

The Arizona Legislative Alert

Focus: Gun Safety in Arizona

UUJAZ and VUU. Giving Voice to UU Values in Arizona

March 10, 2018

Prepared by Anne L. Schneider, PH.D. All opinions are those of the author.

Shining a bright light for social justice! Downloadable PDF [here](#).

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

The focus this week is to make one more effort to get some gun safety legislation at least VOTED ON in the Arizona Legislature. If this Legislature will not do something about gun safety, then perhaps we need a different Legislature!

There are four **gun safety bills** introduced in the Arizona Legislature that are the top of the priority list for the teenagers who are organizing the March 24 "March for Our Lives" in Phoenix and many other places in Arizona and nationally. Let's support this work now by trying to force these bills onto the floor of the Arizona House for a vote where Legislators will have to show where they stand on these issues. These will help

- close background check loopholes,
- restrict gun access by mentally ill persons,
- protect victims of domestic violence, and
- ban the "bump fire" device that accelerates the speed of shooting.

Could we get 1,200 calls (or e-mails or postcards) by Friday noon, March 23 to Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard's office? Let's try. That means one for every person on this e-mail list! Let's each do our part.

Call 602 926 4481. Or jmesnard@azleg.gov. Or, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, 85007.

Tell him it is a moral responsibility for him, in his position of leadership, to see that these bills are called up for a vote. None of these bills threatens anyone's second amendment rights! All are sponsored (prime sponsor) Friese D, LD 9. Here are the bills:

- [HB2299](#) **domestic violence offenders**; firearms; seizure. HB (House Bill) 2299 requires persons on probation for domestic violence offenses to hand over their firearms during their time on probation.
- [HB2023](#) prohibited weapon; **bump-fire device**; accessory. This bill would ban sale of bump-fire accessory devices. It was assigned to the Judiciary and Public Safety committee but not voted on. This is the one the Democrats tried to force onto the floor for a vote.
- [HB2024](#) firearm sales; transfers; **background check**. This bill requires universal background checks and closes the “gun show” and “private sales” loopholes by requiring that all purchases have to go through a licensed firearm dealer who is required to do background checks.
- [HB2140](#) **mental health**; injunction; firearm possession. HB2140 and its companion in the Senate, SB1347, allows family or peace officer to file for injunction to prohibit mentally ill person from having a firearm

• **This report has these sections:**

- [Highlights](#) & Quick Read
- [Details](#) – Highlights in each policy area and summaries of bills
- [Resources](#) – Calendar of events and contact information. Much of value here, don't miss it, including how to use [Request to Speak](#).

Note: There are internal links that take you to the section you want, but if they do not work in your browser, download the [PDF](#) of this report and the internal links should work. The external links work too! Test the internal links on "[resources](#)."

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](#) [Resources](#)

Highlights – A Quick Read

The legislative session will not last much longer, so now is the time to weigh in on the bills that are most important to you. The budget is still secret, but now is a good time to tell your Legislators to stop cutting taxes (yes, they continue to do that including a HUGE tax cut for digital sales) and stop the cynical use of tax credits. Instead, they need to generate the revenue necessary to support education and public services. The substantive committee is a good place to influence bills and if a bill is on an agenda, you can use “request to speak.” The bills that are on an agenda where “request to speak” can be used are marked with **RTS**. (Click [here](#) to get registered and start using it).

Crime & Justice - The Legislature continues its consideration of a large number of bills, many of them bi-partisan efforts proposed by the Fair Justice Task Force. Several bills especially worth supporting include **HB2311**, limited liability for employers who hire ex-convicts (**RTS** can be used) and **HB2020** and **HB2053** both of which help protect victims of sexual harassment and assault. Those bills available for request to speak (RTS) are marked in the detailed section below, and you can always register your opinion on the [RTS site](#) itself. For bills that are “ready for a vote,” you need to contact your House or Senate member, depending on where the bill is being heard. Most are now in the Senate since most originated in the House. Bills scheduled for the Rules committee are usually passed (since they only rule on the constitutionality and form of the bill). Once passing the Rules committee, they may move quickly to a floor vote. So, if you want to influence a bill that is being heard by Rules, contact your own House or Senate member. Details on bills can be found [here](#).

Democracy, Voting & Elections Still active and still needing opposition include HB2121 that makes paying those who circulate petitions more difficult (RTS can be used); HB2153 where the Legislature prohibits local government from passing more transparency laws for their local elections; HCR2007 that would thwart the work of the Clean Elections Commission and HCR2024 that calls for Arizona to join in a request for a national convention to alter the U. S. Constitution and set term limits for Congress. **SCR1034 to alter the membership of the Independent Redistricting Commission is still moving and scheduled for the House Government committee 03/15 after being held last week.** **Request to Speak** can be used. This is also a risky bill. Read more [here](#).

Economic Justice Two very worrisome bills are being fast tracked in the legislature that will exempt digital purchases from state sales tax, taking millions from the general fund and seriously damaging public services, especially education. These are HB2479 and SB1392. Neither is on the agenda for the coming week, however. Discussion on the budget still is mainly behind closed doors, but teachers and advocates of public education are taking aim at the paltry 1% pay increase proposed in the Governor's budget. HB2434, the new payday loan program is still advancing and RTS can be used as it is on the Sen. Finance committee agenda Wednesday. HB2528 capital gains; income tax subtraction is still moving as is HCR2028. These bills are both sponsored by Speaker Mesnard. HCR2028 would refer to the voters in the 2018 general election an amendment to the minimum wage bill that weakens worker protection. RTS can be used on it before its hearing Monday, 3/12 at 2. SCR1016 did not get out of the Senate, so should be dead. It would refer to the voters a bill to repeal the minimum wage. Almost all of those bills attempting to repeal the licensing requirements for various professions have died. One bill to support is SB1436 that gives employers some limited liability when they hire ex-offenders. Another bill to support is HB2324 that provides for voluntary certification of community health workers. It made it through the House (even though sponsored by a Democrat) and is on the Senate Commerce and Public Safety committee 3/12 at 2. Use RTS to urge support More details on all the economic justice bills included in the tracking [here](#).

Education – At least three big concerns in education this week. First is that a form of voucher program pertaining to tax credits that go through Student Tuition Organizations to mainly private and religious schools (SB1467) has passed the Senate 16-14 and is on the House Ways and Means committee 3/14 (Wednesday). RTS can be used! There's an extended discussion below in the details section. Second, the bill to extend the six-tenths of one percent sales tax (.6%) has stalled. This sales tax (HB2168) will end if not renewed – not this year – but supporters of public education are concerned that if it is not passed now, and not passed next year, they will not be able to get it on the ballot in time to avoid a lapse in the payments. The third is the budget. AZ teachers are paying attention to West Virginia and other states "stand with teachers" movements and are seriously unhappy with the 1% increase in salaries proposed in the Governor's budget. Details on these and other education bills [here](#).

Environment – Good news: **SB1507 water program amendments**, one of the harmful water omnibus bills was defeated in the Senate 15-15 with all of the Democrats voting no, joined by Senator Brophy McGee (LD28) and Senator Worsley (LD25). According to the Sierra club, this bill included the provision to move backwards on water adequacy, thus harming consumers and the San Pedro River. The bad news, however, is that a companion bill with the same provisions, HB2512, has passed the House and will be taken up again by the Senate. And, there are other bills that contain some of the same provisions. If you want the Senate to kill HB2512, then contact Sen. Worsley and Sen. Brophy-McGee to say thanks for voting against 1507 and other bills that damage the environment and our ability to have a sustainable water supply. Urge them also to oppose these when or if similar bills come up in the Senate. Some of the same provisions are contained in SB1515 and HB2553. **Sen. Worsley 602 926 5760 or bworsley@azleg.gov and Sen. Brophy McGee 602 926 4486 or kbrophymcgee@azleg.gov Other updates [here](#).**

Guns – As explained above in the “action” section, a big effort is being made now to get some gun safety bills voted on in the House. 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 may be dead but HCR2002, both of which enlarge the state militia, passed the House 35-24 as did bills that permit people to keep all their firearms in case of bankruptcy. RTS can be used for HCR2002 as it is on the agenda Monday at 2. On the good news side, HB2535 is dead – this would have prohibited child welfare agencies from regulating gun use in foster homes or other child care centers beyond that required by the state. More information [here](#).

Health & Welfare – First **RTS** can be used to oppose the new form of payday loans that would be permitted under HB2434. It is scheduled for a hearing Wednesday in the Senate Finance committee. Also, SB1247 passed the Senate and is scheduled for a committee hearing 03/14 after being held last week (Local and International Affairs). This bill prohibits cities and towns from requiring employers to provide **health insurance** for employees. You can use **Request to Speak on this**. Several bills that will contribute to social justice in Arizona have passed one or the other chamber but are not scheduled for the coming week including HB2127 that helps support the **KidsCare** program, HB2449 that provides

for a tiered reimbursement of child care assistance, and SB1086 that requires AHCCCS to cover chiropractic services. The ban on **texting while driving** (SB1261) looks dead for the session. It appears that SCR1016 that would repeal Arizona's minimum wage law has died. Read [more](#).

Human Rights – Two bills promoted by the **anti-abortion** lobby [SB1393](#) and [SB1394](#) were passed by the Senate and are moving in the House. The first, SB1393 says that in a divorce the parent who wants to bring the embryo to birth is awarded custody. **This bill passed the House Justice and Public Safety committee and is on the Rules committee agenda Monday. Because Rules committee almost never kills a bill and they can move quickly after that, concerned folks need to contact your own legislators.** The second bill, SB1394, is on the House Judiciary and Public Affairs committee 3/14 (Wednesday) and **Request to Speak** can be used to weigh in against it. This bill requires additional paperwork when an abortion is involved including collecting data on why the woman wanted the abortion. Opponents fear this will result in fewer providers as well as embarrassing and shaming women seeking abortions. Two bills attempting to protect young girls from unwanted marriages are moving (HB2006 ne Wan HB2006 passed the House and will be heard by the Sen. Judiciary committee Wed., 3/15. **RTS can be used. Supporters of the ERA made one last valiant effort, but the bill did not get a hearing. Will they try again, using a "strike everything" amendment? Maybe so. Read [more](#).**

Immigration – Most of the (in)action here is still at the federal level. Fortunately, the anti-DACA executive order the DJT signed is on hold by the courts. In Arizona, one good and one bad bill for immigrants are moving. HB2083 passed the House 33-24 and also passed the Senate Finance committee so could be voted on at any time. 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 positive side, [HB2155](#), a bill to protect immigrants from fraudulent notaries passed full house 58-0 and has passed its Senate committees. It also could be voted on at any time. Read [more](#).

Taxation – Most of the tax cuts and credits are supported mainly by Republicans but with some Democrats also depending on who is being helped. Most of the opposition is from Democrats and a few Republicans, also

depending on who the target population is Democrats and many progressives have simply decided to oppose all tax cuts and tax credits, even if the organization or group 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. Tax credits send this privatization message – which is so attractive that many would rather donate to a worthy organization than pay taxes – yet, the message here is that government is not responsible for education, safety net, health care, and other public services, especially those needed by the most disadvantaged among us. Several bills that would provide tax credits or cuts of some kind have failed in the Arizona Legislature but have passed on “reconsideration.” RTS can be used against HB2528 which would provide a huge tax break on capital gains and also on SB1268 which gives a property tax break to senior citizens. For a partial list of tax cuts, tax credits, and tax “subtractions” read [more](#) in the details section.

Can “request to speak” and “my bill positions” be used this next week? Yes. If a bill is scheduled for a committee, RTS can be used. If not, use “My bill position.” You do need to be signed up, but the Center for Civic Engagement Beyond Voting will sign you up! [Read](#) about how to do this.

Details about Legislation

This organizes social-justice bills by topic, and this week is organized with a short statement for the topic followed by the bills, in numerical order! It is not a comprehensive list of bills!!

[Crime & Justice](#) – The Legislature continues its consideration of a large number of bills, many of them bi-partisan efforts proposed by the Fair Justice Task Force. Several bills especially worth support include HB2311, limited liability for employers who hire ex-convicts (RTS can be used) and HB2020 and HB2053 both of which help protect victims of sexual harassment and assault. Those bills available for request to speak (RTS) are marked, and you can always register your opinion on the [RTS site](#) itself. For bills that are “ready for a vote,” you

need to contact your House or Senate member, depending on where the bill is being heard. Most are now in the Senate since most originated in the House. Bills scheduled for the Rules committee are usually passed (since they only rule on the constitutionality and form of the bill). Once passing the Rules committee, they may move quickly to a floor vote. So, if you want to influence a bill that is being heard by Rules, contact your own House or Senate member.

- Active [HB2007](#) personal disguises; crime; evasion. Passed House 34-23. Passed Senate Judiciary 4-3 and is on the Rules committee agenda this coming week 3/12. Rules committee seldom kills anything. This bill could be voted on at any time. It is a strike everything, although inserted in a bill with the same purpose. The bill is not as stark as the original bill, which criminalized wearing a mask at a political protest. But it still permits a court to find as an aggravating factor, thereby increasing the sentence, the wearing of a mask to disguise a person's identity. Observers contend this was prompted by protestors who sometimes wear masks as they engage in political protest activities. Sponsor is Lawrence (R, LD 23). If you are concerned about it, let your Senator know.
- Active [HB2020](#) confidentiality agreements; **sexual assault; harassment** HB2020 passed the House unanimously and also the Senate Judiciary committee 7-0. This is a good bill. Rules committee will hear it 3/12. Contact your Senator if you want to support this legislation. This bill will close the "predator loophole" in that it permits victims of sexual harassment or assault to speak to law enforcement or to testify in court even if they have signed a confidentiality agreement. These agreements have been used extensively by wealthy individuals who engage in sexual harassment or abuse to buy the silence of their victims. Sponsor is Maria Syms, R, LD 28.
- Active [HB2053](#) theft by extortion; **sexual acts** Another good bill is HB2053 sexual acts by extortion that adds sexual acts to the definition of crimes by extortion – meaning, threatening a person with physical harm or property damage unless they do as you say. It passed the House 27-2 and the Senate Judiciary committee 7-0. On the Rules committee agenda for 3/12. Sponsored by Syms, R, LD 28.
- Active [HB2189](#) prisoners; dedicated discharge account. This bill permits an inmate's discharge account to be used while still in prison for services that will be needed immediately upon discharge. Passed House 57-1, Senate

Commerce and Public Safety committee 8-0 and Rules 8-0. Sponsor is Boyer, R, LD20. Another bill that is part of the bi-partisan efforts to help ex-offenders to live a productive, meaningful life after prison. In the Senate, passed the. Could be voted on this week in the Senate.

- Active [HB2241](#) Passed House on reconsideration after first failing. 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. It failed its first vote in the House but passed after reconsideration 34-25. It is not yet on the agenda for the Senate Judiciary committee.
- Active [HB2243](#) wrong way drivers; dui. Passed House, 38-21 and two of the Senate committees (6-1) as well as Rules committee in the Senate. 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). 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. Could be voted on any time in the Senate.
- Active [HB2244](#) dangerous crimes; children; fictitious age Passed House unanimously and Senate Judiciary committee 7-0 as well as Rules Is ready to be voted on in the Senate. This bill is a good bill. It says 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.
- Active [HB2245](#) prohibited bail; sexual conduct; molestation. **Use RTS.** 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 in the House were not satisfied as the bill seemed still unfair when applied. Passed House 40-19 with some Democrats opposed. Is scheduled for the Senate Judiciary committee 3/15 at 2.

- Active [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 felony. Passed Senate Judiciary and ready for Rules committee. Not much opposition left on this bill.
- Active [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 Senate Judiciary and on Rules agenda 3/12.
- Active [HB2283](#) sexual offenses; definition; defenses **Use RTS**. This is a good bill that passed the House unanimously and will be heard in the Sen. Judiciary committee 3/15 (Thursday). It excludes from the definition of sexual contact any direct/indirect touching, fondling or manipulating that a reasonable person would recognize as normal caretaking interactions or responsibilities with a minor or a vulnerable adult. It also strikes the defense for sexual abuse or molestation if the defendant was not motivated by sexual interest.
- **Active [HB2311](#) ex-offender limited liability. A good bill! **Use RTS**. 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. On Senate Judiciary committee agenda 3/15 (Wednesday).**
- Active [HB2312](#) setting aside conviction; requirements Clarifies requirements for setting aside criminal felony convictions. Passed House 56-0. Expands options for those who have their convictions set aside, helping with employment, housing. Supported by AFSC (AZ Friend's Service committee) and the fair justice task force. E. Farnsworth, R, 12. Passed Senate Judiciary and scheduled for Rules committee 3/12.
- Active [HB2313](#) sentencing; monetary obligations; fine mitigation Passed House 56-0. This is a good bill. It modifies requirements for wide range of court- ordered financial obligations, allowing judge to mitigate certain fees

and **reduce financial burden** as well as allows community restitution. E. Farnsworth, R, 12. NOT on Rules committee agenda for this week.

- Active [HB2356](#) juvenile court; jurisdiction; age Another good bill. It allows **juveniles** to remain in juvenile system until 21 and not serve more than one year in adult facility. Bowers, R, 25. Passed House 56-0, passed Senate Judiciary and scheduled for Rules committee 3/12.
- Active [HB2489](#) schools; anonymous reporting; dangerous activity This bill allows anonymous reporting of a dangerous situation at a school. Senate education committee 3/15 and also on the Senate Appropriations committee 3/13. Sponsor is Boyer, R, LD 20. Passed House 48-12 with bipartisan support and bipartisan opposition. This bill mandates that AZ Department of Education create a “safe to tell” program, including a counter terrorism component, for public schools. Objections were on the grounds that anonymous reporting is inviting false reports that then will have to be taken seriously by law enforcement and others. Supporters argued it will help keep schools safe.
- Active [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. In the House, passed committee 6-3 and passed Rules. Could be voted on any time. Contact your House member if concerned about this.
- Active [SB1295](#) **animal cruelty**; domestic animals; classification (Kavanagh, R, LD 29). SB1295 Passed the Senate 16-13 but has not been considered in the House and is not on an agenda for the coming week. It 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 they argued that this slight increase in the sentence permits judges to require a person to get help with issues of anger and lack of empathy. Current law makes animal cruelty a class 6 felony, punishable by a year in prison. But judges can designate these cases a misdemeanor. Opponents objected due to the longer prison sentences that overcrowds prisons and also because in rural areas pets sometimes kill farm animals and are shot. This subjects the person protecting farm animals to a criminal penalty.

- Active [SB1476](#) pre-arrest diversion; pre-complaint education program. Passed Senate 22-7 but not heard yet in the House. This is a bi-partisan bill that permits merchants who were victimized offering the suspect an educational diversion program, including waiving its fee. A good bill. It is not on the Judiciary and Public Safety committee agenda for 3/14 (Wednesday). If you want to support this bill, contact the chair of that committee, E. Farnsworth (R, LD 12 602 926 5735 or efarnsworth@azleg.gov).
- Dead [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. DOC has promised to provide tampons, enough pads, and to not charge the women for these products.

Democracy, Voting &, Elections Several bills that have been on the radar screen all session (as bills that need to be defeted) will be heard on Wednesday or Thursday in the Senate Judiciary committee or the House Government committee. Others that progressives consider anti-democracy bills are still active in the House or Senate, including the effort for Arizona to join other states in the call fior an Article V convention limited to term limits for Congress, although most believe such a convention would be able to rewrite the entire constitution if it were actually convened. Many of the anti-democracy bills, however, have been killed, but most of the bills that progressives would support were not even given a committee hearing.

- Active [HB2121](#) **ballot measures; paid circulator definition. Passed the House**, 33-26 and scheduled for the Senate Judiciary committee Thursday at 9 a.m. **Use RTS**. 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. This requires that they be registered, which would later subject them to a possible subpoena if a signature on one of their petitions was challenged. Leach (R, LD11).

- Active [HB2153](#) **campaign finance; nonprofits; disclosure. Passed the House, 33-25** but not scheduled this week in the Senate (as of this writing). 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.
- Active [HB2184](#) **Clean Elections Restrictions. Passed House 53-4** after most opposition overcome. Passed Senate Government committee unanimously and Rules, so could be voted on at any time. Opponents feared the bill was aimed at preventing the Clean Elections Commission from adopting rules that govern expenditures in elections, but those objections were removed and the bill now has bipartisan support as it clarifies rule making authority. (Coleman, R, LD16).
- Active [HCR2007](#) **clean elections; unlawful contributions; rulemaking.** Passed House, 34-25 on party line vote but not considered yet in the Senate and not on the agenda for this coming week. 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. Sponsor is Coleman, R, 16. The Clean Elections Commission is about the only agency in Arizona interested in enforcing campaign finance requirements.
- Active [HCR2024](#) **Article V convention; term limits.**
- Active (previously, was dead) [SCR1005-](#) **Article V convention; term limits** Introduced by Petersen (R, LD12) this bill died in the Senate but has been resurrected and is on the Senate Rules agenda for 3/12. It is exactly the same as HCR2024 Article V convention; term limits which passed the House 31-28. Mitchell, R, LD 13 is sponsor of the House bill. This bill, whichever one moves forward, calls for Arizona to join with other states and apply to

Congress for an “Article V” convention that would amend the US Constitution to apply term limits to Congress. The House bill passed 31-28 with some Republicans joining all Democrats in opposition, but it was not enough to kill the bill. Regardless of one’s opinion about term limits, constitutional scholars almost unanimously argue against calling for a national convention to amend the U.S. Constitution as they believe it likely would become a “runaway” convention because the current Constitution provides for no control over the delegates once they have convened. Even if the call itself is limited to a particular topic, as this one would be, there would be nothing to keep the delegates from expanding their scope. Also, the delegates to an Article V convention probably would be selected by the Governor and Legislative leaders and each state would have one vote. This would not be a very representative group. Sponsored by Mitchell, R, LD 13.

- Active [SB1273](#) **GRRC; review; licensing requirements**. Passed Senate 19-11 with some Democrats voting for it. Is on the House Military, Veterans, and Regulatory Affairs committee Monday 3/12 at 1 p.m. **Use RTS** before that time to weigh in. 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, this bill would enable them to 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....”
- Active [SCR1034](#) passed the Senate on a party line 17-13 vote. It is now scheduled for the House Government committee 3/15 (Thursday) at 9:30. **Use RTS**. It 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. It was amended by Sen. Yarbrough in an effort to gain more support, but opponents still call it an unnecessary change. Under this bill, if passed by the Legislature and then the voters, the Arizona Constitution would be amended to provide for 9 members of the commission, 3 Democrats, 3 Independents, and 3 Republicans. The opponents of the current law say that too much power lies in the hand of the

one independent on the commission. Republicans argue that the current district lines favor Democrats (although all three branches of government in Arizona are controlled by Republicans and only a few districts are truly competitive). The bill as amended reduces the role of the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments (Appellate Commission) so that instead of nominating 25 candidates (who must meet specific criteria) from which the members are chosen, it now only nominates five from which the chair is chosen, and the others are selected by party leaders.

- Dead (good) [SCR1001](#) - This resolution 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). Bad bill, as it would make citizen initiatives more difficult to use as separate initiatives would have to be used and signatures gathered even for two closely related topics.
- Dead (good) [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.
- Dead (good) [HCR2008](#) **initiatives; conflicting federal law. Failed, finally!** FPRPP committee voted against it 2-7. Will watch for it as a striker put into another bill. 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.
- Dead (good). [HCR2022](#) **U.S. Senate candidates; legislative nomination. Finally passed the** House Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy committee 6-3, but did not get out of the House. 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!
- Dead (good). [SB1023](#) **campaign contributions;** reportable amount. This bill is hopefully **dead for the session** even though it passed its committee 4-3, but will watch for it as a striker inserted into some other bill. 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, Kavanaugh 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.

- Dead [HB2277](#) state political-economic system; free-market capitalism Passed committee 5-2 but not heard in rules. dead (good). Thorpe, R, LD 6
- Dead [HB2284](#) **initiative; referendum; campaign finance filings**. This bill is dead (good), but two provisions were especially worrisome as they would 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.
- Dead [SB1374](#) state law; local government violations Senator Brophy-McGee (LD28). Failed 3-4 in the **Sen. Government committee. This was a good bill as it helped correct some pre-emptive legislation of the past that thwarts local government efforts to be more progressive.** 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.

Economic Justice – Two very worrisome bills are being fast tracked in the legislature that will exempt digital purchases from state sales tax, taking millions from the general fund and seriously damaging public services, especially education. After discussing these bills (HB2479 and SB1392), this

section covers other economic justice bills in chronological order. Policies pertaining to [health and welfare](#) are also economic issues and are covered separately below. Most of the tax issues have been moved to its own section, [Taxation](#).

- Active [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 and 56-1. Assigned in Senate to two committees and passed HHS 5-2 with two Republicans opposed. Is scheduled for the Senate Commerce and Public Safety committee 3/12 at 2. [Use RTS](#) to urge support
- Active [HB2479](#) TPT; digital goods and services Passed House 39-19 (Ugenti-Rita, R, LD23) but not on any agenda in the Senate. Exempts from sales tax on-line purchases of goods and services that are currently taxed. [SB1392](#) (D Farnsworth, R, LD16). does exactly the same thing but also has not been voted on in the Senate. There is much confusion about what this bill proposes to tax and what will not be taxed, as well as the amount it would cost the state. Opponents not only object to the huge cut this could make to the general fund, but also to the uncertainty about what the bill would do. This tax cut also moves other types of sales to a different tax category, called a use tax, that is harder to collect and that does not contribute to the dedicated fund for teacher pay, known as Prop 301, according to the Children's Action Alliance. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee says this bill is a tax cut that will be a revenue loss, but they have not issued a fiscal note yet. One example: if you buy Microsoft Windows software today, you pay sales tax regardless of whether you purchase it at a store or the cloud version. Under these bills, the software you purchase in the store will be taxed but the same product you access online will be exempt from sales tax. You can see the CAA [details of the budget analysis here](#). Based on data from a sample of cities, the Arizona League of Cities and Towns estimates that these tax cuts will reduce state revenues by at least \$120 million at the beginning. This amount will grow over time as more and more commerce is conducted in the cloud. The League also estimates these cuts will reduce

revenue from Arizona's education sales tax, Prop 301, by \$14 million annually which will be a direct cut to teacher pay at a time when teacher salaries are already the lowest in the nation.

Budget As analysts get a closer look at the Governor's budget, more and more objections are being registered. Currently, only the Republicans are involved in negotiations over it. 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.](#)"

- Active [HB2434](#) (**financial products; regulatory exemption program**) – Passed House, 34-22 and on Senate Finance committee agenda 3/14 (Wed) at 9 am. **Use RTS.** This legislation is a new version of **payday loans**. It 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. This idea is being imported from other countries, including England and Finland, but they have stronger protections for consumers and shorter "sandbox" time periods (experimental time periods) Sponsor is Weninger, R, LD 17.
- Active [HB2528](#) **capital gains; income tax** subtraction. Sponsored by J.D. Mesnard, Speaker of the House, **passed 35-25. Not on any agenda in the Senate as of this writing.** This bill permits a tax subtraction of capital gains taxes that will rise from the current 25% deduction to 50% after several years. Eventually, the cost to the general fund will reach \$23 million a year, according to the JLBC fiscal note. Opponents pointed out that the richest 183 Arizonans, those making \$5 million or more per year, will gain the most – an average of \$27,000 a year each. Attempts were made to amend the bill so that senior citizens with income less than \$75,000 would be able to deduct these amounts of capital gains, but those amendments were defeated. Here we have another bill that benefits the rich and increases income inequality.

- Active [HCR2028](#) wages; leave; retaliation presumption; repeal Passed House 35-25 and on the agenda for the Senate Commerce and Public Safety committee 3/12 (Monday) at 2. **Use RTS** before 2 Monday. Sponsored by Speaker Mesnard. The 2018 general election ballot is to carry the question of whether to amend state statute to delete the presumption that taking adverse action against a person within 90 days of the person engaging in specified activities was retaliation. This begins to unravel the minimum wage and benefits protection passed by the voters in 2016.
- Active [SB1398](#) unemployment insurance, definition of “suitable work.” This bill, Sponsored by Smith, R, LD11) passed the Senate 21-9 with many Democrats voting for it along with all Republicans. It will be heard Tuesday, 3/13, in the House Commerce committee at 2. **Use RTS.** 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. That part of the bill needs to be amended. This bill does have a new, good, apprenticeship program in it, which may be why Democrats voted in favor with the hope that the definition of “suitable work” would be clarified and amended in the House.
- Dead [SCR1016](#) minimum wage; sick time repeal. This bill may be dead (good). 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).
- Active [SB1436](#) **prohibition; criminal history**; occupational regulation. Passed Senate 28-2 but not scheduled yet in the House. This is a good bill. (Burges, R, LD12). It 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. If you

want to help get it a hearing, contact E. Farnsworth, R, LD 12 efarnsworth@azleg.com or 602 926 5735 and ask him to be sure and hold a hearing on it.

- Active [SB1091](#) will allow income tax payments to be made in **bitcoin**. (Petersen, R, 12) **Passed the Senate** 16-13 and the House Ways and Means committee 6-0-1. 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 did not get a vote in the Senate.
- Dead [SB1145](#) which requires that AZ Adjusted Gross Income include virtual currency (e.g., **bitcoin** and other forms of currency that has no inherent value at all). The bill didn't make it out of the Senate, but will watch for it as a striker. (Petersen R, 12). Passed 4-3 and passed Rules.
- Active [SB1500](#) employment security; employee; employer; status Passed the Senate 19-11 and the House committee 4-3. Scheduled for the House Rules committee Monday, 3/12. **Use RTS**. Most progressives oppose this bill as it harms workers. Opposed by those concerned that people who should be considered employees and provided benefits will be re-labeled as contractors. Supporters say it brings clarity for businesses in terms of which people are employees (and required to provide benefits) or contractors (where benefits are not required).

Business / Professional Licenses – Most of those bills that would repeal the requirement for licensing of various professions have died. This type of deregulation is a national conservative-led movement ostensibly to “open up” these professions and create jobs. Opponents say it is a scam that will harm consumers since licensing is one of the primary means of protecting consumers from fraudulent economic schemes. Only a few are still active, and one of these was replaced from licensing to requiring registration rather than licensing. The

other, homeopathic board, was changed from repeal to requiring the Board to do a study and set a possible repeal date for 2019. The active bills are:

- Active [HB2404](#) license to practice taxidermy; repeal. **(Strike everything used to change it to requiring registration rather than licensing). Passed House 39-18. On the agenda Monday, 3/12 Senate rules committee.**
- Active [HB2411](#) homeopathic physicians; board; **Passed House 58-1.** This bill only requires the current board to make a study of how other states are regulating homeopathic physicians and report on it by 2019. It sets a date for repeal of the board's existence for 2019.

The ones that have died, but watch for them again next year, are:

- Dead [HB2011](#) **cosmetology; licensing exceptions (Passed MVRA 5-4; Passed Rules and passed Committee of the Whole, but apparently not voted on)**
- Dead [HB2406](#) **behavioral health** board; regulation; repeal (Assigned, Health, not scheduled)
- Dead [HB2407](#) **dispensing opticians**; repeal of regulation (Assigned, Health, no hearing scheduled)
- Dead [HB2408](#) board of **funeral directors**; repeal (Assigned, MVRA, no hearing scheduled)
- Dead [HB2409](#) **massage therapy**; regulation; repeal (Assigned Health, no hearing scheduled)
- Dead [HB2410](#) geologists; **landscape architects**; regulatory repeal (Assigned MVRA, no hearing scheduled)

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. There are three bills, all sponsored by Republicans, and two are stalled but one seems to be moving. Not entirely clear what will end up in the bill that is moving. Opposed by League of Cities and Towns.

- Active [HB2333](#) **home-based businesses; local regulation restrictions.** Passed House 36-20 and assigned to Senate Government committee as well as Senate Commerce and Public Safety. Was not heard although on agenda 03/07 but is scheduled for COMPS Monday 3/12 at 2. **RTS can be used.** This bill appears to be the same as SB1175, which already cleared COMPS but was not brought to a vote. The bill 2333 “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 limits applicability to non impact home based businesses, which are those that cannot be seen from the street. It specifically prohibits cities from requiring licenses or fire sprinklers and that does not appear to be limited to non impact businesses.
- Dead [SB1001](#) **home-based businesses; regulation restrictions.** This bill also 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 and not heard by it.
- Dead [SB1175](#) **home-based businesses; local regulation.** The same as HB2333. Sponsor is Farnsworth R 16.

Education – At least three big concerns in education this week. First is that a form of voucher program pertaining to tax credits that go through Student Tuition Organizations to mainly private and religious schools (SB1467) has passed the Senate 16-14 and is on the House Ways and Means committee 3/14 (Wednesday). **RTS can be used!** There’s an extended discussion below. Second, the bill to extend the six-tenths of one percent sales tax (.6%) has stalled. This sales tax (HB2168) will end if not renewed – not this year – but supporters of public education are concerned that if it is not passed now, and not passed next year, they will not be able to get it on the ballot in time to avoid a lapse in the payments. The third is the budget. AZ teachers are paying attention to West Virginia and other states “stand with teachers” movements and are seriously unhappy with the 1% increase in salaries proposed in the Governor’s budget. There’s more information here

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona/2018/03/09/state-revenues-up-gov-ducey-and-lawmakers-offer-arizona-teachers-more-cash/407499002/>.

- Active [SB1467](#) **Privatizing K-12 education -** STOs; corporations; caps; scholarship eligibility. The bill's sponsor is Sen. Yarbrough, R, 17, and passed the Senate 16-14 and will be heard in the House 3/14 at 10 a.m. Use [RTS](#) before that time! The bill is still another form of voucher that enables corporations to donate money to an STO (school tuition organization), and take an equal amount of money off their state tax bill. The STO then keeps 10% for its own administrative costs and then awards the rest to qualified students so that they can attend "non governmental" schools—namely, private and religious schools. This bill will cap the aggregate amount that corporations can give. The original legislation set an aggregate cap on tax credits 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 also are vouchers that take money directly from neighborhood schools to use as scholarships. The voucher program expansion bill (SB1431) 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 originally said changing the corporate contribution / STO 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. Apparently, he changed his mind about that. Read more here:

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article197662864.html>. Yarbrough's STO bill would not only cap corporation tax credit at \$100 million, increased annually by inflation or by 2.5 percent, whichever is greater, 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. One of the saving graces of the bill, if there is one, is that the scholarships are supposed to go to disabled, displaced (e.g., foster care), or low income students – defined as students in families with income no greater than 185% of the poverty line or 342% for some of the scholarships. The Arizona Republic study in 2015, however, reported that

“32 percent of the scholarship money given through the individual tax-credit programs goes to children of “low income” families, defined as those earning 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$44,862 for a family of four, according to data acquired by The Arizona Republic. The corporate tax credit for “low income” families has a more-generous definition — a family of four can earn as much as \$82,996.”

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/arizona/investigations/2015/07/26/private-school-families-arizona-tax-credit-program/30647833/>

Opponents are concerned that the size of the cap is too large, as it would permit tax credits to increase even if the general fund is not increasing, so the draw on public funds could become extensive. Also, the bill permits paying the full tuition of the private/religious schooling for some students and it lets some students switch from STO scholarships to empowerment scholarships. Equally important, it continues Arizona's path down the road toward privatizing public education until Arizona has two school systems –a public school system for the well to do some and a private system for others.

- **Active** [HB2037](#) **State-Wide High Stakes Test**. **Passed House 60-0**. Was held in the Senate Education committee last week and is **not on the agenda** for 3/15 (at this writing, Saturday morning). The proposal is from Heather Carter (R, 15) and it would 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.**

- **Dead but needs resurrecting!** [HB2158_TPT](#); additional rate; education (Coleman, R, LD 16). Did not pass the House. 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, there may be no more action in the regular process. If you want to fuss about this, contact House Speaker JD Mesnard to bring it to a vote. jmesnard@azleg.gov or 602 926 4481. Save our Schools and others are making another push to get this passed as a stand alone bill rather than relying on the budget process. The loss to school funds if this is not renewed? Estimated at 600 million every year. That would be devastating. The tax does not end in 2018 or 2019 but if not continued this year, there would be only one year left to get this done.

Active [HB2172](#) **Weapons on campus**. Passed House, going to Senate and passed Senate Education committee with all Democrats and Sen. Brophy McGee (R, LD 28) voting no. postsecondary institutions; possession; nonlethal weapons. This legislation would prohibit college and university administrators from banning non-lethal weapons – probably aimed at Tasers, stun guns, 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.

- Dead [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.
- Signed by Gov [HB2286 and SB1055](#). **charter school board; rulemaking exemption**. Both bills **passed unanimously and have been signed by the Governor**. 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.

- Dead [HB2341](#) homeschooled children; school buses; JTEDs This bill would require school districts to transport home- schooled kids on buses to joint technical education districts.
- Active [HB2377](#) teachers' school supplies; **tax credit** Failed 23-31 but request for reconsideration granted and then passed 34-20. Clodfelter (R LD10). 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. Is not on a Senate committee agenda, yet.
- Dead [HB2458](#) **ballot arguments. School bond elections** 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. Sponsored by Nutt, R, LD14.
- Active [HB2482](#) **foster care tuition** waiver (Shope, R, LD 8). **Passed House 60-0 and is on Sen. Education agenda 3/15 (Thursday) at 9. RTS can be used.** 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 and a good bill to support.
- Active [HB2563](#) postsecondary institutions; free expression policies (Bower, R, 25). **Passed, 34-22 and also on Sen. Education committee agenda 3/15 at 9 a.m. RTS can be used.** This bill purports to protect **free speech on campus,** but it appears mainly to be based on 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 wing ideologues 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. Higher education advocates are opposed.

Environment

Water bills Good news: [SB1507 water program amendments](#), one of the harmful water omnibus bills was defeated in the Senate 15-15 with all of the Democrats voting no, joined by Senator Brophy McGee (LD28) and Senator Worsley (LD25). According to the Sierra club, this bill included the provision to move backwards on water adequacy, thus harming consumers and the San Pedro River. The bad news, however, is that a companion bill with the same provisions, HB2512, has passed the House and will be taken up again by the Senate. And, there are other bills that contain some of the same provisions. If you want the Senate to kill HB2512, then contact Worsley and Brophy-McGee to say thanks for voting against 1507 and other bills that damage the environment and our ability to have a sustainable water supply. Urge them also to oppose these when or if similar bills come up in the Senate. Some of the same provisions are contained in SB1515 and HB2553. **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."** Sen. Worsley 602 926 5760 or bworsley@azleg.gov and Sen. Brophy McGee 602 926 4486 or kbrophymcgee@azleg.gov

Here's the status of the various bills:

- [SB1507](#) Killed in Senate, BUT.. [_water program amendments](#) – This and HB2512 are the major bills and **HB2512 passed the full House 33-27**. HB1507 was defeated 15-15 in the Senate, but the fight is not over, as these two are alike. Sierra club opposes; most environmental groups have major problems with these as does the Governor. Not clear how things will unfold from this point. Those that have passed the Senate are assigned to the EENR (environment, energy, and natural resources) committee in the House.

- [SB1508](#) Active_ water; desalination action plan – **passed 30-0. Its companion bill, HB2551 is on Sen. EENR agenda 3/13 (this bill is being monitored by Sierra club, a good idea, but desalination requires lots of electricity and leaves waste, so details are important here).**
- [SB1509](#) Failed, BUT... water; interstate sales Passed Senate Committee of Whole but failed on vote 14-16, although vote to reconsider was granted. All Democrats plus Sen. Worsley, (LD25) and Brophy-McGee (LD28) voted no. Sen. Burges (LD22) voted yes but changed her vote to no so she could move for reconsideration. This re-vote could come at any time. SB1509 changes the process for persons or entities applying to move water out of state for the use by another state. Currently, the Director of Water Quality Department receives and approves or disapproves of these applications. The bill originally required that the Legislature and Governor would have to approve any application to move water but by amendment, the Colorado river was removed from the requirement as the agreement covering it is covered in other legislation and then the requirement that the Legislature and Governor had to approve was changed to say they only had to be notified. Even so, the bill failed. Opponents see it as a move to politicize this process.
- [SB1510](#) Active irrigation grandfathered right; containerized plants **passed 20-10. On House EENR agenda 3/13 at 2.**
- [SB1511](#) Active Pinal AMA; groundwater; extinguishment credits **passed 17-13. This bill opposed by environmentalists because it would permit development sprawl. On agenda 3/13 Use RTS**
- Failed [SB1512](#) active management areas; sixth management period Passed Senate COW but failed with Worsley and Brophy McGee voting no. Burges move to reconsider granted.
- [SB1514](#) Active_ natural resource conservation districts; administration **passed 29-1. Not on agenda next week.**
- [SB1515](#) Active adequate water supply; county review... San Pedro River protection **Passed 17-13. Not on agenda next week**
- [SB1516](#) Dead (maybe) central Arizona project; sovereign immunity no vote. Has not cleared Senate Rules committee.
- [SB1513](#) Active_ effluent; recycled water; definition **Passed 17-13. Not on agenda next week.**

- [SB1475](#) Dead ecological water; program; fund. (Dalessandro, D, 2). 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 it had been enacted would also establish the ecological water stewardship fund to support the acquisition of existing water rights for ecological water purposes.

[HB2003](#) coal mining; TPT; repeal **RTS** can be used. The bill would exempt the sale of coal from the state and municipal Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT). Cost to the state estimated \$9 to \$12 million depending on what happens with the Navajo Generating Station, which also is involved in the legislation. Passed House 33-22. On the Senate Finance committee agenda 3/14. Most environmentalists oppose this bill.

- [HB2480](#) Dead uranium; radioactive materials; transportation; monitoring. Dead. Sponsor is Descheenie D, LD 7. This bill provides for DEQ to monitor transporting of uranium including use of drones. Sierra club supports this.
- [SB1493](#) Active **environmental quality**; dredge, fill permits. **Passed Senate 17-13 and the House EENR committee 7-3. It could be called up for a floor vote at 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 and needs active opposition. 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. Contact your House members if you are concerned about it.
- [HB2551](#) **active** water; desalination action plan. (Bowers,R, LD25). This is the same desalinization plan as in 1508. Being watched carefully, but not

opposed or supported yet by environmental groups. On committee agenda 3/12 in the Senate.

- [HB2512](#) **Active** water program amendments. Companion bill to 1507. Passed House but not coming up yet on a Senate agenda.
- [HB2553](#) **Active** adequate water supply; county review. Contains some of the same provisions as in 2512, opposed by environmental groups. Passed House 32-27, but not on an agenda in Senate yet.

Guns – As explained in the “action” section, there are four **gun safety bills** introduced in the Arizona Legislature that are the top of the priority list for the teenagers who are organizing the March 24 “March for Our Lives” in Phoenix and many other places in Arizona and nationally. The effort is to get 1200 calls to JD Mesnard, Speaker of the House, before the March 24 gun safety rally.

Call 602 S926 4481. Or jmesnard@azleg.gov. Or, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, 85007.

Here are the bills seeking a vote in the House:

- [HB2299](#) **domestic violence offenders**; firearms; seizure. HB (House Bill) 2299 requires persons on probation for domestic violence offenses to hand over their firearms during their time on probation.
- [HB2023](#) prohibited weapon; **bump-fire device**; accessory. This bill would ban sale of bump-fire accessory devices. It was assigned to the Judiciary and Public Safety committee but not voted on. This is the one the Democrats tried to force onto the floor for a vote.
- [HB2024](#) firearm sales; transfers; **background check**. This bill requires universal background checks and closes the “gun show” and “private sales” loopholes by requiring that all purchases have to go through a licensed firearm dealer who is required to do background checks.
- [HB2140](#) **mental health**; injunction; firearm possession HB2140 and its companion in the Senate, SB1347, allows family or peace officer to file for injunction to prohibit mentally ill person from having a firearm

Here are other bills. There ought to be plenty of bi partisan support for gun safety legislation and to oppose further expansion of gun availability.

- Dead [HB2059](#) **firearms; state guard; composition; program.** Not heard in Rules, should be dead but HCR2002 is similar and passed the House 35-24 (see below). Sponsor is Stringer, R, LD 1.
- Active [HB2172](#) **postsecondary institutions; possession; nonlethal weapons. Weapons on campus.** **Passed House, going to Senate and on Sen. Education committee agenda 3/12. Use RTS.** This legislation would prohibit college and university administrators from banning non-lethal weapons – probably aimed at Tasers, other forms of weapons. Opponents concerned that this would set a precedent for prohibiting colleges and universities from banning guns. Passed House, 35-22. Sponsored by Grantham, R, LD 12.
- Active **HB2211** would exclude ALL firearms from a bankruptcy filing. **Passed 34-25 but is not listed on Thursday agenda for Sen. Judiciary.** Current law permits a person to keep one firearm when filing for bankruptcy; this would permit a person to keep all of them!
- Dead [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 passed 5-4 in committee and by Rules but not voted on.
- Active [HCR2002](#) **state militia; age requirement.** Passed House 35-24 and on Sen. Education agenda Monday, 3/12 at 2. **Use RTS.** 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. Current law says that the Arizona militia conforms to requirements of the U.S. Military. Gun safety advocates say this would open the door to create and arm a “state guard” giving access to more military-style weapons to more people. This bill also might would give Arizona a way to avoid complying with federal law (if they should pass one) that bans military weapons and other armaments used by the U.S. military. Stringer, R, LD 1.
- Active [SB1117](#) **retired police gun rights.** **Passed the Senate 17-13 and on the House Commerce committee agenda for Tuesday, 3/13 Use RTS.** (Kavanagh, R, 29 is sponsor). This bill permits retired police officers to **carry a gun** in a bar or restaurant (or liquor store). Assigned to Senate Commerce committee. Also extends that to off duty officers.

- Dead [SB1348](#) **prohibited weapon; bump-fire device; accessory**. Dead. The Senate bill sponsored by Cajero-Bedford, LD 3 failed to get a hearing. Same as HB2023, which also has not had a hearing.

Health and Welfare Pay attention to HB2434 as it is a new form of payday loans! And hope that HB2127 gets a hearing in the Health and Human Services committee of the Senate, as this is the bill that helps protect the KidsCare program. It still is not scheduled.

- Active [HB2127](#) (**children's health insurance program**) that help protect KidsCare (Arizona's CHIP program) **passed the full House and is assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services committee but not on next week's agenda**. 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). Good news!
- Dead [HB2217](#) This bill would 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.
- **Active HB2434 (financial products; regulatory exemption program)**
– Passed House, 34-22 and scheduled for Sen. Finance 3/14 (Wed). **Use RTS** to

oppose. 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. This would permit new forms of **payday loans** to be tested for up to two years in Arizona. The idea for these “sandbox” projects is to encourage innovative new financial tools to be used, and the idea seems to have taken hold in other countries. But, their protections for consumers appear to be more robust than what would be required here in Arizona, and the test periods for some of them are only six months whereas the Arizona legislation permits it to continue for two years.

- Active [HB2449](#) child care assistance; tiered reimbursement, passed 60-0! (Yea). 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. Passed Senate Health and Human Services 6-0 but not on Rules agenda yet.
- Active [SB1086](#) **AHCCCS chiropractic services. Passed Senate 29-0.** 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), but it looks as if the Senate bill is the one that will be used. Good bill. Not on an agenda in the House yet.
- Active [SB1163](#) **credit security freezes; fees; prohibition. Passed 29-0 and has already passed the House Health committee 8-0 and Rules, but not voted on yet. This looks like it will succeed (good).** Bill will prohibit companies from charging a fee to unfreeze a credit security. Sen. Brophy McGee (R, LD28)
- Active [SB1165](#) **child care assistance; rates. Passed 29-0 and also has already passed Health committee 8-0 and Rules.** Requires DES to post sliding scale rates and to regularly review them. Supported by progressive groups. Sen. Brophy McGee (R, LD28). Good bill. Could be voted on any time.
- Active [SB1166](#) **permanent guardianship; subsidy. Passed Senate 30-0 and on the House Health committee agenda for 3/15 (Thursday). Use RTS.** 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. A good bill. Sen. Brophy McGee (R, LD28)

- Active [SB1247](#) **employee health insurance.** Passed Senate 17-13 and scheduled to be heard in the Local and International Affairs committee Wednesday, 03/07 but was held and is back on the agenda 3/14. Use RTS to oppose this! 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!
- Dead (probably) [SB1261](#) **Is Arizona about to pass a ban on texting while driving!** Maybe not. In spite of unanimous support in the committees, the bill was not brought up for a vote in the Senate. Sponsor is Steve Farley, D, LD 9, a candidate for Governor. 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.

Human Rights

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

- Active [SB1393](#) dissolution; **human embryos**; disposition (Barto, R, LD 15). Passed Senate 18-12. Passed House Judiciary and Public Safety committee 6-3 on a party line vote. Scheduled for Rules committee 3/12 and could move quickly after that. If concerned, contact your members of the House. (In the Senate, all Republicans voted for it; all Democrats against except Miranda, D, LD27). This bill forces 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.”

- Active [SB1394](#) DHS; reporting; abortions. (Barto, R, LD15). Passed Senate 18-12. On House Judiciary and Public Safety committee agenda 3/14 (Wednesday at 2). [RTS can be used](#). (In the Senate, party line vote except Miranda, D, LD27, voted for it). 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 and improve health care for women, but this is just spin. 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. There would be a checklist of possible reasons for getting a divorce that the person would read to the woman! Opponents say this is intended to embarrass and shame the person seeking the divorce, and that providers may simply stop offering abortion services. 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.

- Active [SB1198](#) **A bill protecting blind people from being disqualified as adoptive or foster parents due to blindness passed the Senate unanimously and passed its House committee 6-0. It is on the Rules committee agenda 3/12.** Sponsor is Barto, R, LD15.
- [HB2006](#) marriage; minimum age
- [SB1139](#) **marriage of minors**; emancipation required. These are two bills attempting to put a floor on the age when minors can marry. The suggested floor is 16 years, but persons who have been emancipated may marry at a younger age. The intent is to protect young girls from being “married off” especially to older men without their real consent. The House bill faced 51-7 and will be heard by the Sen. Judiciary committee Wed., 3/15. RTS can be used. The Senate bill passed committee 4-3 (Republicans voting no) and is scheduled for the Sen. Rules committee 3/12.

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. Watch for the possibility of a “striker” to be used to revive this bill. Maybe around Easter.

Immigration – Everything seems to be on hold, much to the despair of persons who came here as children (“dreamers”). The impending deportation of persons who have been protected by the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals, DACA, has been put on hold by court action, but this problem could be solved immediately by the President DJT. He is the one whose executive order removed the protection and he is the one who could fix it.

- Active [HB2083](#) **insurance contracts**. This bill has already passed the House 33-24 on a party line vote and its Senate committees. Could be voted on at any time. 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.
- **Active and worth supporting:** [HB2155](#) - Also passed last week (unanimous, 58-0) is legislation intended to protect immigrants from unscrupulous notaries offering legal advice. It has already passed the Senate Commerce and Public Safety committee 7-1 and Rules. Could be voted on at any time.

Taxation See discussion of exempting digital sales (HB2479 and SB1392) in the economic justice section above

- Dead [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. **Passed** ways and means last week, 5-4 with all Democrats and two Republicans voting for it. But it was double assigned, also to Health committee, and not heard
- Dead [HB2236](#) **military pensions; increase; tax subtraction** passed the House Military and Veterans Affairs committee 8-1 but failed in the appropriations committee 4-9. However, the Senate bill (SB1167) is the same and it passed the Senate 18-11 on reconsideration.
Active [SB1167](#), **Passed Senate** 18-11 but not on the agenda in the House at this time. Sponsor is Griffin, R, 15. 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. 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.

- Active [HB2264](#) **tax exemption for dependents. Passed House, 34-25 and Senate Finance committee 4-2. Not on Rules committee agenda at this time.** 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. On the other hand, Democrats have generally been voting against any tax exemptions, credits, cuts on the grounds that it takes too much money out of the general fund and therefore out of education and other public services. (Mosley, R LD5).
- Active [HB2528](#) **capital gains; income tax subtraction** Passed 35-25 and on the Sen Finance committee agenda 3/14 at 9. **RTS** can be used. This bill is sponsored 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%. The fiscal note puts the impact on the state budget at \$23 million after fully implemented. This one would take a huge bite out of the money available for education and public services.
- Dead [SB1049](#) Will exempt hearing aid batteries from the Arizona sales tax (Farnsworth, D, Rep, LD 16). Not heard by Rules and not voted on, so dead.
- Dead [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.
- Active [SB1268](#) **class six property; elderly homeowners. Passed Senate 28-2 and assigned to House Ways and Means committee 3/14. RTS** can be used. 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 it would be offset (somehow, not explained) by the truth in taxation provisions.

- Active [SB1292](#) **Elected Officials Retirement Plan adjustment. (Passed Senate 29-0 and assigned to House Banking and Institutions committee.)** 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.
- Active [SB1294](#) **tax corrections act of 2018. Passed 30-0 and passed the House Ways and Means committee. On the Rules agenda 03/12.** 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." It is moving through unopposed.

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! Several new ones were proposed but not passed.

- Dead [HB2590](#) rural growth investments; tax credits. (Cook, R, 8).
- Active [HB2568](#) affordable housing tax credit. (Rivero, R, 21). Failed on a 20-38 vote but passed on reconsideration.
- [HB2377](#) teachers' school supplies; tax credit Failed 23-31 but request for reconsideration passed 34-20. Not on the Senate agenda yet. Clodfelter (R LD10).

Resources (calendar, contacts, etc.)

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

Mark Your Calendar for these Action Opportunities

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 18. Phoenix Restoration project will make a presentation 7:30 to 9 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix (4027 E Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley) and then hold a training for persons wanting to help this program that provides assistance to undocumented persons arriving at the Greyhound station in Phoenix. Reservations required, use this link on their facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/RestorationProjectPhoenix>

March 24. March for our lives. Phoenix, every town and city in Arizona, Nationally. Saturday, State Capitol. Organized by teenagers in solidarity with teens and all others who have suffered from gun violence in the United States. More information here <https://www.facebook.com/events/2016815821919569/>

March 28. Education Rally, State Capitol, 7 p.m. Organized by Save Our Schools and the Redford group, this will bring together parents and teachers to advocate for public education.

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. Registration is open, and all of the workshops have been announced. <http://www.wethepeoplesummit.com/> this looks like a terrific program. Focus: Elections!!! How to campaign, get out the vote, and much more.

April 20. <https://networkforpubliceducation.org/2018/02/join-us-day-action-stop-gun-violence-schools/> **National Day of Action to stop gun violence.** A call for mass action on April 20, the anniversary of the horrific shootings at Columbine High School.

April 24. Congressional District 5 General Election: The winners of the primary are Hiral Tipirneni (Democrat) and Debbie Lesko, (Republican). **The replacement for Rep. Trent Franks, Congressional District 8, will be decided now between these two in a general election April 24.**

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 June 2018: Workshops for Tempe-area employees and employers (and those seeking work) on salary negotiation that is intended to help end the gender pay gap. Workshops focus on negotiation strategies, benchmarking target salaries as well as learning about the long term consequences of the wage gap. Workshops mainly for Tempe residents but others may also attend. Registration required: <https://salary.aauw.org/tempe/> Also see the **City of Tempe's Equal Pay Initiative:** <http://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/strategic-management-and-diversity/equal-pay-for-equal-work>

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. 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 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!! You can find out more about candidates at this link <http://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! If you are not registered, just fill out this form! If you are not registered, 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>

Here’s how it works once you are registered: 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 available for every member of the committee to read, sometimes they read them aloud.

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](tel: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.