

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

Bringing UU values to Public Policy

## ***Arizona Updates, Week of Jan. 28***

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

January 26, 2019

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### **Quick Overview**

**Resistbot is BACK** and better than ever!!! This wonderful resource for advocates connects you to Federal officials and now also to STATE Governor and LEGISLATORS! Scroll down ( or click [here](#)) for instructions or if you know how just text 504-09 and type in "resist" to the message.

**The Shutdown** – Would you like to do something that would make it impossible for the President to shut down the government again on Feb. 15? Or forever? Sen. M. Warren has a bill. Good Action Item!

**Education** – Hundreds of bills are introduced every year, and committee time is limited. Wonder how the chair decides which ones to hear? Rep. Udall explains her criteria! Also, empowerment scholarship bill needs ACTION (oppose) and other bills are moving on funding. The "anti RedForEd" bills are not moving yet (good).

**Economic Justice (Finance, taxes, welfare)** – A big issue this year will be whether to let Arizona realize a financial windfall as a result of the federal tax changes ("tax conformity." Two legislators want to return it to taxpayers. The Governor wants to add it to the rainy-day fund (on top of \$546 million he already wants to preserve), and others want to USE THE MONEY for education and other services.

There are some good bills expanding Medicaid, and a bad one (another “tax credit”) that takes money from the general fund. Even if it is for a good purpose – is this the way to fund public services? Tax credits for charity disempower government and turn charity over to nonprofits and rich people!

**Democracy, Voting, Elections** – Four of the bills that would hamper people’s ability to vote were scheduled last week. One was NOT heard (good), two passed on party line votes so are “moving,” and the one giving five days to “cure” a disqualified ballot passed (that one is okay, although the time period might be longer.) There are some good bills that make the exercise of citizenship easier but none is moving yet.

**Human Rights (Women, Immigrants, GLBTQ+ & more)** – The ERA has been introduced and volunteers are needed)! There’s a bill to encourage Congress to fund the wall (ugh).

**Water / Environment** – A bill to increase funding for the Arizona Water Protection fund is moving as is one on navigable stream adjudication commission. So far, nothing filed yet on the drouth contingency plan although there is a January 31 deadline for Arizona to get this done!!

## **EDUCATION**

**One of the continuing issues in the Education legislation concerns decisions on which bills will be heard. Michelle Udall, chair of house educ committee, R, 25 has set out some criteria for deciding including whether** the bill is unifying or divisive, reflects **Arizona Education Progress Meter** goals, prepares students for college and career, is fiscal responsibility and whether the bill actually has the votes to pass. Each section is worth 20 percent of the final “score” given to each bill. Udall said she will score each proposed bill using those standards at her discretion as chair, see which score the highest and start there, working through the top tiers until the committee can hear no more. The Education Committee is not likely to be short on bills this session.

**Use RTS** [HB2474](#) empowerment scholarship accounts; student victims (Bolick, r, 20). Again, once proposition 305 was defeated, the Legislature is back to expanding eligibility for empowerment scholarships by small increments to “worthy” students, this time to students who have been bullied. The argument is that parents need more choices for their children if they have been bullied. The counterargument is that parents already have extensive choices – they can transfer to any public school or any charter school, or any private/religious school. The latter, of course, if they pay the tuition! Empowerment scholarships generally pay about half the full cost of private or religious schools

**Use RTS.** [HB2187](#) appropriation; K-12 rollover (Udall, R, 25). This bill would use some of the surplus and other funds to stop the current practice of postponing payment to K-12 schools for one month at the end of the fiscal year and, effectively, begin to address the one billion in cuts since 2008. By 2020 the bill would fund \$630 million into the correct fiscal year instead of delaying it one year. **Will be heard Monday in the House Education committee and is scheduled for a hearing Wednesday in the House Appropriations committee.**

**Moving. Education – Sales Tax** [SCR1001](#) education; TPT; use tax [SB1080](#) TPT; use tax; education. Sylvia Allen’s bill to provide a dedicated source of revenue for education passed on a straight party line vote (5-3) last week with Republicans supporting and Democrats opposed, on the grounds that it just is not enough! (Allen, R, LD 6). Her proposal if passed by the Legislature, would refer to the voters in 2020 a proposal to increase the sales tax for education from .6 of one percent to 1.0 percent – dedicated to education. The problem is this: the additional amount raised would be about \$400 million each year whereas the “invest in education” initiative that was taken off the ballot last year by the AZ Supreme Court would have raised \$690 million – and even that is not enough to completely restore education funding to the (inflation adjusted) pre-recession level. SB1080 specifies how the money will be allocated and provides more flexibility to local districts and it passed on a party line vote, too. What to do? Maybe support it eventually BUT ONLY IF THIS IS THE BEST THAT CAN BE DONE. Stay neutral for now, and hold out for something better. Next stop, rules committee.

**Here are some other bills that are not yet moving, but may be of concern or interest to public education advocates.**

- **The “anti RedForEd bills. These have not moved yet. HB2015, HB2016, HB2017, HB2018 (prohibit public schools and teachers from walking out or protesting inadequate funding, Kellie Townsend, LD 16).** Rep. Townsend has been quoted as saying the four bills she has introduced are a direct response to the RedforEd movement and teachers’ decision to strike last April. [HB2017](#) would prohibit public schools from shutting down except during pre-approved breaks and holidays, or in the event of a variety of dangerous situations, from natural disasters to an invasion or epidemic. This bill also would prohibit schools from coordinating closures. [HB2018](#) would require the attorney general to investigate any policy, procedure or other official action taken by a school district governing board or any district employee that lawmakers allege violates state law. Townsend has also filed [HB2015](#) to prohibit school district employees from using school resources to promote a political or religious ideology, and [HB2016](#) to prohibit employees from harassing, intimidating or harming parents, students and their colleagues. There are laws already on the books to cover each of those offenses. Whether these proposals will intimidate the teacher’s movement or whether it will inspire even more activism teachers and their allies remains to be seen.
- [HB2002 - educators; ethics; professional responsibility](#) – (Finchem, LD11) This is another bill to restrict teachers from engaging in walk outs or other protest movements. It specifies that a code of ethics should be developed by the Arizona School Board Association in conjunction with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and then goes on to say exactly what should be in it. No teacher should discuss any legislation, court case, election, public official, executive action, etc. or any controversial subject in their classroom unless it is clearly a core part of the subject matter. The code also would prohibit segregating students on the basis of race or any discussion that one race is responsible for the suffering or injury to another. The bill notes that it is trying to prohibit “teaching for social justice.”
- [HB2032 \(Charter School Reform Townsend, LD 16\)](#). This bill is one small step toward charter school reform in that it requires charter schools (boards, teachers, everyone) follow open meeting laws which they currently are not required to do!
- [HB2035 - school districts; procurement; charter schools \(Fillmore, LD 16\)](#). What’s odd about this bill is that it requires public school districts to follow the same procurement requirements as charter schools – which are less stringent. Probably an effort at “reform” but most of the reports on charter schools show that their procurement requirements are far too lax and too subject to nepotism and other problems.
- [HB2022 empowerment scholarships; financial oversight; treasurer \(Finchem, LD11\)](#). HB2022 would require annual audits of the funds allocated through the “empowerment scholarship” programs, and enable the department to contract with a third party to conduct such audits. The problem is this responsibility is assigned to the treasurer department rather than the Department of Education. These are the scholarships that

enable students to literally take the money from their public schools and use it to pay tuition at a private or religious school or to be home schooled. Previous sporadic audits have revealed extensive shortcomings in accountability. Audits are needed, but Arizona Assn of School Business Officials lobbyist Chuck Essigs is on record as saying that this responsibility should remain in the Department of Education.

## **ECONOMIC JUSTICE / Welfare / TAXATION**

**Use RTS SB1143** conformity; internal revenue code; rates (Mesnard, R, 17) and **HB2522 (Toma, R, 22).** **Tax Conformity. These bills are being heard Monday, 1/28 in the House Ways and Means committee and the Senate Finance committee. Both would LOWER Arizona index tax rates, reducing taxpayers income tax, but costing the state general fund somewhere between \$150 and \$230 million.** Tax conformity refers to changes in the Arizona income tax code to bring it into line with the changes in the federal code, making it easy for people to file their state taxes based on the federal form. This would surprisingly generate MORE money for state taxes from Arizona taxpayers of an estimated \$150 to \$230 million. The Governor, however, did not include this revenue in his budget and has said that he plans to deposit any windfall into the state's rainy-day fund. That's on top of the \$542 million Ducey has already proposed putting into the reserve account to boost the rainy-day fund to \$1 billion. Republican lawmakers have other ideas and want to refund the money – however much it is – to taxpayers. J.D. Mesnard and Rep. Ben Toma each sponsored identical bills in the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, with hopes of fast-tracking one of two plans. If they succeed, that would put the onus on Ducey to either sign a bill designed to give a tax break to Arizonans, or veto it and push through his proposal to conform Arizona's tax code to the federal changes in a way that would increase state revenue. Mesnard and Toma's first plan would conform to the sweeping changes to the federal tax code and then would reduce tax rates for all income brackets by 0.11 percentage points. Mesnard is from Chandler and Toma from Peoria.

**Use RTS SB1088** AHCCCS; pregnant women; dental care (Carter, R, 15). This bill would provide comprehensive dental cover through Medicaid (AHCCCS) for

pregnant women 21 years of age and older. It is scheduled for Wednesday in the Senate Health and Human Services committee.

**Use RTS** [SB1097](#) AHCCCS; chiropractic coverage. (Carter, R, 15). Chiropractic services would be provided under AHCCCS (Medicaid). This bill is scheduled for Wednesday in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. **Health / Economic Justice** – [HB2120](#) AHCCCS; chiropractic coverage (Barto, LD 15) has passed the House 9-0. Introduced again this year, the bill would include coverage for chiropractic care under AHCCCS (Arizona’s Medicaid program) for low income persons. **The Senate is taking up a companion bill this week.** Next stop in the House is the Appropriations and then Rules committee. No cost figures have been posted yet.

**Moving. Economic Justice / Tax Credits for Welfare - [SB1027](#) tax credit; charitable organizations; eligibility. Passed 9-1. Next stop: appropriations and/or rules committee.** It is one of those tax credit bills that presents a “Hobbesian” choice to Legislators and, if passed, to citizens. The bill would expand an existing tax credit (up to \$400 filing singly or \$800 joint) for individuals who donate to a qualified charitable organization that serves adults suffering from chronic illness or disability (the credit is already available to organizations that serve children). A qualified organization is a 501 c 3 that spends at least half its money for social welfare. The bill is sponsored by Leach, LD 11). **What’s the problem?** A tax credit grants a dollar-for-dollar reduction of a person’s state income tax. It is a worthy goal to provide public services to people with chronic illnesses or disabilities – but tax credits take money out of the general fund so that later when the Legislature is presented with a budget that would allocate funds for such services, they can say, “Well, there just isn’t enough money.” Why isn’t there enough? Because these tax credits drain the general fund of millions of dollars – for worthy causes usually – but prevent government from fulfilling its responsibilities of providing public services for health, mental health, education and other services. A second problem, is that this kind of policy design sends the implicit message that public services for those in need should be provided by charities, wealthy individuals, religious organizations, etc. rather than by government. This is one of the strategies being used nation-wide to privatize public services. Use RTS to oppose tax credits if you agree with this critique and

instead ask the Legislature to provide sufficient funds in the budget to cover these needs!!

### More bills, not moving yet.

- [HB2125](#) **supplemental appropriation; child care assistance** (Udall, R, LD 25). Last year, the Legislature failed to provide the legislation needed to draw down \$56 million in federal funds – with NO COST to the state – that could be used for child care assistance. A bill has been filed that would correct this mistake and enable Arizona to draw these funds and use them for necessary child care assistance services.
- [HB2034](#) **tax credit; teachers; school supplies** (Fillmore, LD 23). This proposal has been introduced several times but never passed. It permits teachers to receive a tax credit (a dollar-for-dollar reduction) in their state taxes for school supplies that buy with their own money and then use in the classroom. As with most tax credits, this is certainly a worthy cause, but it is a poor remedy for actually providing education with the money needed to operate the schools, and it takes money out of the general fund that could be used to increase education funding! Tax credits are a Hobbesian choice, and not a good one for how to run a government.
- [HB2011](#) **veterans; increased income tax subtraction** (Griffin, LD 14). HB2011 would permit veterans of 20 years or more to exempt more of their current retirement income from state taxes. Currently, veterans can exempt 2500 (that is, not pay taxes on it). This bill if passed would increase that to 6,250 and then on to 10,000. It would cost the state an estimated 15 million when fully implemented. Of course, everyone (almost) wants to honor veterans, but again this is just another way to take money out of the general fund instead of using the money IN the general fund to provide public services to those who need them – including veterans!
- **HB2019 highway safety fee; repeal; VLT** (Lawrence, LD23). The state department of motor vehicles increased the fee for new licenses as a way to raise revenue for the highway patrol. This would repeal the \$32 new fee. This is also SB1001 introduced by Ugenti-Rita (LD 23).
- **HB 2153** - Tax Free Tampons and Diapers? (Shope, R, LD 8, Speaker Pro Tem) has filed a bill that would make tampons tax free! Why? Well, he was bombarded with complaints last year because he refused to hear a bill that would let feminine hygiene products be tax free, the same as “food” in a grocery store or other store. Part of the problem here is that this bill, as with many others, reduces funds from the general fund and prevents the government from fulfilling its responsibilities to low income persons!!

## DEMOCRACY, VOTING, ELECTIONS

Several bills that will make it more difficult for people to vote were passed by the Senate Judiciary committee last week including SB1046 and SB1072.

SB1032 on-site early voting; identification required very bad bill! - Ugenti-Rita – This one was **NOT** voted on last week. It requires a photo ID for the early voting locations. There are other forms of identification that ought to be accepted, such as a birth certificate or social security card – neither of which has a photo on it. It is true that a person can get a government-issued photo ID with a birth certificate or social security card, but not everyone does that.

Moving. SB1046 early voting list; mailing ballot Ugenti Rita (r 23). **This passed the Senate on a party line 4-3 vote.** Next stop is the Rules committee. It prohibits a person turning in their early voting ballot (in its sealed, signed envelope) on election day. “An elector who is on the permanent early voting list and who has received an early ballot may return the elector's voted early ballot only by mail and may not deliver the voted early ballot to an on-site or other early voting location or to a polling place on election day.” Another bad bill, as it would severely restrict Arizona voters from returning their early ballots to a polling place or on election day.

Moving. SB1054 early ballots; deficiencies; cure period. (Ugenti Rita, R, 23). The good part of this bill is that it requires county recorders to provide a 5 day “cure period” during which time persons whose mail-in ballot was disqualified can “fix” their ballot. County recorders would be required to make efforts to contact them. The difficulty is whether five days is enough. Apparently, Democrats on the Senate Judiciary committee thought five was enough, **as the bill passed 7-0.** Next stop—rules committee.

Moving. SB1072 early voting centers; identification required. Another bill from Ugenti-Rita that would require photo ID at the early voting centers. **This one also passed Senate Judiciary 4-3 on party line** voting with supporters saying it is needed to protect integrity of elections and opponents saying that other forms of ID should be acceptable such as a birth certificate or Indian tribal enrollment card.

## **Not all the bills are bad ones, however. Here's a surprise bill!**

- **[HB2021](#) ballot measures; online signature submittal (Finchem, LD 11).** HB2021 would permit persons to sign initiative and referendum petitions on line, rather than the current system which requires circulators to gather hand written signatures on the written document. In Arizona, persons running for office currently can gather the petitions needed to qualify for the ballot using on-line procedures. A person can register to vote on-line. Initiatives and referenda, however, have never been allowed to use on line voting but have become prohibitively expensive by having to find volunteers or paid circulators to corner people in parking lots with their clipboards and printed petitions that grant a tiny place for one's signature. Thousands of signatures are disqualified because they are outside the lines or missing some information or, in some cases, because opponents challenge the petition in court and require circulators to show up for a hearing. If the circulators do not show up – as was the case with the “outlaw dirty money” initiative of 2018 – then ALL the signatures they collected are required, by law, to be thrown out. Thus, this bill would use already-existing software to verify signatures on line, and only those thrown out by the software would be examined by hand. The sponsor, Finchem, says his purpose is NOT to make it easier for citizen initiatives / referenda to gain the required number of signatures, but that the descriptions provided by circulators are too brief and inaccurate whereas signing on line would let the voter actually read the description and know what they were voting on. A second reason he gave is that it takes far too much time for the county recorders to have to verify the signatures when all the petitions are dumped at the final deadline.
- **[HB2039](#) federal form voter registrations; reporting (Townsend, LD 16).** Arizona has a two-tier voting system. To vote in state elections, a voter has to provide proof of citizenship that includes a government-issued photo ID. A person can obtain a government-issued photo ID if they have a birth certificate or social security card, but many people do not. The Federal voting laws, however, do NOT require a government issued photo id, but other documents can be used and the person swears under threat of perjury that they are a citizen. HB2039 would require county recorders to post the number of persons who cast ONLY the federal ballot.
- **[HCR2001](#) Article V Convention, electors citizenship (Finchem, LD 11).** Here is still another application to Congress to call an “article V convention for the purpose of amending the constitution of the United States. It requires 2/3 of the states to make such an application and the applications must be for exactly the same purpose. If Congress receives such applications from 2/3 of the states they are required to call a constitutional convention. HCR 2001 is a new one, however, as most are for a balanced budget or other restrictions on the federal government. This one would require that electors (those who vote for the president) must show proof of citizenship. It doesn't say what that means, but typically it means a photo identification issued by a government office.

- **Independent Redistricting Commission** – No bill has been filed yet, but the AZ Capitol Times reports that John Fillmore will introduce a bill to change the makeup of Arizona’s Independent Redistricting Commission, the body responsible for redrawing the state’s legislative and congressional district maps once a decade. Unlike last year’s bill, which restricted its authority, this one would simply expand the commission to nine members – three Democrats, three Republicans, and three Independents.
- **Voter’s Bill of Rights** - An Omnibus bill (or several individual bills) will be introduced soon to provide Arizona voters with a “bill of rights” that will attempt to ensure these rights:
  - Register to vote without unnecessary barriers
  - Participate in fair elections in which politicians are not choosing their own voters
  - Vote by mail or in person and know that our votes will count
  - Equal access to the ballot no matter where in Arizona we live, what language we speak or what our physical abilities are
  - Propose and enact laws when politicians fail to act
  - Know that when we elect someone, they will work for us, no donors or lobbyists.
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Current participants include Progress Now Arizona, Arizona Advocacy Network, Our Voice Our Vote, League of Women Voters, Living United for Change in Arizona, NextGen, Planned Parenthood, CASE, Mi Familia Vota and others. You can join at [AZVoters.org](http://AZVoters.org).

- [HB2099](#) voting rights; restoration; felonies Espinoza (D 19). automatic restoration of right to vote upon completion of sentence.
- [HB2049](#) federal office ballots; voter assistance Filmore (R, 16). makes it a class 3 misdemeanor to give a full ballot to someone who is only eligible for a federal ballot. In Arizona’s two-tier voting system, a photo ID is required to vote the full ballot, but a person can use other ID to qualify for a federal-only ballot.
- [HB2130](#) voter registration; inactive voters; removal (Thorpe, R, 6). removes "inactive voter" and directs county recorders to remove from voter list anyone not voting in two consecutive primary/general elections (4 years). This mandates a quick purge of voting lists and takes thousands of people off the lists who are eligible voters – just have not voted for a while!!
- [HB2140](#) early, emergency voting; deficiencies (Filmore, R, 16). puts restrictions on county board of supervisors that prohibits county recorders from operating voting centers the weekend before an election and prohibits county supervisors from permitting county

recorders to allow voters to correct or supplant their affidavit after 7 p.m. on election day. Again, this will invalidate an unknown number of ballots cast by qualified voters.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Use RTS. SCM1001 border wall funding. D. Farnsworth (R, 16). This is a motion to send a letter to Congress urging Congress to build the wall! It is scheduled to be voted on Monday in the Senate Government committee.

SCR1006 ratification; **equal rights amendment**. (Ugenti Rita, R, 23). This is the Equal Rights Amendment. If approved by the Arizona Legislature, a letter will be sent to the U.S. Congress notifying them of the ratification. Legislation is pending before Congress that would extend the 7-year time limit originally placed on this amendment and if approved, the ERA might actually go into effect!! Co-signers are Heather Carter and Tyler Pace on the Republican side and Lela Alston and two House members Jermaine and Lieberman on the Democratic side. The ERA task force led by Dianne Post says the House ERA will be filed this week, also. Volunteers are needed. You can sign up for a shift at the ERA Task Force AZ website sign up genius.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a48acad2f4-erasentinels>. A big push is being made again this year to get a hearing and to get Arizona to pass it. If Arizona passes it, we will be the 38<sup>th</sup> state (maybe, unless some other state ratifies first) and that might be all that's needed (3/4), if Congress passes any one of several resolutions extending the time limit on passage. However, some states have rescinded their passage, so there will be a lot of issues here. Nevertheless, let's persist! Here's some additional reading if you are interested.

<https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/incongress>

- SB1047 sexual orientation; conversion therapy; prohibition. Bowie (D 18). Bowie has introduced a bill that prohibits conversion therapy for persons under 18; exempts gender identity changes

- [SB1055](#) schools; prohibited courses; repeal. Quezada (D, LD 29) repeals prohibited courses also see house bill by Espinoza. These are courses focused on ethnicity and race.
- [SB1056](#) immigration; law enforcement; repeal Quezada removes "profiling" from immigration law enforcement.

## **GUNS / Criminal Justice**

**Use RTS.** [HB2266](#) prisoners; transition program; eligibility (Payne, R, 21). Will be heard Wednesday in the House Public Safety committee. This adds requirements to become eligible for the transition program. The requirements may seem reasonable (or not, depending on one's point of view), but making it harder to get into a transition program is not a good way to reduce incarceration rates in Arizona – a purported goal of both parties and the governor. The new criteria would make ineligible someone who failed to achieve functional literacy, had a risk rating as close or maximum custody, refused enrollment or removed from a self-improvement program within the past 18 months.

## **WATER / ENVIRONMENT** <https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2019/01/16/lawmakers-get-first-look-at-legislation-for-drought-contingency-plan/>

**Moving.** [HB2013](#) appropriation; Arizona water protection fund (Griffin, R, 14). This bill passed 13-0. It would allocate funds for the AZ Water Protection fund – a proposal backed by both parties and the Sierra club. The purpose of the AWPf is to “provide annual funding for the development and implementation of measures that maintain, enhance and restore rivers, streams and wildlife habitats (azwpcf.gov).” This would increase the appropriation from \$400,000 in 2018 to \$1 million in 2019. It was scheduled for the House Appropriations committee 1/23 but was held. Then, to the rules committee.

**Moving.** [HB2009](#) navigable stream adjudication commission; extension passed 13-0. ANSAC consists of five members appointed by the Governor. Commission members are required to be well-informed on issues relating to state rivers and

streams, and members are prohibited from having any bias or financial interest in affected lands (A.R.S. § 37-1121). The purpose of ANSAC is to determine which Arizona rivers and streams were navigable at the time of statehood, and to designate ownership of the streambed to either the government or the landowner (ansac.az.gov).

Sandy Bahr, director of the Arizona Sierra club, urges citizens to pay attention to water issues and environment. Don't just say, "it is too complicated," she said in a recent talk in Sedona – we must dig into these issues and understand them. One of the key issues this session is the drouth contingency plan.

[SJR1001](#) **Colorado river drought contingency plan** – (Kerr, R, 13). The Senate introduced this joint resolution that authorizes Arizona to sign on to the Lower Basin Drought Contingency plan, but as the Sierra club points out, it does not mention climate change or other actions that are needed. Lawmakers will also have to approve a series of measures pertaining to the Arizona-specific drought plan and so far none has been introduced. There is a January 31 deadline for Arizona to reach agreement; otherwise the federal government will impose a plan on Arizona, California, and Nevada.

**The Shutdown! On the national scene!** Congress not only needs to reopen the government permanently by passing a budget, they also need a permanent "fix" so that no president in the future, and no congress, can shut down the government as a bargaining chip to get what they want when they cannot prevail through the "normal order" of the democratic process! Ideas will be forthcoming, but here is one:

- Congress could pass legislation that would provide for an automatic continuing resolution whenever Congress is unable to pass a budget. This would be a "clean" bill – no extra provisions to make it more attractive to anyone. This bill would NOT contain provisions that after one month of a continuing resolution the budget would be reduced by 15% nor would it contain provisions that the budget would be increased by 15%. The budget would stay flat until Congress can do its job and pass a real budget. And, members of Congress and the President would NOT be paid until a budget

was passed. U.S. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) [has proposed](#) such legislation. There will be more ideas, but in the meantime, contact U.S. Senators and YOUR Congress person about this matter. Here is an omnibus number you can use: **202-224-3121** or use resistbot or use the contact information below.

Name	Phone	Fax	
<a href="#">Senator Martha McSally (R- AZ)</a>	202 224-2235	202 228-2862	<a href="mailto:contact@mcsally.senate.gov">contact@mcsally.senate.gov</a>
<a href="#">Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D- AZ)</a>	224-4521	226-4386	<a href="mailto:contact@sinema.senate.gov">contact@sinema.senate.gov</a>
<a href="#">Representative Tom O'Halleran (D - 01)</a>	225-3361	225-3462	<a href="https://ohalleran.house.gov/contact">https://ohalleran.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D - 02)</a>	225-2542	225-0378	<a href="https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact">https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Representative Raul M. Grijalva (D - 03)</a>	225-2435	225-1541	<a href="https://grijalva.house.gov/connect-with-raul">https://grijalva.house.gov/connect-with-raul</a>
<a href="#">Representative 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="#">Representative Andy Biggs (R - 05)</a>	225-2635	226-4386	<a href="https://biggs.house.gov/contact">https://biggs.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Representative 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="#">Representative Ruben Gallego (D - 07)</a>	225-4065	225-1655	<a href="https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact">https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Representative Debbie Lesko (R - 08)</a>	225-4576	225-6328	<a href="https://lesko.house.gov/contact/">https://lesko.house.gov/contact/</a>
<a href="#">Representative Greg Stanton (D - 09)</a>	225-9888	225-9731	<a href="https://stanton.house.gov/contact">https://stanton.house.gov/contact</a>

**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!

#### U.S. Senate –

- **Krysten 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)

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Jan. 30, 9 -11 a.m. **Dispelling the Myths of Affordable and Workforce Housing**

**Wed Jan 30**, Mountain Park Health Center 1840 E Broadway Rd Tempe, AZ 85281  
Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability. Panel will be moderated by Silvia Urrutia, a consultant in real estate development and financing with extensive knowledge of affordable and workforce housing. On the panel are **Brandy Banks Hotchkiss**, a partner at Leavitt Consultants, provides development consultant services to affordable housing developers; **Liz Morales**, the Housing & Community Development Director for the City of Mesa, is a housing professional with a depth of experience in affordable and workforce housing issues and **Mark Lymer** is a Valley-based architect with 20 years of experience and is currently a resident of affordable housing in the Mesa Artspace Lofts. There will be a light breakfast!

**Feb. 13. 8:30 to 2 p.m. Environmental Day at the Arizona Capitol.** No experience is necessary and training is provided. It is a fun, interesting, and meaningful day! To find out more information or to RSVP, contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org). It is important to RSVP so we can connect you with a team to meet with your own legislators. In 2018, we had a record crowd. Let's see if we can top it in 2019! 1700 W Washington

**February 18 (Monday).** UUJAZ "Day at the Legislature!" President's Day. All day event sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Justice Advocacy Network. Register at <http://www.uujaz.org>

**Want to subscribe to the *Arizona Legislative Alert*?** The AZ Legislative Alert is published weekly during the session to alert progressive, social justice advocates, to legislation that they may want to support or oppose. When the Legislature is not in session, it is published sporadically!

You can sign up by sending an email to [legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org). It is written and published by Anne L. Schneider, Ph.D. retired political science professor and former Dean of ASU's College of Public Programs.

[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 twice on Sunday, one at 9:15 and the second at 11:30 In between are a wide variety of adult and children’s workshops and discussion groups. You are welcome here.

[Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network](http://www.uujaz.org) -- Executive Director Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings; [Policy Coordinator](#), Anne L. Schneider. [Board Members, UUJAZ](#): Sharon Travis, Liz Swan (Chair), Rev. Matthew Crary, Bobbi Bollinger; Rev. Terry Sims, Molly Divine, and Katie Phares [www.uujaz.org](http://www.uujaz.org).

## Request to Speak –

**Special Topic: How to use “request to speak” in one easy lesson!! Bills marked “use RTS” means they are before a committee this coming week you can use “request to speak, if you are signed up. If you were signed in a previous year, it will still work! Go to <http://www.azleg.gov/legislative-information/> request to speak. Here’s your one-page easy to follow [RTS guide](#).**



“Request to speak” (RTS) is a program of the Arizona Legislative Information System (ALIS) found at <http://www.azleg.gov>

A guide for RTS can be found here: [http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/BSI Manual\\_public.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/BSI_Manual_public.pdf)

RTS enables you to cast a “vote” for or against a bill that is on a committee’s agenda. It also lets you indicate that you actually are present at the committee meeting and want to speak, or that you simply want to register your “vote” and leave a comment. At the committee hearing, they will check to see who has signed up “online” to speak and whether there is anyone actually requesting the floor. (You can’t call in or use zoom). They almost always then say that XXXX number of people signed on, and the count was XX for and YY against the bill.

To sign up for RTS, fill out [this quick form](#), and volunteers with Civic Engagement Beyond Voting will go to the Capitol to register new participants. Once signed up, an email will be sent with confirmation and further instructions.

Or Arizona advocacy network

[https://www.azadvocacy.org/requesttospeak?utm\\_campaign=alert\\_sen\\_jud&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=arizonaadvocacynetwork](https://www.azadvocacy.org/requesttospeak?utm_campaign=alert_sen_jud&utm_medium=email&utm_source=arizonaadvocacynetwork)

**Why use it?** Because it gets your voice directly into the substantive committee hearing on a bill. It cannot be used for committee of the whole or floor votes. So, you have to sign in when the bill is being heard by a substantive committee.

- **Sign up for RTS.** You MUST sign up at the Capitol or in Tucson (400 W. Congress street, suite 201). Someone else can sign up for you, but they need your email address (to sign on as if they were you), your name, address, and driver's license ID or voter's card ID.
- **Get the bill # that you want to speak on.** You can get summaries of bills and information from many advocacy groups (Sierra club, League of Women Voters, AZ Legislative Alert, etc.). You DO need the bill number. You may use the "search" option on ALIS but it is far more efficient to know the number in advance.
- **The bill MUST be on the agenda to be heard by a committee.** You may have the number from the AZ Legislative Alert, or other legislative tracking alert. You can check to see if your bill is on an agenda by <http://www.azleg.gov> then "calendar" and "active bills."
- **From any computer, or your phone,** log into <http://www.azleg.gov> click on Legislative information / request to speak. You should get a screen asking for your RTS email and password.
- **Click on "new request."** (That's on the left side). Enter your bill # (you don't need any of the other information). Click on "search." Scroll down to see a bill, "closed," or nothing found. If a bill shows up.... Click on "add request." Add request is over on the left hand column.
- Then it should open up to a screen asking for your opinion, asking whether you actually want to speak, and giving you a place to leave your comment.