

## *The Arizona Legislative Alert* [UUJAZ](#) / [VUU](#)

Bringing UU values to Public Policy

# Ready, Set, GO! AZ Legislative Session Begins

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

Access the PDF here: <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-011119.pdf>

You can find previous special editions of the AZ Legislative Alert at  
<https://www.vuu.org/legislative-advocacy/>

January 11, 2020

### FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS!

<https://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/> put in your address, get your Legislative District  
<https://www.azleg.gov/memberroster/> Legislative Members, by District

What's Inside? [Highlights](#) [Action Ideas](#)

Details : [Democracy/Voting](#) [Economics \(wages, safety net, taxation\)](#) [Education](#)  
[Environment \(water, air, pollution\)](#) [Guns/Crime](#) [Health](#) [Human Rights \(women, LGBT+, immigrants, race\)](#)

Resources: [How to use Request to Speak](#) [How to use Resist.Bot](#) [Contacts](#)

[If the internal links are not working, go to the PDF: <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-011119.pdf>

### Highlights –

- **Budget** – Reports are that there is about \$170 million surplus in continuing funds and more than \$400 million in one-time funds. Some are using this to argue that AZ taxes are too high; but these funds could help pull AZ out of the basement in terms of education funding and other human services!!! **Rep. Mesnard has promised to try again to cut taxes, but he has not yet introduced those bills and most of his failed last year.**
- **Sex Education** - Two controversial education proposals will be heard THIS TUESDAY in the Senate Education committee (2 p.m.) One is [SB1082](#) that is a massive rewrite about what public school districts have to do in order to provide sex education! Among

other things, schools may not provide sex education before 7<sup>th</sup> grade; they must provide parents with a topical list of what is to be covered; parents have to give approval (that is already law), the curriculum has to be available for public review and comment, etc. The other bill is related but broader: [SB1069 – Parental Bill of Rights](#). This requires the State Department of Education to develop a parental bill of rights (and specifies a lot of detail about what is to be in it) to ensure parents that they can control the moral and religious education that is taught. Remember, if you have previously signed up for “request to speak,” you can use it now! <https://apps.azleg.gov/RequestToSpeak/UpcomingAgendas>

- **Democracy / Voting** – Bills have already been filed that would continue to make it more difficult to pass initiatives, to be sure your vote is counted, to deliver early ballots to polling places, to have a photo ID that will work, to have a welcoming (non threatening) polling place. Check out these bills in the “democracy” section below. One of the bills requires that a police officer be inside every polling place ([HB2137](#)). [SB1092](#) another limits delivery of early ballots other than your own to family members or caretakers—thereby thwarting a strategy used by elderly and minority advocacy groups to make it easier for people to vote.
- **Anti-transgender** legislation has been introduced by Rep. Fillmore (R, LD16). He proposes that driver’s licenses have to say male or female (not binary); all state documents have to use the gender assigned at birth; school officials cannot be required to use any pronoun other than the one assigned at birth. These are House Bills [HB2074 - HB2080 - HB2081- HB2082](#). **As with most bills, they have not yet been assigned to a committee.** On the other side of the coin, Rep. Gabaldon (D, LD 2) has introduced legislation HB 2074 and HB2075 that would permit the use of the gender identity the person wanted used. Without a Republican sponsor, however, these will almost certainly not be heard.

Scroll down to see details on these and many other bills that have been filed so far!

### **Action suggestions:**

- If you are able and willing, go down to the capitol (1700 w. Washington st. Phoenix) on monday for **opening day** ceremonies! Check out interesting **activities** in the rose garden starting at 9 am—interesting to progressives, at least. And while you are there, sign up for **request to speak!!**
- **Sunday, January 19, 10 am women’s march.** The anniversary!! At the capitol, 1700 w. Washington street. Click [here](#) for more information. Women started a powerful movement a few years ago – let’s keep it going! It is on Sunday (not Saturday); Jan. 19 10 – noon. Can’t go? Make a donation to a charity or advocacy group important to you.

**Educate yourself!** Keep up with legislation. You don't need to read all of this, but scan the highlights, choose an action item or make a donation to a charity, and then scroll down to review bills in the topics that are important to you!! It takes a lifetime to be a fully informed citizen—we never actually get there, but let's keep trying!

As in the past, the AZ Legislative Alert will cover bills with a probable impact on social justice in Arizona (positive or negative) and that have some possibility of becoming law. Since more than 1,500 bills are likely to be introduced over the next few weeks, coverage will mainly be limited to those that are **assigned to a committee** and therefore have some chance of being passed. Some of these bills are complicated, so if the implications are not clear, be patient, clarity may take a while for some advocacy groups to have time to digest what is intended.

Details details details! (click on the bill number to go directly to that bill on the azleg.gov site.

### **Democracy / voting**

[Sb1020 – ballot / initiative “warning”](#) - adds into any initiative on the ballot a “warning” that this legislation can't be changed without a 3/4 vote of legislature that also furthers the purpose of the initiative. Any other changes have to go back to the voters. The intent here is keep the power of legislating in the hands of the legislature and, since initiatives are commonly used in arizona to promote progressive causes, this is intended to thwart the progressive agenda. Ugenti-rita, (R, LD 23).

[Sb1032 – ballot signature on envelope](#) - recorders can't place a signature on the envelope if it is not already there. In Arizona, voters who mail in their ballots sign the envelope, so if a ballot is received that does not have a signature on the envelope, no one can add it even if there is other information as to the name of the voter submitting the ballot. Ugenti-rita (R, LD 23)

[Sb1067 – restore felony voting rights](#) - automatically restore voting rights of felons upon completion of probation or absolute release from prison. The rights would be restored, and the judge would be required to inform a person being sentenced for a felony that their voting rights will automatically be restored when they are released from prison and/or complete probation. (Quezada, D, LD 29).

[Sb1077 – expand use of mail ballot](#) - permits counties to use mail ballots for elections including federal and state elections. (Bowie, D, LD 18)

[Sb1092 – delivering early ballots -](#) for persons delivering more than just their own early ballots to a polling place, the person has to show that one belongs to him/her; if they are delivering another ballot, they have to show they are a family member, household member, or caregiver. Several minority advocacy groups have programs to deliver early ballots to voters who are part of their group or their neighborhood and then they also pick them up and take them to a polling place. These are already sealed, have the person's signature on the envelope. This bill has been introduced before and is intended to stop this practice of helping people vote. (Ugenti-Rita R, LD 23).

[Hb2043 - photo ID cards -](#) high school and college id cards cannot be used as photo ids for voting or to obtain a voting card even though they have the person's picture on them. Proponents suspect college students of voter fraud; supporters point out that voter fraud among college students is not extensive and not documented. They say this bill is mainly to prevent younger voters from being able to vote in the area where they attend school. (Townsend, R, LD 16).

[Hb2092 – selling land to the Federal Government -](#) sale, gift or grant or any other transfer of an ownership interest in any other privately owned real property to the federal government is prohibited without the ...consent of the legislature and the Governor. This bill is intended to prevent any more land going to the federal government (as for national parks, national monuments, etc.) even if it belongs to a private person who wants to sell or give it to the federal government. The rationale is that it takes property tax away from the state. The more fundamental reason is the antipathy of many western states, including Arizona, to the federal government in general. (Finchem, R, LD 11).

[Hb2137 – police in the polling place -](#) requires a law enforcement officer inside each polling place. Another attempt to frighten some legitimate voters, especially minority voters, from voting by simply frightening them away from the polling place. No good reasons are offered for why police are needed in or around polling places unless a disturbance of some kind has been reported. (Lawrence, R, 23).

### **Economic justice – taxation**

[Sb1098 – Unused tax credits -](#) changes from 4 to 3 the number of years before a tax credit is discontinued because no one is using it. This legislation is intended to reduce the number of tax credits by taking off the books those that no one uses as it sometimes is embarrassing for Arizona to admit to the large number of things that are eligible for a tax credit. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in income taxes for each dollar donated. (Mesnard R, LD 17). This bill will be heard 1/17, but is not particularly controversial.

[Sb1116 – sales tax exemption](#) - exempts sale of public safety equipment from sales tax. Just another one of many, many exemptions from the state sales taxed, called the Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT). (Borelli, R, 5).

[Hb2066 Extend TANF Lifetime eligibility](#) - permit 5 years of lifetime eligibility for TANF (temporary assistance to needy families) instead of 1. Arizona is one of the few states that only permits one year of TANF eligibility – most have at least five. Introduced by a Democrat, probably will not get a hearing. (Powers-Hanley, D, LD 9).

[Hcr2007 – super majority needed to REDUCE state revenue](#) – any measure that provides for a net decrease in state revenues has to have at least a two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature. Increases in taxes require a super majority; this would balance the scales. A democratic proposal, unlikely to get a hearing. It is a resolution so would be submitted to the voters for approval. (Powers-Hanley, D, LD 9).

[Hb2002 – tax credit](#) - Arizona student apprenticeship program. Employers can claim a tax credit for the money they pay into the AZ student apprenticeship program. This is another one of many good programs that are proposed to fund through a tax credit – tax credits provide a dollar-for-dollar reduction in income taxes. Some Democrats have said they will not support any more tax credits at all, no matter how worthy the cause, as it takes money directly out of the general fund and reduces the amount that is available for programs. (Carroll, R, LD 22).

[Hb2009 – tax credit for school supplies](#). a tax credit is allowed for expenses incurred by a qualified schoolteacher for educational supplies and materials that are purchased and used in the schoolteacher's classroom and for uniforms and clothing that are used for educational purposes. Again, a service that ought to be paid for through the general fund is not paid and then is put forward as a tax credit, so school teachers who use their own money to buy school supplies for their classes can take it off their income taxes. A worthy cause – but the education budget should cover school supplies!

## **Education**

[Sb1036- empowerment scholarship accounts \(ESAs\)](#) - repeals requirement the department of education shall contract with a third-party administrator to assist the department in the financial administration of Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts. This was introduced last year to provide more oversight over the ESAs (which have been used for all kinds of purposes that were not eligible), but not at all clear why it is being repealed. (Allen, R, LD 6).

[Sb1059 – school report cards/ teacher's raises](#). Repeals sections of current law that require 40% of teachers raises to be based on school performance grades. Also repeals section that requires 33% of teacher raise to be based on individual teacher performance scores. The bill adds to the things that the classroom site fund can be used for. Then, there is a lengthy section that specifies

how school funds for various purposes are to be allocated. Also, it apparently repeals the six tenths of one percent sales tax that would have gone into effect in 2021. Need clarifying information from some public school advocacy groups as to what is actually going on with this bill. (Allen, R, LD 6).

[Sb1061 – parental bill of rights](#) - would require Arizona Department of Education to post a parental bill of rights specifying things listed in the bill, most of them directed at moral and religious training. This is up for a hearing 1/14 so may get some more clarity on why or what this actually would entail.

[Sb1082 – sex education bill](#) - massive bill spelling out exactly what school districts have to do to approve sex education program in public and charter schools including notify parents, provide parents with actual topics covered, have a period for public review, and etc. The bill also prohibits sex education before 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This one is up for a hearing 1/14. (Allen, R, LD 6)

[Hb2018 – charter procurement](#) - public school districts have same procurement rules as charters... this means, pretty lax procurement rules. (Fillmore, R, LD 16)

[Hb2067 – sex education](#) – changes current requirement that parents have to “opt in” for their child to be in a sex education class to “opt out.” (Powers-Hanley, D, LD 9).

[Hb2094 – incentivize teaching](#) - adds school social worker and counselors to the proposal to have an Arizona teacher's academy to incentivize students to go into teaching. (Pawlik D, LD, 17).

[Hb2120 – culturally meaningful graduation paraphernalia](#) - a school district governing board or a charter school may not prohibit a pupil from wearing cultural regalia while participating in a graduation ceremony. (Cook, R, LD 8).

[Hb2125 – prohibits school districts](#) - prohibits school district from refusing to enact provisions of a lawful initiative. This bill apparently is aimed at some initiative or some district that is trying to avoid complying with, but no clarity yet. (Kern, R, LD 20).

[Hb2141 – college requirements](#) - requires six credit hours of college instruction covering the U.S. And Arizona constitutions. Current law lets each university and/or its regents establish the requirements.

[Hb2143 - paying college athletes](#) – this bill prohibits colleges and universities from barring student athletes using their name, image or likeness to earn money. Athlete's name, image or likeness does not affect the student athlete's scholarship eligibility. The college or university cannot be the one that pays them, however.

[Hb2166 – high school graduation requirements](#)- adds to high school graduation requirements one on-line course and also continues the current requirements of for 4 English language arts; 3 social studies; 2 lab science, 2 math, 3 stem, 1 fine arts. Not clear whether this changes anything other than the on line course. (Udall, R, LD 25).

[Hb2014 – student discipline](#). this apparently would permit a teacher to refuse to let a student back into his/her classroom if the student had been expelled from it. (Fillmore, R, LD 16). Not clear the implications of this bill.

[Hb2008 – charter school closures.](#) charter schools have to give 15 day notice before they close. This bill prompted by some sudden charter closures that left students with no school to go to. (Fillmore, R, LD 16).

[Hb2017 – school prayer and pledge of allegiance -](#) for kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve, the bill requires schools to set aside a specific time each day for those students who wish to recite the pledge of allegiance. Also, for K-12, school are required to set aside a one minute each day period of time for quiet reflection and moral reasoning. Parents can opt out of this. (Fillmore, R, LD 16).

[Hb2029 – student tuition organizations –](#) raises the amount to 93% from 90% that has to be used for educational, not admin expenses. STOs are non profits that take donations (for which the donor gets a tax credit) and then distributes these as scholarships to private schools. Current law permits the non profit to keep 10% for administrative overhead; this reduce sit to 7%. (Fillmore, R, LD 16).

[Hb2020 – in state tuition for Dreamers \(DACA\) -](#) prohibits colleges and universities from creating an instate tuition for undocumented students who were brought here as children. It also prohibits colleges from charging less for college than the actual costs, and will take the money out of ABOR allocations if it occurs. (Fillmore, R, LD 16).

## **Environment**

[Sb1046 prohibiting sale / gift to federal government -](#) prohibits private land owner from selling or giving land to feds without legislature also approving. (Borelli, R, LD 5)/

[Hb2027 Evaporative coolers.](#) permit residential coolers to be used for non residential cooling under some circumstances. (Fillmore, R, LD 16).

[Hb2101 Water protection fund.](#) appropriates 1 million to Az water protection fund. (Griffin, R, LD 14).

[Hb2022 – environment discussion in schools -](#) strikes the sentence that requires a discussion of economic and social impacts of climate change in public schools, but retains "scientifically reliable" information. (Fillmore, R, LD 16).

## **Human rights**

[Scr1001 – ERA –](#) Equal Rights Amendment again introduced in Senate and House (House HCR2002). This came within a whisker of getting a floor vote last year, but failed on a procedural vote. Maybe this year! (Senate sponsor – Sen. Steele, D, LD 9). House sponsors, many Democrats but no Republicans so far.

[Sb1027 – pelvic exam](#) - on an anesthetized or unconscious patient, a pelvic exam may not be conducted without first obtaining the patient's informed consent (unless emergency). (Carter, R, LD 15). Not sure why the prohibition is only on unconscious patients. There's also a House bill of the same content, HB 2051 sponsored by Barto, R, LD 15).

[Sb1028 – health emergency](#) – prohibits treatment that the person does not want nor authorize. (Carter, R, LD 15).

[Sb1071 – immigration](#) - repeals those sections of previous anti-immigrant law that permits law enforcement to inquire about immigrant status, repeals the section that criminalizes transporting undocumented persons, etc. (Quezada, D, LD 29).

[Hcr2002 – ERA ratification](#). Long list of co sponsors but all are demos so far

[Hb2051 – pelvic exams](#). cant do pelvic exams on unconscious woman without written consent

[Hb2074 – pro gender identity](#) - record death certificates with the gender identity the person used (Gabaldon, D, LD 2).

[Hb2075 – pro gender identity](#) - on driver's license, use non binary if a person wants it (Gabaldon, D, LD 2)

[Hb2080 – anti-gender identity](#) - on state documents, use only male/female (Fillmore, R, LD 16)

[Hb2081- anti-gender identity](#) - only record male or female on birth certificate, no matter what parents say (Fillmore, R, LD 16)

[Hb2082 – anti-gender identity](#) – prohibits requiring a school superintendent, principal or teacher or another officer or employee of a public school to use a sex or gender pronoun in reference to a student other than the sex or gender pronoun that corresponds to the sex listed on that student's birth certificate. (Fillmore, R, LD 16)

[Hb2084 – immigration](#) - No permits needed to build a wall along the border if owner says ok. Petersen, R, LD 12).

[Hb2153 – traditional family](#) - strengthens current state law favoring two parent visitation arrangements by adding "clear and convincing evidence" to prevent one from having fully participatory rights. (Blackman, R, LD 6).

### **Guns / crime**

[Hb2003 – gun regulation](#) - a county, city, town or other political subdivision of this state may not prohibit a person from possessing a firearm unless the person is a prohibited possessor or a court of competent jurisdiction issues an order that prohibits the person from possessing a firearm (Fillmore, R, LD 16).

[Hb2036 – drug sentences](#) – for fentanyl, heroin, and carfentanyl or other fentanyl drugs, this bill sets minimum, presumptive, and max sentences. Need clarification on implications of the bill as not clear whether this implies heavier or lighter sentences or just more consistent sentencing. (Pierce R, LD 1).

[Hb2070 – pre arrest diversion.](#) allows local pre arrest diversion programs (Blackman, R, LD 6)  
[Hb2093 – second amendment protection -](#) this state and all political subdivisions of this state are prohibited from using any personnel or financial resources to enforce, administer or cooperate with any act, law, treaty, order, rule or regulation of the United States government that violates amendment II of 15 the constitution of the united states. (Biasiucci, R, LD 5)

### Health

[Hb2068 – health and religion.](#) if a business denies medicine for religious beliefs, have to post the medicines that it will not provide. (Powers – Hanley, D, LD 9).

### Action Suggestions:

#### At the Capitol, Monday, January 13:

Progressive Organizations 2020 Priorities

**Start:** 9:00 AM

**End:** 9:30 AM

**Location:** Rose Garden

Democrat Opening Day Press Conference

**Start:** 10:00 AM

**End:** 10:30 AM

**Location:** Rose Garden

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Governor [602-542-4331](tel:602-542-4331) , or [e-mail](#).

Name

Phone Fax

[Senator Martha McSally \(R- AZ\)](#) 202 224-2235 202 228-2862 [contact@mcsally.senate.gov](mailto:contact@mcsally.senate.gov)

[Senator Kyrsten Sinema \(D- AZ\)](#) 224-4521 226-4386 [contact@sinema.senate.gov](mailto:contact@sinema.senate.gov)

[Rep Tom O'Halleran \(D – 01\)](#) 225-3361 225-3462 <https://ohalleran.house.gov/contact>

[Rep Ann Kirkpatrick \(D – 02\)](#) 225-2542 225-0378 <https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact>

[Rep Raul M. Grijalva \(D – 03\)](#) 225-2435 225-1541 <https://grijalva.house.gov/connect-with-raul>

<a href="#">Rep Paul A. Gosar (R – 04)</a>	225-2315	226-9739	<a href="https://gosar.house.gov/contact-me/email-me">https://gosar.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</a>
<a href="#">Rep Andy Biggs (R – 05)</a>	225-2635	226-4386	<a href="https://biggs.house.gov/contact">https://biggs.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Rep David Schweikert (R – 06)</a>	225-2190	225-0096	<a href="https://schweikert.house.gov/contact-form">https://schweikert.house.gov/contact-form</a>
<a href="#">Rep Ruben Gallego (D – 07)</a>	225-4065	225-1655	<a href="https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact">https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Rep Debbie Lesko (R – 08)</a>	225-4576	225-6328	<a href="https://lesko.house.gov/contact/">https://lesko.house.gov/contact/</a>
<a href="#">Rep Greg Stanton (D – 09)</a>	225-9888	225-9731	<a href="https://stanton.house.gov/contact">https://stanton.house.gov/contact</a>

**U.S. Senate –**

- **Kyrsten Sinema** - 825B&C Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-4521  
**Phoenix** Phone: 602-598-7327 **Email:** [contact@sinema.senate.gov](mailto:contact@sinema.senate.gov)

**Martha McSally** \_B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-2235  
Email: [contact@mcsally.senate.gov](mailto:contact@mcsally.senate.gov)

**Request to Speak –** This is a way to “be heard” at the legislature without being there at all! But, first, you must be signed up. If you have signed up in the past, your old information will still get you in. If not, then go to the capitol, go to the first floor of senate or house buildings, 1700 W. Washington, and use the computer to sign up. There are people there to help you. Then, here’s how to use it there or from your phone or your computer at home:

- Get the # of the bill –
- On the azleg.gov site <https://www.azleg.gov/> click on Legislative Information, then on Request to Speak
- Click on “new request” (on the menu on the left)
- Put in the bill #. (or put in name of a committee, and hit “search” to see the committee’s upcoming agenda)
- If it says “no active agenda” then it isn’t before a committee. If you want to register your opinion anyway, click on “my bill positions” (on the menu on the left), and indicate yes or no on the bill.
- If it is before a committee, (scroll down a little to see) it will ask if you actually want to speak at the committee hearing (probably not, just click “no”) and then register for/against and put in your comment if you want.

If you want to review the bill, click on “documents” and review the bill itself or the House or Senate “fact sheet.”

**Action Items!**

**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. Sinema and McSally 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!

[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](http://www.vuu.org) For previous copies of the *Arizona Legislative Alert*, and for all weeks (so far) of the 50 Week Action Plan go to <https://www.vuu.org/legislative-advocacy>. VUU holds services at 10:30 to 11:30 on Sunday.

[Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network -- Executive Director Jenine Galsinger; Policy Coordinator, Anne L. Schneider.](#) [www.uujaz.org](http://www.uujaz.org). Board members:

Rev. Redeem Robinson, incoming Co-President 1/20 Rev. Terry Sims, Treasurer, Sharon Travis, outgoing Secretary. Dr. Stuart Rhoden, member-at-large, Rev. Matthew Crary, member-at-large. Savannah Sanders, Co-President, Rev. Bethany Russell-Lowe, incoming Treasurer 1/20, Ceyshe Napa, Secretary, Molly Divine, member-at-large.