



Legislators Press the Pause Button, But There are Still Many Actions to Take



Arizona Historic Capitol at night

April 5, 2024

Hi all!

Now that the Legislature has finished the majority of its bills with only about 70 remaining, they have decided to meet just once a week for the next month. They will be meeting on Wednesday and the rest of the week, presumably, they will be talking budget with the Governor.

If you're trying to find out who is serving in the Legislature, you had better refresh your browser frequently. This week, we saw another legislator sworn in -- Representative Deborah Nardozzi -- to fill the vacancy of someone who had been appointed to serve in a previous vacancy. Shortly after that, another legislator resigned; Representative Marcelino Quiñonez stepped down and many assume it was to run for a city council seat.

So, as we wait on a budget, we are prioritizing stopping the referrals, as they will clog up the ballot with proposed bad policies and totally bypass the Governor. Below are the key

measures we are trying to stop.

[HCR2032 voting centers; precinct voting](#) (Jones: B Parker, Smith, et al.) would put a measure on the 2024 ballot that prohibits boards of supervisors from establishing voting centers to accommodate additional voting for a specific election as needed. It also eliminates no-excuse mail-in voting, limiting a method of voting used by 80% of Arizonans. If approved, this would result in lower voter turnout. This awaits action in Senate Committee of the Whole.

[HCR2040 public monies; prohibited expenditures](#) (Smith: Biasiucci, Carbone, et al.) is another one of those referrals. It would place a measure on the 2024 ballot to prohibit the state or any political subdivision, including universities, to spend any public dollars to reduce global temperatures, have a climate action plan, participate in anything related to reducing meat consumption, do anything to address impacts of racism, etc. It wraps this up with a bow related to prohibiting "furthering Marxist ideologies." This awaits action in the Senate Rules Committee.

[HCR2050 energy source; restriction; prohibition](#) (Griffin: Biasiucci, Bliss, et al) would put on the 2024 ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit a city, town, county or any other political subdivision of the state from restricting the manufacture, use or sale of a device based on the energy source that is either used to power the device or consumed by the device. Device is not defined, but this is clearly intended to preclude any limits on fossil fuel "devices," including gas. This will make it harder to protect our air, our water, our health, and our communities. It awaits action in the Senate Rules Committee.

[HCR2058 legislative districts; population; census; citizenship](#) (Heap: Chaplik, Gillette, et al) would put a measure on the 2024 ballot to require a state census that the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) must use to determine legislative districts based on citizenship population. This is a direct attack on the IRC and would subvert US census data to dilute and attack communities. If successfully referred and approved, it would impact minority districts disproportionately. This awaits action in Senate Rules Committee.

[SCR1041 ballot measures; challenges](#) (Mesnard) refers a measure that allows challenges to proposed ballot measures by any person and earlier in the process. This would be hinder ballot measures as they could be challenged while people are still collecting signatures. This awaits action by the House Rules Committee.

[SCR1044 judicial retention elections](#) (Gowan: Shamp) refers to the 2024 ballot a measure that eliminates terms of office for judges and allows them to continue to serve during "good behavior; reduces the frequency of judicial retention elections and replaces them with elections. This awaits action in House Rules Committee.

Tell Senators to Oppose HCR2040!

Tell Senators to Oppose HCR2050!

This week, the Arizona Legislature passed all of the memorials (messages) that seek to weaken or remove protections for public lands. All of these memorials passed along party lines and include messages asking the Congress to rescind the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. This is just one of many ways that legislators show how out of touch they are with the people.



The Arizona Legislature is doing nothing to address the significant water issues we have in Arizona. The bills that are moving weaken groundwater protections inside of Active Management Areas (AMA) and seek to erect roadblocks to rural groundwater protection outside of AMAs. This week, the Governor vetoed several water bills, including a bill to prohibit measuring wells and one to allow challenges to the Department of Water Resources models.

The Governor's office has been meeting with legislators to try and come to agreement on a rural groundwater protection bill. It seems to me that is pretty unlikely to happen, considering where the chairs of the House and Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water committees are at on these issues -- neither of them heard any bills to advance groundwater protection and instead supported harmful legislation. Along those lines, please tell your representatives to oppose SB1221. It sets up an impossible process for establishing basin management areas and codifies current overpumping of rural groundwater. No bill is better than this bill.

Act to Protect Rural Groundwater!

You can see more bills we are tracking [here](#).

You can find contact information for all legislators [here](#).

For more information on these and other bills, reach out to Sandy Bahr at

sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Many thanks for all that you do!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

Mark Your Calendar for Earth Day Activities



EARTH DAY 2024

Climate Solutions Now

We will be participating in Earth Day events in Flagstaff, Prescott, Tucson, Camp Verde, Yuma, Mesa, and Phoenix. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

Also, please plan to join us for an Earth Day Rally and Block Party on April 21st at Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix from noon to 3:00 PM. There will be food, music, art, and some great speakers.

[RSVP for Earth Day Rally](#)

Sign up for Arizona Legislative Updates & Actions

