



September 28, 2024

INFLATION EASES, PRICES REMAIN HIGH

Since Kamala Harris and Joe Biden entered office, Arizona families have felt the weight of crippling inflation caused by their bad policies. In 2022, inflation hit its highest level in 40 years at 9%, and the price of every basic necessity skyrocketed. While the Federal Reserve reports inflation has since eased to near the target 2% threshold, and despite this month's interest rate cut of 0.5%, conditions are not improving for hardworking Arizonans. Grocery store prices are 25% higher now than just before the pandemic. Homes are no longer affordable for our working class. Eviction filings have hit record highs in the Valley. Republicans at the Legislature have made it our mission to lessen these burdens. We eliminated the tax renters pay on housing. We passed a ban on grocery taxes that sadly every Democrat voted against and the Governor vetoed. I vow to continue fighting for policies that will allow you to keep more of your money next legislative session.



-Senator Shawna Bolick

PROP 314 DEBATE: 'SECURE THE BORDER ACT'

During the Biden-Harris Administration, we've seen an astronomical increase in illegal crossings at our southern border. The first day on the job, they ended the "Remain in Mexico" policy, implemented by President Trump in conjunction with the Mexican government, which required noncitizens to remain in Mexico while their asylum status was adjudicated. It's undeniable that we've seen an unprecedented wave of illegal immigrants entering our country since they ended this policy and others that helped secure the border and protect our communities. I voted in support of sending Prop 314 to the ballot, which will make it a state crime to enter our country anywhere other than a lawful port of entry, as well as increase penalties for criminals trafficking fentanyl and lying to receive taxpayer-funded benefits. I challenged Democrat Rep. Analise Ortiz, and her red herring arguments commonly purported by the left, in a debate on this proposition earlier this month. You can watch it [here](#).



-Senator John Kavanagh



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PROTECTING ARIZONA VOTERS

We joined a lawsuit to protect approximately 97,000 Arizona voters from being stripped of their right to cast a ballot in state and local races this November due to a government error. These voters have routinely participated in our elections for decades and are likely U.S. citizens, but a computer glitch dating back more than 20 years raised questions over whether these people had provided proof of citizenship, as required by law to vote in state and local elections. Weeks before the general election, Maricopa County sought to disenfranchise these voters by asking the AZ Supreme Court to only allow them to participate in federal elections. We want to ensure only legal U.S. citizens are voting, but we should not block our legal citizens from participating in the democratic process simply because government messed up. Removing these individuals from voter rolls with little to no warning promised to create chaos, confusion, and uncertainty. I'm grateful the Court sided with us and is allowing these individuals to vote the full ballot.



-President Warren Petersen

STATE MEDICAID CONTRACTS PROMPT PROBE

After media exposed Governor Hobbs for rewarding a dysfunctional group home millions in taxpayer dollars following campaign donations from the provider, I'm deeply disturbed by what appears to be another conflict of interest case under her administration. A judge found "serious flaws" with how Arizona's Medicaid program was awarded \$15 billion worth of contracts for healthcare services for 26,000 elderly and physically disabled individuals. While the judge recommended cancellation of the procurement and issuance of a new request for bid proposals, AHCCCS announced this month it would not do so, and instead, would delay the transition by one year. As chairman of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee, I will be conducting a probe into the alleged mismanagement of taxpayer dollars and the unfair advantage these healthcare companies are receiving as a result of potential conflicts of interest within the Hobbs Administration.



-Senator T.J. Shope



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INVESTIGATING UNLAWFUL RULE CHANGE ON DEBATES

As chairman of the Senate Government Committee, I launched an investigation this month into a new rule that appears to have been illegally enacted by the Clean Elections Commission. The rule blocks certain qualified Arizona candidates from participating in general election debates for statewide and federal offices. It requires candidates to receive at least 1% of total ballots cast in all primaries for their office to qualify for general election debates. At face value, this creates an outright ban against some political parties' candidates from ever being eligible to participate. As a taxpayer-funded government entity, it is unacceptable that the Commission made this decision in the shadows, rather than through the public rule-making process as required by voters. I have submitted a public records request to gain more information and data points to aid our investigation. Taxpayers and voters deserve answers, as well as a government that follows the law. -Senator Jake Hoffman



NEW LAWS NOW IN EFFECT

Bills signed into law during legislative session this year officially took effect in September, with a few exceptions. Senate Republicans championed impactful laws that will combat issues such as child abuse, retail theft, and the use of artificial intelligence for malice, as well as laws to help support patients with serious mental illness and prospective homebuyers in Arizona. I personally made it my mission to help protect Arizona's most vulnerable population from predators. I had several bills signed into law to protect our children and inform our communities, and I'm proud to say life imprisonment is now on the table for criminals who commit the most heinous crimes against our children! Sexual misconduct with a minor is now considered a class 1 felony punishable by natural life imprisonment if the child is 12 years old or younger and suffers serious physical harm. You can read more on Arizona's newest laws [here](#).



-Senator Janae Shamp



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