

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

Bringing UU Values to Public Policy

## Corona Virus Part IV: **VOTING BY MAIL**

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

Access the PDF here: <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-042020.pdf>

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April 20, 2020

### FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS!

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

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Contact Gov. Ducey about an [early voting for ALL](#)
- Updates on the [CAREs act](#)
- [Initiatives / Referenda](#) in Arizona

Arizona Legislative "Digest" – (not included, get it at this link:

<http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-040320digest.pdf> These are the bills "left hanging" when the Legislature adjourned.

## Contact Gov. Ducey: Protect Arizona Elections

Arizona County Recorders are the elected officials who oversee and conduct elections in Arizona. They want to mail early ballots to ALL Arizona voters for the upcoming elections. At this time, Arizona legislation has NOT included primary and general elections in the authority the County Recorders have to authorize an all-mail ballot on their own, even though they are able to do this for some other elections. However, if the Governor would put his shoulder behind this – an emergency, one year— authorization to allow the County Recorders to conduct all mail elections for the August primary and the November general election, then he could get it done!

Contact Governor Ducey and urge him to protect Arizona elections by allowing County Recorders to mail a ballot to every voter for the August primary and the November general election!! Let's make a concerted effort to contact his office before the end of April.

Contact Gov. Ducey: 602 542 4331 or [e-mail](#). Or, use [Resistbot](#). Text 50409 and type "state" in the message box. Then, just follow instructions. See more detail [below](#).

Will this increase fraud? No. Ballots received in the mail have the person's name printed on it, and **they sign the outside envelope** when mailing it back in or dropping it off at a polling place. Their names are checked off the voter rolls, just as they would be if they had been standing in line and signed the book. The signature can be checked against the one on file. County recorders are ALREADY allowed to send early ballots to every voter for some elections but not the primary and general elections.

Will more people be able to vote? Yes. We have no idea what the impact of Corona Time will have on people's willingness to show up at the polls. Almost 80% of Arizona's voters already vote by early ballots; why not extend this to everyone who is an eligible voter? It just makes sense.

Not on the Permanent Early Voting List? Here's how to get on it.

#### HOW DO I REQUEST MY BALLOT BE SENT IN THE MAIL?

Arizona has a Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL), which allows a voter to automatically receive a ballot by mail for every election they are eligible to vote in. To sign up for PEVL online, click [here](#) (you will need to complete a new voter registration form). A written request with your signature may also be sent to your County Recorder. You may also make a one time early ballot request by [contacting](#) the County Recorder.

#### The CARES Act Updates

This legislation has several parts and chances are excellent some of these will be repeated or expanded. The paycheck protection program that ran out of money almost certainly will be provided with more funds.

**Individual Economic Assistance** - The CARES (Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Assistance Act) provides a \$1,200 check for everyone who makes \$75,000 or less. This is a one-time check except the program may well be continued (repeated), so if you are eligible, get the paper work done now. Eligibility is based on your 2019 tax filings, or if you have not yet filed, your 2018. If your income plummeted in 2019, you may not have been eligible in 2018. You have until July 15 to file 2019 taxes. Those who made up to \$90,000, will get a somewhat discounted check. SBA clarifications say that persons on social security who do NOT file taxes WILL get a check. These amounts are doubled if you file jointly.

**Expanded Unemployment Insurance-** A major change in unemployment is included in the CARES act in that it covers millions of people who never have been eligible for unemployment as well as those who were laid off because of the crisis. Included in the new program are **gig workers, independent contractors, sole proprietors, freelancers**, and others whose livelihoods have not involved a regular salary. You apply for this through the state's unemployment insurance program. You will get whatever the state provides (\$240 a week in Arizona) plus \$600 extra PER WEEK that Congress added to the state amount, and this will last for 39 weeks. Arizona's DES site says that people who are freelancers, independent contractors, etc. should apply, but does not say unequivocally that they are eligible, although every interpretation of the law I have read says that they are. In Arizona, the link is <https://des.az.gov/online-services> and the notice on their web site is:

- **The DES Customer Service Centers are receiving an unprecedented amount of phone calls, which may result in callers receiving a busy signal. We encourage you to continue trying to connect, but you may also visit [www.azui.com](http://www.azui.com) to apply for unemployment benefits, view [frequently asked questions](#) pertaining to employment impacted by COVID-19, and other important information. Resources for other programs can be found at: <https://des.az.gov/services/coronavirus>. Thank you for your patience.**

**Paycheck Protection Program** – This program enables small businesses, non profits, and religious organizations to apply for “forgivable” loans up to 2.5 times their annual monthly payroll (for 2019, or for the most immediate 12 months prior to application). The loans are to be used for payroll, utilities, rent, mortgage payments and debt relief; and the money has to be expended within 8 weeks of the loan origination, or by June 30, 2019. If 75% or more is used for payroll, the SBA will “buy back” the loan and the organization will not have to pay any of it back. If the full amount is not expended, the loan will continue for a year with a *maximum* interest rate of 4%. At this writing, the SBA has set that interest rate at 1%. An issue for many faith-based organizations is whether they have to have their own IRS designation as a 501 c 3 and the SBA has said that do not need their own individual IRS designation. Here's the link those guidelines:

<https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/SBA%20Faith-Based%20FAQ%20Final.pdf> .

**Economic Injury Disaster Loans & Emergency Economic Injury Grants** These grants provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). To access the advance, you first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance. The advance does not need to be repaid under any circumstance, and may be used to keep employees on payroll, to pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments. The initial rules for these grants (EIDL grants) specifically excluded faith-based religious organizations, but the new ones issued about April 4 by SBA (see link above) explicitly says that religious organizations ARE eligible. <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/SBA%20Faith-Based%20FAQ%20Final.pdf> .

Here's a link to what may be the [best explanation](#) of the act

[https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/2/9/29fc1ae7-879a-4de0-97d5-ab0a0cb558c8/1BC9E5AB74965E686FC6EBC019EC358F.the-small-business-owner-s-guide-to-the-cares-act-final-.pdf](https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/2/9/29fc1ae7-879a-4de0-97d5-ab0a0cb558c8/1BC9E5AB74965E686FC6EBC019EC358F.the-small-business-owner-s-guide-to-the-cares-act-final-.pdf)

Arizona's Legislature recessed until April 13. To see the bills left hanging – their current status and content – go to <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-040320digest.pdf>

[If the internal links are not working, go to the PDF: <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-042020.pdf>

## **Initiatives / Referenda**

POSTPONED! CORONA VIRUS has postponed almost everything, including gathering signatures for petitions. Nevertheless, here's the initiatives that are still active and need signatures by July! Several have court cases pending trying to get authorization to gather signatures on line, but so far, that has not made much progress in the courts.

- “Invest in Ed” initiative! Volunteers are needed to take petitions into your neighborhood, to your organizations, to your friends, for signatures. Sign up here: [https://investined.com/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=search&utm\\_campaign=2020](https://investined.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=2020)
- **Outlaw Dirty Money** - If you have not yet signed the “outlaw dirty money” petition or helped with it, here's the place to sign up for that one: <https://outlawdirtymoney.com/>

- **Limit ESA Expansion – Save Our Schools has launched a new initiative to limit ESA expansion. Volunteers needed to help gather signatures.** <https://sosarizona.org/volunteer/>
- **Fair Elections-** Another initiative currently gathering signatures is the Arizona for Fair elections <https://www.facebook.com/azfairelections/>. One section would allow voters to register as late as Election Day, automatically register people to vote when they apply for a driver's license, and allow more time for early voting. The Fair Elections Act also has a section that seeks to weaken the influence of big-money donors and corporation-funded committees in political campaigns.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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="#">Rep 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="#">Rep Ann Kirkpatrick (D – 02)</a>	225-2542	225-0378	<a href="https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact">https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Rep 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="#">Rep Paul A. Gosar (R – 04)</a>	225-2315	226-9739	<a href="https://gosar.house.gov/contact-me/email-me">https://gosar.house.gov/contact-me/email-me</a>
<a href="#">Rep Andy Biggs (R – 05)</a>	225-2635	226-4386	<a href="https://biggs.house.gov/contact">https://biggs.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Rep David Schweikert (R – 06)</a>	225-2190	225-0096	<a href="https://schweikert.house.gov/contact-form">https://schweikert.house.gov/contact-form</a>
<a href="#">Rep Ruben Gallego (D – 07)</a>	225-4065	225-1655	<a href="https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact">https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact</a>
<a href="#">Rep Debbie Lesko (R – 08)</a>	225-4576	225-6328	<a href="https://lesko.house.gov/contact/">https://lesko.house.gov/contact/</a>
<a href="#">Rep Greg Stanton (D – 09)</a>	225-9888	225-9731	<a href="https://stanton.house.gov/contact">https://stanton.house.gov/contact</a>

**U.S. Senate –**

- **Kyrsten Sinema** - 825B&C Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-4521  
**Phoenix** Phone: 602-598-7327 **Email:** [contact@sinema.senate.gov](mailto:contact@sinema.senate.gov)
- Martha McSally** \_B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-2235  
**Email:** [contact@mcsally.senate.gov](mailto:contact@mcsally.senate.gov)

**Request to Speak –** This is a way to “be heard” at the legislature without being there at all! But, first, you must be signed up. If you have signed up in the past, your old information will still get you in. If not, then go to the capitol, go to the first floor of senate or house buildings, 1700 W.

Washington, and use the computer to sign up. There are people there to help you. Then, here's how to use it there or from your phone or your computer at home:

- Get the # of the bill – 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.”

- Use Resistbot to [text your state lawmakers!](#) Text STATE to 50409 to try it out.

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

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

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