



June 24, 2023



HOBBS KILLS TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Although Governor Hobbs and the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) have publicly supported allowing voters to choose the fate of Prop 400, this week's veto of SB 1246 confirms their support is contingent on limiting voters to a singular choice: advancing their inefficient, big-government agenda. During MAG's Regional Council Executive Committee meeting Tuesday, after 45 minutes of public testimony supporting SB 1246 and opposing MAG's revised comment process, MAG Mayors escaped to Executive Session and never returned. They clearly don't want to defend their inefficient programs at the ballot box. Republicans delivered a true extension of the economic development tool that's been relied upon to fund transportation projects the last 40 years, while the Governor has denied voters a choice, prioritizing bureaucrats over taxpayers at the expense of the economy.



SMART ELECTION REFORM GETS VETOED

This week, the Governor vetoed a series of commonsense bills I sponsored (SB 1595, SB 1596, SB 1598) aimed at increasing voter confidence, convenience, transparency and timeliness of election results. To say I'm disappointed is an understatement. Elections are becoming more chaotic and more controversial in Arizona with each passing cycle. Following the last election, I heard more complaints across the political spectrum about the length of time it takes Arizona to finish counting than I did any other issue, and it's a problem we can easily solve. Ignoring it is a complete disservice to our voters who are exercising their civic duty. My proposals were commonsense, practical to implement and would have made a real difference in tackling some of the issues voters continue to complain about. I look forward to trying again to provide impactful election reform next session.



- Senator J.D. Mesnard



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FULFILLING MY PROMISE ON WATER CONSERVATION

After much anticipation, Arizona's 22 tribal nations will now be eligible to participate in critical water conservation projects through a grant program established in last year's historic legislation investing more than \$1 billion for Arizona's water future. At the end of last session, the rushed language that came from House Democrats that was needed to get the votes to pass this bill, inadvertently left out some eligible entities, including tribes and private water utilities. I made a promise that I would make this correction, and with the help of bipartisan support, I fulfilled that promise. Tribes and private water systems will now be able to submit their ideas for consideration and can be approved for this funding. Applications will need to be submitted by Friday, June 30. Head to azwifa.gov for more information.



- Senator Sine Kerr

A WIN FOR ARIZONA'S COMMERCE

When it comes to notifying drivers of a one-way street or parking restrictions, there's often significant signage to communicate those restrictions. But, when it comes to notifying truck drivers that there are roads they are not permitted to be on, that same standard does not always apply. I sponsored SB 1098 to address this issue and after receiving Supermajority support, the Governor signed it into law. This legislation requires signs that prohibit the operation of or impose weight limitations on trucks or commercial vehicles to be uniform and designed by ADOT. It also requires the signs to inform the public of the restrictions and to either direct the public to the fastest route to leave the restricted route or inform them of the distance the route is restricted. Truck drivers are essential to our economy, and I believe this will go a long way in helping them out.



- Senator Frank Carroll



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PREVENTING VETERAN SUICIDES

I mentioned last week that not a single Democrat Legislator voted in support of my bill to establish a Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program and to create the Arizona Veterans Memorial State Park in Maricopa County. Thankfully, the Governor still chose to sign it. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the suicide rate of veterans in Arizona is significantly higher than the national veteran suicide rate, as well as the national suicide rate in general. Our country's heroes deserve better, and I strongly believe we have the duty to support those who've honorably sacrificed to protect our country. We lose hundreds of heroes within the veteran community here in Arizona every year, and I believe there's more we can do to prevent this heartbreaking issue. Establishing this new pilot program is a step in the right direction.



- Senator T.J. Shope

FIXING A BROKEN MENTAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

In an effort to address a serious issue stemming from Arizona's physician shortage, I sponsored SB 1710, which the Governor signed into law this week. This shortage has created roadblocks in meeting the requirement of two physicians procuring a court order for treatment, leaving folks with severe mental illness to decompensate in their mental state. This heartbreaking issue was brought to me by a hospital in my district, and it was my honor to create this legislation to help. This bipartisan bill will now allow rural counties of 500,000 residents or less to submit a petition for court-ordered treatment, accompanied by an affidavit from one physician, and either one physician assistant, or a psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner. It's an impactful step in the right direction when it comes to Arizona's mental healthcare system.



- Senator David Gowan



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NEW PROTECTIONS FOR DENTAL PATIENTS

The Governor signed my bill, SB 1602, which is an emergency measure that will help improve accessibility, set guidelines, and ensure patient safety by establishing a set of protocols, which includes emergency response, when a dental office is administering anesthesia. As I mentioned last week, it was brought to my attention at the beginning of session that there have been several deaths in recent years of patients undergoing dental procedures with the use of anesthesia. While infrequent, no one should die in a dental office, and no patient should ever fear that their dental office is putting their life at risk. I'm confident this bill will help ensure this does not happen again, and I look forward to continuing to create legislation to improve health care in all forms in Arizona.



- Senator Janae Shamp

RESTORING WATER TO RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS

It's been a grueling six months without water for the Rio Verde Foothills community, but relief is soon headed their way! After several failed attempts by local, county and state government to provide a fix to this devastating issue, the Governor signed my bill, SB 1432, which will restore water for these residents. I joined fellow Republican Legislators Monday for a press conference urging the Governor to sign the bill, and many members of this community made the hour-long drive to the Capitol to do the same. Thankfully, our efforts worked. I know residents are incredibly eager to get water flowing to their homes again, and I'm thrilled to have provided this emergency measure to do so. This is just one of several water issues I know we can tackle as a team at the Legislature. I look forward to advocating for more water-related solutions during my time here at the Senate.



- Senator Justine Wadsack



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