



January 25, 2025

OPENING DAY OF THE LEGISLATURE

We kicked off the 57th Legislature, First Regular Session last week with a larger majority of Republicans and a beautiful ceremony in the Senate, featuring keynote speaker Michael Bidwill, President and Owner of the Arizona Cardinals. Afterwards, Governor Hobbs presented an out-of-touch State of the State Address in the House that lacked any clear plans or directives for border security enforcement moving forward, which is a top priority for both legislative Republicans and most Arizonans. Instead, she focused on touting unsustainable government programs chalked full of handouts and threatened to limit the wildly popular Arizona school choice program. While progressive Democrats and the Governor have worked the past two years to undermine the freedoms Arizonans enjoy today, we vow to continue to protect the Arizona we know and love from turning into the blue states that people and businesses in droves are currently fleeing from.

*-Senator Frank Carroll*

PROTECTING ARIZONANS WITH “AZ ICE ACT”

Arizona voters spoke loud and clear last November when they overwhelmingly approved the “Secure the Border Act” that Republicans sent to the ballot. This session, we’re shifting our attention to enforcement. I’ve just introduced legislation to help the Trump Administration combat the crisis at the border. SB 1164, known as the “AZ ICE Act,” will ensure a partnership between local and federal law enforcement to remove criminal illegal aliens from our communities. Local officers will be trained and deputized to help enforce immigration laws. The bill also requires law enforcement to comply with immigration detainer requests, preventing criminal illegal aliens from being released back on the streets. Ending the border crisis requires an all-hands-on-deck approach. This commonsense bill will not only protect our citizens, but it will also prevent government obstruction. I’m hopeful the Governor listens to our citizens by signing the legislation when it hits her desk. -President Warren Petersen





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PROVIDING TEACHERS WITH PAY RAISES

With a new session comes a new opportunity to work on bills that may not have reached the finish line in the year prior. As such, I'm again working on a Proposition 123 extension plan to send to the ballot. This measure was first approved by voters in 2016. It allows a larger percentage from the state land trust to be distributed to our K-12 schools. Prop. 123 is set to expire this summer. With this in mind, Republicans backfilled the money allocated each year to K-12 schools within the last state budget, nearly \$300 million, so there are no disruptions to this funding stream. The new Prop. 123 I'm proposing would be additional dollars on top of what we backfilled. My colleagues and I would like this money to go directly to teacher pay raises, with a goal of each educator receiving an additional \$4,000 annually. I will keep you posted on the progress of Proposition 123 as well as other commonsense legislation that will hopefully receive the Governor's signature.

*-Senator J.D. Mesnard*

LOWERING HOME PRICES WHILE SAVING WATER

As the new chairman for the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Water, and Energy, a top priority of mine is to get the "Ag-to-Urban" bill signed into law. The Governor made a huge mistake last year by vetoing this commonsense, bipartisan legislation that would allow farmers and ranchers to sell their land and water rights to developers who want to build housing. Homes use less water than agriculture. In fact, we use the same amount of water today with 7.5 million people, as we did in 1957 with 1.5 million people. We have a critical shortage of homes in Arizona that has led to skyrocketing prices over the past several years. The Governor made matters worse by imposing a moratorium on all new home construction in two of the most booming areas of the Valley - Queen Creek and Buckeye. Her misguided efforts aren't saving water. Instead, Arizona is no longer an affordable place to purchase a home and raise a family because of her irresponsible mandate. I'll keep you updated on this bill's progress!

*-Senator T.J. Shope*



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2025 SENATE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY PLAN

Senate Republicans have hit the ground running this session, and I'm thrilled to share the 2025 Senate Majority Plan to guide our efforts! With Arizona's future in mind, our agenda is built on three unshakable pillars: *Securing Our Cities from the Front Door to the Border*, *Preserving the American Dream in Arizona*, and *Embracing Federalism and State Sovereignty*. We stand on the threshold of possibility, entrusted with a majority that carries the hopes and expectations of every Arizonan. This session offers an opportunity to reaffirm the principles that have made Arizona a beacon of freedom and prosperity. As Senate Majority Leader, I am fully committed to advancing these priorities for the benefit of all Arizonans. By the power of the Republican-led Legislature, Arizonans can expect fiscal responsibility and commonsense bills to make it to the Governor's desk this year. Together, we will remain unified in protecting the freedoms and constitutional rights of every citizen in Arizona.



-Senator Janae Shamp



SENATE BILLS ON THE MOVE

We've had a number of Senate bills pass out of their respective committees over the past two weeks. This is an important step in the legislative process because it allows the public and stakeholders to weigh in on legislation. As Chair of the Judiciary & Elections Committee, I'm happy to report SB 1011 passed and continues its journey through the Senate. This will provide voters results on election night, alleviating a lot of frustration and increasing confidence in the system. My bill, SB 1015, passed out of Government Committee. This legislation prohibits a city, town, or county from imposing a tax or fee on the use of blockchain technology. Additionally, SB 1013 passed out of Government Committee. This bill requires a two-thirds vote of support from a local government before taxes and fees can be raised, or before new taxes can be imposed. In Senate Health Committee, SB 1076 passed and would provide newborn screening for early detection of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

-Senator Wendy Rogers





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