the Auditor General revealed more than \$980,000 in losses and 25 criminal charges against five individuals within Toltec Elementary School District, Wilson Elementary School District, and Glendale Elementary School district.

As Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Majority Leader Borrelli is calling for financial accountability and transparency within public school districts and universities in order to ensure taxpayer dollars are used for academic purposes and not criminal acts like fraud, theft, waste, and abuse, depriving students and teachers of resources to support their learning environments.

"Arizonans should have confidence knowing their tax dollars are being spent to educate students, but we're finding individuals within public school districts and public universities are illegally padding their personal bank accounts and purchasing gifts for themselves, like video game consoles, exercise equipment, and laptop computers," said Majority Leader Borrelli. "I implore Governor Hobbs and Democrats to stop their obsessive witch hunt focusing on the majority of honest families participating in the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program, and to instead scrutinize the criminal activity happening right now in our public school

districts and universities, which is robbing millions of dollars collectively from taxpayers, students, and teachers."

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

. “If your operation is so shoddy, that seven days is make or break, maybe you're not ready to be a candidate anyway.” — *Consultant Barrett Marson on the new deadline for candidates to collect signatures.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-14
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:51:00 PM
Attachments: [2-14-24.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: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:43 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-14

Chierstin Susel

Deputy Director of Communications

Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff

Office: 602-926-3905

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From: [John Kavanagh](#)
To: [John Kavanagh](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yellow Sheet 2-14
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 7:52:39 PM
Attachments: [2-14-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 5:43:27 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-14

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Mayes increases pressure for indicted Cochise County supervisors



Attorneys for the state lodged allegations of two aggravating factors against Cochise County Supervisors [Tom Crosby](#) and [Peggy Judd](#) for allegedly delaying the canvass of the 2022 election. The state plans to present the presence of an accomplice and the fact the two were public servants and the offense involved conduct directly

related to their office to a jury. And in line with state law, if the jury finds both factors applied to the offense, the court can increase the maximum term of imprisonment in sentencing. Both Crosby and Judd face two class 5 felony counts, which carry a minimum of six months and a maximum of two and a half years. The supervisors, who are charged with conspiracy and interference with an election officer, head to trial in May.

Borrelli trying to do what Goldwater, Toma couldn't

Borrelli proposed an amendment making appellate judges stand for retention statewide to a resolution to strike term limits from judicial retention elections. The amendment would achieve the same end as a bill sponsored by Toma –but ultimately vetoed by Hobbs last session – and an ongoing lawsuit from the Goldwater Institute to shift the appellate retention election scheme. SCR1044 (judicial retention elections), sponsored by Gowan, generally allows a judge or justice to continue to hold office given “good behavior.” A judge or justice would only have to stand for retention in the event of an unsatisfactory finding from the Judicial Performance Review Commission, a reprimand or recommendation that a judge should be disqualified, censured, suspended, retired or removed from office, a felony or a conviction of a crime involving fraud or dishonesty, an initiation of personal bankruptcy proceedings in which the justice or judge is a debtor or a foreclosure of any mortgage for which the justice or judge is a mortgagor. Borrelli’s amendment tacks on a provision to ensure appellate retention elections are statewide, not based on their county of residency. Toma ran a bill on the same premise last session but saw it vetoed by Hobbs, who wrote it would “unfairly dilute” the vote. Goldwater filed a special action to see the same change enacted, claiming the current appellate retention scheme to be unconstitutional, but the Arizona Supreme Court denied review. Attorneys refiled the case in the superior court. The SCR and the amendment are to be heard in Senate ELEC Thursday.

BREAKING NEWS: Feds not responsive to FOIA request

Attorneys for the Goldwater Institute filed [a lawsuit](#) to make the U.S. Department of Education fulfill a FOIA request for communications and records regarding a \$37 million fine levied against Grand Canyon University for alleged deceptive advertising practices. The institute requested emails on the investigation and subsequent fine levied against GCU and copies of records that show the total number of complaints submitted by members of the public on GCU's disclosure of the cost of its doctoral programs in December. The department found about 7,000 responsive records but quoted the institute a \$2,099 fee to search, despite the institute requesting a fee waiver. The department later granted the fee waiver but was silent on whether it would comply with the request. Attorneys sued for failure to respond to the request and ask for expedited production of the requested records.

Retiree group wants in on Mohave County supervisor's suit against Mayes

Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans is seeking to intervene in Mohave County Supervisor Ron Gould's lawsuit against Mayes for threatening to bring criminal charges against county supervisors who pursue hand counts. Gould seeks a declaration from the court that county boards can forgo machine counts entirely and do so with impunity. In a motion to intervene, Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, the nonprofit that successfully sued Cochise County for their attempt to initiate a full hand count audit, makes a bid to intervene in the suit, claiming Gould "expressly seeks to limit the Alliance's victory in its prior lawsuit" by seeking a declaration that the ruling only applied to hand count audits, not hand counts in the first instance. And they argue the relief Gould seeks "threatens to subject voters to lawless hand-counting, stripping those voters of all existing procedural safeguards designed to protect the accuracy of the county and potentially their privacy, and seriously impairing the Alliance's ability to protect its members' voting rights." Dennis Wilenchik, attorney for Gould, opposed AARA's intervention as he argues the nonprofit "has no connection to this case whatsoever and cannot pinpoint any possible interest in this litigation that is not speculative and contingent." Wilenchik claims AARA only seeks intervention to "waste Plaintiff's time and money" and their involvement would not "advance any real purpose, other than AARA's political agenda."

Love was in the air

The Arizona Education Association delivered cake and Valentine's Day cards to Toma and Petersen today amid a stall in negotiations on Prop. 123. Marisol Garcia, AEA president, said they wanted to see "something on the ballot that's serious" but "nobody wants to sit down at a table together" to discuss how to iron out a broadly supported extension of state land trust education funding. AEA stands opposed to the Republican plan, currently making its way through the Senate, which maintains a 6.9% distribution rate from the state land trust but earmarks the funding to increase pay for teachers in top two evaluation categories. The two main points of opposition for AEA continue to be the exclusion of all school staff and the mechanism making the raise more like a bonus or "performance incentive." Garcia backs Hobbs' plan, which would increase the state land trust distribution rate to 8.9%, cover pay raises for all school employees and include funds for school safety capital and flexible spending. Democrat's plan is not getting a hearing. But Republican lawmakers passed their plan out of Senate ED last week and through caucus Tuesday. Senate ED chair Bennett said the resolutions were a "work in

progress” and a broadly supported measure would have to materialize to see voter support in November.

•WAKE UP CALL•

[Panel approves bill to legalize psychedelic mushrooms for mental health treatment](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

A republican senator’s attempt to pilot state legalization of psilocybin mushrooms as a treatment for mental health conditions got unanimous committee approval in the Health and Human Services Committee Tuesday.

[School board president, former lawmaker among nominees for LD22 vacancy](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Democrats in Legislative District 22 nominated three candidates for a legislative vacancy Monday night, sending them to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for the third vacancy election in a week.

[GOP lawmakers make Christmas tree of ADOT continuation](#)

Capitol Media Services

Republican lawmakers are moving to forever quash the idea of intercity rail. And they’re doing it in a way that could force Democrat Gov. Katie Hobbs to go along.

[Arizona could become latest state to ban attendance-related suspensions](#)

Arizona Center For Investigative Reporting

An Arizona lawmaker is again trying to bar schools from using out-of-school suspensions to punish students who miss class, arguing the strategy is not only ineffective but harmful.

[Cities, towns oppose bill to ban police budget cuts](#)

Capitol Media Services

Saying he wants to short-circuit “defund the police” movements here, a first-term state lawmaker is pushing legislation designed to bar cities from cutting public safety funding.

[Legislative leaders sue Biden over ‘land grab’](#)

Capitol Media Services

Calling it an unlawful “land grab,” the top legislative Republicans filed suit Monday against President Biden over his decision last year to designate nearly 1 million acres of federal land near the Grand Canyon as a national monument.

[As Arizona Supreme Court weighs abortion law, both sides brace for ruling](#)

Cronkite News

It’s been nearly two months since the Arizona Supreme Court heard arguments over the state’s abortion law, and its ruling in that case could all but ban abortions in the state or allow them to continue up to 15 weeks.

[A contrast in philosophy regarding today’s key issues](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Which candidate is forthright and concerned about the needs of you and your family, and which candidate talks the talk but votes NO on major topics of concern?

[Delta-8 is the New Spice and K2 – Literally](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

In the wake of the 2018 Farm Bill’s passage, a wave of optimism washed over many supporters of marijuana law reform, convinced that Congress had – deliberately or not – legalized cannabis.

[Arizona Republican's bill kicks Joe Biden off the ballot if Donald Trump is disqualified](#)

The Arizona Republic

The exercise of government on every level always has involved elements of political theater. In Arizona these days it’s just ... theater. Zero governing.

·PRESS RELEASES·**Legislative Democrats disgusted by recent immigration policies introduced, promise to keep fighting against racist rhetoric**

PHOENIX – Last week, the Senate Military Affairs, Public Safety and Border Security (MAPS) committee heard and passed Senate Bill 1231, a bill that would make it illegal for immigrants to enter Arizona at any location other than an official port of entry. This week, the House Judiciary Committee passed the bill's mirror, House Bill 2821.

“Attacks on immigrants, especially from Latin countries, are nothing new,” said **Senator Anna Hernandez (LD24)**. “These bills are leading our country down a dark road that will increase racial discrimination. A road that, unfortunately, Arizona is already familiar with. As someone who was born and raised in Phoenix, I distinctly remember the days of ‘show me your papers.’ This bill’s language brings up a lot of the thoughts and feelings that I had back then. I am completely against this and promise to keep fighting for an Arizona that treats all its citizens with human decency and compassion. Our focus as lawmakers should be on delivering solutions that address the real issues our communities face each day.”

“Arizona Republicans are following in Texas’ footsteps by introducing unconstitutional legislation that will accomplish nothing except getting our state sued by the U.S. Department of Justice,” added **Senator Flavio Bravo (LD26)**. “These bills are nothing but homegrown bigotry in the place of policy. It is playing into the fear that there is an ‘invasion’ at our southern border, when in reality there is a humanitarian crisis. It is disgusting that at the same time we have this legislation moving candidates for Congress are also attacking Dreamers. We know that the majority of individuals entering our state from other countries are migrants in search for a better life. Instead of passing xenophobic legislation that will end up getting vetoed, our time would be spent finding humanitarian solutions that help law enforcement and migrants alike.”

“These bills create an unconstitutional process where local law enforcement agents are able to detain people suspected of being non-US citizens or entering Arizona from any other country without authorization. This legislation is nothing more than racist political theatre and it threatens our most basic civil rights,” said **Representative Analise Ortiz (LD24)**. “In fact, these bills are one of the most extreme anti-immigration bills the Arizona state legislature has seen since SB1070 – which led to Arizonans being scared to go about their daily life just because of their skin tone or the language that they spoke. Racial profiling should never be tolerated. I will do all that I can to defeat this gross attack on our communities.”

Representative Cesar Aguilar (LD26) said, “Latino communities in Arizona have been a punching bag for Republicans long before the passing of the SB1070 show-me-your-papers bill targeting brown people, which I well remember. Criminalizing a humanitarian crisis is immoral, un-Christian, and un-American. The similar bill passed in Texas has led to the reawakening of the national giant Latino force. SB1231 and HB2821 would interfere with an individual’s legal ability to seek asylum, which is allowed under federal law. It’s time for our legislature to work together to find humane solutions to our immigration issues -- solutions that create a fair system that allows everyone to seek the American Dream like my family did.”

Representative Marcelino Quiñonez (LD11) added, “We know that these bills are unconstitutional and will be vetoed, but we are going through this exercise to provide our colleagues across the aisle with talking points, rather than addressing the real issue at hand. We are looking at a humanitarian crisis, and these bill compounds it by treating every single person who comes across the border, including asylum seekers, as a criminal. If you or your family members were in their situation, if you were hungry, starving, with children to feed, or your life was in danger, you would want the federal government to have the resources, the judges who could do the work and determine if a person is here because of a humanitarian crisis or not. This bill solves nothing, it only divides.”

###

Attorney Charles Lucking appointed to fill vacant LD 5 seat

PHOENIX – The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has appointed attorney **Charles Lucking** of Phoenix to fill the legislative seat vacated by the recent resignation of Representative Amish Shah in Legislative District 5. Lucking, a fourth-generation Arizona native, works for Community Legal Services where he defends tenants facing eviction.

"I'm very excited and honored to be representing LD 5 in the legislature," Lucking said. "Arizona is facing a mountain of very complex challenges, such as our housing crisis. I'm eager to get started doing the hard work as a servant of the people to implement real solutions for all Arizonans."

In addition to his community-focused legal work, Lucking is a former United States Peace Corps volunteer where he served in the island nation of Samoa and met his now wife, Skye, who was also volunteering. The Luckings are raising two children, a 5-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son, along with two dogs and a flock of six chickens. Lucking was born and raised in Phoenix where he attended Central High School. Following his graduation, he pursued higher education at Claremont McKenna College. After completing his undergraduate studies, he returned to Arizona to earn his law degree at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

"With the appointment of Charles Lucking, Arizona and our caucus has gained a passionate champion who is committed to use his legal expertise to address pressing social issues, including the housing crisis and environmental conservation," said House Democratic Leader **Lupe Contreras**. "Deep roots and unwavering dedication to service, advocacy, and community empowerment will make Representative Lucking an impactful addition to our caucus."

###

Sinema Discusses Bipartisan CHIPS & Science Law with Arizona State University & the Association of American Universities

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema met with members of Arizona State University and the Association of American Universities to discuss their priorities, including funding from the Sinema-led *CHIPS and Science* law. In June of last year, Arizona State University was [selected](#) to join the prestigious Association of American Universities.

"ASU teaches Arizona's very best how to reach their highest potential. I am proud to have shaped our bipartisan CHIPS and Science law to fuel programs at ASU and continue leading our state into the future," said Sinema.

Sinema – an alumna and professor at ASU – was [instrumental](#) in passing the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act* into law, delivering more than \$52 billion to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing, reduce reliance on foreign countries like China, and enhance the United States' global competitiveness. The sweeping legislation created thousands of Arizona jobs and authorized billions in funds to federal agencies to improve research and development – like the National Science Foundation and the Department of Commerce.

The Association of American Universities is an organization of public and private North American research universities devoted to maintaining a strong system of academic research and education. Founded in 1900, it consists of 69 universities in the United States and two in Canada, including both ASU and the University of Arizona.

###

Kelly Joins Ossoff, Warnock, and 22 Senators in Support of Ongoing U.S. Diplomacy to Free Hostages, Restore Mutual Ceasefire Agreement in Gaza

Today, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly joined Georgia Senators Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock, along with 22 other senators, in a [letter](#) to President Biden supporting [ongoing U.S. diplomatic efforts](#) to secure the release of Israeli hostages in tandem with the restoration of a mutual ceasefire agreement in Gaza.

“Since the October 7th Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, in which Hamas abducted more than 200 civilians—including babies, young children, and the elderly—the United States has played a vital leading role in efforts to secure the release of Americans and Israelis held in Gaza,” **the Senators wrote to President Biden.**

“On November 24th, an agreement brokered with your leadership by the United States, Qatar, and Egypt secured the release of 105 hostages—all women and children—in tandem with a nine-day ceasefire. ... Now 130 days since the October 7th massacre, two million Gazan civilians remain displaced in extreme danger and deprivation while hostages held by Hamas remain in life-threatening captivity,” **the Senators continued.** “We therefore write to express our urgent support for your Administration’s ongoing diplomatic efforts to secure the release of hostages in tandem with a restored mutual ceasefire in Gaza.”

“We recognize that it is in Israel’s vital national interest that Hamas—a brutal terrorist organization—be removed from power in Gaza. We continue to support Israel’s pursuit of that objective,” **the Senators affirmed.** “We also recognize that without a break in the fighting, humanitarian conditions for civilians in Gaza will become even more catastrophic and thousands more innocents—including many children—will die.”

Yesterday, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#), “Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns met with top officials from the Middle East in Cairo on Tuesday in an effort to push negotiations between Israel and Hamas toward a deal that would free hostages and pause fighting in the Gaza Strip. ... The talks in the Egyptian capital are part of an intensifying effort by the Biden administration to achieve a cease-fire in Gaza and bring to a halt a conflict that has reduced much of the coastal enclave to ruins and pushed the Middle East to the brink of an all-consuming regional war.”

The Senators acknowledged that “such a diplomatic achievement will require the agreement of the warring parties, and that its terms remain under negotiation.”

The Senators added, “In our judgment, it is in our urgent national interest—and the urgent humanitarian interest of millions of innocent civilians—that these negotiations succeed.”

In addition to Kelly, other senators joining Ossoff and Warnock’s letter are Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Jack Reed (D-RI), Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee; Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH); Jeff Merkley (D-OR); Michael Bennet (D-CO); Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); Chris Murphy (D-CT); Mazie Hirono (D-HI); Martin Heinrich (D-NM); Angus King (I-ME); Tim Kaine (D-VA); Elizabeth Warren (D-MA); Ed Markey (D-MA);

Cory Booker (D-NJ); Chris Van Hollen (D-MD); Tammy Duckworth (D-IL); Tina Smith (D-MN); Ben Ray Luján (D-NM); John Hickenlooper (D-CO); and Peter Welch (D-VT).

Click [here](#) to read the Senators' letter.

###

Governor Katie Hobbs to Deliver Yuma County State of the State

Yuma, AZ – Tomorrow, Governor Katie Hobbs will join the Yuma Chamber of Commerce for the Yuma County State of the State Luncheon. This is part of the Governor's slate of statewide addresses highlighting her plans to lower the cost of living, create jobs and grow the economy, and keep Arizonans safe.

WHO: Governor Katie Hobbs & Kimberly Kahl, Executive Director, Yuma Chamber of Commerce

WHEN: Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 11:30am

WHERE: Four Points by Sheraton Yuma, Ballroom – 2030 S. Avenue 3 East, Yuma, AZ 85365

The governor will be available for questions after the program

Additionally, you are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes early if you have equipment to set up.

###

ADVISORY: Sen. Kelly to Hold Senate Water and Flood Control Hearing in Flagstaff

Tomorrow, Thursday, February 15, 2024, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works [Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#), will hold a hearing in Flagstaff—the first Senate field hearing in the city in over 30 years—on the water infrastructure needs of small, rural communities in the western United States. As a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Kelly secured critical investments in Arizona flood control and water infrastructure in the [Water Resources Development Act of 2022](#).

As Arizona communities cope with the impacts of both drought and destructive flooding, Kelly will use the hearing to highlight flood control and water conservation challenges in Arizona and across the West, as well as how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can play a larger role in addressing them. The hearing will feature testimony from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local government leaders, including Flagstaff Mayor Becky Dagget, Navajo County Supervisor Alberto Peshlakai, and Pascua Yaqui Chairman Peter Yucupicio.

[RSVP here](#)

[WATCH live here](#)

###

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“We don’t want to appoint an ax murderer.” - *Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman on delaying the appointment to fill an LD22 vacancy so the board can do it’s due diligence.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-19
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 4:59:00 PM
Attachments: [2-19-24-1.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 4:39 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-19

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Ex-boyfriend ratted on woman who allegedly stole from ESA, AHCCCS



More investigative materials obtained by our reporter on the indictment of three women charged with defrauding the Empowerment Scholarship Account program show the leader of the alleged scheme, Michelle Dils, came under investigation by the Attorney General's Office and Dept. of Ed in years prior before finally seeing charges in 2023. Dils first enrolled her son in the ESA program in 2017 under disability eligibility under a redacted diagnoses rendered by Dils herself.

He is also an AHCCCS member and receives benefits through DES for 24/7 caregiving services, despite "no known formal diagnosis from a healthcare provider." Dils allegedly set up a string of shell tutoring and education service business under her ex-fiancé, family friend and her own name and used her son's ESA account to pay herself about \$87,900 through the businesses. According to [the prosecution report](#), her ex-fiancé said their son did not receive any instruction from the joint businesses. According to analysis by the AG's office, most of the funds funneled through the tutoring businesses were spent on day-to-day living expenses, with one account in particular showing spending "at retail stores and restaurants until the money was depleted." The report found Dils had spent more than \$12,000 on Amazon, \$700 on Airbnb and about \$400 on Uber. Dils allegedly paid a family friend, Angela Turner, and her niece, Sarah Ishler, for educational and caregiving services. Dils was first investigated by the AG's office in 2019 after the Dept. of Ed flagged her son's ESA account for suspicious spending and saw her account suspended, then later reinstated, by the Dept. Of Ed in 2020. In December 2022, Dils' ex-boyfriend, Adam Finn, sent in a complaint to the AG's office and said Dils had told him about her scheme and propositioned him to pretend to provide educational services to her son and attempted to start an entity under his name. Finn told investigators he "realized at no time did he see Angela provide care or schooling" and she "rarely came to the house." Finn said he was "not reporting Michelle because

they broke up but because she's committing crimes." Dils, Turner and Ishler's cases are pending in Maricopa County Superior Court and are due in court for trial in June.

Nonprofit trying to get involved in election law litigation

Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans filed motions to intervene in five election-related lawsuits, including the three challenges to the 2023 EPM. The nonprofit, with representation from Elias Law Group, a national Democratic law firm focusing on "pro-democracy litigation," and attorney Andy Gaona, previously won in barring the Cochise County Board of Supervisors from attempting a full hand count audit. In the last week, the group, joined by Voto Latino, a voter education nonprofit focused on the Hispanic community, filed to intervene in [the legislature](#), [AZGOP, RNC and Yavapai County Republican Party](#), and the [Arizona Free Enterprise Club](#)'s respective challenges to the 2023 EPM, and a lawsuit from America First Legal seeking to change Maricopa County's election procedures in 2024. AARA independently [sought intervention](#) in a lawsuit by Mohave County Supervisor Ron Gould seeking to get a legal go-ahead to hand count ballots in the first instance without threat of criminal charges. AARA and Voto Latino broadly claim the right to intervene across all the suits given their interest in protecting their members from disenfranchisement. And AARA notes they have been successful in intervening in prior election-related lawsuits, noting their current involvement in two suits out of Yavapai county challenging unmanned drop boxes and signature verification processes. A Maricopa County judge has yet to rule on intervention in any of the suits.

Never hurts to ask

No Labels Arizona is asking Fontes to shell out more than \$160,500 in attorneys' fees and costs in a federal suit to stop the Secretary of State's Office from accepting candidates running under the No Labels banner outside the presidential race. Attorney for No Labels Arizona David Rosenbaum argues the party is entitled to fees and costs as the prevailing party, given the U.S. District Court entering an injunction barring Fontes from allowing any No Labels candidates to file or appear on the ballot without the party's OK. Rosenbaum notes No Labels sent three letters to the SoS office ahead of filing suit, alerting it of the party's desire to sit out all races aside from their sole presidential bid and outlining their legal justification in doing so. "The Secretary, however, ignored this legal analysis and asserted, with no meaningful legal reasoning of his own, that he would continue to allow candidates to seek any office." No Labels claimed violations of state law and their associational rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. District judge John Tuchi rejected the state law claim but did rule in favor of No Labels. Rosenbaum argues, though they did not prevail on their state law claim, they did prevail generally, warranting the award of attorney's fees. They asked the court to grant \$160,164.70 in fees and \$560.94 in costs and note they intend to seek further fees as the case heads to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Another day, another political stunt

The Arizona Education Association invited Petersen and Toma to a literal table this morning to negotiate the future of Prop. 123 ahead of the Republicans' resolution to increase teacher pay moving through House APPROP. Marisol Garcia, AEA president, said AEA had met with Petersen and Toma twice in the past year, and more recently met with Mesnard, sponsor of the Senate resolution, Gress, sponsor of the House resolution and Senate ED chair Bennett but noted an ongoing stalemate in

hammering out a vision for Prop 123 with broad bipartisan support. AEA is backing a plan by Hobbs and Democrats to raise the state land trust distribution rate to 8.9% and dedicate a portion of the funds to raise pay for all school staff. Ensuring pay increases apply to all school employees, not just teachers, served as the centerpiece for AEA's table setting today. "It's very clear that in their minds the only people that count in schools are certified teachers, those are the only people that count," Garcia said. Garcia said some level of bipartisan support and a broad swath of support was necessary to pass through voters, beckoning back to when Prop. 123 narrowly passed in 2016 despite reaching support from AEA, Ducey, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Greater Phoenix Leadership. Marsh, who worked to support Prop. 123 the first time around and sponsored Hobbs' plan in the legislature said a "massive" group of stakeholder support was "crucial" to a measure ultimately passing. "A bipartisan agreement means that everybody's going to have probably something to grumble about, and everybody's going to have something to celebrate," Marsh said. "We had a lot to grumble about nine years ago, but you know what, we stood together, and we got it done with Governor Ducey, with the Legislature, with the Chamber of Commerce and on and on and on."

The BOS didn't like the tone of the AZ Dems

The citizen's committee tasked with appointing a representative to the LD22 vacancy in the House is scheduled to meet Wednesday evening. The panel was created Friday after the precinct committee failed to submit three names for the appointment by the statutory deadline but the Arizona Democratic Party disagrees with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors' interpretation of the law. In a letter sent to the board Friday afternoon, party chair Yolanda Bejarano said the board's only notification list of nominees was submitted late was when the meeting agenda was posted. "You have determined that the voices of LD22 PCs will not be heard and you have chosen to interpret A.R.S. 41-1202(A) in a manner that silences them," Bejarano wrote. "Please provide actual notification from the Board if there are any more requirements you have of the Party for this vacancy." Supervisor Thomas Galvin said Friday he didn't appreciate the tone of Bejarano's letter. "Mr. Gallardo is doing this all in good faith and I think just because the state party (failed) to comply with the statutory requirements is regrettable, but that's on them. It's not on the board. It's not on the chairman. It's not on Mr. Gallardo," Galvin said. The members of the citizen's committee are all local Democrats in the district: former lawmaker Lorenzo Sierra, LD22 PC Sandra Cole, Fowler Elementary School board member Francisca Montoya, Tolleson business owner Adan Morado and Tolleson resident Eleanor Perez. In a Saturday email, LD22 chair Tina Gamez said the board's actions are an "insult" to LD22 PCs. "The so-important seat would have been filled by now if they wouldn't have been fooling around, looking for legal interpretations that are to their advantage to undermine our LD and silence our voices," Gamez wrote. Galvin said the board is known for being "sticklers" of the law. "We've had our issues with the Republican Party and it seems now the Democratic Party takes exception to what the board does but once again the board follows the law," Galvin said.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Only troubled judges would stand for election under proposed law](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

The Senate Elections Committee greenlit a resolution on party lines to hinge judicial retention elections on "good behavior" instead of term limits Thursday.

[House committee passes bill making secret recordings a felony](#)*Capitol Media Services*

A proposal to make felons out of those who secretly record phone conversations is causing some alarm among a group that sometimes uses the tactic: journalists.

[Petersen, Toma want judge in elections case disqualified over brother's tweets](#)*Capitol Media Services*

When it comes to being a fair judge, does it matter what your brother thinks of the parties and their claim? Well, what if he's an attorney, made social media posts calling the plaintiffs "Yahoos," described their lawsuit a "cowpie" and predicted the case is so flawed it would be thrown out

[Lawmakers push for new Arizona State Hospital governing board after previous bills failed](#)*KJZZ*

A bill to establish a new governing board to oversee the Arizona State Hospital received bipartisan support at the state Legislature, but similar bills have stalled out at the Capitol over the past few years.

[Grant-funded transitional housing project opens at motel in northern Arizona](#)*KTAR News*

A Travelodge motel in northern Arizona has become a grant-funded transitional housing project called JoJo's Place after undergoing a facelift.

[Arizona Republicans call basic income payments 'unearned,' introduce a bill to ban them](#)*Business Insider*

Republican lawmakers in Arizona are joining a chorus of conservatives across the country trying to ban basic income programs, which offer residents no-strings-attached payments.

[Waymo issues software recall after two self-driving cars strike truck in Phoenix](#)*Phoenix Business Journal*

Waymo issued its first-ever software recall after two of its autonomous cars collided with a towed pickup truck in Phoenix.

[Navalny's death should \(but won't\) convince Trump that McCain was right about Putin](#)*The Arizona Republic*

The death of Russian dissident Alexsei Navalny in an Arctic Circle prison is another dark reminder that the late-Sen. John McCain continues to be right — and Donald Trump continues to be wrong — about Vladimir Putin, whom McCain called a "murderer and a thug."

[Arizona leaders can help solve US debt crisis](#)*Arizona Capitol Times*

Our nation is experiencing debt fatigue, allowing debt to increase more rapidly than the economy for far too long. Total federal debt is now about 120% of the total size of the entire national economy, and the Congressional Budget Office projects that it will increase to more than double the size of the national economy by midcentury.

[Intellectual Property Heist by the Biden Administration Could Jeopardize Treatment Access for Arizona Patients](#)*Arizona Capitol Times*

The United States' biopharmaceutical industry has been at the forefront of transformative breakthroughs in science and medicine for decades. Collaboration between our public and private sectors has enabled research universities, companies, and the government to work together to bring innovative treatments from bench to bedside.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Governor Katie Hobbs to Make Major Announcement on Expanding Children's Access to Healthcare

Glendale, AZ – Tomorrow, Governor Katie Hobbs will join children's health advocates for a major announcement on expanding children's access to healthcare.

WHO: Governor Katie Hobbs, healthcare leaders

WHEN: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 12:30pm

WHERE: Mountain Park Health Center Glendale Clinic – 6975 W. Glendale Ave., Glendale, AZ 85303

The governor will be available for questions after the program

###

University of Arizona appoints Desireé Reed-Francois as Director of Athletics

- **University of Arizona appoints Desireé Reed-Francois as Director of Athletics**
What: The University of Arizona announces the appointment of Desireé Reed-Francois as the university's Director of Athletics.
- **When:** Tuesday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m.
- **Where:** Arizona Stadium football press room (ground floor, northeast corner of the stadium).

TUCSON, Ariz. — Veteran intercollegiate athletics administrator **Desireé Reed-Francois** has been appointed the University of Arizona's new Director of Athletics, pending approval by the Arizona Board of Regents, President **Robert C. Robbins** announced today. Reed-Francois currently serves as the Director of Athletics at the University of Missouri and will begin her tenure in Tucson on March 3.

Members of the University of Arizona community and media are invited to join a formal introduction of Reed-Francois at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Arizona Stadium in the football press room.

"We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Desireé to the University of Arizona family, and we could not be more excited about the leadership experience and outstanding credentials she brings," said Robbins.

"Respected nationally for her commitment to student-athletes, Desireé has a history of success everywhere she's served and is exactly the right person we need to modernize our athletics operations and usher in an ongoing culture of success in all aspects of Athletics. This is a tremendous win for our university and I cannot wait for her to get started."

The terms of the five-year contract include an annual base salary of \$1 million in year one elevating to \$1.2 million in year five, with an additional \$250,000 annual contribution from the University of Arizona Foundation. Reed-Francois will have the opportunity for additional incentive compensation based on the department's athletic and academic success, as well as retention bonuses after four and five years of employment with the University. Thanks to Wildcat supporters who continue to show their deep commitment to the University and Arizona Athletics, any retention bonus or buyout expenses for Reed-Francois will be fully covered by donor funds. Donor funds have also been secured to cover the full payout costs of the University's previous athletic director.

Reed-Francois brings proven business expertise and financial acumen to the Director of Athletics position. She is an accomplished fundraiser and relationship builder and has transformed two collegiate athletic departments into high-performing, cost-effective operations. Reed-Francois also has deep ties to the

University of Arizona, where she earned her juris doctorate from the [James E. Rogers College of Law](#) in 1997.

Reed-Francois has served as the Director of Athletics at the University of Missouri since 2021, raising the athletics program's profile over the past several years to include a top 10 football program, postseason berths across multiple sports, and enhancements to student-athlete welfare and support. In addition to hiring six head coaches, she has overseen the department's first budget surplus in six years; record-breaking successes in fundraising, including securing the largest gift in Missouri Athletics history of \$62 million; five straight semesters of record student-athlete GPAs; attendance growth in football and basketball; the opening of the Stephens Indoor Football Practice Center; significant upgrades to the game-day experience for fans; the growth of the Missouri brand across the state and country; and implementation of innovative Name Image Likeness (NIL) initiatives.

"There are very few institutions that would entice me to leave an SEC athletics department with strong momentum," said Reed-Francois. "The University of Arizona has tremendous potential and is an institution — and an athletics program — on the rise, and I want to be a part of shaping that future. We will provide a world-class student-athlete experience, which includes competing for championships and being among the nation's elite. I am grateful to President Robbins and the Arizona Board of Regents for this incredible opportunity."

Prior to her tenure in Columbia, Reed-Francois served as the Director of Athletics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2017-2021), revitalizing the department. During her time with the Rebels, she completed or implemented more than \$70 million in facility upgrades; hired seven head coaches, including three who earned conference Coach of the Year honors early in their tenures; oversaw the completion and opening of a \$35 million on-campus football training complex; and successfully negotiated a joint-use agreement with the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders with the opening of the new \$2 billion Allegiant Stadium.

Prior to ascending to the director's chair, Reed-Francois served several institutions in leadership roles, including as the Deputy Athletics Director at Virginia Tech, as a Senior Associate Athletics Director at the University of Cincinnati and as the Senior Associate Athletics Director at the University of Tennessee. Additionally, she has worked at Fresno State University, Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, the University of California Berkeley and the University of San Francisco. She also has experience at the professional levels, working with the then Oakland Raiders and the National Football League Management Council.

Reed-Francois currently is the Vice Chair of the Lead1 Association Board of Directors and serves on the organization's executive committee, as well as on the boards of Women Leaders in Sports, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and the National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches. Reed-Francois recently served as Vice Chair of the NCAA Baseball Selection Committee and formerly was a member of the College Football Playoff Committee's operations committee. In addition, she is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators (NACMA) and has been a presenter at NACDA, NACMA, Women Leaders in Sports, and *Sports Business Journal's* annual conventions.

Reed-Francois was a rower at UCLA, where she graduated with a degree in political science before earning her juris doctorate from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of California and has taught law classes at the University of Tennessee and at Santa Clara University.

She and her husband, Josh Francois, have a son, Jackson, who is currently a sophomore on the men's basketball team at the University of Missouri.

###

Board of Supervisors Appoints Citizens Panel to Fill LD-22 House Vacancy

Phoenix, Ariz. (Feb. 16, 2024) – The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has appointed a citizens panel to begin the process of filling a Legislative District 22 vacancy in the Arizona House of Representatives. [LD-22](#) is located in the West Valley and includes Tolleson and Avondale.

The following people were selected to sit on the committee:

- Lorenzo Sierra, Avondale resident and former lawmaker (chair)
- Sandra Cole, LD-22 precinct committeeman and retiree
- Francisca Montoya, Fowler Elementary School board member
- Adan Morado, business owner in Tolleson
- Eleanor Perez, Tolleson resident

To fill a vacancy, [Arizona law](#) specifies that elected precinct committeemen from the legislative district in question must nominate three qualified electors within 21 days if not in regular session, or within five days if the legislature is in regular session.

Since the legislature is in session and electors were not named within the five-day window, the Board of Supervisors must appoint a citizens panel to submit three qualified names to the board for consideration.

Nominees must be current residents of the district and a member of the same political party as the outgoing legislator - in this case, a Democrat. The board will make its final appointment by a majority vote.

Interested parties can email their cover letters and resumes to clerkboard@maricopa.gov starting today through Wednesday, February 21 at 5pm.

The appointee will serve out the remainder of the term. This LD-22 position will appear on the ballot in the November 2024 General Election.

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“We’ve had our issues with the Republican Party and it seems now the Democratic Party takes exception to what the board does but once again the board follows the law.”
— *Maricopa County Supervisor Thomas Galvin Democrats’ displeasure with the board saying the party submitted nominees to fill an LD22 House vacancy to late.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-23
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 2:57:00 PM
Attachments: [2-23-24-1.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: Friday, February 23, 2024 2:56 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-23

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 2-23
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 8:32:08 PM
Attachments: [2-23-24-1.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 2:56:03 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-23

Chierstin Susel

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Arizona Senate Republicans- Majority Staff
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Web: www.azsenaterepublicans.com

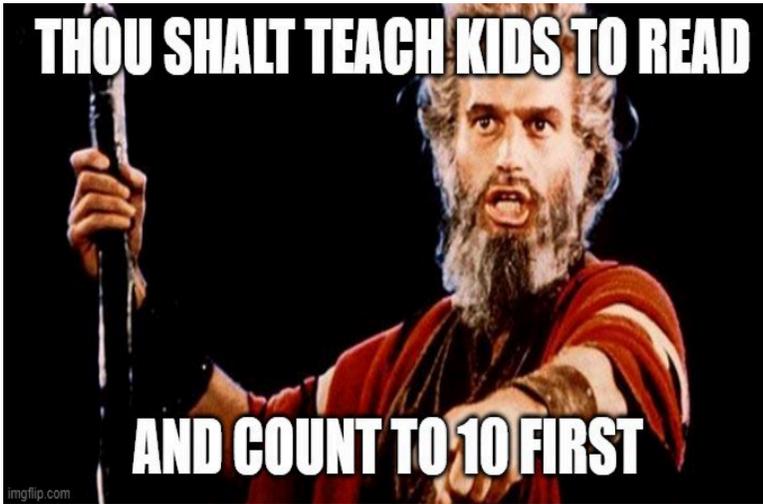


YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Thou shalt not worry about legality when passing legislation



A bill that could be treading constitutional lines by aiming to allow teachers to read or post the Ten Commandments in classrooms passed on the Senate floor Thursday with a 16-12 vote. Kern's SB1151 (School classrooms; ten commandments; posting), specifically would not mandate the posting of the commandments, but include them in the list of permitted content. The bill passed out of RULES with a 4-3 vote on party lines earlier this month. Marsh -- who said she is a regular churchgoer -- had problems with

putting the commandments in classrooms. "This is likely unconstitutional, it violates the Free Exercise clause," Marsh said. Kern, who has taken aim at educational issues since taking office, cited Supreme Court cases to boost his stance, but Marsh pointed out that there is more than just constitutionality to discuss. "I just wanted to point out the irony that some folks in this room seem to be so concerned about indoctrination, but this seems to me to border on that," Marsh said. Kern shot back and said his move was defended by the 2022 *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* ruling that found disciplinary action taken on a football coach for praying after football games violated his rights to free exercise of speech and religion. "This does not mandate that teachers must post the Ten Commandments, the teachers already do the Pledge of Allegiance," Kern said. "This is an opt-in, it's not a mandate." Kern blamed the country's "progressive slide" on the commandments' absence from classrooms. Gonzales pointed out that the bill might lack specificity as to which biblical principles would land in schools. "I understand that the Jewish community has a set of Ten Commandments that are different from my Ten Commandments as a Catholic," Gonzales said. Sundareshan said the legislation could "other" students whose practices do not align with the commandments. Epstein echoed that sentiment and said the decision is "actually indoctrination." "If you post the Ten Commandments and they are commanding people to love God, while that's a beautiful thing, it's not a beautiful thing if you do not subscribe to that religion," Epstein said.

Bills putting the clamps on agencies

A leading effort from the Republican caucus this session has been to put underperforming agencies under a microscope by tightening their sunset review periods. But, with an overloaded Auditor General and issues with audit recommendation compliance within departments, GOP lawmakers took steps to exercise legislative authority on some issues. While some agencies should expect more regular visits to the Capitol, others could get operational changes through bills that passed out of the Senate. For instance, Kern's SB1473 (agencies; single audit reports; penalty) would put into statute a penalty on

agencies that are late to submit their federal expenditure reports to the AG. During floor debate, Mendez said this penalty is unjustified as delays in agencies submitting single audit reports are caused by understaffing. “These agencies cannot start one audit until another is finished, so this is a compounding issue,” Mendez said. He said this is not a new issue and that it was “obviously inherited” from Ducey’s administration. Kern said the bill has nothing to do with who is governor, but what he has seen while sitting on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. “I’m listening to state agencies that just kind of thumb their nose at the Auditor General,” Kern said. “I’m listening to school districts that basically just tell the Auditor General they don’t want them to know what they’re doing when they do little escapades in Coronado, California.” He said the bill takes aim at the cracks in agency function. The Office of the Auditor General is doing a good job, Kern said, but unaccountable agencies are not being held accountable. The bill passed Thursday with a 16-12 vote on party lines. Another example of tightening agency oversight was brought up by the sunset review of the Department of Child Safety. The agency picked up slack for mishandling cases and taking too many children out of their homes, and during a previous JLAC hearing, Wadsack and Parker voted against the agency continuing at all. SB1257 (Department of child safety; continuation) slated the agency for only a four-year lifespan, contrasting with the previous eight-year norm. Rather than pushing for an even shorter continuation, Wadsack went for an amendment to the continuation bill. The amendment, which passed, would adjust statute to remove the requirement that lawmakers sign a confidentiality agreement when viewing DCS cases. This change would make it easier to bring case-by-case issues to light, Wadsack said. The bill awaits a floor vote.

House grinding through its bills

The House didn’t get through all the bills scheduled for a third read on Thursday, leaving 36 bills that weren’t voted on before going into another COW session and then adjourning until Monday. Another bill that passed Thursday included Toma’s retail theft bill, H2435 (repetitive offenders; organized retail theft), which got some bipartisan support from eight Democrats, coming just shy of a supermajority. “It’s unfortunate that we have to do these sorts of things but we cannot allow Arizona to turn out the way California did,” Toma said. Ortiz said she still had concerns over the bill despite Toma’s targeting of organized criminals who intend to resell stolen goods and believes prosecutors will use it to coerce plea deals from people in “desperate” situations who may resort to shoplifting. “We do not need to further inflate our bloated prison system that costs taxpayers \$1.1 billion a year. Instead, we need to prevent crime by addressing it before it happens,” Ortiz said. Chaplik’s H2658 (pedestrians; congregating; medians; unsafe locations) also got some bipartisan support from Hodge, Terech, Schwiebert and Tsosie. Chaplik and Martinez said the bill addresses a safety issue and is aimed at preventing accidents and injuries from cars that could hit pedestrians standing on areas near high-traffic roads without sidewalks. “We wouldn’t let children sit there,” Chaplik said. “Accidents can happen and they will and we need to stop it.” Ortiz said the bill targets people experiencing homelessness and panhandling but Chaplik called a point of order and said his bill has nothing to do with homelessness. Cook voted for the bill and said it doesn’t really affect communities like his but urged his colleagues to find a “better” solution. “How many hundreds of police officers are (cities) down and what kind of a situation are you going to put the family or the people at risk in their neighborhoods when there’s a serious or violent crime or robbery going on and they’re issuing misdemeanor tickets,” Cook said.

Lawmakers' highway woes filled with slow pokes, road hogs and middle fingers

A bill which would have created a \$250 fine for driving a vehicle in the left lane less than the speed of traffic failed to pass out of the Senate Thursday, but not before lawmakers took the opportunity to bring up complaints about their commutes to the Capitol. Gowan's SB1681 (slow driving; left lane; penalty) had a close vote that did not tread on party lines, but ultimately failed at 15-14. "This bill is already the law, this is just adding a penalty to that," the bill sponsor said. "This is just putting a little teeth into it for the officers." Gowan said slow left-lane drivers cause traffic jams and rear-end crashes. Some lawmakers represent districts which are hundreds of miles from the Capitol, making for an intense commute that shaped their opinions on the bill. "I drive one way six and a half hours," Hatathlie, who supported the legislation, said. "It just kills my goats that I have to go 50 miles per hour in the slow lane. How come those people don't get tickets?" Kavanagh empathizes with her. "I am voting yes on this bill because I want the senator from District 6 to get home in five hours," Kavanagh said. Driving on Interstate 10 is "singularly the most frustrating experience behind the wheel that one can have," said Shope in explaining his approval of the legislation. Gabaldon gave the final vote which killed the bill, and Borrelli urged his colleagues to reconsider. Kern had his own story. He said he tends to stick to the speed limit when driving on highways. "They go around me, they flip me off, it's inflation free," Kern said. "That's enough." One bill that didn't pump the brakes was Wadsack's SB1064 (gasoline formulations; air quality), which seeks to drive expanded gas reformulation options in the state. The bill passed with some bipartisan support. Wadsack said it would help lower gas prices and expand fuel blend options. Sundareshan had reservations about environmental impact and raised that the legislation could have no impact on gas cost, but the bill was sent to the House on Thursday with a 17-11 vote.

Nguyen knew bill was a loser, put it up for vote anyway

Nguyen's bill that would charge accused fentanyl dealers with murder if the drug caused a person's death failed on the floor 27-32 with some Republicans still having Constitutional concerns over the bill. "This bill states that someone can be guilty of murder without ever having killed somebody or having the intent to kill them," Kolodin said. "When we go that far, we upset the fundamental notions of justice and not just justice, but the Constitution, because due process requires that every element of a crime be proven beyond reasonable doubt. This is the third time Nguyen has introduced the bill and the first time it's made it to the House floor. Nguyen said he asked leadership to put H2820 (drug trafficking homicide; sentencing) up for the vote despite knowing he didn't have enough to pass because he wanted to show victims' and their families that he's trying to do something for them. L. Contreras said he is frustrated because bill's like H2820 have a chance to go to the floor while Democrats' bills are consistently not heard in committee. "Some of us here have great bills and great ideas and don't get that chance. Why don't we also work together to give our bills a chance," Contreras said.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Neighborhood precinct polling places could make comeback](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Over 12 years after the state enacted the use of voting centers to counteract issues related to precinct voting, the Senate on Wednesday passed a Republican bill which aims to require schools or public buildings to provide space to use as a polling place upon request of an election officer.

[Spokesman: Hobbs won't sign bill allowing cops to arrest illegal border crossers](#)*Capitol Media Services*

Saying the federal government has failed Arizona, state lawmakers voted Wednesday to let police here start arresting people who have entered the country illegally.

[Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg hits back at 'grandstanding' Arizona prosecutor who refuses to extradite murder suspect](#)*NBC News*

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg on Thursday accused an Arizona prosecutor of political "grandstanding" for refusing to send a New York City murder suspect back his jurisdiction.

[Arizona lawmakers give nod of approval to harsher penalties for AI crimes](#)*Arizona's Family*

A Scottsdale mother's fight to stop scammers from using artificial intelligence is gaining traction among Arizona lawmakers. Legislation, Senate Bill 1599, could make punishments more severe for people who use AI to commit crimes, and at a recent committee hearing, it received unanimous support.

[Arizona Right-Wing Group Withdraws Maricopa County Election Procedures Lawsuit](#)*Democracy Docket*

Today, a mere 16 days after its lawsuit was filed, former Trump advisor Stephen Miller's right-wing legal group voluntarily dismissed its lawsuit challenging Maricopa County's election procedures.

[Arizona needs more residents to get college degrees to keep up with new high-paying jobs](#)*KJZZ*

Arizona is seeing billions of dollars coming in from leading-edge technology companies. Those companies will create tens of thousands of jobs, but there may not be enough educated Arizonans to fill them.

[Arizona Republicans vote to ban guaranteed basic income programs](#)*AZ Mirror*

A Republican-led measure that would prohibit the state from enacting any guaranteed basic income programs received unanimous approval from Arizona House Republicans Thursday.

[Rachel Mitchell spins political gold in her tiff with New York attorney Alvin Bragg](#)*The Arizona Republic*

This may come as no surprise, but the savviest politician in the state right now certainly is not Kari Lake, who is digging herself into an ever-deeper hole with the McCain wing of her party.

[Ask voters about immigration and nondiscrimination, Speaker Toma. I dare you](#)*The Arizona Republic*

This is how it works at the Arizona State Capitol: Republicans introduce bills on topics they hope will fire up the MAGA base — immigration and border security, for example, which are under federal jurisdiction — knowing they will be vetoed by Gov. Katie Hobbs.

[Sen. Kyrsten Sinema continues to honor the memory of a lost Arizona soldier](#)*The Arizona Republic*

On June 10, 2013, former soldier Daniel Somers left a long letter for his wife, his parents, his friends ... and us.

·PRESS RELEASES·**State Representative Barbara Parker Champions Unanimous House Passage of Voter Registration Alert System Legislation**

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Barbara R. Parker issued a statement celebrating Thursday's unanimous House passage of [HB 2482](#), a bill she sponsored to establish a voter

registration alert system. This system requires County Recorders to notify voters of specified changes, such as change of party affiliation, telephone number, or address to their voter registration record.

“We now live in a digital age where the tiny glowing rectangle in our pocket can communicate any information to us at any given time. Admittedly, government communication isn’t always top-notch. However, it absolutely should be, especially when it comes to voting!

“That’s why our County Recorders should uniformly communicate with Arizona’s constituents regarding changes such as party affiliations, phone numbers, or addresses. And what’s the easiest way to do that? Via text message.

“With the passage of HB 2482, and through the creation of a voter registration alert system, they will be required to do just that.

“Remember: Education and information are always key. And with a little legislative nudge, we’ll get there.”

Representative Parker’s bill passed with a 57-0 vote. It now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Barbara R. Parker is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 10 in Northeast Mesa and Apache Junction.

###

Commission Approves APS Rate Hike Spelling Higher Bills for Ratepayers

Phoenix, AZ – Today the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) voted to allow Arizona Public Service (APS) to raise its rates and burden ratepayers with higher electricity bills, enabling APS to double down on coal and gas. The rate increase will bolster APS shareholder profits while prolonging operation of the utility’s outdated Four Corners Generating Station despite cheaper clean energy alternatives.

A substantial portion of APS’s rate increase is due to the Company’s spending on high-cost, dirty fossil fuels, including its outdated coal-fired power plants. Both the Four Corners Generating Station and Cholla Power Plant are [uneconomical](#) to keep running, and APS ratepayers have already been forced to pay hundreds of millions of dollars on the operation and maintenance of those plants even though much cheaper clean energy alternatives are available.

The evidence in this rate case and APS’s own analysis demonstrates that the utility could save ratepayers money by retiring the Four Corners plant before 2031 and transitioning to renewable resources like solar and battery storage. Specifically, APS’s own 2023 Integrated Resource Plan finds that the Company could save \$139 million if it retired Four Corners in 2028 instead of retiring the plant in 2031 as planned.

The ACC also rejected APS’s proposal for Coal Community Transition (CCT) funding that would have provided urgently-needed financial support for communities impacted by the closures of coal-fired power plants. APS had proposed over \$100 million in funding that would have been distributed over nine years to support economic transition for coal-impacted communities, including for the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and areas around Joseph City where the Cholla Power Plant is located. The Commission’s vote provides no help to these communities in facing this urgent challenge.

The Commission also approved APS's proposal for the System Reliability Benefit (SRB) mechanism, which will allow APS to charge ratepayers for tens of millions of dollars in spending on large new fossil fuel generation projects between rate cases without adequate scrutiny or stakeholder input. The ACC's determination is the latest [in a series](#) of decisions that have gone against consumers' best interests.

In addition, in a last-minute, surprise move, the Commission imposed a new charge on rooftop solar customers that would force those customers to pay more. That charge was not proposed by APS and was never discussed during the Commission hearings on APS's proposals in this case.

In short, the Commission approved a rate increase without even knowing what the real rate increase will be – not even APS could say for sure – and has allowed APS to keep ratepayers on the hook for its imprudent business decisions, [continuing to act](#) in opposition to renewable energy and to the best interest of ratepayers. To make matters worse, the Commission did not allow all members of the public to make their voice heard at the Commission meeting on APS's rate increase, cutting short and turning away many members of the public who had requested to speak and who had been waiting for hours to voice their concerns.

“Unfortunately, what we’re witnessing is just how out-of-touch the ACC is with utility ratepayers, the public, and our communities,” said **Sandy Bahr, Director of the Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon Chapter**. “To enable APS to raise its rates to prolong the livelihood of obsolete expensive and dirty power plants, impose charges on solar customers, and deny Coal Community Transition funding for coal-impacted communities goes directly against the best interests of ratepayers, our air, our water, and our communities, and ignores affordable transition planning that is urgently needed.”

###

ICYMI: EPA Allocates \$70M+ from Clean Energy Plan to Arizona for Water Infrastructure Upgrades

PHOENIX, AZ – On Wednesday, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that Arizona would receive over \$70 million for drinking water and clean water infrastructure upgrades, thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by President Biden in 2021 as part of the president's clean energy plan. The funding is part of over \$50 billion in water infrastructure upgrades nationwide – the [largest such investment](#) in American history. Almost half of the funding will be available as grants or principal forgiveness loans, ensuring funds reach disadvantaged and underserved communities most in need of investments in water infrastructure.

“As Arizona faces a historic drought, protecting access to clean drinking water was a priority of mine when negotiating the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” [Sen. Mark Kelly \(D\)](#) said. “I’m glad to see these unprecedented investments that will support continued growth and prosperity for communities across our state.”

“As a lifelong resident of the Tucson southside, I’m all too familiar with toxic chemicals that polluted our community’s drinking water and the adverse health impacts that followed,” [said U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva \(D, AZ-07\)](#). “This massive investment from the Biden administration will be transformative and help ensure safe drinking water for the City of Tucson. I was proud to support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as a down payment to address historic inequities and will continue to fight for policies that will guarantee clean drinking water and a healthy environment for future generations.”

The funding EPA announced for Arizona is part of a \$5.8 billion investment through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF), one of EPA's signature water investment programs. This multi-billion dollar investment will fund state-run, low-interest loan programs to address critical water

challenges, with \$2.6 billion going to the Clean Water SRF for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and \$3.2 billion going to the Drinking Water SRF for drinking water infrastructure nationwide.

In Arizona alone, President Biden’s clean energy plan has [spurred more than \\$10 billion](#) in investment and helped create or advance over 13,500 jobs since 2022. Should former President Donald Trump win the presidential election in November, the future of Arizona’s clean energy economy would be in serious jeopardy in the hands of an administration that appears likely to wage [“an all-out war on climate science and policies”](#).

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“It just kills my goats that I have to go 50 miles per hour in the slow lane.” — *Sen. Theresa Hatathlie on slow poke drivers on her commute to Phoenix.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 2-26
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:57:00 PM
Attachments: [2-26-24.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 26, 2024 4:54 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-26

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 2-26
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:57:06 PM
Attachments: [2-26-24.pdf](#)

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From: Chierstin Susel <CSusel@azleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 4:54:01 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-26

Chierstin Susel

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Crosby, Judd grand jury proceedings not so secret any longer



Attorneys for the state urged the superior court to reject attempts by Cochise County Supervisors Tom Crosby and Peggy Judd to dismiss the charges for delaying the 2022 election canvass with prejudice as a matter of law or remanded to the state grand jury. In a motion filed by Crosby's attorney, Dennis

Wilenchik, and joined by Judd, he claimed the move to delay the canvass was protected by legislative immunity and claims no crime was committed as the statewide canvass was ultimately completed. The state contends Crosby and Judd are not immune at all as the canvass is a "non-discretionary" mandatory function of the board and Crosby's "voting his conscience" defense "does not apply in a canvass." "The canvass is not the place for the airing of grievances about perceptions of election fraud or improper votes," assistant AG Todd Lawson wrote. He also noted Crosby admitted during grand jury proceedings there was nothing materially wrong with the 2022 returned election canvass. Beyond asking for dismissal, Crosby separately claimed the state committed "numerous and egregious" violations of his procedural rights during grand jury proceedings by failing to instruct the grand jury on the law, utilizing "extensive privileged and quasi-privileged evidence," and failing to correct misleading testimony. Crosby said another problem with the grand jury proceeding was allowing County Attorney Bryan McIntyre, who his attorney calls "obviously biased," to testify despite attorney-client privilege, and he asked the court to remand proceedings back to the grand jury. Crosby's filing included excerpts from the grand jury transcript, a document typically sealed from the public eye. David Morgan, publisher of the *Cochise County Record*, obtained [Crosby's filing](#) before it too was sealed by the superior court. And with it out in the open, AG spokesperson Richie Taylor told our reporter the office "believes the entire grand jury transcript should be released." Taylor told our reporter the court would need to grant a motion to make transcript public but declined to comment further on next steps.

Board of Education issues report on rogue's gallery of teachers

Educator discipline spiked by about 100 cases compared to the prior year but not because of more cases of teacher misconduct. The State Board of Education's annual report showed an increase in staffing and efficiency led to a higher number of cases adjudicated overall. SBE oversees educator disciplinary investigations and proceedings for both certified and non-certified teachers and partners with assistant

attorneys general or outside counsel to do so. In 2023, the board attributes growth to securing outside counsel, citing “challenges with turnover among representation” provided by the assistant AG’s office. In a presentation to the board today, Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst, State Board of Education, said the board’s investigative unit processed 272 cases in 2023, compared to 172 in 2022. According to the latest report, 44% of the complaints came from school officials, 31% came from the Dept. of Public Safety reporting fingerprint clearance card suspensions. In 2023, about 39% of cases were associated with sexual misconduct, 28% associated with assault, 15% related to substance use, while fraud and theft made up about 11% and breach of contract about 7%. And in 42% of cases, the educator surrendered their certification, while 15% saw their certification revoked and 13% saw suspensions. As for noncertified teachers, Mueller said the board is supporting legislation from Bennett, SB1560 (public schools; noncertified personnel; discipline) to require a noncertified person who has been disciplined in another jurisdiction complete their disciplinary proceedings before working at an Arizona public school and allows SBE to suspend or revoke a noncertified person’s ability to teach if they receive notice that another jurisdiction revoked or suspended a person’s ability to be employed in a public school. S1560 passed the Senate unanimously and now awaits a vote in the House.

Judge wants answers on whether too late to litigate

With the presidential preference ballots already shipped out, parties to the Republican National Committee, Republican Party of Arizona and Yavapai County Republican Party’s lawsuit against the 2023 Elections Procedure’s Manual disagree on whether it’s too late to litigate a count challenging a provision allowing federal only voters to vote in the presidential preference election. The RNC and AZGOP filed a lawsuit seeking to see the EPM invalidated in its entirety, or alternatively have select pieces enjoined – one of which is a challenge to a provision allowing federal only voters to participate in the PPE. Kurt Altman, the attorney for the plaintiffs, asked the court this morning for an expedited briefing and decision on the count dealing with PPE before March 19. But Karen Hartman-Tellez, attorney for Fontes, said it was “far too late to make changes” under current case law. Tellez said, “People have already voted. I’ve already voted so we can’t change the procedure in the middle of an election.” Altman agreed ballots had gone out but said he could not give the court an answer on whether it was too late to take the claim forward under case law. Judge Frank Moskowitz asked, “Based on that and the law, do you think it’s a good faith basis for this court even have to hear and decide that issue, given that stipulated fact?” Moskowitz said. “If you don’t know the answer to that, then I’m not going to give you an expedited basis to send everybody rushing around. If you don’t know the answer at this point, to that simple question, then I have some serious concerns about what’s in front of me here.” Moskowitz directed the parties to meet and confer on the PPE issue before he set a briefing schedule on the issue. “If it really is then worth briefing, we can have that conversation,” Moskowitz said. He ordered the same for a motion to intervene from Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans and Voto Latino. Altman said they planned to oppose AARA and Voto Latino’s intervention in the suit but noted they took no position on the Democratic National Committee and Arizona Democratic Party’s intervention. The parties are due for a follow up hearing March 6.

Kroger, Albertson’s now have Mayes to contend with

Mayes joined the FTC and a coalition of states in a lawsuit challenging Kroger and Albertson’s merger and claim allowing the companies to combine could lead to a decline in competition, worsened wages, benefits and working conditions for employees and higher prices for consumers. Early in her term,

Mayes announced her office would conduct an antitrust investigation into the merger and held eight listening sessions across Arizona in the past year to assess the impact on communities. Consistent concerns continued to be loss of grocery stores, fewer jobs and increased product prices, particularly in rural parts of the state, according to [a report](#) detailing the listening sessions. The lawsuit alleges violations of the Clayton Act, a federal law charging the FTC with eliminating corporate mergers and acquisitions posed to lessen competition or create a monopoly. "It is clear that Arizonans in rural and urban communities alike are seriously concerned about the potential for drastic changes to their daily lives if this merger goes through," Mayes said in a prepared statement. "Bottom line: this merger will benefit the shareholders of these companies, not regular Arizonans."

Dems attack Schweikert's record on IVF

Schweikert and several other Congressional Republicans are walking back a portion of the intent of [Life at Conception Act](#) from 2021. On Friday following the Alabama Supreme Court ruling that determined people who destroy frozen embryos could be liable for wrongful death, Schweikert posted on X his support for in vitro fertilization. "My wife and I struggled for years to have children. Today, we are blessed to have two beautiful children. IVF is a valuable and important tool for many Arizona families. I will oppose any effort to restrict it," Schweikert wrote. But the Life at Conception Act would have imposed similar restrictions to the Alabama Supreme Court ruling. CNN reporter Lauren Fox shared a [memo](#) that the National Republican Senatorial Committee sent Friday to Republican candidates instructing them to express support for IVF because of high polling data indicating American support for IVF and fertility treatments. "A recent ruling by the Alabama Supreme Court is fodder for Democrats hoping to manipulate the abortion issue for electoral gain," NSRC Executive Director Jason Thielman wrote in the memo. Several Democrats have pointed out Schweikert's earlier position with the Life at Conception Act including Conor O' Callaghan, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge Schweikert. "Schweikert is lying to his constituents about his IVF sympathies," O'Callaghan said in a statement. "Schweikert's hypocrisy knows no bounds. This man co-sponsored legislation that would have jeopardized access to IVF and birth control and banned abortion nationwide."

·WAKE UP CALL·

Citizens' panel chooses nominees for LD22 House vacancy

Arizona Capitol Times

A citizen's panel appointed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors selected three candidates Thursday night as recommendations for a vacancy in the state House of Representatives.

4th generation chili farmer seeks unity on water

Arizona Capitol Times

After a successful agricultural career from genetically modifying chilis to winning FFA awards, Edward Curry now has a bigger goal set for Arizona water concerns.

Power plant closures to bring water reallocation

Arizona Capitol Times

Thousands of acre-feet of water from the Colorado River and state groundwater will no longer be used at Arizona coal plants after the four plants shut down by 2032, leaving resources to be redistributed among the states using the Colorado River basin.

Hobbs more inclined to issue clemency than predecessors

Arizona Capitol Times

Gov. Katie Hobbs granted seven of the nine recommendations sent by the Board of Executive Clemency since taking office, marking an early departure from the record of her Republican predecessor.

[**Audit says state leased land to Saudi company at rates below market**](#)

Capitol Media Services

State Auditor General Lindsey Perry is blasting the State Land Department for leasing land to a Saudi-owned company in western Arizona for below-market rates and not requiring it to pay for – or even report – the amount of groundwater it has been using.

[**Court filings reveal secret grand jury interviews that led to indictments of Cochise County supervisors**](#)

Votebeat

The two Cochise County supervisors who face felony charges for allegedly attempting to interfere with the certification of the county's midterm election recently filed documents in court that give glimpses of the secret grand jury interviews that led to their indictment.

[**What to Know About the Feud Between 2 Prosecutors Over a Murder Suspect**](#)

The New York Times

The extradition of a man accused of killing a woman in Manhattan and fleeing to Arizona, where he was later arrested on charges related to other serious crimes, set off a furious confrontation this week between two prominent local prosecutors.

[**Sleazy attempt by Republican shills to smear Rep. Ruben Gallego over divorce won't work**](#)

The Arizona Republic

A Republican propaganda outlet in Washington, D.C., is trying to instigate a bogus smear campaign against Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego, a U.S. Senate candidate whose likely Republican opponent is former news reader and failed Arizona governor candidate Kari Lake.

[**If Gov. Katie Hobbs refuses to disclose her donors, lawmakers should do it for her**](#)

The Arizona Republic

The Arizona Legislature is working on a bill that would force Gov. Katie Hobbs to come clean on how much money she's raising — and where the money is coming from — to try to flip control of the Legislature to Democrats.

[**Poll says roughly one-quarter of Americans agree with Kari Lake on secession**](#)

The Arizona Republic

I finally have an answer to a question that many individuals from Arizona and around the country have asked me during the past couple of years. It is: Roughly 25%.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Governor Katie Hobbs Demands Meeting with ABOR and UA Leadership

Phoenix, AZ - After another series of conflicting accounts and an Arizona Board of Regents meeting filled with personal attacks and threats of lawsuits, Governor Katie Hobbs issued the following statement:

“It is crystal clear that the handling of the University of Arizona crisis is heading in the wrong direction. New facts have come to light that once again show the Arizona Board of Regents failed in their oversight role and highlight a university leadership that was clueless as to their own finances. In the past days, instead of addressing their failure of leadership, ABOR has told conflicting stories to me, the press, and the public about the purchase of Ashford University. And while I have not been given the facts and therefore cannot comment about the veracity of recent statements from faculty regarding ABOR board members potential conflicts of

interest, I do know one thing: ABOR members attacking faculty, even going so far as threatening a lawsuit, is not leadership.

“I cannot be more clear: because of Chair Duval and the Board’s actions, university employees are going to lose their jobs. Attacking faculty is not, and never will be, the answer.

“Instead of taking any accountability and guiding with a steady hand, ABOR is circling the wagons and announcing they are litigating personal grudges during Board meetings. In the February 22nd meeting, an ABOR member openly called for President Robbins to overthrow the faculty's governing body. This behavior is appalling and unacceptable. Chair DuVal and members of the Board of Regents appear more concerned with saving face than fixing the problems they created. It’s time for them to come down from their ivory tower and realize this is hurting Arizonans and the university.

“At some point, enough needs to be enough, and that time is now. People's livelihoods are at risk. College affordability is under threat. The state and the University of Arizona have suffered immense reputational damage as a result of this crisis. This lack of accountability and continued scapegoating can no longer continue. I am demanding an in-person meeting with ABOR leadership and President Robbins immediately where we will discuss next steps.”

###

Governor Hobbs, Mayors Gallego, Weiers, and Giles to Speak at Prop 479 Launch Event

Phoenix, AZ– Connect Maricopa, the campaign in support of Proposition 479 to renew the current Maricopa County transit tax, will be hosting a kick-off event **TOMORROW, Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00AM.** The event will feature remarks from Governor Katie Hobbs, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, Mesa Mayor John Giles and Connect Maricopa Co-chair Pam Kehaly. Local elected officials, business leaders, and community supporters will be in attendance as well.

Proposition 479 is the extension of the current 20-year half-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation infrastructure, known as Proposition 400. Interested media should **RSVP by February 26th.**

Connect Maricopa Launch Event Details

WHAT: Connect Maricopa, Campaign in Support of Prop 479, Launch Event

WHO:

- Governor Katie Hobbs
- Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego
- Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers
- Mesa Mayor John Giles
- Pam Kehaly, Connect Maricopa Co-Chair

WHEN: Tuesday, February 27th; Program begins at 10:00am; Media may arrive at 9:30am for set up.

WHERE: Multi-studio 521 S 3rd St #100, Phoenix, AZ 85004. Parking is available in the lot on the NE corner of 4th St. and Lincoln.

RSVP: Lorna@elevatestrategiesaz.com or (480) 231-8930

MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers, and Mesa Mayor John Giles will be available to press immediately after the event at approximately 10:30am.

###

Governor Katie Hobbs Statement on Job Killing Immigration Bills in Legislature

Phoenix, AZ - This week, legislators are pushing anti-business and anti-immigrant measures including HCR2060 which is a desperate, partisan attempt to circumvent the legislative process. After business and community leaders have [spoken out](#) against the job killing bills being considered, Governor Katie Hobbs released the following statement:

"Every Arizonan is frustrated by the federal government's failure to secure our border. But passing job killing, anti-business bills that demonize our communities is not the solution. Instead of securing our border, these bills will simply raise costs, hurt our farmers, put Arizona entrepreneurs out of business, and destroy jobs for countless working class Arizonans. I have taken action to help communities on the border, supporting law enforcement with tens of millions of dollars to keep our communities safe, mobilizing the National Guard, and stopping street releases of migrants. The answer to securing the border is more resources for border patrol and law enforcement in these communities, not job killing, anti-immigrant legislation meant to score cheap political points."

###

Former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer Endorses Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell

PHOENIX, AZ – February 26, 2024 – Today, former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer announced her endorsement of Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell for reelection. Brewer, known for her steadfast conservative principles and her bold stance against federal overreach, highlighted Mitchell's unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and her dedication to keeping communities safe.

Brewer, who famously stood up to President Obama during her tenure as governor, emphasized Mitchell's conservative values and her resolute efforts in combating the Biden administration's lax border policies.

"When it comes to the rule of law, Rachel Mitchell is a prosecutor who prosecutes, plain and simple," stated Brewer. "Her track record of getting results and her unwavering efforts to keep our neighborhoods safe make her the best to lead Maricopa County at a time when our border is completely open and crime is being legalized in hellscape like San Francisco."

Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell has been recognized for her conservative approach to law enforcement and her long record as a prosecutor and victims advocate. Mitchell has consistently taken decisive action to combat crime in Maricopa County, and enforce the rule of law.

"I am deeply honored to receive Governor Brewer's endorsement," said Mitchell. "Her leadership and dedication to our state have inspired many, and I am committed to upholding those same principles as Maricopa County Attorney. Together, we will continue to fight for the safety and security of our communities."

###

AHCCCS is Aware of Issue Impacting Health Plan Vendor

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is aware of an issue impacting Change Healthcare. While AHCCCS does not have a direct relationship with Change Healthcare, many AHCCCS contracted health plans do and the outage may have an impact on AHCCCS providers and/or members. Visit the [Change Healthcare Status Update](#) web page for updates directly from Change Healthcare.

AHCCCS is working with our contracted health plans to address any member impacts and to ensure timely access to care and services. Members can contact their health plans if they experience any impact regarding this issue. Please visit the [health plans web page](#) on the AHCCCS website to find current contact information for each health plan.

###

Attorney General Mayes Announces Lawsuit Challenging Anticompetitive Kroger, Albertsons Merger

PHOENIX – Attorney General Kris Mayes, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and a bipartisan coalition of states, today announced the filing of a lawsuit that challenges the proposed merger of Kroger and Albertsons. These companies are the country's two largest national supermarket chains, and this merger presents a significant risk of reduced competition and higher food prices nationwide. In Arizona, Kroger and Albertsons are the 4th and 7th largest private employers, with 35,000 employees across 250 stores combined. The companies also operate under Fry's, Smith's, and Safeway brands in Arizona.

"For the better part of last year, I traveled across the state from Prescott to Kingman and Show Low to Sierra Vista to hear from Arizonans what they thought about this proposed merger," said Attorney General Mayes.

"Many Arizonans I heard from voiced concerns about potential job losses from combining the two companies. Seniors on fixed incomes told me they were worried that grocery prices would only go up if the merger went through. Military families I spoke to feared their insurance would not be accepted at the pharmacy of a newly merged company. Rural Arizonans, in particular, raised serious concerns about how a merger would exacerbate existing food deserts."

The lawsuit seeks to block the proposed Albertsons-Kroger merger, alleging it violates the federal Clayton Act, which prohibits the acquisition of assets where the effect of such acquisitions may substantially lessen competition or create a monopoly. Businesses facing less competition have the ability to charge higher prices without providing improvements to the quality of goods.

"It is clear that Arizonans in rural and urban communities alike are seriously concerned about the potential for drastic changes to their daily lives if this merger goes through," continued Mayes. "Bottom line: this merger will benefit the shareholders of these companies, not regular Arizonans. I am proud to stand with the FTC and my fellow attorneys general in suing to block this anticompetitive, anti-consumer, and anti-worker merger."

Anticompetitive supermarket mergers can impose other harms, including a reduction in labor market competition, which may lower wages or slow wage growth, worsen benefits or working conditions, or result in other degradations of workplace quality.

Joining Attorney General Mayes and the FTC in opposing the merger are the attorneys general of California, Washington D.C., Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Wyoming.

A copy of the complaint will be made available as soon as possible and linked [here](#).

A report detailing Attorney General Mayes' listening sessions held across Arizona throughout 2023 is available [here](#). A video summary is available [here](#).

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“The canvass is not the place for the airing of grievances about perceptions of election fraud or improper votes.” — *Assistant Attorney General Todd Lawson in response to Cochise County Supervisor Tom Crosby’s claim he was voting his conscience in delaying the 2022 election canvass.*

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Cory Blumstein](#); mrodham@edf.org
Subject: Yellow Sheet 2-29 & 3-4
Date: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:57:00 PM
Attachments: [2-29-24.pdf](#)
[3-4-24.pdf](#)

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YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Mayes takes shot at Legislature in connection with ESA fraud indictment



Three former Empowerment Scholarship Account employees are accused of falsifying birth certificates and disability diagnoses to enroll five adults, seven children and five “ghost children” in the ESA program, defrauding more than \$600,000 as a result. The state grand jury indicted former ESA specialists Dolores Sweet and Dorian Jones, former lead ESA specialist Jennifer Lopez and two of Sweet’s adult children on counts of conspiracy, fraudulent schemes, illegally conducting an enterprise, computer tampering, money laundering

and 20 counts of forgery. Sweet, Jones and Lopez submitted falsified birth certificates and disability evaluations to obtain anywhere from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per student. The three were hired under former SPI Hoffman and fired shortly after investigation got underway in August 2023. Sweet was fired in August, while Jones and Lopez were fired in November 2023. According to the indictment and investigators, the first child was enrolled in October 2021, but the “ghost children” came in early 2023 after universal expansion. Mayes said the AG’s office was tipped off by a credit union and claimed ADE did not catch any of their employees “red flags.” But Horne countered Mayes in a later press conference and said the department reported Jones and Lopez to the AG’s office after their investigation of Sweet was already underway. Mayes said the three employees “took advantage of the lack of controls and regulations” on the program and pointed to a lack of staffing and review at ADE. “My overarching concern here is this is a program that is easy to target for fraud,” Mayes said. She took shots at Horne, ADE and the Legislature for failing to advocate for additional protection and guardrails on the program in legislation and internally. ESA director John Ward contends the proper guardrails are already in place and said enrollment employees are trained to review birth certificates and look for anything “strange” or “unusual” in assessing authenticity of disability evaluations. And as for staffing, the department has 30 of the 42 appropriated ESA positions filled, but Ward noted they are working on getting staffing at full capacity. Toma stepped in in defense of Ward and Horne in a prepared statement. “Under ADE’s new leadership, we’ve been pleased to see the development of techniques to stop attempts to defraud the program with the use of fraudulent birth certificates and continue to take steps to ensure the ESA program is executed faithfully,” Toma said. “It’s regrettable that critics of Arizona’s highly popular and

successful ESA program are predictably seizing this opportunity to politicize and undermine it.” Mayes said her office was continuing to try and “get to the bottom of how deep this fraud goes,” noting other ongoing investigations on both account holders and vendors. “We will get to the bottom of it,” Mayes said.

Judge says offensive emails aren’t enough to exempt groups from Prop 211

The Center for Arizona Policy and the Arizona Free Enterprise Club are not exempt from Prop. 211, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge found today. After CAP and AFEC’s bid to see the measure declared entirely unconstitutional failed last year, the two groups filed an amended complaint claiming the law would subject them and their donors to threats, harassment or retaliation, warranting they be cut-out from donor disclosure requirements. Judge Scott McCoy found caselaw sustaining as applied constitutional challenges involved “disclosures affecting minor or dissident parties, where party members historically faced pervasive and severe harassment, involving state action or acquiescence.” He found both CAP and AFEC “allege no facts” to support their claims of concrete or potential harassment and retaliation under the act. And he found the same of the two unnamed plaintiffs in the suit. McCoy acknowledged CAP had been subject to offensive emails and threats in the past, including being called “medieval throwback horrible anti-woman garbage,” among other things. “Such name calling, offensive comments and criticism are certainly rude,” McCoy wrote. “Many of the comments themselves, however, are protected speech. And twenty or so nasty comments in nearly thirty years of public advocacy does not demonstrate that CAP itself has been subjected to threats, harassment, and reprisals.” And as for AFEC, McCoy found the organization’s PAC has publicly reported donors and seen no retaliation or harassment against those donors. He also noted their anticipation of retaliation from the Clean Elections Commission to be “unsupported by any factual allegation.” McCoy denied the renewed motion for preliminary injunction and dismissed the suit.

Indicted Alabama man must support Lake

An Alabama man was arrested Wednesday for making threats to Maricopa County Elections Instagram account after the 2022 Arizona primary election. Brian Jerry Ogstad, 59, from Cullman, Alabama, sent a deluge of messages with claims of voter fraud in the Arizona gubernatorial race, including multiple messages threatening execution and an image of a Woody doll from Toy Story with an “unidentified projectile in its back,” according to the [indictment](#). Ogstad faces five counts of interstate threats and a maximum of five years in prison for each count for the messages where he said Maricopa County elections workers and officials were “dead,” should be “executed” and “stupid if you think your lives are safe.” U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona Gary Restiano said in a prepared statement that the office would continue to prosecute threats to election workers. “We cannot permit election skeptics to threaten vigilante justice,” Restiano said.

Petersen, Toma get a break in court

The Arizona Court of Appeals extended a temporary stay on Petersen and Toma’s challenge to Prop. 211 at the superior court while deciding whether to stall proceedings until the resolution of the appeal. Petersen and Toma failed on their first attempt to enjoin the campaign donor disclosure measure on a separation of powers claim, prompting an appeal. While the appellate court contemplates whether to

keep the law in place, attorneys for the legislative leaders asked for an indefinite stay at the superior court, citing potentially expensive and lengthy discovery. Judge Timothy Ryan declined an indefinite stay but granted a temporary stay set to lapse on March 1. Ryan said he would defer to the appellate court on whether to halt superior court proceedings until the issue was decided on appeal. Today, Court of Appeals judges set a briefing schedule on the motion to stay and meanwhile put a pause on proceedings at the superior court until they issue a ruling. A response to Petersen and Toma's motion to stay is due March 15.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Voters Agree Education Beyond High School Critical for State's Success](#)

Arizona Capitol Times Morning Scoop

As part of Education Forward Arizona's Everything to Gain campaign, a public opinion poll of Arizona voters shows overwhelming support for education and training after high school and a mandate for the state's elected, business, and education leaders to provide more education and training opportunities for Arizona student and adults.

[Ultra-conservative GOP lawmaker vying for Maricopa County Recorder](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

A state representative aligned with the conservative Freedom Caucus of the state House of Representatives announced Wednesday he is running for Maricopa County Recorder.

[Deep fake political ads draw lawmakers' attention in election year](#)

Capitol Media Services

Unable to stop "deep fakes" in politics, state lawmakers are settling on the next best thing: requiring that viewers and listeners be told what they are seeing is not real.

[Alabama IVF court ruling causing anxiety for Arizona infertility patients](#)

Arizona's Family

Arizonans are reacting to the recent ruling in Alabama where the state's highest court decided frozen embryos can be considered children under the law. That ruling is impacting the in vitro fertilization industry there, with several prominent clinics putting services on pause, leaving women already struggling to get pregnant in limbo.

[On the Arizona Border, Even a Slow Day Is Busy](#)

The New York Times

Helen Ramajo, 11 years old, reached the U.S.-Mexico border before the American presidents did. As President Biden and former President Donald J. Trump prepared for the political stagecraft of dueling visits to two Texas border towns, Helen slipped through a gap in the wall in southern Arizona on Tuesday morning, her fuzzy bear-eared hoodie pulled up against the chill.

[Alabama man arrested for threatening Arizona election officials over Instagram](#)

UPI

An Alabama man has been arrested and charged on allegations of threatening Arizona election officials over Instagram.

[Arizona Homelessness spending near \\$1 billion, mostly on housing](#)

Washington Examiner

A new report from the Common Sense Institute of Arizona determines that spending on homelessness in the Grand Canyon State is roughly \$1 billion.

[Republican bill would let Arizonans sue government over imagined Marxist policies](#)

The Arizona Republic

Republicans have advanced a bill that would allow Arizona citizens to file lawsuits against any government

entity they believe to be “furthering Marxist ideology.” In response, Karl Marx is NOT rolling in his grave. Laughing, maybe, but not rolling.

[A bill allowing Arizona ranchers to kill border crossers? Has it really come to this?](#)

The Arizona Republic

I realize it is all the rage these days to demonize the migrants who are streaming into our country through that sieve we call a border wall. Joe Biden’s bungle on the border is a dream come true for the Republican Party.

[It’s time for a new direction in sexual offense policy](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Among all the policy experiments in this country that have thoroughly missed the mark, sex offense registries have surely earned their own special niche.

From: [Chase Boeke](#)
To: [Taylor Rose Rogers](#)
Subject: FW: Yellow Sheet 3-4
Date: Monday, March 4, 2024 4:56:00 PM
Attachments: [3-4-24.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, March 4, 2024 4:55 PM
Subject: Yellow Sheet 3-4

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

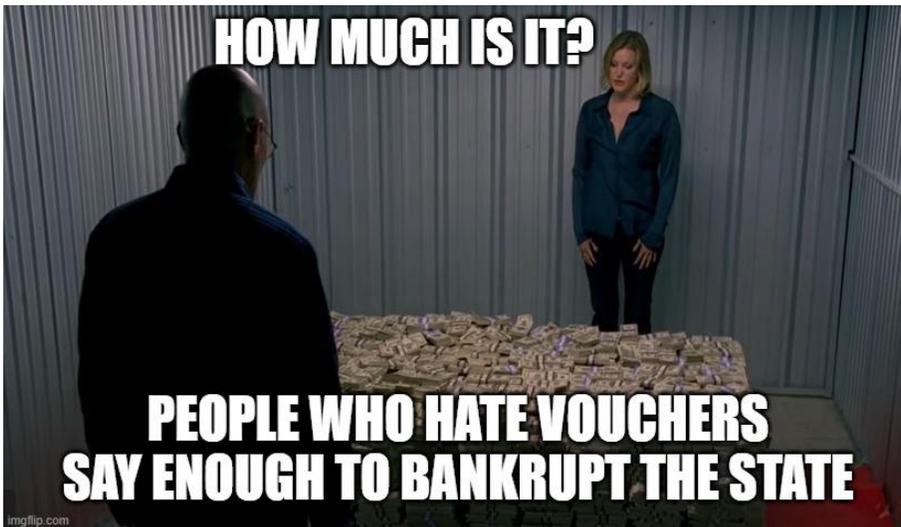


YELLOW SHEET REPORT

BRIDGETOWER MEDIA[©] by Arizona Capitol Reports, LLC unless otherwise credited. All rights reserved. Monday, March 04, 2024

·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

Here's the cost of ESA so far, let's get ready to rumble!



As of Dec. 2023, the total annual scholarship amount for the 71,250 students enrolled in the Empowerment Scholarship Account program cost just under \$700 million, according to the Dept. of Education's latest [quarterly report](#) to the Legislature, governor and JLBC. Horne [previously projected](#) the program would cost \$732 million by the end of

FY2024, with an expectation of about 85,000 students enrolled by the end of the fiscal year. From [the last quarterly report](#), enrollment in the program has grown from 66,457 at the end of September to 71,520 by the end of 2023. As of March 4, [75,888 students](#) are enrolled in the program. ADE reported 75% of students enrolled by the end of Q2 qualified under universal eligibility, and of those students 17% qualified as a student with a disability. The report also noted an increasing percentage of students entering the program from public schools this fiscal year compared to the last. Of the 29,176 that entered the program under universal eligibility in FY2023, 6,157 students were enrolled in a public school immediately prior to joining the ESA program while as of Dec. 2023, 6,421 students of the 13,696 entering the program came from a public school. And as for spending across the program, ESA students spent more than \$73 million on tuition and fees at private schools and \$12.8 million on curricula and materials. The Q2 report to the legislature, governor and JLBC splits from another report due to the State Board of Education. ADE spokesman Doug Nick said they anticipated filing the SBE Q2 report in about four weeks.

Hobbs checked - it's legal

Hobbs announced a plan to use American Rescue Plan Act funds to contract with [RIP Medical Debt](#), a national nonprofit buying off medical debt from hospitals and physician groups for a fraction of the cost, to mass cancel medical debt in the state. With the \$30 million, Jeff Smedsrud, RIP Medical Debt board member, estimated the organization could use "up to" \$30 million in ARPA funds to forgive \$2 billion in medical debt for about 1 million people over the next two years. RIP Medical Debt buys off debt for a penny to two cents on the dollar for individuals earning less than 400% of the federal poverty level or facing debt totaling more than 5% of their yearly income. The contract between RIP Medical Debt and the Governor's office details plans to furnish an initial \$20 million and grants the "sole discretion" to the Governor's Office to increase funding by an additional \$10 million. And per the contract, up to 10% could go to RIP Medical Debt to cover "overhead and administrative costs."

The draw from state funds in the public-private partnership raised questions on whether the allocation would run afoul of the state's Gift Clause, a constitutional provision barring public entities from donating to a private entity, unless the transaction fulfills a public purpose and the value to the public exceeds the cost to taxpayers. Hobbs said her legal counsel had vetted the contract to avoid running afoul of the law. "I would not be taking this action if we weren't confident that it was legal," Hobbs said.

More plaintiffs trying to get Toma, Petersen to testify

Plaintiffs in the federal challenge to the state's transgender sports ban for student athletes filed a motion for the court to order Petersen and Toma to sit for depositions. The legislative leaders intervened in defense of the trans sports ban in federal court alongside Horne and have since followed the case to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But as the case at the district court enters discovery, Petersen and Toma invoked legislative and deliberate process privileges to dodge deposition. Attorneys for the two unnamed transgender plaintiffs contend Petersen and Toma "waived the legislative privilege when they voluntarily intervened as parties and proceeded to actively defend the Ban." The lawsuit cites a holding in another lawsuit over election laws involving the legislative leaders, *Mi Familia Vota v Fontes*, where the two similarly attempted to get out of depositions. But Arizona district court judge found an intervening legislative party waives privilege when stepping into a lawsuit, a decision which was upheld in the 9th US. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. In a letter to the plaintiffs' attorneys, Petersen and Toma contend their positions "differ materially" from *Mi Familia Vota*. "Unlike in *Mi Familia*, the Legislative Leaders have not filed an answer in this litigation. Plaintiffs also did not allege discriminatory intent by the legislature in their Complaint or Motion for Preliminary Injunction, and thus the Legislative Leaders could not have placed their motives at issue when they moved to intervene," attorney Justin Smith writes. "Also unlike in *Mi Familia*, the Legislative Leaders definitively state from the outset that they will not testify in this matter." Petersen and Toma's response to the motion to compel is due March 18.

Gallego's in - that's a lot of clipboards and pens

R Gallego filed more than 14,000 signatures this morning to get on the 2024 primary ballot, eclipsing the [minimum requirement of 6,556](#). Gallego said his campaign "did not pay for one petition" and used volunteers to gather signatures starting in Jan. 2023. Gallego is the sole Democrat contender for the Senate seat, but the question of whether Sinema will enter the race remains. Gallego said he "never really counted her out or in." If Sinema were to make the ballot as an independent, she would need to submit 42,303 signatures [by April 1](#). As for Lake, Gallego said, "It would not surprise me that she's going to deny the results of the 2024 election."

·WAKE UP CALL·

Navajo nation settles tribal rights for Colorado River

Arizona Capitol Times

A Native American tribe with one of the largest outstanding claims to water in the Colorado River basin is closing in on a settlement with more than a dozen parties, putting it on a path to piping water to tens of thousands of tribal members in Arizona who still live without it..

2 nonprofits lose bid to hide donors during political campaigns*Capitol Media Services*

A judge has rebuffed yet another attempt by two special interest groups to hide the names of their donors from the public despite a 2022 voter-approved law requiring their publication.

Judge strikes parts of voter registration laws, keeps others*Capitol Media Services*

A federal judge has blocked Arizona from enforcing two more provisions of two controversial 2022 laws imposing more restrictions on voter registration. But she upheld most of the rest of them.

Audit finds Arizona classroom spending down from previous year*Capitol Media Services*

More than two thirds of the school districts in Arizona spent a smaller percentage of their available dollars in classroom instruction in the last school year than the year before, according to a new report. And overall spending, on average, is the lowest percentage since the Auditor General's Office began monitoring in 2004.

Gov. Katie Hobbs announces Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan, establishes chief heat officer*KTAR*

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs announced on Friday the state's first Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan, creating the country's first state level heat officer.

'We are the guinea pigs': Arizona mining project sparks concerns for air and water*The Guardian*

Growing up on the US-Mexico border, Denise Moreno Ramírez loved to escape the desert heat by hiking the sycamore-speckled mountains near her home in Arizona. These isolated mountains – known as the Sky Islands – provide a crucial habitat for native plants and animals, but also played a special role in Moreno Ramírez's family history: like many in the area with Indigenous Yaqui or Mayo origins, her ancestors once mined the mountains for precious metals.

Scoop: Department of Education preparing to order UofA to repay Ashford loan debt*Axios*

The U.S. Department of Education is trying to force the University of Arizona to pay back loan debt amassed by students who attended the for-profit, online Ashford University, which it acquired in 2020, Axios has learned.

Donald Trump can't seem to tell Joe Biden from Barack Obama. That should trouble you*The Arizona Republic*

Each of us mixes up a name now and again. Forgets something. Confuses one place for another place. As a kid, my mother called me by my brother's name a time or two (usually when I was up to no good).

How we know that Kari Lake wants an open border ... until after the election*The Arizona Republic*

I'm not willing to insult your intelligence, so I'm going to assume you already know what I'm about to say concerning the former news reader and failed Arizona governor candidate who is now running for the U.S. Senate.

GOP lawmaker slams Sandra Day O'Connor as too 'undistinguished' for a statue*The Arizona Republic*

Just three months after her death, the Arizona House has rejected a proposal to honor the late Sandra Day O'Connor with a statue inside the U.S. Capitol.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Governor Hobbs Launches Affordable Arizona: Tackling Medical Debt for Working Families

Phoenix, AZ - Today, Governor Katie Hobbs announced that she is partnering with non-profit RIP Medical Debt to launch Affordable Arizona: Tackling Medical Debt for Working Families. The program will forgive medical debt for up to one million working class Arizonans.

“Like many Arizona families, I have experienced the stress and burden of financial ups and downs. As Governor, I take seriously my duty to protect vulnerable Arizonans from falling into medical debt, and make healthcare more affordable,” said **Governor Katie Hobbs**. “Hard-working, middle class Arizonans should not be forced to have those difficult kitchen table conversations because of medical debt from conditions they cannot control. Arizonans deserve a break, and they deserve a government that fights for them, helping ensure that medical debt is not going to torpedo their lives.”

The contract signed by the Governor’s Office with the non-profit organization is the largest medical debt relief effort by a State in history. The state will make up to \$30 million dollars in COVID relief funds available to RIP Medical Debt to purchase debt from providers for pennies on the dollar, and cancel the balance. Debt owed by Arizonans earning less than 400% or below the Federal Poverty Line or who owe more than five percent of their annual income will be eligible for forgiveness.

Watch Governor Hobbs’ press conference here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf5XLXVyCtM>

###

Representative Kolodin & Senator Rogers Reach Major Agreement with Runbeck Election Services to Significantly Strengthen Election Integrity

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Alexander Kolodin, Vice Chair of the House Elections Committee, and Senator Wendy Rogers, Chairman of the Senate Elections Committee, proudly announced a significant agreement that will advance and strengthen election integrity. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed to with Runbeck Election Services, marking the culmination of an extensive examination of the company’s election processes.

The following key reforms are outlined in the MOU:

- **Bipartisan Observation Program & Enhanced Security:** Up to three observers from the Arizona Republican and Democratic parties will be allowed to be onsite at Runbeck during the Arizona primary and general election days when inbound sorting activity occurs. This initiative provides unprecedented access to critical areas of the election process, ensuring transparency and building confidence in the electoral system.
- **Legislative Audits of Software:** The Arizona House of Representatives will be able to conduct an audit of the software licensed to Maricopa County for signature verification and ballot duplication. This step is aimed at verifying the integrity of the election process and ensuring that the software meets the highest standards of security and reliability. The findings of this audit, to be conducted in 2024 by a qualified third-party auditor, will be made public, further reinforcing transparency.
- **Election Workflow Document:** Runbeck will release a detailed document outlining its scope of work and election workflow with Maricopa County and other Arizona election agencies. This document, aimed at enhancing transparency, will be available prior to the August 2024 primary.

- **Access to Historical 2022 Election Data:** Demonstrating a commitment to increasing public trust and transparency, Runbeck will grant legislative observers onsite access to view the company's 2022 general election night loading dock video footage.

Representative Kolodin expressed his appreciation for Runbeck's collaborative work with the legislature to implement these reforms. **"This agreement represents a significant advancement in our ongoing efforts to ensure the security and integrity of Arizona's elections,"** Kolodin stated. **"I appreciate the cooperation of Runbeck's new ownership and their willingness to provide greater transparency - the foundation of public trust and confidence."** Kolodin also noted that **"contingent on a legislative appropriation, Runbeck has also agreed to cage the sorters."**

###

Amid Growing Threats to Space Satellite System, Space & Science Subcommittee Chair Sinema Introduces Bipartisan Bill Forming Space National Guard
WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema helped introduce the *Space National Guard Establishment Act* with U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) – bipartisan legislation forming a Space National Guard as a reserve component of the U.S. Space Force, increasing efficiency of troop mobilization and strengthening national defense.

The legislation comes as [intelligence](#) became public on the Russian military's intention to deploy a nuclear anti-satellite system in space.

"Establishing a Space National Guard strengthens our defense readiness and helps keep Arizona families safe and secure now and into the future," said Sinema, Chair of the Space & Science Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the Space Force Caucus.

The Sinema-backed *Space National Guard Establishment Act* realigns more than 1,000 servicemembers within the Air National Guard to establish a Space National Guard, which would serve as a separate reserve component of the U.S. Space Force. The Space National Guard would continue performing missions in support of the Space Force as the Air National Guard has proudly done for the Air Force since 1996.

Currently, more than 1,000 members of the National Guard are supporting the space mission from within the Air National Guard. Those Guardsmen constitute 28% of all Department of the Air Force unit-equipped Space Operations Squadrons. Those squadrons comprise 60% of our nation's Offensive Space Electromagnetic Warfare Capability, 50% of the communications requirement for National Command Authority, 33% of the nation's strategic missile warning system, space intelligence capability, and the nation's only survivable mobile missile warning system and nuclear detection system. The realignment of those squadrons under the Space Force through Sinema's bipartisan *Space National Guard Establishment Act* increases troop mobilization efficiency, retains vital capability, and supports a balanced budget.

###

Attorney General Kris Mayes Kicks Off Consumer Protection Week 2024

PHOENIX – Attorney General Kris Mayes is kicking off Consumer Protection Week by releasing a list of the 2023 Top Consumer Fraud Complaint trends and providing tips to avoid falling victim to scams. National Consumer Protection Week is an annual opportunity for government agencies, consumer protection groups, and the public to work together to help everyone understand their consumer rights and

help prevent fraud before it happens.

“For those consumers who live in fear of scams, for those who believe they are powerless, and for those who have been wronged by deceptive and unfair business practices, your voices are heard,” said Attorney General Mayes. “Every consumer deserves protection from fraud and scams. My office is here to be your advocate, your collective voice, and your champion this week and all year long.”

In 2023, the Attorney General’s Consumer Information and Complaints Unit recovered nearly \$4 million on behalf of consumers. The unit received more than 17,000 consumer complaints; answered approximately 30,483 phone calls; and reviewed nearly 24,000 emails.

Here are the top five categories of consumer complaints filed with the AGO in 2023 and a few tips to avoid being harmed by fraud or scams in these areas.

2023 Top Five Consumer Fraud Complaint Topics:

1. Motor Vehicle Sales, Repairs, and Rentals
2. Mortgage and Real Estate
3. Telecommunications Services (i.e. internet service providers, cell phones, pay TV etc.)
4. Telemarketing, Phone Scams, and Unsolicited Text Messages
5. Banking

Tips to Avoid Consumer Scams and Deceptive Practices:

- **Motor Vehicles:** When buying a vehicle, get the salesperson or business to make all terms and any promises in writing and make sure you get complete copies of all paperwork.
- **Mortgage and Real Estate:** Read all documents and understand the terms before signing and do not sign contracts or agreements with blank spaces.
- **Telecommunications:** Review your monthly bills for unauthorized fees and sudden or new charges.
- **Telemarketing, Phone Scams and Unsolicited Text Messages:** Never give money, gift cards, or cryptocurrency in response to an unsolicited phone call or text message. Remember, government agencies will not threaten you or demand that you pay a debt or fee immediately or take payment in gift cards.
- **Banking:** Review your account activity and monthly statements for unauthorized fees or sudden charges and contact your bank immediately if you see anything suspicious.

#

###

Kelly, Sinema: Over \$5.2 Million in Housing Grants Awarded to White Mountain Apache and Cocopah Indian Tribes

Arizona Senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema announced two housing grants totaling \$5,215,400 for the White Mountain Apache and Cocopah Indian Tribes.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe will use its \$4 million grant to rehabilitate 35 housing units, and the Cocopah Indian Tribe will use its \$1,215,444 grant to rehabilitate 11 housing units to improve the quality of homes for low-income families.

“This funding will provide White Mountain Apache and Cocopah families the safe, quality housing they deserve,” said Kelly.

“Today’s funds will improve housing for the White Mountain Apache and Cocopah Indian Tribes – providing tribal communities with safe and affordable housing,” **said Sinema.**

The Kelly and Sinema-shaped *American Rescue Plan Act* provides millions of dollars for the Indian Community Development Block Grants Program, which provides a range of affordable housing and community development activities on Indian reservations and Indian areas.

###

Statement from ABOR Chair Elect Cecilia Mata on action to reduce UArizona Pres. Robbins’ salary

“The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to the University of Arizona recovering its financial health. Based on President Robert Robbins’ request, at its upcoming meeting the board will schedule an action to reduce President Robbins’ base salary by 10 percent and eliminate his individual at-risk and multiple year performance compensation.

“President Robbins supports these reductions and the message they send as UArizona comes together to resolve its financial challenges and emerge from this process a stronger and more resilient institution.”

###

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###

“QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“I would not be taking this action if we weren't confident that it was legal.” — *Hobbs on a program using federal aid funds to pay off people’s medical debt.*

From: [Wendy Rogers](#)
To: [Shelby Busch](#)
Cc: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: 2024 PPE and internet connections
Date: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:06:39 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Shelby,

Can you please call this lady on my behalf?

Pauline Shereck

719-357-1387

Thanks!

Wendy Rogers, Lt Col USAF (ret)

Senator LD7 Flagstaff Arizona

X Twitter

Telegram

Gab

GETTR

Rumble

Facebook

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wendy Rogers** <WRogers@azleg.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 9:01 AM
Subject: FW: 2024 PPE and internet connections
To: Wendy Rogers <wendyjrogers@gmail.com>

Respectfully,



Angelica Rodriguez

Assistant to

Senator Wendy Rogers

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

AZ-SEN-24-0209-A-000224

wrogers@azleg.gov

602-926-3042

From: Pauline Shereck <pkshereck@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 3:12 PM
To: Wendy Rogers <WRogers@azleg.gov>
Cc: Angelica Rodriguez <ARodriguez@azleg.gov>
Subject: 2024 PPE and internet connections

Dear Ms. Rogers,

First, with the utmost appreciation, THANK YOU! Our state and nation needs fighters like you!

As we know, *time is of the essence*. Therefore, I will try my best to explain to you my concerns and observations. As the chairwoman for the Arizona Elections Committee *maybe* none of this is news to you and I am overly sensitive. After the previous 2 election cycles I am guessing you run in to people like me on a daily basis.

Here we go...

On February 28, 2024 I attended in-person training for the upcoming Presidential Preference Election (PPE). For this election I will be working as a Clerk at one of the polling sites in Maricopa County. My duties will be to monitor the ballot printers (commonly referred to as Ballot On Demand or BOD) and present the ballots to each voter after they check in on the "SiteBook."

During the training we quickly discussed the laptop computers which are connected to the printers and then stored away. It is my understanding, two apps are utilized on these laptops to allow for the communication between the SiteBooks and the printers. During training we reviewed the laptops in less than 30 seconds. The trainer needed us to know the laptops are significant but should be stored out of sight.

The Sitebooks and the BOD are connected via a switch to MOFi with a VPN. As I

understand, a VPN or Virtual Privacy Network, is a secured, private internet. Or, it simply is a tool for anyone with the knowledge to access the VPN to see the very communication that is being sent during the PPE. Due to the fact that the Maricopa County Elections stated in bold letters on page 27 of the 2024 Training Manual “**No election equipment from the Maricopa County is connected to the internet for security reasons**” has me questioning the validity of that statement. It appears to me it is semantics. And, not transparent. Thus, I question the reason for their deceptiveness.

Section Three

The Equipment

Electronic Equipment

SiteBooks

Each voting location will be equipped with SiteBooks. Voters will use these touch screen terminals to check in. Once checked in, the SiteBook will determine the correct ballot for each voter and communicate this to the printer system where the voting materials print. SiteBooks are also used for clocking in and out, reporting wait times, issuing provisional ballots, and reissuing ballots to voters who have made errors on their ballots and have had them officially spoiled.



MoFi

Each voting location will have at least one MoFi which allows the SiteBooks to communicate with Maricopa County Elections and the Ballot on Demand printer systems. The MoFi provides a secure connection to the Elections VPN, not an internet connection. **No election equipment from Maricopa County is connected to the internet for security reasons.**



Switch

Each voting location may have at least one switch to connect the Ballot on Demand printer systems and SiteBooks to the MoFi. Network cables are connected to the switch.



2024 March PPE Manual Section Three: The Equipment 27

Electronic Equipment, continued

Printers

Up to three Lexmark Ballot on Demand (BOD) printers may be at your voting location. These printers communicate with the SiteBook check-in stations to print the voter's specific ballot.

There are two different Lexmark printers, 4150 and 4352, which operate the same but have minor differences. These printers are all-in-one printers that will print ballots, envelopes, and other voter materials.

The BOD printer system has a laptop on a sliding tray that pulls out of the cabinet below the printer. Passwords to this computer and the ballot printing application will be available when you begin working. Two applications will be open on the laptop throughout the day, which communicate with the SiteBooks to print the ballots and other voter materials. These applications are self-sufficient and do not require your input to function.

When loading BOD printers with blank ballot paper, you may load up to one inch of ballot stock at a time. However, it may be easier to count your ballot stock if smaller quantities are loaded. Do not allow trays to empty completely before refilling the paper.

When the toner is running low, the screen will display a general yellow triangle warning symbol. Tap on the symbol to see what the warning is indicating. You should call the Hotline to request that a T-Tech is dispatched to replace the cartridge when the "Black cartridge low" warning appears. One of the main differences between the two Lexmark printers is that they use different print cartridges.



Also, regarding the laptop which is connected to the printers and secretly stored in a drawer directly below the printers, we are instructed to **re-start** them before we close for the night? In order for the BOD to get the voter's information to print their personal ballot it is fully understood the laptops are working during the day with the laptop lid closed and hidden away in this drawer. However, to put this into the instruction to restart the laptop while we go home for the night...what is the reason for this instruction? Why is this step necessary, if there isn't any internet?

Nightly Closing Checklist

Inspector/Judges:

- Ensure **ALL VOTERS** have left the voting location **BEFORE** starting closing procedures.
- Close and lock the slot on top of the Envelope Drop Box.
- Ensure Accessible Voting Device is left **on with polls open** and is shielded with the privacy screen. Monday before Election Day, print a test page (**page 54**).
- Confirm that all staff have completed their closing tasks assisting as needed.
- Assist all poll workers with Clock-Out procedures, and Restart Application on every SiteBook (**page 46**).
- Set up the Tabulators (**pages 58-60**) – **Monday before Election Day Only**
- Pack the Inspector box (**RED** transport box) and apply seals:
 - o All Site Badges
 - o Accessible Voting Device Activation Forms (if any)
 - o Accessible Voting Device Poll Worker Card
 - o Inspector wristlet with key(s)
 - o Completed Badge/Key Log (sample on **page 156**)
 - o Inspector Packet
 - o Completed Forms Envelope
 - o Clear Official Envelope
- Before leaving the site, confirm that you have any keys issued for the facility.
- Notify the Troubleshooter that the site is closed.



Marshal:

- Announce at closing time that the polls are closed.
- Stand at the end of the line until the last voter has used the SiteBook.
- Report zero (0) wait time.
- Bring in all signage from outside including the curbside voting sign.

Clerks:

- Place unused envelopes and ballot paper from printers back in their boxes.
- Complete the **Ballot Stock Log** from Inspector Packet (sample on **page 159**) with closing numbers and review with Inspector for their initials.
- Restart the BOD laptops and close the laptop lids.

Lastly, under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) we have been instructed to allow everyone to vote. **(Let that sink in)**. We can not turn anyone away. The voter *will* be given a **provisional ballot**. The provisional ballot however, will have “Provisional” written on the top and a code to state it is a provisional ballot. Yet, *it is submitted with the rest of the ballots* and it is **not** a different color ballot. It seems to me there has to be a lot of trust during this election year. Yet, the election officials have not changed anything to gain my trust.

providing English and Spanish assistance. Poll workers must also avoid voicing personal opinions on language assistance.

Help America Vote Act

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that all individuals who visit a voting location be allowed to vote. Even if a voter appears to be ineligible, the voter **MUST** be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. HAVA also requires that voting systems provide voters the opportunity to spoil their ballot and receive another one if the voter has overvoted. Additionally, HAVA requires that there be at least one accessible voting device at every voting location that allows voters with a disability to vote independently.



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Provisional Voting

Provisional ballots are ballots that must be researched to ensure the voter is eligible to vote in the election before they can be counted. **Each ballot is researched, and if that provisional ballot is determined to be eligible, it is counted just like a standard ballot.**

The voter will be notified of their option to vote provisionally when they are checking in on the SiteBook. The voter will also complete information needed to vote provisionally through the SiteBook. A voter may be offered a provisional ballot for various reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- Voter already voted an early ballot that has been received and counted
- Voter has already spoiled two (2) standard ballots
- Voter cannot be found in the SiteBook or shows ineligible
- Voter registration is no longer active, or voter is not registered
- Voter is address protected
- Voter is challenged and the board has found the challenge to be valid
- Voter has insufficient ID to vote a standard ballot or has no ID

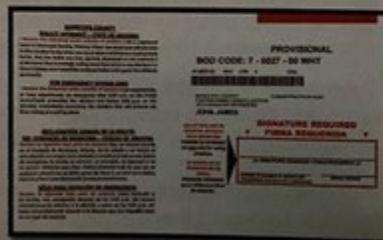


Regardless of the reason, additional items will print- the affidavit envelope and provisional receipt(s). Voters can track their provisional ballot at ProvisionalStatus.Maricopa.Vote.

Affidavit Envelopes

Provisional affidavit envelopes will only print if the voter is offered a provisional ballot. The voter's name and address will print on the affidavit envelope. Once the voter has verified the information is correct, the voter will sign, date, and provide a phone number on the front of the envelope. The word "PROVISIONAL" will be printed on the envelope.

A blank, unprinted envelope **cannot** be used. The envelope must go through the affidavit printer in the correct direction and have the voter's name and a barcode printed on it. To ensure the envelope is printed correctly, see [page 49](#).



It is my prayer you know all about the items stated above and can trust their validity. All of the listed concerns do not demonstrate a clear path to changing a person's vote. It does show Maricopa County has the ability to see who has voted, the voter's political affiliation, and various demographics almost simultaneously. This information is virtually impossible to obtain without an internet connection at the polling site!!! So why state there is not any internet connection?

in a secure election process. However, as the Chair to the Arizona Elections, the number one question I have for you is: *HOW* can I ensure the votes are *true and honest* from the tabulators's memory card? Frequently, in discussion with friends, it is acknowledged Arizona's ability to demonstrate a ballot has been received but Arizona does NOT provide the voter with a confirmation of the voter's selections on the ballot and how it added to the collective total. And, it is my belief, from the information I obtained from the PPE training, the Maricopa County Elections are not transparent. Why?

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

Pauline Shereck

719-357-1387

From: [Shelby Busch](#)
To: [Wendy Rogers](#)
Subject: Fwd: Shelby: WANTED: Election Integrity Hero(es) at AZLeg: It's a Voter REGISTRATION Card!
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 12:59:22 PM
Attachments: [3 SUCCESSIVE MARICOPA COUNTY RECORDER ADMINS ERRONEOUSLY NAMED SO CALLED VOTER ID CARDS HIGHLIGHT ON.png](#)
[3 SUCCESSIVE MARICOPA COUNTY RECORDER ADMINS ERRONEOUSLY NAMED SO CALLED VOTER ID CARDS HIGHLIGHT ON.png](#)

Hello Senator Rogers,

This is from a PC in good standing. He has been trying to bring issue with the fact that the County Recorders refer to the Voter Registration Card as "Voter ID" which is misleading and creates a series of bing issues for those actually fighting for voter ID.

I know the deadline for opening bills may have passed, but is there anything that can be done with this?

Shelby

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tristan Manos** <tristanmanos3@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 16, 2024 at 8:49 PM

Subject: Shelby: WANTED: Election Integrity Hero(es) at AZLeg: It's a Voter REGISTRATION Card!

To: Shelby Busch <Shelby.B@unitedlibertycoalition.com>

Shelby:

I've been working on this for so long, running it by one major player in the Republican Party, the Republican State Legislators, and on and on, but keep striking out.

I strongly believe in this as a matter of principle, as matter of basic logic, and as a matter of basic common sense, so I'm going to keep working on it until it's strongly established as a matter of law, with zero room for even the most radical anti-Election Integrity activists to block it, work around it, and so on.

If you've got any Republican Arizona State Legislators in mind, please feel free to forward it along.

Thank you for anything and everything.

I pray to God this shall be a law, someday, the sooner the better, especially seeing the 2024 Election on the horizon.

Tristan

...

3 Successive Maricopa County Recorder Administrations Established & Maintain Erroneously-Named So-Called “Voter IDENTIFICATION Card”

These Must Be Changed To Their Rightful Name:

“Voter REGISTRATION Card”

#MCRC #AZGOP #ElectionIntegrity

ELECTIONS MALADMINISTRATION ALERT

3 SUCCESSIVE MARICOPA COUNTY RECORDER ADMINISTRATIONS ESTABLISHED & MAINTAIN ERRONEOUSLY - NAMED SO - CALLED “VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD”

THESE MUST BE CHANGED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL NAME: “VOTER REGISTRATION CARD”

VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD
Maricopa County, Arizona
Helen Purcell, Recorder
PURCELL

VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD
Maricopa County, Arizona
Adrian Fontes, Recorder
FONTES

VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD
Stephen Richer
Maricopa County Recorder
RICHER

ELECTION M&RC INTEGRITY
MARICOPA COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

...

OBJECTIVE | BACKGROUND | WORDS MATTER | BASIC COMMONSENSE LOGIC:

Dear Arizona Republican State Legislator:

Please draft a bill to mandate all 15 Arizona County Recorders rightfully name Voter

REGISTRATION Cards!

This is a matter of basic logic, that words matter, something that transcends partisan politics, and something we should all agree upon, should be unanimous, and whatever the so-called "governor" makes of it, it should be veto-proof through an AZLeg super majority!

Something so basic as this should be so easy, and if you're the sponsor or one of the co-sponsors, you'll get your name on what I believe to be something for Arizona Election Integrity History, because this pre-existing absurdity of nomenclature was established long, long ago, the furthest back I've traced being to Helen Purcell's admin, but if you go back to the first Arizona Constitution, it shows the rightful wording: it's about REGISTRATION, and we must bring it back to life.

Furthermore, we already realized the fact that Arizona established a strong Voter ID platform and protocol, as in real Voter ID, as in a photo of the elector that's required as per A.R.S. 16-579, so for the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, and any of the other 14, to be under the impression it's alright to call a Voter Registration Card a so-called "Voter Identification Card," it's obvious maladministration, maladministration being one form or the other of incompetence or corruption, or both, to one extent or the other.

I even talked with Stephen Richer some time ago, and he openly admitted to me that he gets that it's a matter of registration, up to a point, and from time to time he'll even call it a voter registration card in his social media posts, but he is one more about preserving the institution of his and other Maricopa County government agencies than real Election Integrity for the sake of preserving our own civil society.

Last year, when I brought it up to Janine Petty, at the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, who heads up voter registration, she told me, "It's only a word."

She also mentioned the way I've been bringing it up, and so persistently, it's on AACO's radar, and they may be open to it eventually, but, and like almost everyone I've interacted with or observed in Maricopa County Government, her line, Stephen's line, Scott Jarrett's line, and so on, one of their favorite go-to lines is, "This is how it's been done for so long."

I read and take that as essentially admitting that getting this right is actually long overdue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Also... Please share around to facilitate Maximum Reach.

Thank you!

<https://twitter.com/MaricopaGOP/status/1747370789404618972>

(Please Note: There's a long thread to go along with it to bring you and the others up to speed, including research going back to Arizona's 1913 Constitution establishing the terminology as a matter of REGISTRATION.

I'm shocked to see so many major figures both in and out of government dismiss the fact that REGISTRATION is REGISTRATION and IDENTIFICATION is IDENTIFICATION,

especially here in Arizona where VOTER ID is so strongly established as an institution unto itself, and it's world's apart from a Voter Registration Card, and remember how the Recorder's Office established the digital version, so the revision getting the name right must apply to both the hard copy and the digital version, just the same.

You and others are welcome to email, text, or call me about it.

Short of AZLeg running this as a bill to make it into a law, maybe take it to the Arizona Supreme Court, calling upon a judge to rule on the matter, instructing all 15 Arizona County Recorders to get the name right?

Whatever the case, I imagine the ultimate resolution of this matter may be to make it into a law.

Thanks, again.

God bless and Godspeed.

—TM

tristanmanos3@gmail.com

602-258-3999

From: [Wendy Rogers](#)
To: [Support](#)
Subject: Re: [Request received]
Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024 10:48:57 AM

Unsubscribe

Wendy Rogers, Lt Col USAF (ret)
Senator LD7 Flagstaff Arizona

[Gab](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Telegram](#)

[GETTR](#)

On Feb 10, 2024, at 9:20 AM, Support <support@frankspeech.com> wrote:

Your request (82030) has been received and is being reviewed by our support staff.

Please accept our sincerest apologies for this delay. We appreciate your patience as we work diligently to respond.

To add additional comments to your original request, please respond to this email.

Sincerely,
FrankSpeech Support

From: [Wendy Rogers](#)
To: [Support](#)
Subject: Re: [Request received]
Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024 7:03:23 PM

Unsubscribe

Wendy Rogers, Lt Col USAF (ret)
Senator LD7 Flagstaff Arizona

[Gab](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Telegram](#)

[GETTR](#)

On Feb 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM, Support <support@frankspeech.com> wrote:

Your request (82074) has been received and is being reviewed by our support staff.

Please accept our sincerest apologies for this delay. We appreciate your patience as we work diligently to respond.

To add additional comments to your original request, please respond to this email.

Sincerely,
FrankSpeech Support

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Wendy Rogers](#)
Cc: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Alert! You have bills to be heard AND removed from this agenda.
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 5:10:49 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0215.1.2R.DOCX](#)

Bill SB1217 is scheduled to be heard, while bills SB1261, SCR1011 have been removed, for the Senate Elections Committee on 2/15/2024 at 2:00 P.M. (NOTE DATE CHANGE)* 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: Thursday, February 15, 2024

TIME: 2:00 P.M. (NOTE DATE CHANGE)* ROOM: SHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:
<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2024021072>

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. Consideration of Bills

	Bills	Short Title	Subject of Strike Everything Amendment
	SB1009	_____ voting registrations; ballot requests; source (Hoffman)	
	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	Subject of Strike Everything Amendment
SB1375	_____ ballots; categories; count; identification number (Bolick: Bennett, Borrelli, et al)	
SB1429	_____ candidates; electronic signatures; limit (Bennett)	
*** / **** SB1571	_____ night schools; technical correction (Shope)	campaign
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)	
SCR1036	_____ cities; towns; elections (Wadsack)	
** SCR1037	_____ charter cities; population threshold (Wadsack)	
SCR1041	_____ ballot measures; challenges (Mesnard)	
SCR1043	_____ cities; towns; elections (Gowan: Carroll, Shamp, et al)	
SCR1044	_____ judicial retention elections (Gowan: Shamp)	

- * Meeting with permission of the President
- ** Pending Committee Assignment
- *** Strike everything amendment may be offered
- **** Pending Introduction, First Reading and Committee Assignment

02/09/2024



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.

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
-----------	--------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

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: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Wendy Rogers](#)
Cc: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 3:56:54 PM
Attachments: [S.ELE0215.1.2R.DOCX](#)

SB1217, SB1261, SCR1011 are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Elections Committee on 2/15/2024 at 2:00 P.M. (NOTE DATE CHANGE)* in SHR 1.

**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)	
/	SB1571	_____	night schools; technical correction (Shope)	campaign
↘	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)	
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	SB1674	_____	schools; governing board; unexpired term (Gowan)	
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↘	*** SCR1014	_____	presidential electors; constitutional appointments (Kern)	
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	SCR1041	_____	ballot measures; challenges (Mesnard)	
	SCR1043	_____	cities; towns; elections (Gowan: Carroll, Shamp, et al)	
	SCR1044	_____	judicial retention elections (Gowan: Shamp)	

- * Meeting with permission of the President
- ** Pending Committee Assignment
- *** Pending Introduction, First Reading and Committee Assignment
- **** Strike everything amendment may be offered

02/09/2024
02/13/2024



From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [Wendy Rogers](#)
Cc: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Alert! Your bills are scheduled to be heard
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 4:40:27 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.

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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	Kavanagh	Wadsack****
	Bravo	Shope	Bennett, Vice - Chairman
	Hernandez	Sundareshan	Rogers, Chairman

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)	
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*/** SB1278	_____ technical correction; juvenile offenders; notice (Mesnard)	elections

Bills	Short Title	Subject of Strike Everything Amendment
** SB1288	_____ electronic ballot adjudication; prohibition (Hoffman)	elections
SB1375	_____ ballots; categories; count; identification number (Bolick: Bennett, Borrelli, et al)	
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SCR1044	_____ judicial retention elections (Gowan: Shamp)	

- * Pending Committee Assignment
- ** Strike everything amendment may be offered
- *** Pending Introduction, First Reading and Committee Assignment
- **** Pending Appointment by the President

02/06/2024
02/09/2024
ar

From: [Stacey Farrell](#)
To: [Thomas T.J. Shope](#)
Subject: FW: Meeting Request with Sen. Shope re: SB1342 & SB1651
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:34:56 AM

From: Samantha Orth <samantha@pinnacle-pa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Stacey Farrell <SFarrell@azleg.gov>
Cc: Thomas T.J. Shope <tshope@azleg.gov>
Subject: Meeting Request with Sen. Shope re: SB1342 & SB1651

Good morning Stacey,

I'm reaching out to request a meeting with Senator Shope to discuss **SB1651: Elections; hand count audit; selection** and **SB1342: Elections; parties; hand count audits**. Might Senator Shope be available for a meeting with me and Pele Fischer in the next week or so? We can accommodate in-person or virtual.

If the senator is available, we'd greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss these bills.

Thank you,

Samantha Orth

Associate, Pinnacle Public Affairs

Mobile: 623.696.6672

Email: samantha@pinnacle-pa.com

Address: 4455 East Camelback Road, Suite D-145, Phoenix, AZ 85018

From: [Stacey Farrell](#)
To: [Samantha Orth](#)
Subject: RE: Meeting Request with Sen. Shope re: SB1342 & SB1651
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 1:58:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Sounds good, Samantha, thanks!

Respectfully,

Stacey Farrell

Administrative Assistant to
Senator T.J. Shope, President Pro Tempore
Legislative District 16
(602) 926-3012



From: Samantha Orth <samantha@pinnacle-pa.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Stacey Farrell <SFarrell@azleg.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request with Sen. Shope re: SB1342 & SB1651

Hi Stacey, I think we'll go ahead and cancel this request as I believe Pele was able to speak with Senator Shope this week.

Thank you!

Samantha Orth

Associate, Pinnacle Public Affairs

Mobile: 623.696.6672

Email: samantha@pinnacle-pa.com

Address: 4455 East Camelback Road, Suite D-145, Phoenix, AZ 85018

From: Stacey Farrell <SFarrell@azleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 1:27 PM
To: Samantha Orth <samantha@pinnacle-pa.com>
Subject: FW: Meeting Request with Sen. Shope re: SB1342 & SB1651

Hello, Samantha.

He would prefer virtual. Would you be available this Friday, the 9th, at noon?

Respectfully,

Stacey Farrell

Administrative Assistant to
Senator T.J. Shope, President Pro Tempore
Legislative District 16
(602) 926-3012



From: Samantha Orth <samantha@pinnacle-pa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Stacey Farrell <SFarrell@azleg.gov>
Cc: Thomas T.J. Shope <tshope@azleg.gov>
Subject: Meeting Request with Sen. Shope re: SB1342 & SB1651

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If the senator is available, we'd greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss these bills.

Thank you,

Samantha Orth

Associate, Pinnacle Public Affairs

Mobile: 623.696.6672

Email: samantha@pinnacle-pa.com

Address: 4455 East Camelback Road, Suite D-145, Phoenix, AZ 85018

From: [Shelby Busch](#)
To: [Ken Bennett](#); [Shawna Bolick](#); [Sonny Borrelli](#); [Frank Carroll](#); [David Farnsworth](#); [David Gowan](#); [Jake Hoffman](#); [John Kavanagh](#); [Anthony Kern](#); [Sine Kerr](#); [J.D. Mesnard](#); [Warren Petersen](#); [Janae Shamp](#); [Thomas T.J. Shope](#); [Justine Wadsack](#); [Leo Biasiucci](#); [Selina Bliss](#); [Michael Carbone](#); [Neal Carter](#); [Joseph Chaplik](#); [David Cook](#); [Lupe Diaz](#); [Tim Dunn](#); [John Gillette](#); [Travis Grantham](#); [Matt Gress](#); [Gail Griffin](#); [Justin Heap](#); [Laurin Hendrix](#); [Rachel Jones](#); [Alexander Kolodin](#); [David Livingston](#); [Teresa Martinez](#); [David Marshall](#); [Cory McGarr](#); [Steve Montenegro](#); [Quang Nguyen](#); [Barbara Rowley Parker](#); [Jacqueline Parker](#); [Kevin Payne](#); [Michele Pena](#); [Beverly Pingerelli](#); [Austin Smith](#); [Ben Toma](#); [Julie Willoughby](#); [Justin Wilmeth](#)
Subject: Timeline Extension Bill
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:14:25 PM

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Statutes to impose standards for signature verification has been neglected for years. With mail-in ballot voting increasing significantly over the years and now representing the largest method of voting in Arizona, we NEED accountability.

If you believe in the people's right to an honest and transparent election, you MUST advocate to increase standards and reduce vulnerability to fraud.

This cannot wait for a House Bill or Senate Bill. This must take effect to impact the 2024 election and should remain in the negotiations for the timeline Extension Bill requested by the counties.

We the People elected you to represent us and our interests, NOT the Counties.

Show the American people that you believe in honest elections and impose immediate signature verification standards in the timeline Extension Bill.

Verifying the legitimacy of each vote is a provision in our Arizona Constitution. This is not a partisan issue, but a common sense standard for the people. The security of our elections are not to be used as bargaining chips in negotiations.

Thank you,

Shelby Busch

Chairman
We the People AZ Alliance

1st Vice Chair
Maricopa County Republican Committee

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To: [Ken Bennett](#); [Shawna Bolick](#); [Sonny Borrelli](#); [Frank Carroll](#); [David Farnsworth](#); [David Gowan](#); [Jake Hoffman](#); [John Kavanagh](#); [Anthony Kern](#); [Sine Kerr](#); [J.D. Mesnard](#); [Warren Petersen](#); [Janae Shamp](#); [Thomas T.J. Shope](#); [Justine Wadsack](#); [Leo Biasiucci](#); [Selina Bliss](#); [Michael Carbone](#); [Neal Carter](#); [Joseph Chaplik](#); [David Cook](#); [Lupe Diaz](#); [Tim Dunn](#); [John Gillette](#); [Travis Grantham](#); [Matt Gress](#); [Gail Griffin](#); [Justin Heap](#); [Laurin Hendrix](#); [Rachel Jones](#); [Alexander Kolodin](#); [David Livingston](#); [Teresa Martinez](#); [David Marshall](#); [Cory McGarr](#); [Steve Montenegro](#); [Quang Nguyen](#); [Barbara Rowley Parker](#); [Jacqueline Parker](#); [Kevin Payne](#); [Michele Pena](#); [Beverly Pingerelli](#); [Austin Smith](#); [Ben Toma](#); [Julie Willoughby](#); [Justin Wilmeth](#)
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