



July 29, 2023



HOBBS: 2ND LEAST POPULAR GOVERNOR

A new poll released this week by Morning Consult reveals Katie Hobbs is the second least popular Governor in the nation, only trailing Oregon Governor Tina Kotek. Frankly, we're not surprised. Just weeks after grandstanding on a pledge of 'bipartisanship' and an 'open door policy', Hobbs quickly changed her tune through her reckless record-setting veto count, which was hit by killing a number of bipartisan bills. Instead of reaching across the aisle to produce meaningful reform for the citizens of Arizona, she issued a number of unconstitutional executive orders, allowing taxpayer-funded sex-change surgeries, stripping county attorneys of their prosecutorial powers, protecting a Death Row inmate from execution, and even acting as a travel agency in transporting illegal immigrants to their preferred destinations. If that's not enough, her lack of leadership led to high turnover of her senior staff within the first four months of her administration.



FIGHTING TO PROTECT GIRLS' ATHLETICS

As a result of Attorney General Kris Mayes choosing to not do her job in upholding Arizona laws, House Speaker Ben Toma and I are working to defend important legislation passed last year aimed at protecting young girls from biological males attempting to compete in their athletic events at Arizona public schools, colleges and universities. We've intervened in a lawsuit that threatens to repeal this law. Unfortunately, a judge issued a preliminary injunction last week to allow little girls to be subjected to competing against bigger and stronger boys, increasing their risk of injury and stripping them of a fair chance to excel in their chosen sport. However, this case is far from over. This week, we filed a 'motion to stay' while we're seeking an appeal. We are evaluating next steps and anticipate prevailing in our legal efforts to create an even playing field for Arizona women and girls in athletics.



- President Warren Petersen



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HOBBS, MAYES IGNORE PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT

Senator Kern and I released a statement calling on Attorney General Kris Mayes and Governor Katie Hobbs to protect the citizens of Arizona by immediately rescinding the release of a seriously mentally-ill patient who was housed at the Arizona State Hospital (ASH) after being found incompetent to stand trial in the brutal murder of his own mother and seven-year-old niece. If this man is unfit for trial after murdering his family, he's unfit to be on the streets with the general public and must stay under proper care and supervision. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services, I'll also be working with my colleagues to bring truly independent oversight of the Arizona State Hospital. This is clearly necessary to keep patients and citizens safe from the winds of politics.



- Senator T.J. Shope

FY 2024 PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, Public Safety & Border Security, I'd like to provide an update on funding supported and approved by Senate Republicans for public safety in the FY 2024 budget. Senate Republicans will always fight to support our men and women in law enforcement, and because of this, our budget plan includes \$374 million in additional resources to various public safety agencies. This includes \$118 million for capital improvements in the State's prison system, \$113 million in additional operating funding for the Department of Corrections, \$75 million for the Department of Public Safety, \$27 million in distributions and grants for local law enforcement agencies, as well as \$15 million going to the Office of Homeland Security, with \$10 million in grant funding for law enforcement to prevent human trafficking.



- Senator David Gowan



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LEGISLATURE RECONVENES

We are wrapping up quite a productive recess at the Legislature. Over the past few weeks, we continued negotiations between the Senate, House and Governor's Office on a Proposition 400 transportation funding plan. We appointed a member to the Rio Verde Foothills Standpipe District to get water flowing for these residents again. We also launched several Joint Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committees on Water Security, Air Quality and Energy, as well as Freedom of Expression at Arizona's Public Universities. Additionally, we were able to swear-in our newest Senator, Shawna Bolick, replacing Senator Steve Kaiser after his resignation in representing legislative district 2. Now that we have a full team in the Senate again, we're looking forward to reconvening on Monday, July 31 to finalize outstanding priorities for the Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session.



- Senator Sine Kerr

PRIORITIES FOR NEXT SESSION

I'll be working with stakeholders and constituents on both sides of the aisle during the interim for next session. My focus will be on human trafficking, our state's homeless and fentanyl crises, as well as our population inflicted with severe mental illness. Pima County is in desperate need of a state mental hospital. These issues, along with fixing some of our underperforming state agencies, such as the Department of Child Services, are the reasons why I'm at the Capitol. I want to make Arizona better and help people along the way, and I've already started working on crafting legislation to improve these heartbreaking issues. I'd like to add that my phone line is always open, and thanks to a lot of hard work by my assistant Sebastian, we have been very successful working with constituent services. Please don't hesitate to call my office if there's something I can help you with. - Senator Justine Wadsack





| NAME | DISTRICT | PHONE | EMAIL |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------|------------------------|
| SENATOR KEN BENNETT | LD 1 | (602) 926-5874 | KBENNETT@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR SHAWNNA BOLICK | LD 2 | (602) 926-3314 | SBOLICK@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR JOHN KAVANAGH | LD 3 | (602) 926-5170 | JKAVANAGH@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR WENDY ROGERS | LD 7 | (602) 926-3042 | WROGERS@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR DAVID FARNSWORTH | LD 10 | (602) 926-3387 | DFARNSWORTH@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR J.D. MESNARD | LD 13 | (602) 926-4481 | JMESNARD@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATE PRESIDENT WARREN PETERSEN | LD 14 | (602) 926-4136 | WPETERSEN@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR JAKE HOFFMAN | LD 15 | (602) 926-3292 | JAKE.HOFFMAN@AZLEG.GOV |
| PRESIDENT PRO-TEM T.J. SHOPE | LD 16 | (602) 926-3012 | TSHOPE@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR JUSTINE WADSACK | LD 17 | (602) 926-3106 | JWADSACK@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR DAVID GOWAN | LD 19 | (602) 926-5154 | DGOWAN@AZLEG.GOV |
| MAJORITY WHIP SINE KERR | LD 25 | (602) 926-5955 | SKERR@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR ANTHONY KERN | LD 27 | (602) 926-3497 | AKERN@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR FRANK CARROLL | LD 28 | (602) 926-3249 | FCARROLL@AZLEG.GOV |
| SENATOR JANA E SHAMP | LD 29 | (602) 926-3499 | JSHAMP@AZLEG.GOV |
| MAJORITY LEADER SONNY BORRELLI | LD 30 | (602) 926-5051 | SBORRELLI@AZLEG.GOV |

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