



August 5, 2023

PROP. 400 GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation & Technology, I'm happy to report Senate Republicans championed a bipartisan Proposition 400 transportation funding proposal, sponsored by Senator Frank Carroll, and signed by the Governor Monday. The half-cent sales tax to pay for major transportation projects in Maricopa County has been in place since 1985, when voters approved a ballot measure vetted, supported and referred by the Legislature. In November 2004, voters approved an extension of Proposition 400 for 20 years, which ends on December 31, 2025. Voters will have the final say on whether to extend the tax again in 2024. If approved, the 20-year, \$24 billion plan will pay for projects like State Route 30 in the West Valley to alleviate congestion on the I-10, as well as State Route 24 in the Southeast Valley to help with their population boom.

-Senator David Farnsworth



MOST CONSERVATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

After months of intense negotiations, Republicans are sending the voters the option to approve the most conservative transportation plan in Arizona history. The guardrails, taxpayer protections and funding allocations in this Prop. 400 proposal reflect the priorities of our voters, to reinvest their tax dollars in the modes of travel they use most. We've eliminated regional funding for light rail expansion. We've increased road funding projects from 54% to 63%. We've stopped the left's attempts for Green New Deal policies and road diets. Republicans added oversight to the Maricopa Association of Governments and balanced their power so all cities have an equal say. We've provided transparency on the ballot, so voters know exactly how much of their money is going where. We've protected driver freedom; there will be no California-style combustion engine vehicle bans.

-President Warren Petersen





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INFLATION RELIEF HEADED TO AZ RENTERS

When I served in the House last year, I introduced a bill to prohibit the sales tax charged to tenants on their monthly rent payments. We're only one of two states in the nation allowing cities and towns to impose a rental tax. As President Petersen has mentioned numerous times, this is just bad tax policy. It's a regressive tax hurting only those with lower incomes. Unfortunately, my bill died in the Senate. This year, former Senator Steve Kaiser worked tirelessly to get this reform passed, but the Governor vetoed his bill. I'm happy to report, third time's the charm. This week, Senate Republicans made good on their promise to struggling Arizonans crippled under the weight of historic inflation. We hosted a press conference this week to call on the Governor to sign SB 1131, and it was. Tenants will ultimately save anywhere between \$50 and \$250 per month!

- Senator Shawna Bolick



ELECTIONS PROCEDURE MANUAL REVIEW

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Elections, I want to make sure you're aware that a proposed Elections Procedure Manual (EPM) draft was released this week for review and public comment. This manual serves as rulebook for county officials on how they must administer elections in accordance with state law. Our laws require the Secretary of State to submit the manual to the Governor and Attorney General by October, and for them to approve it with any revisions by the end of the year. This session, Senator Anthony Kern sponsored an important transparency bill allowing a Legislative Audit Committee to review the EPM, but our out of touch Governor vetoed it. If you support election integrity, I'm encouraging you to read the EPM draft by visiting <https://azsos.gov/elections>. Senate Republicans are reviewing it and will submit comment by August 15. We'll update you on our findings.

- Senator Wendy Rogers





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SENATE CONFIRMS DPS DIRECTOR

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Director Nominations (DINO), I'm pleased to report this week, the Senate officially confirmed Jeffrey Glover to lead the Arizona Department of Public Safety as their Director. After extensive questioning and testimony during his March confirmation hearing, it's quite apparent Director Glover is a highly qualified individual seeking to serve the best interests of our citizens within the confines of this public safety role. He has an extensive public service background in law enforcement and most recently served as Chief Of Police for the City of Tempe. The Nominations Committee is still currently on pause in the wake of Katie Hobbs' abuse of her executive authority. I will keep you updated on any changes.



- Senator Jake Hoffman

AZ GAME & FISH COMMISSION

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Water (NREW) approved Marsha Sue and Jeffrey Buchanan as members of the Game and Fish Commission this week. Both outstanding nominees were appointed by Governor Ducey to serve in their roles as commissioners. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, preservation, and harvest of wildlife. It also makes rules and regulations for managing, conserving, and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, as well as safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona. They do tremendous work protecting Arizona's 800+ species of wildlife. As a member of NREW, I confidently voted in support of these nominees to help lead these critical efforts.



- Senator Frank Carroll



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MENTALLY-ILL ACCUSED MURDERER RELEASED

I hosted a press conference this week to shed light on an imminent threat to the safety of our communities. Recently, a severely mentally-ill accused murderer, Rodney Aviles, was released from the Arizona State Hospital and is free to roam our neighborhoods. Aviles was charged with the murder of his mother and 7-year-old niece back in 1999, but never went to trial because he was found incompetent and not restorable on three separate occasions. I'm heart-broken for the Aviles family who now lives in fear for their lives. His nephew, Sam Watson, shared his testimony and pleaded for the Governor to step in. Maricopa County Attorney, Rachel Mitchell also shared her concerns about his release along with the importance of closing the gap between our state's legal and mental health systems. Senate Republicans have been working to fix these issues within ASH, but it's time both parties get together to make a change.



- Senator Anthony Kern

PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL REVIEW COUNCIL

As co-chair of the Joint Legislative Psychiatric Hospital Review Council, I'm focused on addressing public safety, legal barriers, and necessary changes to Title 36 of the Arizona Revised Statutes. We must revisit what it means to be a "danger to themselves and others." If lack of space and length of stay are an issue, we need to discuss plans for a state mental hospital in every county in Arizona because there is a statewide need. Rodney Aviles spent the past 24 years in the Arizona State Hospital under the "least restrictive means," instead of prison for allegedly murdering his family members. Today, he is a free member of society, despite never having stood trial and a medical team recommending he remain committed to inpatient care for the rest of his life. This should never have happened, and I'm committed to doing what I can create a better system.



- Senator Justine Wadsack



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LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED SINE DIE

On Monday at 5:15 p.m. the Fifty-sixth Legislature, First Regular Session adjourned sine die after a productive and impactful seven months. Our Caucus remained steadfast and delivered on our promises to limit government, reduce spending, cut taxes to provide inflationary relief, as well as shrink regulations and zoning barriers to combat the housing crisis. We advocated for transportation resources supporting our citizens' everyday needs, expanded water conservation efforts, defended school choice, provided a historic tax rebate, protected election integrity investments, preserved freedoms, safeguarded funding to defend our border, provided opportunities for all Arizonans, and fought for constitutional separation of powers, even with the Governor's and Legislative Democrats' pushback against these worthwhile endeavors. Our sights are now set on preparing for the next session.



- Senator Sine Kerr

SINE DIE ICE CREAM TRADITION

A longstanding sine die tradition of more than three decades continued this week. Mark Lewis, a former lobbyist, dropped off boxes of ice cream and popsicle treats for members and staff of both the House and Senate present on campus Tuesday as a token of appreciation for the work accomplished by the Legislature. He first started doing this in the 90s as a way to lighten the mood and provide a little joy in the final hours of bill negotiations and voting. We've looked forward to his visits every year around this time. The photo of Lewis to the right was shared with us by Arizona Capitol Times reporter Camryn Sanchez. She noted Lewis' very first delivery came about because he "needed to get the Legislature through the night" and made lawmakers "all sit down like kindergarteners and have popsicles and talk about their differences." The bill he was lobbying for that year ultimately passed.





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