



July 27, 2024

FRIVOLOUS LAWSUIT FAILS

I'm thankful Arizona voters will still get the opportunity to take border security matters into their own hands this November with the Secure the Border Act. Two weeks ago, a superior court judge blocked a frivolous lawsuit filed by radical Left activists in a bogus attempt to stop this measure from making it to the ballot. Legislative Republicans passed the referral because the Biden/Harris Administration has abandoned their duties to enforce federal laws to keep our citizens safe from the influx of crime caused by their open border policies, and because Governor Hobbs vetoed our bills to address this crisis. While they continue to turn their backs on our law enforcement, we will not. These men and women are putting their lives on the line to protect our communities, and they deserve the tools and support they need to do their job. Our law enforcement reached their breaking point a long time ago. It's now up to everyday Arizonans to decide how to proceed.

-Senator David Gowan



BALLOT REFERRALS TO WATCH FOR

This month, we held a Legislative Council hearing to finalize language that will be used in the publicity pamphlet voters will receive on referrals and initiatives appearing on the November ballot. As a member on this committee, we discussed each measure on the ballot in thorough detail. Among the 11 referrals is Prop. 313, a measure I championed that would require any criminal convicted of a class 2 felony for child sex trafficking to be sentenced to natural life imprisonment without the possibility for any form of release. Prop. 314 is the Secure the Border Act, which would make it a state crime to enter Arizona from Mexico through anywhere other than an official port of entry. Prop 312 would allow a property owner to apply for a property tax refund if they incur expenses caused by a city, town, or county declining to enforce existing laws or respond to a public nuisance. You can view the full list [here](#).

-Senator Shawna Bolick





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VOTERS MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

I'm proud to share news of a major victory in our fight to strengthen election integrity in our state. On July 18, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled new voters in Arizona who register with the state and do not provide proof of citizenship will be rejected. Only U.S. citizens should be allowed to vote in our elections. It sounds like common sense, but the radical Left elected officials in our state and across the country continue to attack this notion, disrespecting the voices of our lawful Arizona voters. We are grateful the court is upholding this provision in our law. Unfortunately, this safeguard is not in place for federal elections. It's certainly time for Congress to take action to ensure only lawful U.S. citizens are voting in those races. Currently, there are 35,000 people registered as federal-only voters in Arizona. Casting a ballot is one of the most sacred actions we take in our democracy, and we believe only U.S. citizens should have this privilege.



-President Warren Petersen



CRACKING DOWN ON SEX OFFENDERS

Right after the Legislature adjourned last month, another 20 senate bills were signed into law. Included was another one of my bills to further protect Arizona's children from criminals who seek to inflict harm upon them. SB 1232 now classifies sexual conduct with a minor as a class 1 felony, punishable by natural life imprisonment if the child is 12 years old or younger and suffers serious physical injury. This session, Senate Republicans successfully championed several measures imposing harsher punishments and accountability for sex offenders targeting our state's most vulnerable populations. This measure specifically establishes one of the toughest laws in America against child predators. Senator Bolick's SB 1630 was also signed into law after we adjourned. It creates the Sex Offender Management Board to investigate and suggest revisions to standards and guidelines about how criminals who've committed sexual offenses are managed.



-Senator Janae Shamp





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MAYES LOSES FRIVOLOUS LAWSUIT

Last month, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge correctly rejected claims made by Attorney General Mayes that the FY 2025 bipartisan budget passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor was “illegal.” The Attorney General filed a frivolous lawsuit over a portion of opioid settlement funds being transferred from her purview to the Arizona Department of Corrections to help with the inmate population battling opioid addiction. She essentially tried to hijack the budget and assert her control over this funding, but her argument was so utterly indefensible, she had to dismiss her lawsuit just a week after it was filed. We’re thankful the judge quickly dissolved an unjustified restraining order on the funds and saw through her attempt to wrongfully use the judicial system as a weapon against the Legislature and the Governor simply due to the fact that she disagreed with our public policy decisions within the budget. Arizonans deserve better.



-Senator Sonny Borrelli

SCOTUS RULES ON HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

We’re celebrating a victory in our efforts to address the crime-ridden tent cities popping up across Arizona, like the former encampment near the Capitol known as “The Zone.” Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down an opinion on a case from Oregon, ultimately siding with our position in an [amicus brief](#) President Petersen filed on the matter. The justices are now empowering cities and states to enforce laws prohibiting homeless encampments, which are plagued with public safety and public health concerns. Our children shouldn’t be forced to walk to school on streets littered with needles, feces, and trash. The individuals camping out should be discouraged from doing so through enforceable laws and be provided with the services needed to overcome this situation. We look forward to crafting common sense legislation on this issue in the near future, and for the Gov. to do the right thing by signing those bills.



-Senator John Kavanagh



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LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR WATER SECURITY

We heard emotional testimony during the recent Joint Legislative Committee on Water Security regarding SB 1221, which unfortunately did not pass this session. The bill would have allowed the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) to permanently close the Willcox, Hualapai, and Gila Bend groundwater basins to new groundwater pumping, preventing new and existing users from increasing the total amount of groundwater that could be withdrawn. It would have required all existing pumping to be reduced by 10% over 10 years, with the opportunity for up to a 15% reduction over 20 years. The agriculture industry, including farmers, and DWR verified that implementing SB 1221 would have stopped the bleeding in these critical groundwater basins. This was exactly what local residents were asking for, so they could work on improving groundwater conditions in their basins. Sadly, political games from the Left prevented many meaningful solutions from advancing.



-Senator Sine Kerr

THIS YEAR'S LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Each year, our Senate Majority staff creates a legislative highlights document recapping the Republican caucus' work and accomplishments from the session. The document includes measures that were both signed and vetoed by the Governor, as well as the referrals Republican lawmakers are sending to the ballot. There's a breakdown of highlights from each Senate committee, which includes Elections, Finance & Commerce, Appropriations, Health & Human Services, Education, Military Affairs, Public Safety & Border Security, Judiciary, Government, and Natural Resources, Energy & Water. This serves as a one-stop shop for Arizona citizens to stay informed about the work we do at the Legislature each session. You can find this year's highlights document as well as others from previous years at azsenaterepublicans.gov, or you can simply click [HERE](#).



-Senator T.J. Shope



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