

COCONINO DEMOCRATS

ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE ALERT

March 28, 2021

The Arizona Legislature is in a state of flux this week. The only committees in session are Rules and Appropriations. RTS is possible for these committees but RTS is largely ignored in these committees unless the specific RTS comments deals with constitutional or legal issues. A better use of your time will be to contact our Legislators directly via phone calls or e-mail to let them know your position.

Here is the contact information for our Legislators:

SENATE:

	LD 6 – Wendy Rogers	602-926-3042	WROGERS@AZLEG.GOV
	LD 7 – Jamescita Peshlakai	602-926-3160	JPESHLAKAI@AZLEG.GOV
President	Karen Fann	602-926-5874	KFANN@AZLEG.GOV
Majority Ldr	Rick Gray	602-926-5413	RGRAY@AZLEG.GOV

HOUSE:

	LD 6 – Walt Blackman	602-926-3043	WBLACKMAN@AZLEG.GOV
	LD 6 – Brenda Barton	602-926-3421	BBARTON@AZLEG.GOV
	LD 7 – Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	602-926-3069	JBLACKWATER-NYGREN@AZLEG.GOV
	LD 7 – Myron Tsosie	602-926-3157	MTSOSIE@AZLEG.GOV
Speaker	Russell Bowers	602-926-3128	RBOWERS@AZLEG.GOV
Majority Ldr	Ben Toma	602-926-3298	BTOMA@AZLEG.GOV

CONTACT LEGISLATORS ON THESE BILLS

VOTING RIGHTS

SB 1485 – OPPOSE – HOUSE– Would strip voters from the Permanent Early Voting List if they fail to vote their early ballots in two back-to-back primary and general elections, and strikes the word “permanent” from statute.

SB 1593 – OPPOSE – HOUSE - Would make a host of voting-related changes, none of them good. It shortens the early voting period from 27 to 22 days, specifies early ballots must be received by 7 pm on Election Day, adds a second “privacy envelope,” and makes voters surrender their early ballots in order to vote in person.

SB 1713 – OPPOSE – HOUSE - Would require voters to send their early ballots back with proof of their eligibility to vote: an early ballot affidavit with their date of birth and a copy of their ID! Clearly designed to make it harder to vote.

SB 1106 – OPPOSE – HOUSE - Would make registering someone to vote in Arizona who has no “intent to remain” in the state a class 6 felony. Obviously designed to discourage college students from registering in Arizona.

SB 1497 – OPPOSE – HOUSE – Would require ballots and publicity pamphlets that contain citizen initiatives to carry a “Prop 108 disclosure” that, these measures cannot be changed without a 3/4th vote of the legislature. This is a scare tactic to discourage voters from passing their own laws.

SB 1713 – OPPOSE – HOUSE- Would require voters to send their early ballots back with proof of their eligibility to vote: an early ballot affidavit with their date of birth and a copy of their ID! Clearly designed to make it harder to vote.

HB 2792 – OPPOSE – SENATE - Would make it a class 5 felony to send you a ballot if you didn’t explicitly request one.

SB 1106 – OPPOSE – Would make registering someone to vote in Arizona who has no “intent to remain” in the state a class 6 felony. Obviously designed to discourage college students from registering in Arizona.

EDUCATION

SB 1783 – OPPOSE - Would create a new “small business taxpayer” category with pre-Prop 208 tax rates. The bill would be retroactive to 2020, effectively nullifying the tax increase voters just passed in November.

SB 1280 – OPPOSE – STRIKER – Gives parents who send their kids to “choice” schools \$80 per month in “transportation support grants”.

SB 1273 – OPPOSE - Would expand the use of School Tuition Organization (STO) tax credit vouchers to a laundry list of new expenses: extracurricular activities, band uniforms, lab materials, even out-of-state school trips. While STO vouchers have been purported to help poor children, the vast majority of the families using these programs are ones who can already afford to send their kids to private school.

HB 2427– OPPOSE - Specifically bans attendance boundaries for district schools, further eroding the value of the neighborhood schools that serve as anchors for local communities. This bill simply fast tracks segregation and white flight.

SB 1532 – OPPOSE – Punitive measures for teachers who use work time, resources, etc. to organize or plan school closures (i.e., sickout, walkout, etc.).

SB 1456 – OPPOSE - Would ban sex-ed and AIDS instruction before the 5th grade; makes classes opt-in with written permission (rather than opt-out); and bans discussing gender identity and gender expression without parental consent.

SB 1273 – OPPOSE – HOUSE - Would expand the use of School Tuition Organization (STO) tax credit vouchers to a laundry list of new expenses: extracurricular activities, band uniforms, lab materials, even out-of-state school trips. While STO vouchers have been purported to help poor children, the vast majority of the families using these programs are ones who can already afford to send their kids to private school.

SB 1456 – OPPOSE – HOUSE - Would ban sex-ed and AIDS instruction before the 5th grade; makes classes opt-in with written permission (rather than opt-out); and bans discussing gender identity and gender expression without parental consent.

HB 2123 – SUPPORT – SENATE – STRIKER – Would allow our state’s youngest students (grades PreK – 4) to be suspended or expelled ONLY if they’re engaged in extremely dangerous conduct on school grounds. Suspension and expulsions disproportionately affect children of color.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

SB 1457 – OPPOSE – This is a multi-pronged attack on the rights and the agency of women. It gives “unborn children at every stage of development” the same rights as an actual person, and makes abortion due to any genetic abnormality, including one incompatible with life, a felony.

STATE PARK HERITAGE FUND

HB 2127 – SUPPORT – SENATE – Funds the Arizona State Park Heritage Fund with \$10 Million from the General Fund.

SB 1384 – SUPPORT – HOUSE – Funds the Arizona State Park Heritage Fund with \$10 Million from the Arizona Lottery.

CORPORATION COMMISSION

HB 2248 – OPPOSE – SENATE - Would prohibit the Arizona Corporation Commission from regulating the types of electric generation used by public service corporations, retroactive to June 2020. In other words, the entity that is supposed to regulate power companies in Arizona would be left unable to require clean energy standards.

SB 1459 – OPPOSE – HOUSE - Would subject the Corporation Commission to the administrative review process. Another attempt to prevent the Corporation Commission from requiring state regulated utilities from getting their power from 100% carbon free sources by 2050

GOVERNANCE

HB 2794 – OPPOSE – HOUSE - Would make modifying any election related date in statute a class 6 felony.

HCR 2037 – OPPOSE – SENATE - Would ask voters to amend the Arizona constitution to allow the legislature to call itself into session for the purpose of regulating a state of emergency. More effort to prevent governors from dealing with critical emergencies like pandemics.

SB 1382 – OPPOSE – HOUSE- WENDY ROGERS – Would redefine firearms and ammunition stores as “essential businesses”, preventing the governor from closing them during a state of emergency.

SB 1408 – OPPOSE – HOUSE – Would change the law retroactively to allow lawmakers to get their hands on confidential ballots by banning them from being considered privileged or confidential.

SCR 1011 – OPPOSE – HOUSE – STRIKER – Urges the Federal Government to complete the southern border wall.

HB 2308 – OPPOSE – SENATE - Would make it vastly more difficult to circulate recall petitions, mirroring “strict compliance” restrictions already in place for initiatives and referendums.

HB 2462 – OPPOSE – SENATE– Would force people to take extensive training (80 hours +) before serving on civilian review boards. Arizona Police Association helped craft this bill. Significant impact on adequate review of police misconduct.

HB 2570 – OPPOSE – SENATE - Would ban state agencies, cities and counties from revoking the license of a business that violated an executive order unless they can prove the business was an actual cause of transmission.

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

HB 2808 – SUPPORT – SENATE – Appropriates \$10 million in one-time funding for rural broadband grants.

PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 1486 – SUPPORT – HOUSE – Would legalize test strips to detect fentanyl in drugs. This would help save lives!!

HB 2770 – OPPOSE – SENATE - Would exempt businesses from enforcing mask mandates.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

HB2648 – OPPOSE –SENATE - Would exempt religious organizations from accountability for any crime committed “for purposes of religious belief” within their organization – could shield things like child abuse, negligent or reckless medical care (or withholding of medical care), ignoring basic worker protection laws, fraud, etc. A strong OPPOSE!

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

UPDATE: March 28, 2021

1. \$5000 given to Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival; \$1000 from District 1 and \$4000 from District 3
2. Last meeting for outgoing and retiring County Manager, Jim Jayne; Steve Peru will now be our County Manager
3. Update on Covid 19
 - a. Positivity rate has dropped to 3.2% from 10% a month ago
 - b. Weekly hospitalization rates are down 69%
 - c. No evidence of virus variants present in county at this time
 - d. Vaccines for 16-18 yrs of age dependent upon receipt of Pfizer vaccine from state in safe manner given its needed refrigeration requirements and short shelf life. This brand of vaccine is what is used for this age group
 - e. State run vaccine site at NAU tentatively scheduled for opening April 19th
 - f. 35% of county population has received at least one dose of the vaccine