

The Arizona Legislative Alert

#Enough!

UUJAZ and VUU. Giving Voice to UU Values in Arizona

February 17, 2018

***Prepared by Anne L. Schneider, PH.D. All opinions are those of the author.
Shining a bright light for social justice!***

To be added to the email list, or to be taken off send request to legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org.

You can get a copy of the full report at this [link](#) and the internal hyperlinks that take you directly to the sections you want to read should work!!

This report is divided into 3 sections:

- [Highlights](#) – legislative updates for each of the social justice topics
- [Details](#) – detailed summaries of bills making progress, by topic
- [Resources](#) – contact information both state and national, calendar of events, how to use “request to speak” and etc.

But first the action suggestions:

Action suggestion #1. Don't even know where to start this week? You are not alone. You could contact your U.S. Congressional delegation with two messages: Ban assault weapons and pass a CLEAN DACA bill that will grant a path to citizenship for DACA people (dreamers). On guns, it is time now (far past time) to do something about the senseless mass shootings in this country. On DACA, tell Congress to stop trying to negotiate with DJT on this matter. He owns this problem. He could rescind his executive order and extend the DACA program. Congress needs to do what is right – pass a clean bill.

Action suggestion #2: Voter registration! One way to help create a more just society is to insure that people who hold elected office have a firm commitment to social justice. Voter registration is handled by the County Recorder's office in your county. Some of active training programs to let volunteers become in

registering new voters. To find out, Google (your county) County Recorder (e.g., <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/> https://recorder.pima.gov If your county does not have a voter registration outreach program, ask them to start one.

Action suggestion #3: Have you heard of the CHISPA program? Clean buses for Healthy Ninos! Write to Governor Ducey to use the state's \$57 million settlement from Volkswagen to fund clean energy, zero-emission electric school buses. Sponsored by the League of Conservation voters, this program would replace diesel buses that are implicated in Arizona's poor air quality with electric buses. Postcards to Gov. Ducey, 1700 W. Washington St. Phoenix, AZ., 85007.

Topics are in the following order, in case the internal links don't work in your browser, just scroll to what you want to read

[Crime / Criminal Justice](#) [Democracy \(voting & elections\)](#) [Economic Justice](#)
[\(Budget\)](#) [Education](#) [Environment \(including water\)](#) [Health & Welfare](#)
[Human Rights](#) [Guns](#) [Immigration](#) [Taxation](#)

Highlights – A Quick Read

This is the week in the AZ Legislature when bills that have passed the chamber of origin move to the other chamber, and the process starts again. Mainly this week they will be voting on bills, so the best strategy is to contact YOUR state legislator (House or Senate) and explain your support or opposition to a bill. You can find the name of your legislator at <http://www.azleg.gov>. The Rules committees and appropriations committee are meeting this week, but Rules committees in Arizona seldom kill anything. Bills with significant financial implications will be heard by Appropriation committees. For bills that have already passed one chamber, you may want to proactively contact your Legislator and register your opinion. (See Request to Speak in Resources

section to learn how to make yourself heard even when a bill is not yet before a committee)!

Crime & Justice – Several good bills passed the House including HB2311 that provides some limited liability for employers who hire ex offenders; HB2189 that permits an inmate’s discharge account to be used for services while still in prison that will be needed immediately after discharge, and HB2244 that does not permit a defense for crimes against children if the perpetrator thought the child was fictitious or an adult or someone posing as an officer. This cooperation between the parties continues the bi-partisan efforts to reduce recidivism rates, although Republicans continue to introduce bills that will lengthen or expand sentences. Some fail, however, as did HB2241 that increased the penalty for fentanyl sale or use; but another bill HB2243 that increased the penalty for wrong way driving passed the full House 38-21. Another that grants more discretion for crimes against animals (SB1295) ready for a full vote in the Senate.

Democracy, Voting and Elections – A host of bad bills (anti democracy) are introduced every year in the AZ Legislature and several are coming up for a vote this week either before a Rules committee or a full vote. These are good opportunities to register your opinion (see Request to speak) and to let your own Legislators know what you think. Examples include:

- SB1273 that would permit the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council to be the place where appeals are heard regarding burdensome regulations;
- SCR1005 and HCR2024 that call for an “Article V” convention of the states to set term limits for Congress. Opponents (including most constitutional scholars) say that this runs a substantial risk of a “runaway” convention that would rewrite the U.S. Constitution;
- HB2121 that will make it more difficult for citizen initiatives to succeed by limiting the ability to pay circulators and requiring that they be registered, which can subject them to later court subpoenas when petitions are challenged;
- HCR2007 that prohibits Clean Elections commission from making rules;
- SCR1034 would refer to the voters a change in the membership of the Independent Redistricting commission that draws the boundaries of Arizona Congressional and Legislative districts. This bill is sponsored by

Yarbrough, President of the Senate, and passed the Government committee 4-3 but not scheduled yet for Rules. It would provide for an even number of commissioners, so if they tied, the Legislature would be allowed to draw the lines.

Unfortunately, a good bill, [SB1374](#) that would make it more difficult for Legislators to request Attorney General investigation of local government ordinances (Brophy McGee, R, LD 28), failed 4-3 in committee.

Economic Justice – Two bills that need sustained opposition probably will be voted on this week.

- [SCR1016](#) minimum wage; sick time repeal. This bill passed committee 5-4 and after being heard by Rules could be voted on at any time. It would submit to the voters a proposal to overturn the 2016 initiative that approved a minimum wage increase gradually to \$12 by 2020 and provided for mandatory sick time. This would cap the minimum wage permanently at \$10.50 and repeal the other provisions! Sponsor is Sylvia Allen (R, LD6).
- [SB1398](#) redefines “suitable work” for unemployed persons who are receiving unemployment insurance and also establishes a “return to work” program. The program is an excellent idea. The new definition of “suitable work” is worrisome! This passed committee 7-0 with one abstention and also passed Rules. There originally was considerable confusion on the “suitable work” definition, as it says that after four weeks on unemployment, the individual who is on unemployment insurance has to accept any offer that provides 120% of the of the unemployment benefit (which would be \$288 a week). Really? That isn’t even the minimum wage. Bill appears to require persons to accept jobs that are illegal to offer (e.g., pay less than minimum wage). Urge your Senator to work to amend this bill by removing this new definition of “suitable work.” The other part of the bill having to do with an apprenticeship program is well worth supporting.

A bill worth supporting is SB1436 that passed committee and probably will be heard in Rules this week, although not on the Monday agenda. This bill prohibits denying a person an occupational license because of a criminal record, except in extreme cases.

Education – The primary goals of many progressive public school advocates in Arizona are to halt the slide toward privatizing public education and to return funding to a per capita level at least as high as before the recession of 2008. Tax credits and empowerment scholarships are two of the primary tools being used to privatize public education in that these provide an incentive to donate to private and religious schools and simultaneously take money out of the general fund.

- [SB1467](#) is a proposal from Sen. President Yarbrough (R, 17) capping the corporate tax credit program. This program permits corporations to take a dollar-for-dollar credit to give to student tuition organizations that then provide scholarships to students to attend private and religious schools. It needs to be capped (everyone agrees on that), but this bill sets the caps too high and actually expands eligibility. It passed committee 4-3 and Rules. Probably will be voted on this week.
- HB2377 provides a tax credit for teachers, to purchase up to \$400 for supplies they use in the classroom. Some view this as a cynical move to help teachers buy something for their classes that ought to be paid by public funds! On the Rules committee 2/19.

Free speech on college and university campuses is the purported issue in [HB2563](#) (Bower, R, 25). This bill is branded as an effort to protect free speech on campus, but it appears mainly to be aimed at punishing those who protest extremists when they appear on campus. A complicated issue as this appears aimed mainly at left-wing people trying to disrupt white nationalists and other far right groups; but far right groups have used these same tactics on leftist speakers. On the agenda Monday Rules committee agenda.

Environment – The Sierra club and other environmentalists have made significant progress in blocking the cluster of water bills introduced last week by Sen. Griffin (R, LD14). The two omnibus bills, [SB1507](#) and companion bill in the House [HB2512](#) (Bowers, R. LD 25) may be passed but are likely to be vetoed if they do, so major floor amendments may be attempted. HB2512 is on the Rules committee agenda, but the next steps in the Senate are unclear. These bills need to be significantly amended, killed, or vetoed!

Environmentalists are also concerned about SB1493 (Griffin, R, LD14), which would turn over to the State DEQ much of the authority to control the Clean Water Act.

Guns – The two bills that would have banned bump-fire accessories failed to get a hearing and are dead. On the other hand, bills that enlarge the state militia and permit more people to have access to more types of guns are still moving. HB2059 and HCR2002 would expand the age and gun access for state militia. SB1117 permits retired police officers to carry a gun in a bar or restaurant. On the other hand, some good news is that HB2535 that would have prohibited child service agencies from banning guns has died for failing to get a committee hearing.

Health & Welfare – Good news from last week bears repeating: HB2127 (that would provide a bit of protection to the Kids Care program) has passed the House 46-12 with all Democrats and many Republicans voting in favor. [HB2127](#) is not a “fix” to the KidsCare program, but it helps in that it amends the current law which would prohibit Arizona from enrolling any new children in this program if the federal government reduced its funding below 100%. If the feds reduce their funding, this bill permits Arizona to determine whether funds are sufficient or not, and to continue the program if funds can be found. Also, HB2449 which would provide for a tiered reimbursement program for child care assistance (tiered based on quality of care) is moving forward and will be heard in Rules committee 2/19.

Several bills worth supporting are still moving: SB1163 passed the House 29-0 (prohibits credit security freeze); SB1165 is ready for a final vote and requires DES to post the sliding scale on child care assistance, and SB1086 that requires AHCCCS to cover chiropractic services. On the other hand, SB1247 prohibits citizens and towns from requiring employers to provide health insurance to employees and it passed the Senate 17-13. This bill will have to be fought again in the House.

Human Rights – Two bills promoted by the anti-abortion lobby [SB1393](#) and [SB1394](#) are moving forward and both may be voted on this week in the Senate. The first, SB 1393 passed 5-2 and the Rules committee so it is ready for a vote in the Senate. It says that in a divorce the parent who wants to bring the embryo to birth is awarded custody. The second bill, SB1394, is on the Senate Rules committee

agenda for 2/19. It requires additional paperwork when an abortion is involved; aimed at making abortion less accessible and more time consuming, including documenting the reasons the woman wants the abortion. Some good news though: [SB1198](#) that protects blind people from being discriminated against in terms of adoption and foster parenting passed the full Senate unanimously. It now goes to the House.

Supporters of the ERA made one last valiant effort, but the bill did not get a hearing.

Immigration – Most of the action here is at the federal level. In Arizona, HB2083 passed the House 33-24. It would limit liability on dual-language insurance contracts, making it easier for companies to mislead consumers with contracts written in another language. On the other hand, [HB2155](#), a bill to protect immigrants from fraudulent notaries passed full house 58-0.

Taxation – And it goes on and on. More proposals for tax cuts and tax credits. Several are on the agenda for Monday 2/19 Rules committee. Democrats and many progressives have simply decided to oppose all tax cuts and tax credits, even if the organization benefitting from the tax credit is a worthy one, because the continued use of this policy tools makes it clear that the government not only cannot fund public services at an adequate level (there isn't enough money left to do that), but that it *should not* fund public services as these should be the responsibility of the private sector businesses, charities, nonprofits, and rich people.

Details about Legislation

This organizes social-justice bills by topic, but is not a comprehensive list of bills!! Those included primarily are the ones with some chance of progressing. The topics are more or less in alphabetical order. And, the schedule for next week is still incomplete at this writing.

Crime / Criminal Justice

Worth supporting

- [SB1476](#) pre-arrest diversion; precomplaint education program. Passed 8-0 Commerce and public safety. This is a bi-partisan bill that permits merchants who were victimized offering the suspect an educational diversion program, including waiving its fee. Not on Rules agenda yet.
- [HB2222](#) feminine hygiene products; requirements; appropriation (Salmon, D, LD26). Passed an all-male committee 5-4, but then pulled when the Department of Corrections promised to do something about this internally. In the committee, one Republican (Campbell, LD 1) and all Democrats voted for it.
- YEA! [HB2311](#) exoffender limited liability. This bill passed the House unanimously! It provides limited liability for employers who hire ex offenders. The fact that the person was an ex offender generally could not be introduced as evidence of an employer's culpability. Sponsor is E. Farnsworth, R, LD12.
- YEA! [HB2189](#) prisoners; dedicated discharge account. This bill permits an inmate's discharge account to be used for services while still in prison that will be needed immediately upon discharge. Passed House 57-1. Sponsor is Boyer, R, LD20.
- YEA! [HB2244](#) dangerous crimes; children; fictitious age This bill would say it is not a defense to a DCAC (dangerous crimes against children) allegation that the minor victim (under 15) is fictitious; an adult; a peace officer posing as a minor; or older than the defendant believed, knew or had reason to know. The legislation was prompted by a 2017 case where a conviction was vacated because the child being offered (by a parent) was fictitious. Passed House unanimously.

Other Bills

- [SB1041](#) **Passed Senate 17-13. residency restrictions; sex offenders; victims.** This legislation restricts how close a convicted sex offender can be to a children's place or the victim's residence. Opponents mentioned the unfairness of current sex offender registration requirements that range from benign to serious. Kavanagh, R, LD 29.
- [HB2245](#) **prohibited bail; sexual conduct; molestation.** Current law prohibits bail for crimes against children under 15, but court found it vague

and unconstitutional. Modifies the prohibition on bail for a person charged with sexual conduct with a minor under 15 or child molestation to apply only if the person was: 18 years or older and the victim was under 13 years old; or 10 years older than a 13 or 14-year-old victim. (Sec. 1). Opponents not satisfied. Passed **House 40-19 with Democrats not satisfied with the bill.**

- [HB2241](#) **Failed in House vote (good).** **heroin; fentanyl; sales; mandatory prison mandates prison for fentanyl sales or use.** This legislation increases penalty to 10 presumptive years or 15 for subsequent offense (E. Farnsworth, R, LD 12) Passed 5-4, passed Rules committee 9-0 but then failed as there is no indication that stiffer penalties do anything except fill up the prisons on crimes like this.
- [HB2243](#) **wrong way drivers; dui.** Passed House, 38-21. Establishes a civil traffic offense for driving the wrong way on a controlled access highway. A person found responsible is subject to a \$500 civil penalty, and must attend and successfully complete Traffic Safety School. The bill also creates a new aggravated DUI offense for a person who commits a regular, extreme or aggravated DUI violation while driving the wrong way on a highway. A violation is a Class 4 felony (2 ½ years, up to \$150,00 plus surcharges). Passed Judiciary and public safety committee 6-3, passed 7-1 in the Traffic and Infrastructure committee, and passed by the Rules committee. Issue here is whether more severe punishment for wrong way DUI offenses will deter crime or simply add to the prison population. Sponsor is E. Farnsworth, R, LD 12.
- [HB2246](#) **jail; prohibited items; drugs.** Passed House 57-2. This bill expands the list of drugs that cannot be taken into a jail to include marijuana and some other dangerous drugs not currently included and makes it a class 5 felon. Passed, 5-4. Rules passed it too. Could be voted on at any time.
- [HB2248](#) **sexually violent persons; screening.** Passed House, 57-0. Current law permits screening to see if a person is a Sexually Violent Person (SVP). This expands the list of conditions that may trigger the SVP screening process to include a defendant who was ever: a) Convicted of a sexually violent offense; or b) found GEI (Guilty Except for Insanity) for a sexually

violent offense. Passed Judiciary and public safety committee 5-4. And rules 7-0.

- [SB1295](#) animal cruelty; domestic animals; classification (Kavanaugh, R, LD 29). SB1295 would create a special Class 5 felony for subjecting pets to cruel mistreatment. And the same penalty would apply for killing a pet without the owner's consent. Supporters acknowledged that the difference in penalty is only six months, but that this slight increase in the sentence permits judges to require a person to get help with issues of anger and lack of empathy. Passed Judiciary and Rules, but not voted on yet in the Senate.

Democracy, Voting &, Elections As has been the case all during the session, persons supporting democratic institutions, accessible voting, and transparency in elections have been very busy! That continues.

- Worth Supporting! [SB1374](#) state law; local government violations Senator Brophy-McGee (LD28). Failed 3-4 in the **Sen. Government committee, so is probably dead. This is too bad.** Current law allows ANY member of the legislature to challenge local governments that they believe are in violation of a state law and the Attorney General is required to complete an investigation within 30 days. This does not repeal this extreme version of a pre-emption law but it limits the ability to challenge only to legislators who represent the district in which all or part of the county, city or town is being challenged. It also provides opportunity for challenged party to respond and extends the time allowed for them to either resolve the challenged issue or appeal to the state Supreme Court or to make adjustments. It also allows reimbursement of expenses. Capitol Times 2/ 9 reports that eight local government units have been targeted by state legislators under the 2016 law SB1487.
- [HCR2022](#) **U.S. Senate candidates; legislative nomination. Finally passed the** House Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy committee 6-3, but not passed Rules yet and not on the 2/19 agenda. This is a bad bill. The resolution, if passed, would go to the voters to have legislators from the Republican and Democratic party caucuses narrow down candidates to two

per party who then would be voted on by the general public. Grantham, R, LD 12. This is a very bad idea!

- [SB1273](#) **GRRC; review; licensing requirements.** Passed Government committee 4-3 and Rules. Probably voted on this week. Another bad idea. This bill refers to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council. A person or entity may appeal to an agency that a rule or regulation is burdensome and not essential for public health and safety. If the agency turns them down, they may appeal to the GRRC which will review the case and has the authority to nullify the agency rule. Here's what it says: "a person may petition the council to request a review of an existing agency practice, substantive policy statement, final rule or licensing requirement that is not specifically authorized by statute pursuant to title based on the person's belief that the existing agency practice, is unduly burdensome...."
- **Article V conventions (again).** House and senate versions have both passed their substantive committee but neither has passed the Rules committee yet. . [SCR1005-](#) Article V convention; term limits _ Introduced by Petersen (R, LD12) this would call for a convention of the states to set term limits for members of Congress. It passed 4-3 but has not been heard yet by the Rules committee. This is the same as HCR2024 Article V convention; term limits which passed its committee 7-2 with one Democrat and all Republicans voting in favor. On House rules agenda 2/19. Mitchell, R, LD 13 is sponsor of the House bill. These are identical. Both have serious opposition from people who believe, as do most constitutional scholars, that a "convention of states" would become a runaway convention and able to rewrite the entire U.S. constitution.
- [HB2121](#) **ballot measures; paid circulator definition.** This bill passed the House Federalism, Property Rights, and Public Policy committee, but will have to be okayed by the Rules committee if it is to advance. Is being heard 2/19 in House Rules committee. The bill is another one of those attempting to make it more difficult for citizens to collect enough signatures to get an initiative on the ballot. This bill changes the language for paid circulators from definition of "paid by signature" to anyone who is paid for collecting petition signatures. Leach (R, LD11).

- [HB2153](#) **campaign finance; nonprofits; disclosure.** Passed the House, 33-25. This is another pre-emption bill with the Legislature prohibiting local government from taking progressive action. Campaign finance law requires an organization to register as a political committee if they have made contributions of \$1,000 or more to a candidate, and this bill prohibits local/state governments from going beyond state law in its requirements of 501 organizations. That is, local government cannot require a 501 organization to register as a PAC, to disclose donors or to submit to an audit or to produce evidence regarding a potential campaign contribution. In other words, local governments cannot enforce campaign law! **Sponsor is** Leach, R, 11. Supporters want to consider money as speech and prohibit at the local level any efforts to go beyond state law, as some cities and towns have done. This would make that illegal. Opponents argue that money is NOT speech and that campaign contributions can and should be limited.
- [HCR2007](#) **clean elections; unlawful contributions; rulemaking.** This bill would prohibit the Clean Elections commission from making rules. These are essential to the work of the commission and would cripple it if the resolution becomes law. Passed 4-3 by the Government committee and on the Rules agenda 2/19. Sponsor is Coleman, R, 16. The Clean Elections Commission is about the only agency in Arizona interested in enforcing campaign finance requirements.
- [HCR2008](#) **initiatives; conflicting federal law.** Failed, finally! FPRPP committee voted against it 2-7. Probably dead, and that is good. It would require the Attorney General to review initiatives at any time in the process, even after they have gained enough signatures to be put on the ballot, and if in conflict with federal law, take them off the ballot. Leach, R, LD 11. A good place to use Request to Speak.
- [HB2284](#) **initiative; referendum; campaign finance filings.** Has been held three times and is not currently scheduled, so probably dead, and that is good. Two provisions are especially worrisome as they will make it more difficult for citizens to get enough signatures to put issues on the ballot. One is that they cannot start collecting signatures until the Legislature has

adjourned, and the other is the requirement to file monthly rather than quarterly campaign reports. Leach, R, LD11.

- [HB2184](#) Clean Elections Restrictions. Passed House 53-4 after most opposition overcome. Opponents feared the bill is aimed at preventing the Clean Elections Commission from adopting rules that govern expenditures in elections, including those for candidates who are not running as “clean” candidates (that is, are not running on public funds but accept private donations). Some believe that the Voter Protection Act protects the Clean Elections commission from this sort of intrusion by the Legislature. (Coleman, R, LD16) but if this bill passes, the issue will be tied up in the courts.

A Victory!

- [SB1023](#) **campaign contributions**; reportable amount. This bill is probably **dead for the session** even though it passed its committee 4-3. Two Republicans (Ugenti-Rita and Steve Smith) reportedly told the sponsor, John Kavanagh (R, LD 29) that they would not support it. In the Senate, 16 votes are needed to pass and the loss of two is enough to kill a bill. So, Kavanagh pulled it. The bill illustrates the presumed “right to privacy” for someone who donates money (a “right” that is disputed) against the public’s right to know who is paying to achieve election victories. The bill would have shielded from public view all donations under \$100. Current law does not require naming those with donations under \$50.

Citizen Initiatives – Two worrisome bills were pulled from the Senate Government committee two weeks ago and have been held again. These are probably dead, and that is good. Both are resolutions that would be put on the ballot for a future public vote. We’re simply watching to be sure these do not show up again.

- [SCR1001](#) - would hold citizen initiatives and referenda to the same standards as legislation that is presented for a public vote, namely, that it must deal only with one subject and that subject must be in the title (Kavanagh, R, 29). [SCR1002](#) (D. Farnsworth, R, LD 16) would require reauthorization of citizen initiatives every 10 years. Again, this is an effort by some in the Legislature to restrict the ability of citizens to by-pass the Legislature and enact their own legislation.

Economic Justice – Economic justice covers a wide range of topics including budget, economic security, workplace issues, wages, licensing requirements for professions, and more. Policies pertaining to [health and welfare](#) are also economic issues and are covered separately below. Tax issues have been moved to its own section, Taxation.

Budget As analysts get a closer look at the Governor’s budget, more and more objections are being registered. Children’s Action Alliance and others point out that the economic growth is not sufficient to cover 28 years of tax cuts. CAA says, “Governor Ducey’s budget proposal is loaded with one-time sweeps from special purpose funds and takes \$52 million from hospital patients, counties, and universities. It continues to leave K-12 underfunded by more than \$950 million compared to a decade ago, and makes no plans for moving teacher pay up from the bottom to fix the teacher shortage crisis. [This infographic tells the story.](#)”

- [SB1398](#) unemployment insurance, definition of “suitable work.” This bill, Sponsored by Smith, R, LD11) will probably be voted on this week in the Senate. It provides that persons who have been on unemployment for four weeks must accept thereafter any employment offer that pays 120% of the unemployment insurance benefit. That benefit is \$240 a week, so this portion of the bill requires accepting a job that offers \$288 a week, which is about \$7.20 an hour, less than the minimum wage of \$10.40 an hour. If the person does not accept the offer, they lose their unemployment insurance benefit. When it was pointed out by a speaker at the hearing that it is against the law to pay less than the minimum wage, the chair of the committee seemed confused and then denied that the bill’s provisions actually permit an employer to make an offer at less than the minimum wage and the unemployed person is required to take it or lose their unemployment insurance. Yet, the speaker and one member of the committee continued to read the bill to him, but he just went into talking points about how people need to find a job. He did offer the thought that perhaps the job was not full time. The speaker pointed out that this provision requires a person to take a \$15,000 a year job if it is offered. This bill does have a new, good,

apprenticeship program in it, but the provisions defining “suitable work” need to be taken out entirely. If you are concerned, contact Sen. Yarbrough and urge him NOT to call this for a vote until it is amended and the provisions regarding “suitable work” be removed. That is already defined elsewhere. syarbrough@azleg.gov or 602 926 5863 and urge your Senator to support an amendment excising the section defining “suitable work.”

New: Opposition needed!

- [SCR1016](#) minimum wage; sick time repeal. This bill passed the committee 5-3 but has not yet passed Rules and not yet called up for a vote. It would submit to the voters a proposal to overturn the 2016 initiative that approved a minimum wage increase gradually to \$12 by 2020 and provided for mandatory sick time. This would cap the minimum wage permanently at \$10.50 and repeal the other provisions! Sponsor is Sylvia Allen (R, LD6). Contact YOUR Senator and urge a NO vote if it comes to the floor this week.

Worth Supporting:

- [SB1436](#) prohibition; criminal history; occupational regulation. Passed Commerce and Public Safety 8-0 but needs to be heard in Rules and then voted on this week. (Borges, R, LD12). This bill prohibits a person being refused an occupational license because of a criminal record unless the crime was violent, sexual, or would more likely re-occur if the person were licensed. This is part of the continuing bi-partisan efforts to reduce recidivism of ex-offenders.

Other Bills

The bitcoin bill PASSED THE SENATE 16-13. [SB1091](#) will allow income tax payments to be made in bitcoin. (Petersen, R, 12) Passed the Senate 16-13. If political events at the national level ever decrease in terms of drama, this will surely make the news. The supporters argued that it is faster and more convenient for people to use bitcoin to pay their taxes rather than dollars. They claimed this would also save them money because it cuts out the fees associated with exchanging bitcoin for dollars. Opponents asked why the person cannot just exchange the bitcoins themselves and then pay their taxes in dollars. They pointed out that people cannot pay their taxes with rubles or pesos. Opponents also made it clear that bitcoin is simply a currency with no underlying value at all. Some

called it a Ponzi scheme and worried about how it is controlled and by whom. Closely related is [SB1145](#) which requires that AZ Adjusted Gross Income include virtual currency (Petersen R, 12). Passed 4-3 and was taken up by Rules committee and found to be PFC (proper for consideration) but has not been voted on yet.

Business / Professional Licenses – Arizona may again be taking the lead in a national conservative movement, this time to repeal licensing requirements but there has been so much push-back that most of the bills are not moving. These bills are part of a nation-wide movement led by American Legislative Exchange Council (a conservative lobbying group) to reduce / remove regulations including many of those that set the standards for professional licenses. Several bills removing licensing requirements for various professions have been introduced, most by Mosley, R, LD5, although the one that made the biggest headlines was repealing the licensing requirement for persons who blow dry and style hair [HB2011 cosmetology; licensing exceptions](#). This bill, introduced by Ugenti-Rita, R, LD23 (Scottsdale) exempts individuals who “dry, style, arrange, dress, curl, hot iron or shampoo and condition hair from the licensing requirements if the service does not include the application of reactive chemicals to permanently alter the hair.” The bill passed in the Motor Vehicle and Regulatory Affairs committee 5-4 after 4 hours of testimony, passed the Rules committee and is ready for a vote. A bill to repeal license requirements to practice taxidermy was assigned to the Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy committee but was held. Another that is attracting considerable concern is HB2406 that would change license requirements (weaken them, according to opponents) for social work, counselors, psychologists and other behavioral health professions. Supporters claim these are needed to “open up” these professions and make them easier to access.

Opponents are concerned that this will open up consumers to inadequate health care! Here’s the list of licensing (repealing licenses) bills and their status, so far:

[HB2011 cosmetology; licensing exceptions](#) (Passed MVRA 5-4; Passed Rules)

[HB2406](#) behavioral health board; regulation; repeal (Assigned, Health, not scheduled)

[HB2404](#) license to practice taxidermy; repeal. **(Strike everything used to change it to requiring registration rather than licensing)**. Passed House 39-18.

[HB2407](#) dispensing opticians; repeal of regulation (Assigned, Health, no hearing scheduled)

[HB2408](#) board of funeral directors; repeal (Assigned, MVRA, no hearing scheduled)

[HB2409](#) massage therapy; regulation; repeal (Assigned Health, no hearing scheduled)

[HB2410](#) geologists; landscape architects; regulatory repeal (Assigned MVRA, no hearing scheduled)

[HB2411](#) homeopathic physicians; board; repeal (Passed Health 8-1 but not heard yet by Rules committee)

Home Based Business – In a move similar to the one to repeal licensing requirements for professions, there also are bills to “open up” the regulated economy to make it easier for entrepreneurs, this time by restricting the regulations that cities and towns can place on home-based businesses. Neighborhood associations are upset about this on the grounds that it can disturb the ambience of a neighborhood and override local regulations in a way detrimental to the communities. These bills are:

- [HB2333](#) **home-based businesses; local regulation restrictions.** Commerce committee, passed 6-3 Rules held it. This bill “Declares the right to use a Residence for a home-based business, except when there are land use restrictions or any master deed, bylaw or other document that applies to an HOA.” It specifically prohibits cities from requiring licenses or fire sprinklers.
- [SB1175](#) **home-based businesses; local regulation.** Establishes that the use of a residential dwelling for a home-based business (a “non-impact” business) is a use permitted by right, superseded only by deed restrictions on land use and documents applicable to common interest ownership communities. A “non-impact” home based business is invisible from the street. Was held **Monday 2/05** in Commerce and Public Safety committee but was not heard and is not on the agenda this week. Sponsor is Farnsworth R 16.
- [SB1001](#) **home-based businesses; regulation restrictions.** This bill relaxes restrictions on home based businesses, includes letting the person add a sign during business hours and having a 400-sq. ft. structure to conduct the business, and other changes. This passed Commerce & Public Safety 5-3, but

is also assigned to the Governance committee, but has not been heard by it and is not scheduled yet.

[HB2280](#) **The University “lease back” Bill.** This bill passed the Ways and Means committee 5-4 but has not progressed since. The issue here regards ASU’s lease back arrangement that allows commercial development on University property (businesses around Tempe Town Lake), and exempts those businesses from various state and local taxes.

Education –

Privatizing K-12 education -

- [SB1467](#) **STOs; corporations; caps; scholarship eligibility.** The bill’s sponsor is Sen. Yarbrough, R, 17, and passed the Senate Finance committee 4-3 and Rules. Probably will be voted on this week. The bill will cap corporate tax credits that go to STOs (student tuition organizations) which, in turn, use these for scholarships to “non-governmental” schools (private, religious, and home schooling). The original legislation set an aggregate cap on tax credits (a dollar for dollar reduction in state taxes) for corporations that contribute to “student tuition organizations” at \$10 million but allowed it to increase by 20% each year. Clearly, this increase would compound to the point that it would consume all the taxes paid by corporations so that the state general fund received none at all. Corporate taxes have fallen dramatically over the past decade, and one purpose of the bill is to place a cap on that. The cap would drop by 5 percent in each of the coming three years and then have an annual inflation adjustment or 2.5%, whichever is greater. Estimates are that in about four years, it will hit about \$100 million a year, increasing by inflation thereafter or by 2.5%, whichever is higher. These are tax dollars that could otherwise go to the general fund and be used to support public schools and other services.

The STO program is NOT the same as the so-called “empowerment scholarships,” which are vouchers that take money directly from neighborhood schools to use as scholarships. The voucher program expansion bill from last year is being challenged by Save Our Schools and is on the November ballot as Proposition 305 with a “NO” vote being to veto the expansion bill of 2017 and a “YES” vote being to let the voucher program expand up to 30,000 students with all k-12 students eligible.

Yarbrough’s STO bill would not only cap corporation tax credit at \$100 million, increased annually by inflation, but also would open the program to home schooling in addition to private and religious schools, permit an application fee to be charged, and for some students it permits the scholarship not to be limited to \$4,200 but to be the full amount of the tuition.

Democrats are concerned, according to Katie Hobbs, about the size of the cap, the inflation adjustment, and the provisions that permit the full tuition of the private/religious schooling for some students as well as the provision that lets some students switch from STO scholarships to empowerment scholarships.

Yarbrough said changing the program will require a supermajority vote of the Legislature because it effectively raises state revenue and that's what the state Constitution requires for tax and other revenue increases. Read more here: <http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article197662864.html>.

Other Education Updates

[HB2563](#) postsecondary institutions; free expression policies (Bower, R, 25). On Rules committee Monday 2/19. This bill purports to protect free speech on campus, but it appears mainly to be based on a model legislation written by the Goldwater Institute that prohibits administrators from limiting the people invited by students or faculty, except under extenuating circumstances, and provides for discipline and punishment to those who interrupt or interfere with a speech. This is a complicated issue, as at times in our history some of the right have wanted Universities and colleges to ban controversial speakers and currently it is more the people on the left who want to deny a platform for white nationalists. But this bill is directed at

punishing those who protest, not protecting free speech. Passed 8-3, and on Rules committee Monday, 2/19. y.

- [HB2037](#) **State-Wide High Stakes Test.** On Rules committee agenda Monday 2/19. The proposal from Heather Carter (R, 15) to do away with the statewide high stakes tests for Arizona students that focus on the state standards and instead administer one test such as the ACT or the SAT that students can use nation-wide for college applications and that have nation-wide standards for comparison purposes passed 9-0. **Most progressives support this change in statewide testing.**
- **Legislation Passed House and Senate! Charter schools.** [HB2286](#) and [SB1055](#). **charter school board; rulemaking exemption.** Both bill passed unanimously, but only after some reservations were raised. The bill now goes back to the Senate to accept the House version. These bills purportedly would permit the state charter school board to expedite its rule making authority, enabling it (according to supporters) to incorporate legislative changes more quickly into charter school governance. Opponents indicated concern about transparency and other aspects of charter school activity, including the lawsuits filed regarding charter school possible disregard of anti-discriminatory practices but in the end, all voted for these rule changes. Senate bill is from Sylvia Allen, R, LD6 and House bill from Boyer, R, LD20.
- **Weapons on campus.** [HB2172](#) **Passed House, going to Senate.** postsecondary institutions; possession; nonlethal weapons. This legislation would prohibit college and university administrators from banning non-lethal weapons – probably aimed at Tasers, pepper spray, other forms of weapons. Opponents concerned that this would set a precedent for prohibiting colleges and universities from banning guns. Passed 8-3. And full House, 35-22. Sponsored by Grantham, R, LD 12.
- **School bond elections** [HB2458](#) **ballot arguments.** (Held again, nothing scheduled). This bill changes existing law regarding information on bond election material for voters. It limits arguments to two in favor (by the governing board) and up to 10 in favor if these are submitted. And, also limits arguments to two against if submitted and up to 10 against if

submitted. It mentions that these arguments are fact checked but that the fact checkers cannot change the arguments if it is the author's opinion. Not at all clear what the problem is or what this legislation is intended to do. The bill was scheduled last week in the Education committee, but not heard. Probably dead. Sponsored by Nutt, R, LD14.

- [HB2158](#) TPT; additional rate; education (Coleman, R, LD 16). This is the bill that would continue the sales tax revenue for education at its current level. Leadership is reported to have decided rather than try to pass it as a bill, it would be covered in the budget hearings. Thus, no more action in the regular process. Levies additional sales taxes that are then distributed in accord with provisions of other taxes. 38 pages long.
- [HB2341](#) homeschooled children; school buses; JTEDs This bill would require school districts to transport home- schooled kids on buses to joint technical education districts. Held. Probably dead.
- [HB2377](#) teachers' school supplies; tax credit Clodfelter (R LD10). On Rules committee agenda Monday, 2/19. Another tax credit! Increasingly, though, these are for small amounts to programs that the state is neglecting! This one establishes a tax credit up to \$400 for teachers who buy their own school supplies to be in their classroom. Even staunch school advocacy groups are opposing it, including ASBA because tax credits have taken away so much money from the general fund that it is becoming impossible to support public services. Even more worrisome is that tax credits – which provide a \$ for \$ deduction from one's taxes – send a message that these services should be paid for by charity, not by the government. Passed Ways and Means 5-3 and Education 6-3.
- [HB2482](#) foster care tuition waiver (Shope, R, LD 8). On Rules committee agenda, 2/19. Provides for a tuition waiver to community colleges and universities – not reimbursed by the state – for persons in or coming out of foster care. This is on the Children's Action Alliance top priority list. It passed the House Education committee 10-0.

Water bills The Sierra club and other environmentalists have mustered enough resistance to stop some of the water bills introduced by Sen. Griffin but others are advancing. It is likely the two “mother bills” that have multiple provisions will either be passed as they are and sent to the Governor expecting a veto, according to the Sierra club, or work out some major floor amendments. The Governor does not support all of these bills. The Sierra club says, “...there is nothing in the bills that helps protect the environment, our rivers and streams, or consumers. The provisions help developers and big agriculture, mostly.” Here’s the status of the various bills:

[SB1507](#) water program amendments – Passed committee 5-3, but not on Rules agenda Monday. This is the major bill. Sierra club opposes; most environmental groups have major problems with it, and Governor says it has serious flaws. (Also, HB2512, same bill passed in House committee 6-3). All of these are held:

[SB1508](#) water; desalination action plan –

[SB1509](#) water; interstate sales

[SB1510](#) irrigation grandfathered right; containerized plants

[SB1511](#) Pinal AMA; groundwater; extinguishment credits

[SB1512](#) active management areas; sixth management period

[SB1514](#) natural resource conservation districts; administration

[SB1515](#) adequate water supply; county review... San Pedro River protection

[SB1516](#) central Arizona project; sovereign immunity

[SB1513](#) effluent; recycled water; definition **Passed 5-2, but not on rules agenda**

Need to oppose:

- [SB1493](#) environmental quality; dredge, fill permits. Passed 5-3 and Rules too. Will be voted on any time. This bill Allows the Director of ADEQ to adopt a Dredge and Fill Permit Program for the discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters in Arizona. It also requires the Dredge and Fill Permit Program to be consistent with and no more stringent than the Clean Water Act Section 404 Dredge and Fill Program. Sponsor is Griffin, R, LD 14. Sierra club opposes this bill as do most other environmentalists because it does not protect rivers. This would be a step toward letting DEQ control the federal Clean Water Act. Ask YOUR Senator to vote no.

Good bills die!

- [SB1475](#) ecological water; program; fund. (Dalessandro, D, 2). Probably dead as not heard in Senate committee. This bill defines “ecological” water as water sufficient to sustain freshwater ecosystems and the wildlife habitat and human livelihoods and well being that depend on that ecosystem. It then requires the director of the Arizona Department of Water resources to take “ecological water” into account when make its rules. It also establishes an Ecological Water Stewardship Program to establish standards and use best available science to apply to each watershed. This bill if enacted will also establish the ecological water stewardship fund to support the acquisition of existing water rights for ecological water purposes.
- [HB2480](#) uranium; radioactive materials; transportation; monitoring. This was held and has not been rescheduled. Sponsor is Descheenie D, LD 7. This bill provides for DEQ to monitor transporting of uranium including use of drones. Sierra club supports this.

Guns – Several anti-regulatory bills are making progress in Arizona and one has already passed the Senate. Surely, after the shooting in Florida last week that killed 17 at a high school, Arizona will STOP the gun expansion program! Here’s an update.

- [HB2172](#) postsecondary institutions; possession; nonlethal weapons. **Weapons on campus. [HB2172](#) Passed House, going to Senate.** postsecondary institutions; possession; nonlethal weapons. This legislation would prohibit college and university administrators from banning non-lethal weapons – probably aimed at Tasers, pepper spray, other forms of weapons. Opponents concerned that this would set a precedent for prohibiting colleges and universities from banning guns. Passed 8-3. And full House, 35-22. Sponsored by Grantham, R, LD 12.
- [HB2059](#) firearms; state guard; composition; program. Passed the Federalism, Property Rights, and Public Policy committee 6-3. This bill

changes the definition of the militia to include all persons over 18 who are able to serve (not 18 to 45); and then says they are able to privately purchase all sorts of guns. Sponsor is Stringer, R, LD 1. Rules committee is next but not yet on the 2/19 agenda.

- [HCR2002](#) **state militia; age requirement.** Passed Military and Veteran Affairs committee 5-4 but not on the 2/19 Rules committee agenda. This is a resolution that would be referred to the voters to change the Arizona constitution so that the age range for membership in the militia is anyone over 18 able to act in common defense instead of the 18-45 age range. Stringer, R, LD 1.
- [SB1117](#) retired police gun rights. Passed the Senate 17-13. (Kavanaugh, R, 29 is sponsor). This bill permits retired police officers to carry a gun in a bar or restaurant (or liquor store).

Gun Safety. Two bills that would prohibit the bump-fire accessory (the weapon accessory that killed more than 50 people in Las Vegas last year) have been introduced but are dead for lack of a hearing.

- [HB2023](#) **prohibited weapon; bump-fire device; accessory.** This bill has been assigned to the Judiciary and Public Safety committee. The sponsor is Friese D, LD 9.
- [SB1348](#) **prohibited weapon; bump-fire device; accessory.** The Senate bill sponsored by Cajero-Bedford, LD 3, also needs a hearing.

A Victory (so far)

- [HB2535](#) DCS; prohibited acts; firearms. This bill would have prohibited child welfare agencies, including the Department of Child Safety from making rules to limit gun possession. Bill was not heard in committee so should be dead!

Health and Welfare

[HB2449](#) child care assistance; tiered reimbursement On Rules committee agenda 2/19. This bill provides that 33% of fed money received must go to the tiered program where higher payments for child care assistance that meets higher standards. Udall, R, LD 25. Supported by progressive groups.

[SB1247](#) **employee health insurance. Passed Senate 17-13.** Introduced by Sen. Barto (R, 15) the bill would prohibit cities and towns from requiring employers to provide health insurance to their employees. Another in a long line of legislation trying to stop Arizona's more progressive cities for doing things for people, such as providing health insurance!

HB 2434 (financial products; regulatory exemption program) – Ready for final vote in House. This legislation will allow unlicensed financial services products and services to be offered to Arizona consumers and will allow insurance companies, lenders, and financial technology companies to “test” new financial products, putting Arizonans who use these products at risk. HB 2434 passed 7-2 and passed Rules committee.

[SB1261](#) **Is Arizona about to pass a ban on texting while driving!** It passed committee but still isn't scheduled on the Rules committee yet. Sponsor is Steve Farley, D, LD 9. The bill would create a fine of no more than \$99 for a first offense and \$200 for repeat violations. Only if the person using the cell phone or similar device is involved in a mishap that causes death or serious injury would the offense rise to the level of a misdemeanor. But motorists would not have to surrender a phone to an officer who wants to determine if that person was, in fact, texting. Also, the legislation spells out that a conviction for a driving-while-texting offense could not be used by the Motor Vehicle Division to take away someone's license, nor be an excuse for an insurance company to raise a motorist's premiums.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Good news! [HB2127](#) **(children's health insurance program)** that help protect KidsCare (Arizona's CHIP program) **passed the full House and is on its way to the Senate.** Current law provides that if the federal contribution drops below 100% of the cost, the state would automatically freeze the program. This bill changes that and replaces it with a notification that if the federal government reduces its contribution, the state will determine whether there are sufficient state and local funds to continue the

program and will stop enrollment if there are not state/local funds to cover. (Rep. Cobb, R, 5).

The Diaper Bill. A bill [HB2217](#) to exempt diapers, formula, and other hygiene products from sales tax barely passed the House Ways and Means committee (5-4) with all Democrats voting yes along with two of the Republicans (Ugenti-Rita, R, LD 23 and Weninger, R, 17). It hasn't moved since, however. Prime sponsor is Hernandez, D, LD2). Opponents noted that it was the Democrats supporting this and accused them of inconsistency, since they usually oppose tax exemptions and credits. One said that these products should be covered by other programs for low income people such as WIC; another said it would be hard to collect, and took money out of the general fund. Supporters argued that these products are necessities and should not be subject to sales tax, just as food is considered a necessity and not included in sales taxes. The bill is strongly supported by women's rights groups.

Welfare / safety net. Sen. Brophy McGee (R, LD28) has introduced several bills beneficial to consumers, children, workers, and low income families that were scheduled for last week but two were not heard: These are worth supporting:

- [SB1163](#) **credit security freezes; fees; prohibition.** Passed House 29-0. Bill will prohibit companies from charging a fee to unfreeze a credit security.
- [SB1165](#) **child care assistance; rates.** Requires DES to post sliding scale rates and to regularly review them. Passed 6-0 in Health and Human Services -0 in appropriations. Passed Rules, ready for final vote in House. Supported by progressive groups.
- [SB1166](#) **permanent guardianship; subsidy.** Current law requires persons to show they have already applied for all possible income before eligible to get child care subsidy. This repeals that section. Held by HHS. (good, probably dead).
- [SB1086](#) **AHCCCS chiropractic services.** Another bill worth supporting is from Sen. Barto (R, 15), requires AHCCCS (Arizona's Medicaid) to cover chiropractic services. Also introduced in the House as HB2135 by Rep. Carter (R, 15). Passed 6-1 and Appropriations; on Senate Rules committee agenda 2/19. .

- [HB2324](#) **community health workers; voluntary certification.** This provides for voluntary (not required) certification for community health workers. Sponsor is Rep. Heather Carter (R, LD15). Advocates and community health workers want the bill as a way to increase visibility and understanding of the work as well as reimbursement potential. Bill passed 8-0 but isn't on Rules committee agenda. Probably dead.

Human Rights

Abortion rights on the agenda again! Not one of those massive bills, but another one that chips away slowly and gradually at access, affordability, and capacity for women to obtain legal abortions.

- [SB1393](#) dissolution; human embryos; disposition (Barto, R, LD 15). Passed HHS 5-2 and Rules committee. Ready for final vote in Senate. Contact YOUR state senator about this bill. This bill force judges to declare that (in a divorce or separation) the embryos should be awarded to whoever “intends to allow the in vitro human embryos to develop to birth,” SB 1393 would essentially grant personhood and apply custody laws to embryos as if they were a child born and in existence, warned Resolve, a national infertility association. That would set Arizona apart from the rest of the country and hurt people with infertility, Resolve president Barbara Collura said in a letter to lawmakers sent Feb. 5. “This bill inserts the (Arizona) legislature into the extremely personal decision about how a couple builds their family,” Collura wrote. “Its effect is to take away individuals’ rights to determine whether or not they have children — and to replace it with a government-mandated decision.”
- [SB1394](#) DHS; reporting; abortions. (Barto, R, LD15). On rules agenda 2/19 at 11 a.m. Senate caucus room. Barto’s bill, SB1394, would increase the paper work and reporting requirements on abortions performed in Arizona. This is another of the statutes that gradually and incrementally undermine the ability and willingness of medical facilities to continue providing abortion services to women. Cathi Herrod, president of the Center for Arizona Policy, assisted in writing the legislation, according to the Capitol Times (2/9) and

justified it on the grounds that more data would help women although the Center's primary goal is to eliminate abortion services entirely. The record keeping would have to include such things as whether anesthesia was administered to the mother or fetus, the specific reason and circumstance leading to the abortion, the specialty of the physician who performed the procedure, the total number of abortions done. A newly created informed consent form would be required. The annual report would have to include details on any abortions paid for with state monies in any capacity. It would also have to release a monthly report with the number of abortions performed or prescribed throughout the state, and the reasoning behind those abortions. There are many, however, who say the changes proposed are unnecessary and could potentially violate the privacy of the patients involved. Barto and Herrod have said that the bill still ensures protection for the identities of the patients, but opponents of the legislation fear that requiring women to explain their reasoning in getting an abortion could shame them, and requiring even more reports and paperwork could deter physicians from wanting to provide abortions. "This is a legal medical procedure that should be between a woman and her doctor. There's no need to increase reporting requirements," said Senate Minority Leader Katie Hobbs, D-Phoenix.

- [SB1198](#) **A bill protecting blind people from being disqualified as adoptive or foster parents due to blindness passed the Senate unanimously! Yea!** Sponsor is Barto, R, LD15.

The ERA! Women's groups made one last big push to get the ERA on the agenda at least for a hearing. But it did not work. Thanks to Rep. Powers-Hannley (D, LD 9), Sen. Hobbs, D, LD24, and Rep. Ugenti-Rite, R, LD 23.

Immigration – The impending deportation of persons who have been protected by the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals, DACA, is squarely on the President DJT. He is the one whose executive order removed the protection and he is the one who should take the blame. Congress achieved an amazing agreement, including concessions by the Democrats to build the wall, but DJT jumped in at the

last minute with a threatened veto on a bi partisan bill so the ball is back in his court. A stroke of the pen from the President could do it.

Need to oppose: [HB2083](#) **insurance contracts.** This bill passed the House 33-24 last week, against the protests of immigration rights advocates. This bill protects insurance companies that offer insurance contracts in a non-English language by permitting the language to differ and holding the insurance company not liable for differences. It removes the requirement in existing state law that an insurance company must have a translator's written statement that the versions are identical. Immigrant rights group are strongly opposed on the grounds that it makes it lawful to misrepresent contracts. Supporters claim the intent is to encourage insurance companies to write more policies in non-English languages. Sponsor is Livingston, R, LD 22.

Worth supporting: [HB2155](#) - Also passed last week (unanimous, 58-0) is legislation intended to protect immigrants from unscrupulous notaries offering legal advice. This bill is being supported by immigrant rights groups. and is scheduled for a **FINAL VOTE on Monday in the House.**

Taxation

- [HB2217](#) **exemption for feminine hygiene products.** This bill exempts diapers, formula and other feminine hygiene products from sales tax as constituting necessities just as food is a necessity. Was scheduled for the Health committee , **but not heard and is probably dead.** Passed ways and means last week, 5-4 with all Democrats and two Republicans voting for it.
- **Military pension tax exemption increases.** One bill is progressing and one failed but was reconsidered and then passed. These would increase tax exemptions for veterans. In the House, [HB2236](#) **military pensions; increase; tax subtraction passed** the House Military and Veterans Affairs committee 8-1 and is on the Appropriations committee agenda for 2/19. There is a companion Senate bill which has passed. These bills gradually increase the current \$2,500 cap placed on the amount of military retirement pay that is

exempt when calculating income for state income tax purposes to \$15,000 in tax year (TY) in 2029. The bill would effectively lower military retirees' income for purposes of calculating their income tax liability.

In the Senate [SB1167](#), which has the same provisions, **passed on a second try in the Senate, 18-11**. Sponsor is Griffin, R, 15. The estimated cost to the general fund was set at \$15 million. Opponents include Democrats arguing against taking more money out of the general fund, but also some Republicans (Warren Petersen, R, LD12) who advocates the entire elimination of the income tax.

- [HB2264](#) **tax exemption for dependents. Passed House, 34-25**. This bill raises the tax exemption slowly from \$2,300 to \$2,400 and then follows the consumer price index. This is a very small increase compared to the federal tax reform law that doubled the exemption. (Mosley, R LD5).
- [HB2528](#) **capital gains; income tax subtraction (scheduled for Rules committee, 2/19.)** This bill has been filed by Rep. Mesnard, Speaker of the House, (R, LD 17). It increases the tax subtraction (subtracting from the federal adjusted gross income, AGI) for capital gains, raising it from the current 25% to 30% and then gradually to 50%. No fiscal note has been developed yet, so cost to the general fund is not known yet.
- [SB1049](#) Will exempt hearing aid batteries from the Arizona sales tax (Farnsworth, D, Rep, LD 16). Passed Senate Finance committee 4-2 but not heard by Appropriations and not on Rules agenda 2/19).
- [SB1206](#) **tax subtraction; donated surplus food**. Sponsor is Fann, R. LD1). This bill allows a deduction from the federal adjusted gross income of surplus food donated to a charitable organization. Donated crops are covered as well. Estimated fiscal impact is 1.9 million (annually) taken from the general fund. Department of Revenue estimates loss to general fund of \$900,000 to \$1.3 million. Bill isn't moving.
- [SB1268](#) **class six property; elderly homeowners**. Passed Senate finance 5-1. Rules committee is hearing it 2/19. This would lower property taxes for elderly homeowners by changing the property classification of their homes. There is expected to be a fiscal impact on the state general fund, but amount is not estimated yet.

- [SB1292](#) **Elected Officials Retirement Plan adjustment.** (Passed Senate 29-0.) Provides a cost of living adjustment for elected officials who are retirees and their spouses. Sponsor is D. Farnsworth, R 16. Estimated costs to state general fund not known.
- [SB1294](#) **tax corrections act of 2018.** This is a 105-page bill (Farnsworth, D., R, 16) that makes some changes (tax decreases) but does not appear to be the comprehensive bill that would eliminate the expected windfall produced by the changes in the federal tax law. The description is as follows: “Corrects errors and obsolete language, addresses blending problems and provides clarifying changes to the tax statutes of the Arizona Revised Statutes.” Passed 7-0 and passed Rules. Could be voted on at any time.

Tax Credits - Tax credits allow a person or household to receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their state income taxes. This is NOT a deduction, but a straight-out subtraction from whatever is owed. In 1992, Arizona had 4 tax credit programs. As of 2016, there were more than 30! Here two new ones being considered by the House Appropriations committee 2/19 at 2 p.m. Although both are worthy causes (affordable housing and rural growth investments), most progressives are not willing to vote for any more reductions from the state general fund, as this has become part of an overall effort to defund public services and to make the statement come true that (when it comes to public education, services for those who need them), there “just isn’t any money.”

- [HB2590](#) rural growth investments; tax credits. Passed 5-3. On Appropriations committee 2/19. (Cook, R, 8).
- [HB2568](#) affordable housing tax credit. (Rivero, R, 21). Bill was not assigned to a substantive committee but is on Appropriations agenda 2/19.

Resources (calendar, contacts, etc.)

Shout out to Melinda Iyer for the Arizona Activist – a weekly update on Arizona Legislation for busy folks! Sign up here <http://civicengagementbeyondvoting.us15.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=c060f172658106bd0be87b72b&id=eb5ea9b499>

BACKGROUND REPORT AVAILABLE: That tax cuts spur the economy, and are good for Arizona are questionable assertions. To learn more about economic justice issues in Arizona and nationally, check out these two background

papers: [Talking points on economic issues in Arizona](#) by Barry Linden, and [Popular Misconceptions](#) by John Wurm.

You can get a downloadable pdf of the Legislative Alert at <http://www.vuu.org/legislative-advocacy/>

Mark Your Calendar for these Action Opportunities

Feb. 19. UU Day at the Legislature. State-wide opportunity to meet with your Legislators and attend a variety of workshops on legislative action. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can register right here: <https://goo.gl/forms/dPdJQNh0K4Q52nEj1> or an e-mail to legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org

Feb. 27. Congressional District 5 Primary: The replacement for Rep. Trent Franks, Congressional District 8, will be decided with primary elections Feb. 27 and then a general election April 24. **Two Democrats are running:** Hiral Tipirneni, Brianna Westbrook and 12 Republicans Chad Allen, Kevin Cavanaugh, Brenden Dilley, Stephen Dolgos, Debbie Lesko - Former state Sen., David Lien, Phil Lovas - Former state Rep., Richard Mack, State Senator Steve Montenegro, Bob Stump, Christopher Sylvester, Clair Van Steenwyk, Mark Yates

March 12. Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. Annual advocacy day at the state capitol. Register at <http://bit.ly/2CSb4HU> (Lunch will be provided). For more information contact Jason@acesdv.org & Whitney@acesdv.org.

March 31. We The People Summit. Third in the series. Saturday. Phoenix Convention Center, south building. Featured workshops: get out the vote; combating voter suppression; poll monitor training, legal observer training, candidates for office, and more.

TBD! If trump fires Mueller: Even though it seems unlikely that DJT will try to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller (or firing others who could then fire Mueller), plans are in place for massive nation-wide protest rallies if he does. You can get more information, including local information about plans in Phoenix and other AZ cities at this link <https://www.trumpisnotabovethelaw.org/event/mueller-firing-rapid-response/search/>. You can sign up to get an email that will alert you if DJT takes action to obstruct the investigation. Be ready! The Phoenix event will be at the state capitol.

On-going to November, 2018! Outlaw Dirty money initiative. This is the initiative led by former Attorney General Terry Goddard to require transparency in all campaign contributions so voters will know who is contributing to the candidates. You can sign up here. <https://outlawdirtymoney.com/volunteer/> Volunteers are needed! Petitions will be available in many places. Watch for them (or go get your own)!

On-going to November, 2018! Protect Wildlife initiative. Arizona Ban Hunting Wild Cats Initiative may appear on the ballot in Arizona as an initiated state statute on November 6, 2018 if enough signatures are gathered. The measure would ban the hunting, shooting, trapping, snaring, netting, or capture of bobcats, mountain lions, jaguars, lynxes, and ocelots. The measure would make exceptions to the ban, including taking a wild cat: to protect a person from immediate bodily harm; by a law enforcement officer or licensed veterinarian; by someone with a scientific collecting license, wildlife rehabilitation license, or zoo license; through an activity authorized by federal law; to protect livestock. More information on Ballotpedia [https://ballotpedia.org/Arizona_Ban_Hunting_Wild_Cats_Initiative_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Arizona_Ban_Hunting_Wild_Cats_Initiative_(2018)).

SRP BOARD ELECTIONS are held on the first Tuesday of April. Did you know that if you are an SRP customer, you may be able to can VOTE in these elections, and various progressive groups are attempting to ensure that environmentally-friendly candidates are available to serve? Sign up here to see if you are eligible to vote (all voting is by mail). <https://www.srpnet.com/elections/secure/earlyballot/2018earlyballot.aspx> . Be sure and check the PEVL box (permanent early voting list) so that you will always get a ballot. You can also get a paper ballot to mail in at this link (wait for it, a bit slow). If you cannot vote, recontact them and fuss about it if you are an SRP customer!! <http://register.srpcleanenergy.org/>

Special Action Opportunity:

BE HEARD! Request to Speak

Are you registered for “request to speak”? If you were registered last year, it will still work, and if a bill is scheduled for a committee hearing next week, you can MAKE YOURSELF HEARD! Here’s how: Get the bill number. Then Click on <http://www.azleg.gov> then: sign in (top right)/new request/phrase (put in the bill number)/add request. Then write your comments. They will be READ at the committee meeting! If you are not registered, that has to be done at the state capitol, and the Civic Engagement Beyond Voting group (a progressive Arizona advocacy group) will do it for you. Just fill out this form!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BXMTpcf171ZSVtmlnt5132pFd9mRysvIOAbU3vZesOc/edit?ts=5a527e9c>

REGISTER YOUR OPINION! (This is new). If you are signed up for request to speak, then get the bill number, click on <http://www.azleg.gov> then: sign in (top right) and then on the left, click on “My Bill Positions,” then enter the bill number, the title should show up under the line near the bottom of the screen. Click on the title, enter your position (thumbs up or down) and then “add.” You might need to enter the bill number twice to make it work. We are not sure if anyone is paying attention yet to these! But, keep trying anyway.

Contact Information

Resistbot.io - How to use it. Click on the “messages” icon on your I-phone, then click on the pencil in the top right-hand corner. You will get a “To: ” screen. Put in 504-09 and then in the message type “resist.” They will respond and ask for your zip code or address and what you want to do. This is a free service, reportedly developed by volunteers. It will ask for your zip code or address, and then you can send a fax, letter, make a phone call, send an e-mail to Sen. Flake and McCain and the House member as well or even to Governor Ducey.

After you have sent several, it will ask you which of the various people you want it sent to. At first, it just sends to all three, later it will add state-level elected officials, too. You get more services after you’ve used it awhile!

Arizona Contact Information

Governor Ducey's engage@az.gov 602.542.4331 You can find a contact form at: <http://azgovernor.gov/engage/form/contact-governor-ducey>

To find your legislative district: <https://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/>
Then to get the name and contact info for your legislator, go to <https://azleg.gov> . (e-mail is simply first initial last name at azleg.gov (e.g., jdoe@azleg.gov).

U.S. Senate Contact Information

Sen. John McCain

- **Washington D.C. [Sen. John McCain](#) - 202 224 2235** 218 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510 e-mail: <https://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form> **Arizona Offices (602) 952-2410** 2201 East Camelback Road Suite 115 Phoenix, AZ 85016. Tucson 407 West Congress Street Suite 103 Tucson, AZ 85701 Main: (520) 670-6334

Sen. Jeff Flake

Washington D.C. [Sen. Jeff Flake](#) - 202 224 4521. 413 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 e-mail: <https://www.flake.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-jeff> **Arizona Office - *Senator Flake - Phoenix AZ Office: (602)-840-1891***
2200 East Camelback Road Suite 120 Phoenix, AZ 85016. **Tucson Office** 6840 North Oracle Road Suite 150 Tucson, AZ 85704 P: 520-575-8633

U.S. House There is no centralized e-mail listing for U.S. House members. The easiest to use is resistbot.io. Or, Look up your Congressional district [here](#).) Or, try these:

1 – Tom O’Halloran, 202 225 3361 520 316 0839 ohalleran.house.gov/contact

2 – Martha McSally 202 225 2542 520 881 3588 mcsally.house.gov/contact

3 – Raul Grijalva 202 225 2435 520- 622 6788 grijalva.house.gov/e-mail-raul

4 – Paul Gosar 202 225 2315 928 445 1683 paulgosar.house.gov/contact

5 – Andy Biggs 202 225 2635 480 699 8239 biggs.house.gov/contact

6 – David Schweikert 202 225 2190 480 946 2411 schweikert.house.gov/contact

7 – Ruben Gallego 202 225 4065 602 256 0551 rubengallego.house.gov/contact/email

8 – Trent Franks 202 225 4576 623 776 7911 franks.house.gov/contact-me

9 – Kyrsten Sinema 202 225 9888 602 956 2285 sinemaforms.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep

Copies of the AZ Legislative Alert (PDF) are posted at <http://www.vuu.org/legislative-advocacy>

Do you know someone who is not registered to vote? You can use the **Text P2P to RTVOTE (788-683)** tool for both face-to-face interactions on the ground and through digital outreach, all to help us reach **our goal of registering 1 million voters!**

[Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation](#) –

Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette; Music Minister, Rev. Kellie Walker; Director of Faith Formation, Marci Beaudoin. Administrator, Sue Ringler. Located: 6400 W. Del Rio Drive, Chandler, AZ 480 899 4249 www.vuu.org

For previous copies of the *Arizona Legislative Alert* go to <http://www.vuu.org/legislative-advocacy/>

. VUU holds services each Sunday at 10:30. You are welcome here.

[Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network](#) -- Executive Director Rev. Lisa

McDaniel-Hutchings; [Policy Coordinator](#), Anne L. Schneider. [Board Members, UUJAZ](#): Sharon Travis, Liz Swan (Chair), Rev. Matthew Crary, Bobbi Bollinger. www.uujaz.org.