



April 6, 2024

SESSION TIMELINE UPDATE

We're working diligently over the next several weeks at the Senate to wrap up outstanding work and negotiations behind-the-scenes on the final few remaining bills. This includes legislation on our water supply, the continuation of our state agencies with needed reforms and improvements, the "Teacher Pay Fund" plan to deliver salary increases for K-12 public school teachers, and critical bills to safeguard Arizonans from crime associated with Biden's border invasion. After months of stalling from the Governor's office, budget negotiations between the Legislature and the Executive began last week. Meetings will happen regularly until a consensus on a fiscally conservative budget has been reached. As a result, we will only call all lawmakers in for floor proceedings on a weekly basis, as finalized legislation becomes available for a vote. With the Governor's cooperation, we're hopeful we can finish the session within the next month.



-President Warren Petersen

BORDER INVASION INTENSIFIES

I've repeatedly praised Texas Governor Greg Abbott for taking necessary measures to secure the Texas' portion of the southern border, which inspired me to sponsor the Arizona Border Invasion Act that Hobbs vetoed. Gov. Abbott is aggressively trying to protect the citizens of the state he was elected to govern, and it's working. Unfortunately since Hobbs is not, Arizona is paying the price. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, El Paso, Texas has seen a nearly 50% drop in illegal crossings, while Tucson has had a nearly 200% increase in illegal crossings over the past few months. These numbers are expected to rise even more in the coming months. As a result, border related crimes continue to increase as well. During about that same timeframe, AZDPS has seized over 1,500lbs of fentanyl, which equates to more than 7,000,000 pills. I recently joined some of my Republican colleagues on a trip to the border to speak with those on the front lines, and it's alarming this crisis will likely get worse. [Here's a recap of that trip.](#)



-Senator Janae Shamp



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PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WATER SUPPLY

We're making great progress on impactful reforms to safeguard our water supply. The Senate has led negotiations on water management solutions in both rural and urban Arizona. On rural groundwater, I've convened weekly meetings with Republican and Democrat leadership, along with the Governor's staff and ADWR, to refine SB1221. These meetings will continue until a solution is negotiated. In urban areas, the Senate has hosted more than a dozen meetings with over 30 stakeholders, including the Governor's office, to provide three additional tools protecting the assured water supply program while increasing housing supply options. SB1181 provides a cost-efficient glide path for new designated providers. SB1081 and SB1172 transition farmland to housing development with immense water savings. The Senate plans to send these three assured water supply bills to the Governor next week.



-Senator Sine Kerr

REPUBLICAN BILLS SIGNED

We've had a number of important Senate Republican bills recently signed, including several of mine. SB1067 gives the Department of Child Safety authority to investigate allegations of abuse or neglect in group homes. SB1021 will help bring more health care options to underserved communities by eliminating an unnecessary process that stifled these efforts. Senator Gowan's SB1173 will help with the shortage of mental health providers in our state by increasing access to counseling services and allowing out-of-state counselors to practice in Arizona. Senator Shamp's SB1404, which was vetoed by Hobbs last year, requires schools to be informed of any parents of students currently enrolled who are registered sex offenders. Additionally, SB1235 creates a Child Safety Fatality and Near Fatality Review Team under DCS, in an effort to provide lawmakers with accurate data to help create policy aimed at preventing future avoidable tragedies. To see a full list of signed bills so far, [click here](#) and select "Signed by Governor" in the drop-down menu.



-Senator T.J. Shope



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VETO QUEEN HOBBS STRIKES AGAIN

So far this session, the Governor has vetoed nearly 20 bills. Although she may not be on track to shatter another veto record, she has blocked several pieces of legislation crucial to the safety and livelihoods of Arizonans. This week, Hobbs vetoed a bill I sponsored to make it a felony for protesters to block more than 25 people or vehicles after they've been told to leave. This is relevant in today's political climate and would prevent unintended harm against our citizens from occurring. SB1343, sponsored by President Petersen, would have cleaned up overly burdensome or unnecessary regulations for occupational licenses in our state. Perhaps more importantly, our out-of-touch governor vetoed bills that would have addressed both our housing and border crises with commonsense solutions. Both are priority issues for Arizona citizens and Republican lawmakers. Due to her support of radical Left ideology, I expect more vetoes in the coming weeks.



-Senator John Kavanagh

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR LOST HEROES

This week, we held a moment of silence on the Senate floor for two men who selflessly served our state and our country. Navy Lieutenant Commander Lou Conter, the last living survivor of the USS Arizona, died at the age of 102. Lieutenant Conter served in the Navy for nearly three decades and fought in both WWII and in the Korean War. He was a true American hero in every sense. His legacy and sacrifice for our country will forever be honored, and never forgotten. Tragically, Tucson Police Officer Adam Buckner was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call to help his fellow officers. Buckner, who had his lights and siren on, was struck and killed by a driver who failed to yield at an intersection. The 31-year-old officer was known for his tireless work ethic and compassion for others. Buckner is the ninth Tucson officer to die in the line of duty. My heart goes out to his family, and the brothers and sisters of the Tucson Police Department for our fallen hero. May God watch over you all.



-Senator David Gowan



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