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Impeachment? It's Over, but Not And, AZ Legislative Update

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

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February 1, 2020

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The Impeachment - The Senate voted 51-49 to not hear witnesses. They will vote again soon or in a few days about conviction. And maybe some other motions, but not clear. Nevertheless, it isn't over. And even when the Senate fails to vote to convict, more information will continue to come out over the next weeks and months. The election of 2020 will, finally, decide this matter. [Resist.bot](#) is the easiest and quickest way to let the Senators know what you think. They are recessed right now subject to the "call of the chair" but no indication whether that is tomorrow or Monday or Wednesday or when. DJT is scheduled to give the "state of the union" address Feb. 4 (Monday). Let's hope the Senate has not yet acquitted him so he is unable to claim he has been exonerated.

The Equal Rights Amendment. Virginia will finish up being the 38th state to ratify very soon. Action idea – contact your U.S. Congress person and urge them to vote to extend the deadline. See [action](#) items!! By approving HR79, the Congress could repeal the deadline that had been set, avoiding a long court battle.

State Legislative Highlights –

You can use [Request to Speak](#) on the bills that have hearings scheduled -- if you signed up this year or last year! Try it. Write down the bill #, and then scroll down and follow directions.

- **Budget** – The Republicans currently have three different budget proposals with slight but interesting differences in terms of priorities – a Senate Republican budget, House Republican budget, and Governor’s budget. They will have to work this out. Interestingly, the Governor’s has the smallest tax cuts, but all have tax cuts. A host of individual bills have been introduced, independently of some overall agreement.

Democracy / Voting – There are serious concerns about two bills that are making progress. One of these is [SB1020](#), which passed the Senate on a party line vote. This bill adds language to initiatives that is intended to encourage a “NO” vote – next step is the House. The other is [HB2054](#) that could seriously weaken the Clean Elections committee by enabling the partisan Governor’s Regulatory Review Commission review and nullify actions or rules of the Clean Elections Commission, upon request of a single person. It passed committee 4-3, straight party line vote. **Scheduled for a hearing** this coming week is [HB2268](#). This bill enables any person to take a complaint about an election irregularity directly to the attorney general. Not clear what the problem is that this bill is directed toward. The hearing might shed some light on that. Sponsor is Townsend R, LD 16. A small step toward greater election security passed both chambers unanimously and is on the Governor’s desk ([SB1135](#)). Finally, the bill that would require the “federal only” ballots to be printed on colored paper was held.

Economic Justice -

- The big issues this week are tax cutting bills that are peppered all over the Legislature even though there have not yet been any “fiscal impact” statements prepared for most of them. A fiscal impact statement shows the expected effect on the general fund. Up for a hearing on Tuesday are [SB1296](#), a bill to conform Arizona tax code to the federal one and [SB1398](#) an omnibus tax bill – both before the finance committee with J.D. Mesnard as sponsor. He was the one who led the efforts – mostly unsuccessful last year – to cut Arizona taxes as it adjusts to the federal tax changes. Also on Tuesday is [SB1237](#) that would exempt all (rather than up to \$3,500) of the income a veteran receives from pension. On Wednesday, 02/05 the Ways and Means committee will hear a tax credit proposal for developers of affordable housing again with no fiscal note

available. Also moving, as it passed committee 6—4 is a resolution **SCR1003** that would refer to the voters a proposal for a huge increase in the personal property tax exemption. This would cost the general fund \$1.5 million per year, as it increases the personal property tax exemption for agriculture, trade, or business from \$185,000 to \$1 million. Other tax cuts that passed committee last week are **HB2293**, that exempts energy storage and even prohibits cities from taxing them; **HB2356** that exempts more of the donations to charitable institutions, and **HB2621** that increases the amount of tax credit for water conservation systems. No fiscal impact statement is available yet for any of these.

- **Economic Justice – Safety Net** - A bill worth supporting will be heard Tuesday, SB1323, that would make it more likely for children in kinship foster care to be eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Education -

- Two highly controversial bills passed committee last week on partisan votes. One of these, **SCR1002**, would refer to the voters a one percent sales tax bill with the proceeds going to education. Why is this controversial? Because it isn't enough, and because the sales tax is a regressive tax. And, because various advocacy groups may want an initiative with a broader-based finance support that would provide more money and not hit lower income people so much, such as the "invest in education" initiative that was bumped off the ballot last year. The second controversial bill that is moving is **HB2015** that passed committee 6-5. It would limit a teacher's ability to bring supplementary material into a classroom without approval from the governing board. ALSO, some of the provisions from SB1082 on sex education have been slipped into the bill. It will get approved by the Rules committee (which almost never kills anything), and then go for a floor vote.
- Several bills are getting mixed reviews from Democrats and Republicans. SB1059 is an omnibus bill with some worthy provisions and some questionable ones. It passed 5-3-1. Would make some good improvements to how teacher's raises are determined, and more flexibility; but it also has a great deal of detail on how funds must be allocated. Clarifying information needed. Also, SB1224 is a small scale expansion of the Empowerment Scholarship Program that would enable a small number of students on the Navajo reservation continuing attending a school right across the New Mexico Border. It will be Heard 02/04. Held last week was HB2166 making changes to high school graduation requirements to bring into consistency with University entrance requirements.

Environment - Two bills are moving that are on the Sierra Club's "OPPOSE" list These are HB2686 and SB1222 – both of which limit local government ability to limit extension of fracked gas lines in areas for new construction. HB2686 passed committee 8-5. And the second one passed 4-3. Next step is Rules (which never kills anything), and then the floor of the House and Senate.

Human Rights - No action last week (although see Health for women's reproductive rights bills); and nothing scheduled for this week, so far.

Guns / Crime - Nothing new. Remember, the huge bill that would have directed training programs for school marshals to require gun-carrying in schools was TABLED. This was HB2031. Good job to gun regulation advocates for getting this stopped.

Health - Several bills worthy of support passed committee last week. AHCCCS expansion was supported unanimously for dental services to Native Americans (2244); for diabetes management (2246); for substance abuse (1163); for pregnant women's dental care (1170 and 2727) and chiropractic care (2052). In addition, both bills prohibiting pelvic exams on unconscious patients passed committees unanimously (SB1027 and HB2051).

Detailed Descriptions and Status of Social Justice Bills, by Topic

Democracy / voting

Hearing 02/04. [HB2268](#) election complaints; attorney general House elections committee. This bill enables any person to take a complaint directly to the attorney general, including even during the conduct of an election whereby the bill permits a representative from the AG office to enter an election place. Not clear what the problem is that this bill is directed toward. The hearing might shed some light on that. Sponsor is Townsend R, LD 16.

Passed Senate [Sb1020 – ballot / initiative “warning”](#) - Passed Committee 4-3 and Senate, 17-13.

This legislation 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). There also is a House bill, 2558.

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

On Governor's Desk [SB1135](#) - elections; counting center; electronic adjudication – passed committee 7-0, Senate 28-0 and House 60-0. E. Farnsworth has introduced this bill to monitor / verify digital aspects of elections. A small step toward securing elections and preventing actual fraud.

Maybe Dead [Sb1092 – delivering early ballots](#) - **Pulled from committee! No Vote.** 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. Elderly people, those in assisting living and nursing homes, and others use this kind of service to insure their ballots are delivered. The ballots 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). Hearing was Thursday, 1/23 but pulled by sponsor. Lots of organized opposition. Also thwarting the possibility of this bill making it through is the 9th Circuit Court ruling last week that a previous bill making it a crime to return someone else's early ballot is illegal. In a divided decision, the majority concluded that the Republican-controlled Legislature enacted the restriction in 2016 with the goal of suppressing minority votes. And Justice William Fletcher, a President Clinton appointee writing for the majority, said the record shows that HB 2023 had that effect. The court also voided a separate provision which says that the entire ballot is discarded if someone votes in the wrong precinct on Election Day. The judges said the state should count the votes that would have been legal had the person been at the right place, such as for a statewide office like governor.

[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).

Moving – Regulatory Affairs. [HB2054](#) GRRC: petition to request review. Passed committee 1/27 4-3. (Bisiacci, R, 5). The Governor's Regulatory Review Commission has seven members,

six appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate with no requirement for partisan balance. The GRRC reviews regulations. This bill 2054 strengthens the ability of any individual to challenge the Citizen's Election Commission by inserting language that the person challenging a Clean Elections Commission Ruling only has to claim that the CEC is interpreting rules or policy and the person making the challenge believes it violates law or constitution. This is part of a nation-wide and Arizona "regulation rollback" strategy to eliminate existing regulations and block new ones, particularly those of the Clean Elections Commission.

Moving [Hb2092](#) – selling land to the Federal Government – Passed committee, 4-3. 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 some people in some 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).

[HB2238](#) universities; public policy events Kern, R, LD 20. This bill is intended in sure all sides of an issue are heard on a University campus by requiring the AZ Board of Regents to create an Office of Public Policy Events that will organize and pay for speakers to come to University campuses for debates, panel discussions, and so on. The sponsor, Kern, acknowledges that student groups may also invite and sponsor speakers and would not have to include opposing views. But Kern said this new public policy office would be charged with at least keeping track of all those speakers and creating a report, possibly for legislative leaders. The irony here is that almost all speakers on campus already are sponsored by student groups, so in a sense, this bill could simply add more speakers, or it could be used as a way to control what students here.

[HB2272](#) postelection equipment testing. Adds the automatic counting equipment to the post election equipment testing. Thorpe, r, LD 6.

Held 1/28 [HB2304](#) federal only ballots; paper; tabulation Federal only ballots have to be printed on colored paper, tabulated separately and kept in a separate place. This was held Tuesday in House Elections committee.. Probably just a nuisance bill but could serve to stigmatize federal-only voters who are those who did not have the extensive ID requirements

needed for state and local voting in Arizona. More of the laws that suppress voting. Townsend, R, 16

[HB2343](#) - early voting; identification required – Early voting ballots cannot be just dropped off at a polling place, but instead the person dropping them off has to sign a log and show identification. Fillmore, R, LD 16. This bill is intended to halt the practice of anyone dropping off a large number of early ballots at a polling place without having to stand in line.

Moving Elections, HHR 4. [HB2364](#) - election law amendments – Passed committee 10-0. changes to election law and how long early voting drop off places can be open and when they have to close before the election. Appears to be mainly a “fix up” rather than substantive changes that would have an adverse or positive impact on voting accessibility and since it passed with no Democratic opposition, it probably is mainly a “fix up” bill.

[HB2558](#) voting rights; felonies; automatic restoration. See Senate bill (above). Would automatically restore voting rights after sentence is served.

Economic justice – taxation & safety net programs

Hearing 02/05 [SB1296](#) internal revenue code; conformity. (Mesnard, R, 17). Finance committee

Hearing 02/05 [SB1398](#) tax omnibus (Mesnard, R, 17). Finance committee Both of these bills will be heard, in all their complexity, at the Finance Committee Wednesday but without (so far) any fiscal impact statement. Probably, party line votes.

[HB2494](#) internal revenue code; conformity (Toma, R, 22).

Hearing 2/04 [SB1237](#) veterans; income tax subtraction; increase. AZ has exempted up to 3,500 from income tax for veteran’s benefits or pensions. This increases that the full amount. No fiscal impact statement has been prepared. Committee will hear it Tuesday (appropriations committee).

Moving [SCR1003](#) - personal property tax; exemption (Mesnard). Passed committee, 6-4 1/22. This bill—if passed by the Legislature and then by the voters -- would increase the exemption from property tax of property used for agriculture, trade, or business from about \$185,000 currently to \$1 million. This would a huge tax cut; part of the plan that J.D. Mesnard tried to get passed last year but could not. So far, there’s no fiscal impact statement. The fiscal statement estimates it would cost the state General Fund \$1.5 million per year, beginning in FY 2023

Passed Senate [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 passed committee 9-0 on 1/17 and the full Senate 29-1. It 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 tax, called the Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT). (Borelli, R, 5). No fiscal impact statement.

Moving [SB1134](#) tax credit review; evaluation standard. This bill adds to the responsibilities of the joint tax credit review board a provision to assess whether the tax credit will not increase substantially beyond the estimates at the time the tax credit is put in place. Gray, R, LD 21. It is good that this group might actually meet and review the tax credits!!! Passed committee 7-0.

[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!

[HB2220](#) - property tax exemption; veterans' organizations. This bill exempts any property owned by a veteran's organization that is a non profit to be exempt from property tax. Griffin, R, LD 14. This is the same sort of exemption that religious organizations have.

[HB2345](#) - tax credit; public schools; increase. Increases from \$200 (\$300) to \$400 (\$600) filing singly or jointly the tax credit currently in place for any fees paid to any educational institution. Fillmore, R, LD, 16.

[HB2290](#) - renewable energy production; tax credits. Extends the deadline and increases the amount of tax credit for taxpayers using generators to produce electricity. Dunn, R, 13

Moving [HB2293](#) renewable energy storage equipment; valuation (Dunn, R, LD 13). Passed committee 8-2 This bill adds tax breaks by exempting items like solar batteries from sales tax and prohibits cities from taxing them. Again, Legislators using good ideas (like energy storage) as a way to cut taxes thereby enabling the state to claim it just does not have the money to fund public services.

Moving [HB2356](#) charitable contributions; deduction; increase. (Toma, R, 22). Passed committee 8-2. Another tax cutting bill that increases individual charitable deductions again taking an unknown amount of money out of the general fund.

Moving [HB2621](#) - tax credit; water conservation system. Passed committee unanimously Allows a tax credit of 75% for a taxpayer who installs a water conservation system for agricultural use consistent with the plans from a national water conservation district. The plus side is that this encourages water conservation in agricultural uses; the downside is that it is another sizable tax credit (a dollar for dollar reduction in a tax bill) that takes money from the general fund and starves public services. No fiscal impact statement has been posted yet.

Hearing 02/05. [Ways and Means HB2732](#) tax credit; affordable housing Weninger, R, 17. This bill allows a tax credit (a dollar for dollar reduction in income tax) for low income housing development. No fiscal note has been prepared. The good part of this is encouraging development of low income housing; the problem is that it again reduces the general fund. So instead of the general fund being able to provide vouchers or assistance to people who need low income housing, it provides tax breaks to those developing low income housing.

Hearing 2/04 [SB1323](#) kinship foster care; TANF benefits. Appropriations committee Tuesday. This bill changes from 'may' to 'is' eligibility for kinship foster care families to be eligible for financial assistance. And, then there is an immediate determination to see if the child is eligible for "child only" temporary assistance for needy families.

[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).

Education

Moving [HCR2001](#) English language education; requirements (Fillmore, R, 16). Passed committee 10-1. Would bring the state's English learning program in line with research that shows bilingual education works better for students who do not speak English or at just learning.

[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).

Moving Education Committee. [Sb1059 – use tax distribution; school report cards/ teacher's raises.](#) **Passed 5-3-1 in committee with some Democrats voting yes and others no. All Republicans supported it.** Parts of this bill merit serious consideration and support, but clarifying information is needed from public school advocacy groups on its overall impact. One section repeals 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 repeals the six tenths of one percent sales tax that would have gone into effect in 2021 if passed by a public vote—however another bill has been introduced (SCR1002) increasing that to a full one percent. Need clarifying information from some public school advocacy groups as to what is actually going on with this bill. (Allen, R, LD 6). Along with Brophy McGee's measure, the committee passed on party lines a companion bill from Sen. Sylvia Allen, R-Snowflake, that would give school districts more leeway in how they spend revenue from education sales tax, whether the existing 0.6-cent tax or a new 1-cent tax.

Moving [SCR1002](#) Senate Education; Use Tax. (Brophy McGee, R, 28). Passed committee with 3 Democrats voting no. This would refer to the voters a constitutionally established one percent transaction privilege tax and use tax, beginning July 1, 2021. This is the additional one percent sales tax, to replace the previously proposed referenda on a six tenths of one percent tax to be voted on in November, 2020. The arguments are that (on the one hand) it would greatly increase funding for public schools to help replace the cuts of 2008 that still have not been restored; (on the other hand), it is a sales tax typically opposed by Democrats because the burden falls most heavily on low and middle income people compared to a progressive income tax. And, finally, it still is not enough to restore fully the cuts to education of 2008. The bill summary says it will generate \$580,000,000 in FY 2022. This is a very important but difficult issue – education needs more funds, but is this the only source that the state legislature will approve, if they even

approve this one? Will the Democrats support this bill? A better solution could be found if Brophy McGee and supporters of the Invest in Education initiative worked together, said David Lujan, director of the Arizona Center for Economic Progress. The Arizona Education Association backs that initiative, INVEST IN EDUCATION which would levy a 3.5% income tax surcharge on single filers making more than \$250,000 per year and married filers with an annual household income higher than \$500,000.

Passed Senate 30-0. [Sb1061 – parental bill of rights](#) – Passed committee 9-0 and also okayed by Rules committee before a unanimous vote in the Senate. It 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. Apparently, no red flags are being raised about this, at least not yet.

Maybe Dead. [Sb1082 – sex education bill](#) – Was scheduled for hearing first week of the session but was pulled because of the outcry against it. This is a 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 7th grade. (Allen, R, LD 6). She might or might not bring it back. Some parts have been inserted as an amendment in HB2015 (see below).

[SB1120 - schools; sex education instruction](#) – This bill would provide that parents have to “opt out” if they do not want their child to be in a sex education class. Currently, parents have to “opt in” and schools have to provide an enormous amount of information to parents about what is in the curriculum. There is a similar house bill (see below), HB2067 and also HB2277.

Hearing 2/04 [SB1224](#) voucher expansion. (Senate Education, Tuesday, 2). This bill provides for a very small expansion of the voucher program for student on Indian reservations. It would enable students who live on an Indian reservation that extends into another state, to use Arizona funds to pay for private schools in the neighboring state if it is within two miles of the border. The ESA program actually takes the money out of a neighborhood school that the student otherwise would attend and provides it for private schools. Thus, this is the kind of school privatization that progressives typically oppose; on the other hand, it is a very small acknowledgement of the fact that Indian tribal lands extend across state borders.

[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). A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate (SB2206).

[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 an initiative, 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.

Held - [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 (instead of 4), 2 (instead of 4 for math,) 3 stem, 1 fine arts. (Udall, R, LD 25). Held by committee.

[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).

Moving [HB2015](#) schools; supplemental materials; approval. Passed committee 6-5. This infringes on teachers' ability to choose supplementary material for their classes unless approved by a governing board. Fillmore, R, 16. Too much micromanaging! Also...amended to slip in some material from 1082, the sex education bill that raised such an outcry it was pulled rather than considered by the committee. The amendment stipulated that schools must notify parents where and how they can review course materials and curricula for any classes with a statutory "opt-in" requirement. At present, only sex education classes have such a requirement at the statewide level. The bill must now pass through the House Rules Committee before getting a vote on the floor. Rep. John Fillmore, R-Apache Junction, introduced the bill, which would require educators to seek prior approval from school districts before introducing supplemental materials and teaching aids into the classroom, and the amendment.

[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 reduces it 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).

[HB2206](#) - schools; dress codes; graduation ceremonies – No prohibition on wearing Tribal regalia or other indications of cultural identification during graduation ceremonies. (D. Hernandez, D. LD 2).

[HB2209](#) - schools; instruction; Native American experience – History of Native Americans would be taught K-12.m (Fernandez, D, LD 4).

[HB2277](#) - schools; sex education instruction. D. Hernandez, opt out of sex education (D, LD 2). This bill also requires public and charter schools to provide sex education from first through 12th grades.

[HB2327](#) STO scholarships; beneficiary recommendations Prohibits recommendations from donor; friese, D, 9

[HB2328](#) STO scholarships; student transfers limits or removes scholarship if student transfers, friese, d, 9

[HB2329](#) STOs; administrative costs; allocation STOs have to use 95% (not 90%) for scholarships, friese, d, 9,

[HB2330](#) STO scholarships; means testing 66% has to go to families that are within 185% of school free lunch standard, d, 9

Environment (for more detailed information, check the Sierra Club legislative update at this link <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/2020-legislative-updates>).

Moving [HB2686](#) HB2686 building permits; utilities; restrictions; prohibitions (Bowers). Bill passed committee 8-5. This is being promoted by Southwest Gas to limit local government's ability to limit extension of fracked gas lines in areas for new construction. Communities in other states have done this to protect public health and limit greenhouse gas emissions. Sierra club is adamantly opposed to this, and to SB1222 which does the same thing.

Moving [SB1222](#) SB1222 building permits; utilities; restrictions; prohibitions (Fann: Allen S, Borrelli, et al.). Passed committee on straight party line vote 4-3. This is the same as HB2686. Sierra club is opposed.

[Sb1046](#) prohibiting sale / gift to federal government - prohibits private land owner from selling or giving land to feds without legislature also approving. This is another bill attempting to reduce amount of public land and reduce environmental protections. (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).

Held Federal Relations Committee. [HB2252](#) land management; federal regulations; nullification . All federal regulations from 2020 onward from federal government, BLM, or other agencies pertaining to land in Arizona are void. This is another one of Arizona's efforts to block federal management or control over land within the state. The rationale often is that this takes tax money from the state; but the underlying reason is the prohibition on mineral development. Blackman, R, 6.

Moving [HB2497](#) lawn equipment emissions reduction program Passed committee 12-0. (Dunn: Biasiucci, Finchem, et al.) allows people to turn in gasoline lawn equipment and get a voucher to replace it with a reel mower. Currently, it applies only to electric mowers. SUPPORT.

[HB2290](#) - renewable energy production; tax credits. Extends the deadline and increases the amount of tax credit for taxpayers using generators to produce electricity. Dunn, R, 13.

Human rights (also see [Health](#)).

[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.

[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
HCR2024 – a State ERA – would pass the ERA for Arizona. Engel, D 10.

[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)

[HB2706](#) interscholastic athletics; biological sex (Barto, R, 15). This would make it illegal for a transgender man to participate in women's sports in Arizona.

[Hb2084 – immigration](#) - No permits needed to build a wall along the border if owner says ok. Petersen, R, LD 12). This passed committee 4-3.

[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 (for more detailed information on criminal justice issues, check out the legislative update from Diane Post at <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwGCtNXwTBqjBxhMWhJcsPSFwJJ>)

Held [HB2031](#) - school marshals; requirements; training. **TABLED!** This bill sets standards for school marshal training, and includes stipulations that the written policy **MUST** provide that a school marshal may carry a loaded, concealed handgun unless their primary duties involves regular, direct contact with students. Also, any employee of a school who has a concealed carry permit (CCW) may apply to become a school marshal and undergo training to be established by the Dept of Public Safety. School districts may not prohibit persons with concealed carry permits from transporting or storing a handgun or other firearm or ammunition in a locked car on school grounds. Good that it was tabled. Maybe it is dead.

[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. Passed committee 6-4. Seems to be just another minimum sentence bill that takes discretion from judges. Usually, these are a bad idea. (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).

Moving. [HB2244](#) - AHCCCS; dental services; Native Americans. Passed 9-0. Expands Medicaid to American Indians for dental care. Shope, R, LD 8

Moving [HB2246](#) - AHCCCS services; diabetes management. Expands Medicaid for diabetes management. Passed committee 9-0. Shope, R, LD 8

Moving [Health and Human Services. SB1163](#) substance abuse treatment; AHCCCS. Extends AHCCCS (Medicaid) coverage to include substance abuse treatment. Passed unanimously. Brophy McGee, R, 28

Moving [SB1170](#) AHCCCS; pregnant women; dental care Extends AHCCCS (Medicaid) coverage to include dental care for pregnant women. Passed 8-0. Brophy McGee, R, 28

Moving [HB2052](#) - AHCCCS; chiropractic care; report – would expand Medicaid AHCCCS to cover chiropractic care if ordered by a physician. Barto, R, LD 15. Passed committee 9-0.

[HB2727](#) AHCCCS; pregnant women; dental care. adds pregnant women dental care to AHCCCS

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

Moving [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). Passed committee 8-0 but was retained on Committee of the Whole calendar. 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).

Moving [Hb2051 – pelvic exams.](#) cant do pelvic exams on unconscious woman without written consent. Passed unanimously in committee.

[SB1218](#) abortion; authorized providers; waiting period expands abortion to physician assistants and nurse practitioners; repeals the "reflection" period Steele, D, LD 9.

Action Suggestions:

Impeachment - Call or text or fax your U.S. Senator using [resist.bot](#). Tell them what you think about how the Senate is handling the Impeachment.

Check your Registration! March 17, Democratic Presidential Primary. The Republicans are not having one. To vote in the Democratic Presidential primary, you must be registered as a Democrat and the deadline for that is February 18. **to get an early ballot, or other information, go to this link:** <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/>

Get Out the Vote 2020. -

If you live in Maricopa County, you can become a “deputy Registrar” and get regular updates on how you can help GOTV (get out the vote) in 2020. The next training is Thursday, 1/30, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Chandler Girls and Boys club, 300 E Chandler Blvd Chandler AZ 85244. Once trained, you will get regular updates on where and when volunteers are needed to help insure that every eligible person is registered and able to vote in 2020. Additional dates are listed as well: www.tinyurl.com/DRClass20.

The ERA - Virginia is almost certain to become the 38th state to pass the ERA. It has been passed by one house, the other is scheduled to vote Monday, and the Governor almost certainly will sign.

- But you say, I thought the deadline has long passed? Yes, it has.
- Some say that the ERA WILL GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY in spite of the deadline that had been set by Congress. If this is correct, then it can be used immediately and enforcing that deadline and trying to stop it from becoming law will be up to those who oppose equal rights for women as they will have to challenge its use.
- Congress Could Extend or repeal the Deadline! H.J.Res 79 to extend or remove the timeline has passed committee and is awaiting a floor vote in the U.S. Congress. Contact your congressional representative (use Resistbot) and tell them to urge Hoyer and Pelosi to schedule it and to support the bill when it comes to the floor. On the Senate side (S.J.Res 6), Senator Sinema has co-sponsored but Senator McSally has not. A call to McSally is in order here!

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
Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D- AZ)	224-4521	226-4386	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
Rep Paul A. Gosar (R – 04)	225-2315	226-9739	https://gosar.house.gov/contact-me/email-me
Rep Andy Biggs (R – 05)	225-2635	226-4386	https://biggs.house.gov/contact
Rep David Schweikert (R – 06)	225-2190	225-0096	https://schweikert.house.gov/contact-form
Rep Ruben Gallego (D – 07)	225-4065	225-1655	https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact
Rep Debbie Lesko (R – 08)	225-4576	225-6328	https://lesko.house.gov/contact/
Rep Greg Stanton (D – 09)	225-9888	225-9731	https://stanton.house.gov/contact

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

Martha McSally _B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-2235
Email: 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 – You can get it from this newsletter.
- 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 and choose the bill #)
- You should get a message (scroll down if needed). 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.”

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.

I just did it this morning and selected “call.” They called me back connecting me to each Senators office and I left a message for McSally and actually talked to a staff member in Sinema’s office.

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 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. 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.