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Update: Week of April 28

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

April 28, 2019

Very chaotic although slow at the Legislature this past week, making it difficult to know whether bills that have missed deadlines and should be dead are actually down for the count or whether there are plans to revive them.

The big unresolved issue is still the budget. Here's some suggestions on priorities, and let your Legislators and the Governor know where you stand. Here's the Governor's office phone and email: Governor [602-542-4331](tel:602-542-4331) , or [e-mail](#).

1. **Stand with the teachers! Use new funds** – and pass legislation to get new funds – for education to bring spending up to pre-recession (2008) levels.
2. **Use the surplus** for one-time expenditures such as school construction and upkeep; fixing the school roll-over where money was “saved” years ago by pushing one year of spending into the next fiscal year. It is time to fix that. Do NOT use the surplus to pad the rainy day fund. It IS a rainy day for education.

SPECIFIC BUDGET SUGGESTIONS.

Budget Priorities. What are YOURS? Let your legislators know what YOUR budget priorities are!!

- **Education** – 20% raise for teachers, restore base funding to 2008 level, NO more tax cuts or tax credits until education funding, per pupil, reaches national average,
- **Social Safety Net** – no request for waivers to require work for AHCCCS
- **Higher Education** – reach 50% funding of cost of higher education from state general funds
- **Voting** – full funding for county recorders to do their work
- **Social Services** – Full funding for 2-1-1 – a phone number that anyone can call to be connected to social services such as shelters for homeless people.

Other Action Opportunities:

- **Volunteer to help with a citizen initiative! OUTLAW DIRTY MONEY IS BACK.** This initiative, if successful, would place on the 2020 ballot a constitutional amendment for voters to consider that would establish a “right to know” who is giving BIG money to candidates or ballot issues. This would help get public policy more sensitive to the real needs of the community. **You can join the team, volunteer, or donate.** “Here’s the link: <https://outlawdirtymoney.com/>
- The humanitarian crisis on the border is worse than ever! **Donate to Somas** and help the asylum seekers who are being dropped off in record numbers! <https://www.facebook.com/SomosAmericaCoalition/posts/2183503245063587>

Read the overview to pick out a few bills. Or, scroll to the section(s) most important to you. Get the **PDF** of the Arizona Legislative Alert. It’s easier to read, searchable, and you can click on the topic you want and go directly to it!! <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-042819.pdf>

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Quick Overview of Legislation

Education – Summary – One good bill is still alive: SB1485 would put a cap on the School Tuition Credits from corporations. One of the truly bad bills is HB2032 and it should be dead as the Senate Rules committee did not hear it Monday and there are no more scheduled meetings of the Senate Rules committee. This bill would prohibit any person acting on behalf of a school (I assume that includes teachers or advocates of public education) from using any speech or curricula with the intent of influencing a student’s political ideology or religious belief. Well, doesn’t show much support for the idea that education reflects the market-placed of ideas!! A bill to allow schools to not enroll students suspended elsewhere (SB1149) is alive, as is SB1161 that requires school districts to accept bids from charters if they are the lowest bidder, even if that represents a risk to the sustainability of the district school. SB1099 (patriotic youth groups) has not been heard by the Rules committee in the House so should be dead, but the House Rules committee met 4/25 even though it was not scheduled and approved a handful of legislation. The bill to create a separate tuition rate for “dreamers” that is closer to in-state tuition died weeks ago, but an attempt to revive it by Sen. Carter is dead again because Sen. Fann, President of the Senate, has blocked its consideration. On the other hand, thanks to you and many e-mails / phone calls HB2693 that would have allowed

loaded guns in vehicles on school grounds FAILED on 15-14 vote in the Senate! Lets hope it stays dead!

Economic Justice (Finance, taxes, welfare) – Summary – Most of the welfare / “safety net” bills that had given the Legislature a hint of compassion toward the disadvantaged people have died ALTHOUGH some are in the process of possibly being revived. Good bills still moving include SB1173 that allows persons transitioning off welfare to count education as well as employment to continue their child care assistance, and SB1355 that expands AHCCCS for diabetes management. HB2125 that allows Arizona to collect \$56 million from the feds (at no cost to the state) to use for child care has not been heard by Senate Rules so may be dead, as Senate Rules is not scheduled to meet again. A charitable tax deduction bill is probably dead but the one that expands how schools can use tax credit money (HB2425) is on the Governor’s desk. Tax cuts that have missed deadlines and should be dead include 2275 (tax cut for crop production tools) and HB2011 (tax cut for veterans) that failed once and has missed the deadline for reconsideration.

Democracy, Voting, Elections - Summary – There are still very worrisome bills moving that would restrict voting or make it more difficult to pass citizen initiatives. The bill that would purge the so-called Permanent Early Voting List (SB1188) is still alive and would increase the complications of voting and decrease the vote. Also still moving is HB2616 that prohibits paying circulators on a per signature basis. However, a flurry of opposition resulted in SB1451 being retained on the calendar rather than passed, but it may come up again! This bill sets up new cumbersome regulations for persons who collect signatures on citizen initiatives. HB2724 that allows anyone to challenge a rule by the Clean Elections Commission and to have it heard by a partisan review commission (GRRC) passed the Senate and was sent back to the House to resolve differences. It requires a report on how many people are using just the federal voting form.

Human Rights (THE ERA.... Women, Immigrants, GLBTO+ & more) - Another effort was made to get a vote on the ERA, but it too did not succeed in passing. You may wonder: why all this “failed” effort? Well, it makes the Legislators VOTE for or against equal rights for women. And every time they have to vote, it will be remembered in November. Next election, watch for LOTS of reminders of who voted for and against the ERA. The bill requiring a report on material fatalities (SB1040) passed and is on the Governor’s desk. The one for Dreamers to get instate tuition is still dead (SB2186) in spite of efforts by Sen. Carter to bring it back up. These were blocked by Sen. President Fann for procedural reasons, although she favors the idea itself. Some say the Regents have the authority to do this without Legislative approval, but they have not done so yet.

Guns, Crime & Justice The bill to make it more difficult for felons to get their weapons back (HB2080) is on the Governor's desk with strong support and SB1250 making it easier to get an injunction against harassment against persons threatening sexual violence has been signed by the Governor. Still alive are the suicide prevention training bill, and one removing some aggravating circumstances from death penalty consideration. A bill that would have granted more days toward early release was amended so that it now simply appoints a committee to study the issue. The bill that would allow guns in cars on school grounds is still DEAD, however. This is HB2693.

Water / Environment – Summary – Three bills that AZ Legislative Alert has been tracking all need approval by the Senate Rules committee, which is meeting Monday and did not consider them, so these bills presumably are dead. These are the tax exemption bill (HB2275), HB2013 that provides funding for the Arizona Water Protection Fund, and HB2493 – now a strike everything giving the depreciation schedule for solar devices.

More details for each substantive area below – just scroll down. Happy reading!

For you policy wonks, there are two more (at least) good updates that cover a large variety of bills. These are Melinda Merkel Iyer: [Arizona Legislature Weekly Update](#)
Diane Post: [National Organization for Women AZ Legislative Action Alert](#)

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.

Calendar

June 26 and 27. Democratic Presidential Primary Debate! Tempe Market Place. Watch for details!

League of Women Voters. Make Democracy Work Campaign. Second in the Series. Watch for details. <https://www.facebook.com/lwvmetrophoenix> Website:
<https://my.lwv.org/arizona/lwv-metro-phoenix> • Email: info@lwvmp.org

EDUCATION

Should be Dead (good). HB2032 - Restricting Teachers. This is surely one of the WORST bills in the Legislature! Was not cleared by Senate Rules committee, and no more meetings are scheduled for that committee. This bill is a striker that restricts teachers' “speech” as well as

curricula if it is intended to influence or change a student's religious belief or political ideology. How to know "intent" is almost impossible to determine, but this would bar all kinds of talk such as dress (RedForEd t-shirts), bumper stickers in the parking lot, essays, and other materials in textbooks and library books. It was assigned to the Senate Appropriations committee and passed 6-3. Here is what it says:

" a person acting on behalf of a school district or charter school or a person who aids another person acting on behalf of school district or charter school shall not use speech or curricula during school time with the intent of influencing or changing a student's political ideology or religious belief."

How is an English teacher going to teach literature? How can a social science or history teacher teach the history of this country, when so much of our past is tied up in movements of various kinds intended to influence beliefs!! How can a biology teacher use material from a book that says sexual orientation is not a "choice" but a perfectly "natural" biological preference?

Dead. HB2026. Muzzling Teachers. This bill was replaced by a strike everything amendment pertaining to the funding of boat houses! It originally passed House 31-29, missed the Senate deadlines and was withdrawn from the Senate Education committee but then put on the Appropriations committee and passed 8-1. [HB2026 \(Kavanagh, R, LD 23\)](#). This was one of the bills that strengthens the prohibitions against teachers speaking out or protesting in other ways about legislation or elections. It barely passed the House 31-29 after first failing on a 30-29 vote, but passed upon reconsideration. This bill prohibits the use of any public resources for advocacy including advocacy for the outcome of any election, signing petitions to get something on the ballot, distribution of literature, and anything else regarding advocacy. School resources include computers, hardware, software, telecommunications, etc. Most of this was already illegal, but HB2026 goes even farther to permit a resident of the school district to initiate a suit for a presumed violation and to receive the \$5,000 penalty if they win!

Moving (Strike Everything). [SB 1147](#) – **E Cigarettes in Schools!** This is a bill that adds e-liquids and alternative nicotine products to the existing definition of "tobacco products" and raises the minimum age to purchase or possess these products from 18 to 21. However, the bill originally allowed anyone over 21 to possess and use these tobacco products for personal use **on school grounds, which prompted a lot of opposition, even though the sponsors say they will change this. School campuses are now tobacco, smoke, and vape free by law.** Further, SB 1147 states that any further regulation of tobacco products is a matter of statewide concern and not subject to further regulation by any other political subdivision-- such as cities, towns, and school districts. It passed House Health and Human Services 5-4 last week and even though the House Rules committee was not scheduled to meet, it held a 10 minute meeting 4/25 and passed this bill 4-3.

[HB2693. Weapons on school grounds. See the "Guns" section! DEAD. Thanks to all your emails and calls.](#)

[Moving. \(good\). SB1485 CAP the STOs! Passed Senate 30-0 and House committee 8-1. Passed House Committee of the Whole this week. SB1485](#) sponsored by Michelle Udall (R-25.) is a "strike everything"

replacing a technical correction that would cap the automatic growth of School Tuition Organization tax credits at 2% or inflation, whichever is lower. This bill, in contrast with some others that made the cap effective immediately, would gradually reduce the amount of donations, thereby also reducing its immediate effectiveness. Donations to Arizona's STO program are dollar-for-dollar credits from the state's general fund that [surpassed a lifetime total of \\$1 billion in 2017](#) and continue to grow by 20% each year, reducing the funds available for public education (and other state programs). The Joint Legislative Budget Committee has reported that if left to grow according to current law, by 2030, our state will spend more on these tax credits for corporations than those same corporations will be paying into our state budget. Previously, there were two bills to accomplish this, but neither made it out of committee, so a "striker" was used to revive the bill. It passed the House Committee of the Whole and could be voted on any time. The other bills were [HB2185 Cap STO Tax Credits. And SB1168.](#)

Dead. [HB2186 Striker granting Tuition to "Dreamers" but killed in the House Rules committee. Original bill Passed Senate 46-14 Banning Lunch "shaming" \(good bill\).](#) The new bill grants the Regents the ability to establish a new in-state tuition schedule that would apply to anyone who graduates from an Arizona High Schools, regardless of their citizenship status. Hence, this bill would allow persons brought here as children by undocumented parents to attend college in Arizona if they graduated from an Arizona high school. Efforts to revive this idea were blocked by Sen. Karen Fann, President of the Senate, last week.

Moving. [SB1149 School Suspension Rules.](#) This is a strike-everything that gives governing board more authority to deny enrollment to suspended students who are trying to transfer. Passed Judiciary 6-4 and Rules 5-3 and no change from last week. Republicans for, Democrats against. Opposition is that denial of enrollment is used mainly for minority students. Supporters claim this provision is needed to protect the students from dangerous teenagers who are seeking re-enrollment.

Dead (good). [SB1395 empowerment scholarship accounts; program revisions SB1395](#) (Allen, S., R, 6). Supporters point out that it would "clean up" some of the (lack of) requirements for students with ESA scholarships, including adding a requirement that they take some kind of standardized test. However, it also provides for expansions of the program including to more pre-school children, and to any child living in a "failing school" district, not just to those who attended one. According to the Senate fiscal note, "the bill would increase state General Fund costs for ESAs by an estimated \$290,000 in FY 2020, \$580,000 in FY 2021 and \$870,000 in FY 2022 above the FY 2020 Baseline. **Supporters say they are just "fixing" the program – but if they are, then they should remove the expansions.** The money for ESAs comes straight out of the neighborhood school the youth would have otherwise attended and pays for private, religious, and home schooling with very little accountability.

Moving. (Not good). [SB1161](#) Passed Senate 19-11 and House committee 10-3. . . NOW, Charter School / District School buildings. A "strike everything" amendment has turned SB1161, which was a technical correction, into a bill that would require the School Facilities Board to publish a

list of vacant or partially used school spaces every year. It also would require school districts to accept bids from charter schools for that space if the charter school was the lowest bidder. According to "Save Our Schools," the bill is being pushed by the Chamber of Commerce and the Goldwater Institute, with the goal of opening district and charter schools in the same building. Supporters say this is to expand parental choice; opponents say it is just another way to undermine public schools. This passed the House Committee of the Whole last week.

Dead. SB1099. Patriotic Youth Groups. Passed Senate, 29-1 and House Education committee 10-2. Free Speech. SB1099 patriotic youth groups; school access (Carter, R, 15). Although for some the title might be a red flag, this appears to be a good bill. It will prohibit schools from denying access to "patriotic" youth groups who wish to speak for a limited period of time in a public school. These are groups designated by Congress with a charter as "patriotic" (U.S. Code 36, Subtitle II b) that serve youth under 21. Examples include Big Brothers—Big Sisters of America), the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and Little League Baseball, Inc.). It also prohibits discrimination on the basis of 34 different reasons including "oath of allegiance to god and country." The bill is needed if a school district receives federal funds. The bill has not yet been heard by the House Rules committee and they are not scheduled to meet this coming week.

Education Funding: Two bills that attempted to provide some funding relief have both died, but one may be on the brink of revival. In any case, education funding is simply caught up in the budget negotiations. Here were the two bills:

- **Probably Dead. A revival in the works? SCR1001 Sales Tax Compromise. RedForEd has come out against the compromise on the various sales tax proposals that would raise sales taxes from .6% to 1%, if approved by the voters in 2020.** Kellie Ward, chair of the state Republican committee, recently came out in favor of this bill. So, some special processes may be in the works to revive it. The compromise passed the Senate Committee of the Whole weeks ago but has not been voted on and is probably tied up with the budget negotiations that are going on behind closed doors. Kate Brophy McGee and Sylvia Allen, and Rep. Michelle Udall agreed to the 1% and how to distribute it: 75% of the funds would go to K-12 public schools, 20% would go to state universities and the remaining 5% would be left for community colleges and tribal colleges. The proposal would add about \$450 million more than the current sales tax of .6%.
- **Dead. HB2187. Rollover Money Passed House, 33-27 but Senate has not taken it up. This is a good bill. HB2187** (Udall, R, 25). This bill passed committees with almost unanimous support but then was opposed by several Democrats on final passage by the House but the Senate did not take it up. The 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. Why the opposition? Democrats acknowledged that they actually support the idea

behind this bill, but want it to be part of a larger budget discussion around education funding, not just a one-off bill with one-time money

Dead. (good). [HB2470](#) [HB2471](#) [HB2472](#) **Immunization of School Children**. (Barto, R, 15). HB2472 made it to the House Committee of the Whole but was retained on the agenda. All would provide exemptions for vaccinations or make it easier for students NOT to be vaccinated. All three bills passed the relevant committees and all are designed to discourage immunization or grant exceptions. The Governor issued an unusual (for him) declaration that he would veto anti-immunization bills if any reached his desk. All were introduced by Nancy Barto (R, 15) in the Health and Human Services committee, which she chairs. On the Senate side, however, anti-immunization bills did not fare so well so even if these pass the House, they may not make it through the Senate. [SB1114](#) schools; immunization; religious exemption. (Boyer, R, 20) failed on a 4-4 tie vote. It expands the use of a religious reason. And [SB1115](#) informed consent; vaccinations did not get a hearing. (Boyer, R, 20).

Dead. [SB1394](#) **Charter School Reform** (Brophy McGee, R, 28). This passed the Senate 17-13 on a party line vote but the House did not take it up and Speaker Brower is quoted as saying he will not bring it to a vote. Democrats say it does not do several of the things that reform-minded advocates want and amendments that would have helped the bill did not pass the Senate. It does require charters to have no more than two family members on the board (out of at least three—mmmm, that’s a rather small “reform”) and training on a number of topics such as the open meeting law, procurement rules, and others that charters frequently are accused of violating. It may improve some of the lax procurement practices but would not stop CEOs of charters from making millions or preventing charter organizers to sell their charters as Senator E. Farnsworth did in 2018. It was a small step, but not enough for some, and too much for others.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE / Welfare / TAXATION -

Probably Dead. [HB2523](#) **youth employment. Passed House 31-29 and Senate committee 4-3.** (Grantham, R, LD 12). This is the bill that attempts to thwart the citizen initiative passed in 2016 that increased Arizona’s minimum wage. The Attorney General has ruled that it will require $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to pass, and that is unlikely! The bill would create an exemption to the 2016 voter-approved law for students under the age of 22. The voters’ initiative boosted the state minimum wage from \$8.05 an hour at that time to \$11 now. It will increase automatically to \$12 in 2020, with future increases tied to inflation. This bill seems a clear violation of the voter protection act, which requires that Legislative changes in voter-approved legislation have to not only get a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, but also must further the purpose of the initiative, and this one surely does not!

Safety Net (Welfare) Programs

- Moving. [SB1173](#) **Child Care Transition to Include Education** **Passed Senate 30-0.** (Carter R, LD 15.) This bill is ready for a final vote in the House. It requires that child care assistance (transition off welfare) continue to be provided to person receiving it who then enrolls in educational program including high school, college, employment training, etc. Good bill, but no change from last week.
- Moving. [HB2125](#) **Child Care Funds from Federal Government.** (Udall, R, LD 25 **Passed House 46-13.** **The House version already passed the Senate Health and Human Services committee 7-0 and passed Appropriations 7-0. It still needs action by the Senate Rules committee that is meeting Monday.** 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. This bill would correct the mistake and enable Arizona to draw these funds and use them for necessary child care assistance services. ([SB1242 Brophy McGee, R, 28](#) Passed Senate, 27-3, a companion bill, is not moving).
- Three of the bills that would expand AHCCCS Coverage are dead UNLESS the House Rules committee meets and gives them an okay. And the House Rules committee is not scheduled to meet again this year!
 - **Probably dead.** [SB1088](#) **AHCCCS Coverage/Pregnancy. Passed Senate 27-3** (Carter, R, 15). This bill passed Senate with three Republicans voting no and passed the House committee 8-1 and Appropriations 7-4. It would provide comprehensive dental cover through Medicaid (AHCCCS) for pregnant women 21 years of age and older.
 - Dead. [SB1097](#) **AHCCCS coverage / chiropractic** **Passed Senate, 28-2.** (Carter, R, 15). This one originally passed the Senate but was then replaced with a strike everything on a different topic, so it is kaput. Under it, chiropractic services would be provided under AHCCCS (Medicaid.) [HB2120](#) (Barto, R, 15) would have done the same thing, but it didn't get out of the House. Cost figures show about \$4.9 cost to the general fund, but cost figures are uncertain.
 - **Probably dead.** [SB1353](#) **AHCCCS / diabetes management .** (Carter, R, 15). **Passed Senate 29-1.** This one would cover diabetes care for Arizona's Medicaid recipients. Passed House Health and Human Services 9-1 and Appropriations 10-1.
 - **Revived!** [SB1355](#) **AHCCCS coverage / Dental / Native Americans** (Carter, R, 15) passed the Senate, 25-5 and in the House, passed HHS 9-0. As the title indicates, these would bring dental care into the AHCCCS program for American Indians. The House Rules committee at its special meeting 4/25 approved this one.
- **Probably dead.** [SB1098](#) **Housing Assistance.** Passed Senate 27-3 and House HHS committee 9-0. (Carter, R, LD15): This bill aims to create a pilot program that will provide grants to help individuals transition from public assistance to more secure housing. It

passed Senate Health and Human Services 7-1 and on the last possible day got a hearing before the Rules committee. The Senate then passed it 27-3.

Tax Conformity / Budget. Conforming Arizona tax laws to the changes in the federal tax code would add an estimate \$150 to \$200 million to the Arizona budget, and it looks like the Governor may get his way on a simple conformance rather than returning this money to the taxpayers through a tax cut. BUT, budget arguments are continuing.

Tax Credits, Cuts, Deductions -

- **Moving.** [SB1485](#) **CAP the STOs! Passed Senate 30-0.** As mentioned in the Education section, [SB1485](#) would cap the School Tuition Organization corporate tax credit, gradually reducing it from an increase of 20% per year to 2% per year
- Killed by way of Striker. [SB1149 \(Tax Credit Review\)](#). **Passed Senate, 29-0.** (Rick Gray R-21). Was replaced by a striker pertaining to education suspensions. The original bill was intended to at least slow down the use of tax credits in the future by requiring a review by a bipartisan commission. The commission would consist of 10 Legislators, six from the majority party and four from the minority, to review tax credits using a set of standard criteria. The idea is to determine whether adequate protections are in place to ensure that the fiscal impact of the credit in future years will not substantially increase beyond projections available when the credit is evaluated.

Dead. [HB2359](#) **Charitable Tax Deduction. Passed House 38-21.** HB2359, sponsored by Ben Toma (R-22), passed 38-21 with all Republicans and several Democrats voting Yes. It passed the Senate Finance committee but was NOT heard last week in the Senate Rules committee. This would let Arizonans take a higher income tax deduction, equal to the standard deduction plus however much they donated to charity but did not deduct from their taxes because they chose not to itemize. It is “double dipping” in a way, because the standard deduction already includes some for charity. The bill would cost the state an estimated \$30 to \$33 million each year.

Proponents say it is needed to help charities who are seeing a 5% or more reduction due to the change in the federal income tax that encourages people to take the standard deduction rather than itemize. Itemizing allows a person to take charitable deductions off their income.

Opponents, including PAFCO and most social welfare and education advocates, argue that it is simply another way to take money out of the general fund that otherwise would be used for education and social welfare safety net programs. **Most progressives would oppose this, as another way to strip the general fund, reduce the money for public services, and reiterate the message that charity belongs to the private sector – not a responsibility of government.** On the other hand, several Democrats supported it due to the increased importance of charities in providing public services to disadvantaged populations. A catch 22 indeed.

Moving. [SB1300](#) **Low Income Housing Program. Passed Senate 30-0.** (Brophy McGee, R, 28). This bill passed 30-0 and passed the House Ways and Means committee 9-0. Also passed Rules

7-1. Arizona already exempts from property taxes property owned by non profits that is used for low income housing. This bill expands the exemption to include entities that are owned by a non profit and that operate low income housing from property taxes. (Probably, this is a clarification of a current exemption for non profits that do not pay income taxes anyway).

On Governor's Desk. [HB2425](#) school tax credit expansion. Passed House 39-20 and Senate 19-10. (Weninger, R 17). This bill expands the use of school tax credit money to include meal programs and some health care uses, and also permits transfer of "unused" tax credits – that is, the school has received more than its cap – to some other school district. It does not expand the amount on tax credits, but it makes their use more flexible. It passed the Senate Finance committee 8-1 and could be heard this week in the Senate Rules committee. The problem? Encourages corporations and individuals to donate money to schools, but this takes money from the general fund that should be allocated for education!

Probably Dead. [SB1027](#) **Passed Senate. Tax Credits for Donations to Health Organizations.** Passed full Senate 23-7 with some Democrats in opposition. It passed the House Ways and Means committee 6-4 weeks ago but no change since and the House Rules committee is not scheduled to meet again this session. . It is another 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.

Should be Dead, Missed Deadlines. [HB2275](#) **Passed 32-28.** TAX CUT for Crop Production Tools. **HB2275**, sponsored by Tim Dunn (R-13), would expand the list of tax-exempt agricultural materials to include fertilizer, plant additives, and other materials used to grow crops. This passed two committees, 5-2 and 6-4 last week and Rules in the House. The Senate Finance committee heard it and passed it 5-4 on a party line vote. The Senate Rules committee did not take it up last week.

Probably Dead. [HB2320](#) and [SB1001](#) **Passed Senate (24-6) and 2320 passed House 57-3.** **Highway safety fee; repeal (Ugenti-Rita R, 23 and HB2019 Lawrence, LD23).** On a 57-3 margin the state House voted to fund the Highway Patrol with a fee to be determined by John Halikowski, the head of the Department of Transportation, but the fee is capped at no more than \$18. No change in the status of this bill, as the Senate failed to take it up so it is dead. Instead the Senate has its own bill which is a straight repeal of the fee. This one passed the Senate and was sent to the House where it passed the House Transportation committee but was not heard by House Rules committee and they are not meeting! So, it may be dead. So, it seems, the Legislature may have killed both of these effort to repeal the fee, but it could be part of the budget negotiations.

Dead. (Yea). [SB1460](#) TPT; digital goods and services . One of the worst bills! It passed Senate Finance 6-4 even though the JLBC says they are unable to estimate its fiscal impact because they have no data on what digital goods and services currently are being taxed. Save Our Schools reports that a similar bill last year was estimated to cost \$120 million per year. Can be voted on any time in the Senate, but has not been yet so is dead for the year.

Probably Dead. [SB1366](#) [Tax exemption for data centers.](#) [Passed 16-14.](#) [\(Mesnard, R, LD 17\).](#) This is another tax exemption, retroactive back to 2013. It would exempt some software from taxation. Cost estimated at \$8.7 million, plus refunds. All Democrats and one Republican (Brophy-McGee, R, 28) voted no. It needs to be heard by the House Rules committee and it is not meeting.

Dead. [HB2011](#) [Tax cut for veterans.](#) **FAILED.** (Griffin, LD 14), but a vote to reconsider passed but that was on 3/12 and there's a 14 day limit, so it should not be brought up again. HB2011 would permit veterans of 20 years or more to exempt more of their current retirement income from state taxes. It passed Committee of the Whole but then failed on a 25-35 vote with all Democrats voting no along with several Republicans.

DEMOCRACY, VOTING, ELECTIONS

Signed. SB1072 Photo IDs in early voting centers. [Passed the Senate 17-13 \(party line\) and House 31-27, also party line vote and signed by Governor.](#) Another bill from Ugenti-Rita would require photo ID at the early voting centers. Supporters say it is needed to protect integrity of elections and opponents say that other forms of ID should be acceptable such as a birth certificate or Indian tribal enrollment card, etc. It had a close companion in the [SB1032](#) on-site early voting; identification required that is dead.

Signed. [SB1054](#) ["Cure" early ballot disqualifications.](#) [SE / Passed 60-0.](#) [Companion bill,](#) [HB2032](#) [Passed the Senate 30-0 \(good bills\)](#) (Ugenti Rita, R, 23). The good part of these bills is that they require 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.

Signed. [Senate 16-14.](#) [SB1090](#) [emergency voting procedures.](#) Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita's bill would strip away county recorder's ability to institute emergency voting centers and turn most of this over to the Board of Supervisors. It also reduces the time period when a person who has an emergency can request an early ballot and greatly increases the restrictions.

Moving. [SB1188](#) [Purging Early Voting Lists.](#) [Passed 16-14 and passed House Elections committee 6-4 and Rules.](#) (Ugenti-Rita, R, 23). This bill takes a person OFF the permanent early

voting list but the actual language is confusing and continues to change. The current version seems to say that they can be taken off if they do not vote by early ballot in at least one primary or general election for two consecutive election cycles. Furthermore, it isn't just that they have to vote, but they have to do so by mailing in their ballot – not by dropping it off at a polling place. The bill that passed used this language:

Removes a voter from the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) solely if the voter fails to vote using an early ballot for a period of two consecutive primary and general elections.

County recorders were also concerned that there's no requirement that voters be notified before their names are purged from the early-voting list. It "allows" notification but does not require it

Moving. [HB2616 \(Prohibit payment to voter registrants on a per signature basis\)](#) FAILED 28-32 then amended and passed 31-27. The amendment changed the bill from prohibiting any payment to persons registering others to vote to prohibit payment on a per signature basis. The forms, however, must be turned in within 10 days of when the registration was received and there is a criminal penalty for being late. Some Democrats are objecting to this change saying that 10 days is not long enough to get all of them back in and the penalty too severe. Passed the Senate committee Thursday 4-2 and passed Rules committee. Passed Senate Committee of the Whole.

Moving but perhaps stalled. [Passed Senate 17-13. SB1451](#) statewide ballot measures; circulators; procedures sponsored by Vince Leach (R-11), passed on party line vote. Passed **House Elections Committee 6-4 and Rules**. Was on calendar for 04/08 but was retained and also retained last week. It increases amount of information needed from those who circulate petitions and permits subpoenas (in case of a challenge) to be mailed to the committee (rather than the usual rule that subpoenas have to be actually hand delivered to the person who is being subpoenaed). If circulators are subpoenaed to show up in court on a legal challenge and do not show (even if they never received the subpoena), all petition sheets they collected are thrown out, as happened with the "Outlaw Dirty Money initiative" last year. It becomes a class 1 misdemeanor if there is missing or wrong information. Also, all petitions for statewide initiatives and referenda have to be organized and grouped by circulator and if not, the entire sheet is invalidated. This is another effort to make it very difficult to get enough signatures for citizen-initiated referenda.

Moving. [HB2724](#) GRRC; petition to request review. This allows ANY person to challenge a rule passed by the Citizen's Clean Elections Committee by filing a petition with the Governor's Review commission. It passed Senate Rules committee 4/15 and the full Senate 17-12. Has been sent back to the House for conference committee to iron out differences. The GRRC is appointed entirely by the Governor with no requirements for representation of the minority party. The GRRC can simply disallow a rule that the CCC has passed. Grants enormous power to five persons appointed by the Governor. The bill first failed on a 29-30 vote but on reconsideration passed 31-27. It has passed the Senate Judiciary committee 4-2 and the Senate Rules committee.

Moving. [HB2039](#) federal form voter registrations; reporting (Townsend, LD 16). This passed the House 31-29 on another straight party line vote. It passed the Senate Judiciary committee 3/21, 4-3 and Rules. 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. Opponents think this would be used as evidence for why photo IDs are needed for everyone.

Dead. [SCR1023 and HCR2005](#) Requiring Signature quotas from each legislative district. (Kerr, R, 13) in the House, [HCR2005](#) (Kavanaugh, R, 23). Either of these would be almost a death blow for citizen initiatives and referenda. They require initiatives to gather 10% of their signatures from each legislative district for statewide matters, 15% for constitutional amendments, and require 5% from each LD for a referendum (“citizen veto”). The effect is to make it much harder to pass citizen-initiated proposals This spreads the issue out across the state and gives rural voters more say; but it also denies urban voters an equal voice on the matter. Neither passed its house of origin, so should be dead.

Dead. (good) [SB1046](#) Prohibiting the Dropping Off of Early Ballots. Ugenti Rita (r 23). This passed the Senate on a party line 4-3 vote, Rules said OK, and it passed the Senate Committee of the Whole on Feb. 2. This one was ready for a vote in the Senate but the word on the street was that it would NOT PASS because two Senators (Heather Carter, R, 15 and Kate Brophy McGee, R, 28) would join with all Democrats to vote no. This will produce a 15-15 tie and that means it will lose as AZ has no Lt. Gov. to break a tie. The bill prohibits a person from turning in their early voting ballot (in its sealed, signed envelope) on election day. Supporters point out that 288,000 people turned in their mail ballot on election day, rather than standing in line. The bill was opposed by Democrats and by most county recorders, including Republicans, who said it would NOT speed up counting, but would only make the lines longer.

Dead. [HB2201](#) (Local elections must be partisan). by Frank Carroll (R-22), would require cities and towns to print on the ballot the party designation of all candidates for mayor or city or town council. Passed 6-4 and passed Rules committee Monday 2/18 on a 5-3 party line vote. Was not called up for vote in the House. Would also ban cities and towns from declaring winners based on primary election results, even if one candidate received more than 50% of the vote. This would force cities to run additional elections, and spend significant taxpayer dollars to do so.

Dead. [HCR2022 - Article V convention; term limits](#) **Passed House 32-26** but not heard in Senate. Also, [SCR1014](#) Article V convention; term limits (D. Livingston, R, 22) did not make it through the Senate. So, both are dead. (good). These bills call on Congress to convene a “con con’ – convention of the states – for the purpose of requiring term limits. These attempts to

require Congress to call a constitutional convention require 2/3 of the states to request the call (on the same topic), then majority vote within the group could send an amendment to the states, which would require ¾ vote to become part of the constitution. The discussion in the House was entirely on the issue of term limits, not on the problems of a “runaway” convention itself. Most constitutional scholars oppose these Article V conventions on the grounds that the group – once constituted – could be a “runaway” convention because the U.S. Constitution provides no way for anyone, not even the courts, to limit it to the purposes for which it was called. They could rewrite the entire constitution!

Dead (good). [HB2489 \(Oversight committee for elections\)](#). **This bill**, sponsored by Kelly Townsend (R-16), would establish an Election Procedures Oversight Committee that includes the Speaker of the House and the Senate President. Bill passed Election committee 6-4 and Government committee 6-4, both straight party line votes and even though it missed the deadline, Rules committee was granted extra days and okayed it. But the House did not call it up for a vote. The committee would have access to voter registration rolls and elections results to determine whether federal-only voters received and voted the appropriate ballot. Supporters seem to think that not all voting the Federal Form are actually citizens. These persons had to provide sufficient documents to register to vote in federal elections which includes such things as a birth certificate, social security card, or other documents that establish birth in this country. Since Arizona requires a PHOTO identification card, a person who does not have one must take the documents they’ve got to a DMV or county recorders office and get a government-issued photo id.

HUMAN RIGHTS –

Moving. [SB1040 Report on maternal fatalities. Passed 30-0 and passed House 60-0.](#) sponsored by Kate Brophy McGee (R-28). It is ready to be voted on at any time in the House. A strike everything changed the bill from one requiring collection of more information to the establishment of a committee to “recommend improvements to information collection concerning the incidence and causes of maternal fatalities and severe maternal morbidity.” This would require the state to collect more information on maternal deaths, analyze the data, and provide actionable recommendations. In Arizona, an estimated 20 women die for every 100,000 live births, and 89% of these deaths are deemed preventable. Nationally, new moms die at a higher rate than anywhere else in the developed world. The bill contains an emergency clause so that it would go into effect immediately, which means it requires a 2/3 vote to pass.

In State Tuition for Dreamers. SB1217, then 2186, now just dead. The original bill died then was revived via a “striker” and then the bill with the Striker was killed by the Rules committee. [SB1217](#), sponsored by Heather Carter (R-15), died in the Senate but was revived as HB2186 with a “strike everything” amendment. In its original form passed committee 6-0-1, passed Rules,

and then passed the full Senate with several Republicans voting with all Democrats to pass it. But it was not heard in the House Education Committee. So, it was withdrawn and heard in the House and Human Services committee as a striker. Republicans voting in favor included Fann, Pratt, Boyer, Brophy McGee and Carter. It would direct Arizona's public universities and community colleges to create a new tuition rate for all students who graduate from Arizona high schools, regardless of their immigration status. Any student who graduates from an Arizona high school would be eligible for the new tuition rate for the four years after they graduate from high school. This would mean a new tuition rate for young immigrants covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. The bill follows a court battle that ended last year with those DACA students losing in-state tuition. The Arizona Chamber of Commerce [publicly announced support](#) for a tuition fix for DACA recipients earlier this month. Making education affordable for these students is not only the right thing to do, but furthers the investment our state has already made in helping them become productive members of the high-skills workforce. Here's what the bill says:

HB2186 the arizona board of regents shall establish an Arizona high school graduate tuition rate. A person who applies for admission to a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents after graduating from any of the high school options in this state as described in section 15-802 is entitled to the Arizona high school graduate tuition rate in an amount prescribed by the Arizona board of regents. The Arizona board of regents shall verify that the person's high school diploma meets the requirements of this subsection, consistent with section 1-701.

Dead (good). [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 passed 4-3 on party line vote and passed the Senate Rules committee.

GUNS / Criminal Justice – For a more detailed report on crime & criminal justice bills, check out Diane Post's link [National Organization for Women AZ Legislative Action Alert](#)

FAILED. [HB2693](#) **Passed House 31-27. Failed in the Senate 15-14.** It's another "misconduct involving weapons" change that would legalize carrying a loaded weapon in a vehicle on school grounds, provided the weapon is not visible if the vehicle is unoccupied. An unloaded weapon is currently permitted under these conditions on school grounds. This could conflict with federal law, according to the Arizona School Board Association. This is dead because 16 votes are needed to pass a bill in the Senate. However, a vote to reconsider could be introduced next week and if it passes, there will be another vote.

Moving. Senate 28-2. Good bill. [SB1468](#) schools; suicide prevention training Sponsor: Sean Bowie (D-18). This bill is a rare example of a Democrat-sponsored bill being passed by either chamber. Congratulations Sen. Bowie! It would require AHCCCS to develop suicide awareness and prevention training programs for inclusion in school districts, charter schools and Arizona

teacher training programs for the 2020-2021 school year. Passed House Education committee 13-0, Judiciary, 10-0, and Rules 7-1.

On Governor's desk. House 60-0. HB2080 civil rights restoration; *application; procedures* Sponsor: John Allen (LD15). Passed Senate Judiciary, Rules, and COW. This bill would change the statutes regarding restoration of rights after a felony conviction. It would make it more difficult to restore one's right to own firearms for those convicted of "dangerous offenses", which include the discharge, use or threatening use of a deadly weapon, and also for those convicted of "serious, violent or aggravated felonies" such as murder, aggravated assault, sexual assault, armed robbery, kidnapping." Makes changes easing the requirements for some other restoration of rights.

Moving. Strike Everything. Senate 30-0. SB1310 – Early Release Committee - Earned Income Credit Study (Farnsworth, LD 16). The striker changed this from a bill that would permit 3 days for each 7 served to count toward early release if the person was convicted of a marijuana offense or some other drug offenses, and has completed a drug treatment program to one that simply establishes a committee to study the issue. Otherwise, the earned credit is one day for six. Passed House committees including Committee of the Whole.

Signed. (Good) Passed Senate 30-0 and House 46-14. SB1314. Death Penalty (Farnsworth, R, 16). It would remove some of the "aggravating" provisions to be taken into account when deciding on the death penalty. Good bill. Should reduce death penalty cases somewhat.

Signed. (good) SB1250 sexual assault protective order. Passed Senate and House both unanimously and is awaiting a conference committee to agree on differences. Sponsor is Steele, D, LD9. This is a strike everything amendment that will allow a person to petition for an injunction against harassment for alleging one or more acts of sexual violence. It also prohibits fees for service of process for a petition for an injunction against harassment from being charged to a victim of sexual violence.

Moving. House 60-0. HB2266 prisoners; transition program; eligibility (Payne, R, 21). 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. Has strong support from both parties.

Dead. SB1437 Ban the Box! Passed 17-13 but not heard in House. (Quezada, D, 29). This would ban the conviction history question and delay background checks until late in the hiring process. The bill is part of a nation-wide effort to smooth the re-entry of persons coming out of prison and to reduce recidivism rates. It passed the Senate 17-13. All Democrats and three

Republicans voted for it: Brophy-McGee, Carter, and Ugenta-Rita. House committee did not consider it.

Dead. (good). [SB1292](#) *misconduct involving weapons; classification*, This bill would reclassify some offenses considered misconduct involving weapons to reduce the penalties associated with the offense. Passed committee and rules but retained on Senate Committee of the Whole.

Dead. House 59-0. HB2311 *incorrect arrest; record clearance*, is a reform bill that provides a process for clearing one's record if subjected to incorrect arrest due to identity theft or mistaken identification. Not heard in the Senate.

WATER / ENVIRONMENT -

Dead (good). [HB2275](#) **Tax exemption, crop production** **Passed House, 32-28 and Sen. Finance committee 5-4. But not heard by Sen. Rules.** HB2275, sponsored by Tim Dunn (R-13), would expand the list of tax-exempt agricultural materials to include fertilizer, plant additives, and other materials used to grow crops. Needs approval by Senate Rules, which is not scheduled to meet again this year. Rep. Dunn [introduced a similar idea last year](#), which did not pass, after a 2016 tax court ruled that fertilizer doesn't qualify as a propagative material because it's "not indispensable" to growing food. Last year, if that ruling was reversed, the state would have had to pay \$125 million in refunds. The eight new tax exemptions in last year's bill would have cost Arizona at least \$20 million every year.

Dead. [HB2013](#) **Passed House 60-0. Arizona Water Protection Fund** appropriation (Griffin, R, 14). This bill passed 60-0. It has already passed the Senate Water and Ag committee 7-0 and passed Sen. Appropriations last week 7-0. But it too is waiting on approval from the Senate Rules committee, which is not scheduled to meet again. 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.

Dead. [HB2493](#) Solar Energy tax protection. (Cobb, R, 5). **Passed 48-11. Now a strike everything that says solar devices are personal property and provides for a 10 year life, so that depreciation is finished in 10 years.** Passed Senate finance committee 8-0 and this is another bill killed by inaction of the Senate Rules committee.

Dead. [HB2609](#) Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transfer. [HB2609 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transfer](#) (Petersen: Cook) allows private water companies in the Harquahala Irrigation Non-expansion area (west of the Phoenix area) to withdraw water to a

depth of 1,500 feet rather than 1,000 feet and transport it into an active management area. The Sierra club reports that the bill is being promoted for water investors who are part of a Manhattan-based hedge fund, among others.

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Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation –

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Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network -- Executive Director Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings; Policy Coordinator, Anne L. Schneider. Board Members, UUJAZ: Sharon Travis, Rev. Matthew Crary, Rev. Terry Sims, Molly Divine, and Katie Phares www.uujaz.org.

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