

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

January 17, 2021

Arizona Legislative Issues

CLIMATE CHANGE

SB 1175 and HB 2248 – OPPOSE – Would strip the Corporation Commission (ACC) of the ability to enact policies that would promote renewable energy efforts in Arizona over the next several years. These bills are “mirror” bills moving in both houses to reduce public comment.

VOTING RIGHTS

SB 1010 – OPPOSE – Would order a recount of any election if requested by anyone who was willing to post a bond to pay for the recount. The recount could be asked for for any reason.

SB 1069 – OPPOSE – Would permanently drop voters from the PEVL if they failed to vote in two back to back elections.

HB 2039 – OPPOSE – Would double the percentage of ballots that would have to be counted by hand. This would increase the cost and complexity of recounts that are totally unnecessary. The reasons given to oppose by CEBV needs additional support.

HB 2054 – OPPOSE – Would require the SOS to purge deceased voters and there is a great potential for voters to be removed by mistake and the requirement is unnecessary. The reasons given to oppose by CEBV needs additional support.

EDUCATION

SB 1097 – SUPPORT – Would let students have excused absences for mental health reasons.

SB 1041 – OPPOSE – Would quadruple over 3 years the amount Arizona spends on a specific type of corporate School Tuition Organization (STO) tax credit and then tie its growth to inflation afterwards. This is a tax break for corporations to give money to private schools. This overturns a bi-partisan agreement to cap these credits last year. This takes money from public education to fund private schools.

HB 2015 – SUPPORT – Would appropriate money to replace money missing federal preschool funding. This funding is a critical need to preschools and to return us to previous funding levels.

HCR 2005 – SUPPORT – Would repeal that students be taught in English only. By repealing this it would help some 80,000 students who have shown a poor graduation percentage.

HB 2137 – SUPPORT – Would extend time and allocate money for the Department of Education to plan for dyslexia screening and train teachers.

GOVERNANCE

HCR 2001 – OPPOSE – Would eliminate any type of comprehensive problem solving via initiatives and place unreasonable restrictions on initiatives by requiring initiatives to be limited to a single topic.

HCR 2002 – OPPOSE – Would support a constitutional amendment to limit the US Supreme Court to nine justices. This issue is appropriately dealt with by the US Congress and does not require a constitutional amendment.

Federal Legislative Issues

1. IMPEACHMENT CONVICTION: Most Democratic Party senators have expressed their desire to convict President Trump under the Article of Impeachment allegation of “Incitement to Insurrection”. Senator Mark Kelly has stated he is open to the idea but Sen. Kirsten Sinema has remained quiet. Please contact both Senators to urge a conviction after the Senate trial, and to bar Pres. Trump from holding public office.

Script For Phone Calls

“Hi. My name is (your full name). I’m a constituent living in (your zip code). I’m calling to strongly encourage (Senator Sinema / Senator Kelly) to publicly call for conviction in President Trump’s impeachment trial and to ban him from holding public office for his incitement of the violent insurrection at the US Capitol. What is the Senator’s position? Will they make a public statement today?”

Sen. Sinema (202) 224-4521; Sen. Kelly (202) 224-2235, Tag the senators @senatorsinema, @senmarkkelly and share your experience/responses on social media

2. STATEHOOD FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. Support HR51 providing for the “Admission of the State of Washington DC into the Union.” This is a part of the DNC national platform and would enfranchise a population that exceeds the population of two other states and is predominately African American. HR51 and a similar bill last year was co-sponsored by 4 of the 5 Arizona’s representatives, but not our Rep. Tom O’Halleran. (O’Halleran did vote in favor of statehood in the last session but did not co-sponsor). Contact Rep. O’Halleran to ask that he join as a co-sponsor of HR51 and actively support its adoption. Email Rep. O’Halleran at ohalleran.house.gov or call at (202) 225-3361, or Flagstaff office 928 286-5538

3. SUPPORT HR 29. “SUPPORTING THE TEACHING OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN SCHOOLS.” SPONSORED by Rep. Barbara Lee (CA). Email Rep. O’Halleran at ohalleran.house.gov or call at (202) 225-3361, or Flagstaff office 928 286-5538

4. SUPPORT HR 325. “TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASES IN THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE TO \$15 AN HOUR.” Email Rep. O’Halleran at ohalleran.house.gov or call at (202) 225-3361, or Flagstaff office 928 286-5538