



Speak up for Wolves, Water, and Voting Rights!



March 18, 2022

Hi everyone!

Well, it appears that the Arizona Legislature has killed most of the handful of positive bills that were advancing, including three electric vehicle bills sponsored by Senator Victoria Steele. There are still a few good ones in the mix, however, including one sponsored by Senator Paul Boyer -- SB1246 expedites acquisition of electric school buses. It will likely go to the House floor next week. SB1270 is another. It was amended to increase the funding for the State Parks Heritage Fund to \$5 million per year, still short of the \$10 million the voters intended, but closer.

Thankfully, a number of the bad elections bills are hitting speedbumps in the Senate and have been voted down, but there are still plenty to go around. See below and the committee agendas for more on that.

There was another question and answer session on the House floor regarding the proposed Arizona Water Augmentation Authority. The bill is getting a lukewarm response from many and strong opposition from others. They are not planning to move it until they have the votes and they do not have the votes for it right now.

[HB2492 voter registration; verification; citizenship](#) (Hoffman: Blackman, Carter, et al.) is likely to go to the Senate floor this week. It requires people who register to vote with a passport, birth certificate, naturalization certificate, or a tribal ID to submit additional documents proving residency. It also includes new restrictions for federal-only voters, including that they may not vote by mail, and it requires those who have previously registered to vote to provide

additional identification. **Tell your senator to oppose HB2492!**

[Send a message to your Senator here.](#)

HB2289 will have a strike-everything amendment on [elections; identification; revisions; tabulation; mail-in](#) that prohibits all in-person early voting and eliminates vote by mail, except for people who are visually impaired, are serving in the military overseas or who are hospitalized or out of the state on Election Day. This would affect most Arizonans as more than 70% of us vote by mail. Many people will be showing up at the Senate Government Committee on Monday to oppose this bill.

[HB2101 electric energy; reliability; public policy](#) (Griffin: Abraham, Blackman, et al.) will likely be up for reconsideration in the Senate this week. HB2101 repeals provisions in the law that create parameters for retail competition of electricity. We are opposed to the bill as we have concerns about how it will affect community choice aggregation of electricity overall and rooftop solar in Salt River Project (SRP) territory. SRP brought this to the legislature without any kind of stakeholder process or thorough review of the impacts of the bill. **Tell your senator to please vote No on HB2101 and also reach out to Senators Alston, Contreras, Gabaldon, and Rios and ask them to vote No!**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

[HB2055 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transportation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) will also come to the Senate floor this week. This bill allows private water companies such as EPCOR to import water from the Harquahala Valley and into the active management areas (AMAs) for development. Currently only cities can do that. This exacerbates creation of this groundwater depletion sacrifice zone and gives private water interests more control of water. The legislature should be placing additional limits on groundwater pumping not facilitating more.

[Send a message to your senator to oppose HB2055!](#)

[HB2411 coal combustion residuals program](#) (Griffin) will also likely come to the floor of the Senate this week. It authorizes the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to seek assumption of the coal ash program from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Coal ash is toxic and can result in contamination of our waters if not adequately regulated. We are concerned that ADEQ is too cozy with the utilities and that it would not properly enforce this program, plus ADEQ is already not properly implementing some of the federal programs it already has. **Call your senator to oppose this too!**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

[HB2181 Now: game and fish; taking wolves](#) (Cook) will likely result in additional unlawful killings of wolves. It forbids the Arizona Game and Fish Commission from prohibiting any person from killing a wolf that is actively threatening or attacking a person (unnecessary as anyone can kill an animal if they feel threatened), livestock, or other domestic animal. These latter provisions will invite baiting of wolves -- the last thing these endangered animals need is less protection or more people gunning for them.

[Tell your Senator to vote No on HB2181 here.](#)

If you have not signed up for the [Request to Speak System](#), please do! Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) will sign you up. To get an account set up, just [go to this link](#).

This week, we encourage you to sign in on [Request to Speak](#) in opposition to the following bills: HB2238, HB2289, HB2493, HB2554, HB2602, HB2780, HB2786, HCR2024, HCR2038, SB1259, SB1377, SB1396, and SCR1032 .

Sign in to support HB2324, SB1638, and SCM1003 . See the details on the bills below under "Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week."

To view bills we are tracking [go here](#).

To find your legislators' email addresses and phone numbers, [go here](#).

Thank you for taking action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week.

Monday, March 21st

Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [HB2238 ballot drop boxes; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Blackman, et al.) prohibits unmonitored drop boxes for ballots. **OPPOSE**
- HB2289 will have a strike-everything amendment on [elections; identification; revisions; tabulation; mail-in](#) that prohibits all in-person early voting and eliminates vote by mail, except for people who are visually impaired, are serving in the military overseas or who are hospitalized or out of the state on Election Day. This would affect most Arizonans as more than 70% of us vote by mail. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2493 election integrity fund](#) (Hoffman; Blackman, Chaplik, et al.) establishes an Election Integrity Fund to pay county recorders for election security measures and appropriates \$12 million for it. This is so unnecessary. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2602 polling places; emergency voting centers](#) (Bolick: Biasiucci, Blackman, et al.) restricts the use of emergency voting centers to emergencies, such as war, civil unrest or natural disaster. This is ridiculous. **OPPOSE**

- [HB2703 Now: secure online signature collection](#) (Bolick: Blackman, Biasiucci, et al.) requires the Secretary of State to operate and maintain full functionality and availability of the secure online portal and related systems for online signature collection. **MONITOR**
- [HB2710 registrations; counting procedures; observers; verification](#) (Kavanagh) expands access to precinct registers and information from voter registration forms. Outlines procedures for a hand count audit if a political party provides an insufficient number of board workers to conduct the hand count audit. **MONITOR**
- [HB2780 voter lists; images; voting records](#) (Kavanagh: Barton, Biasiucci, et al.) requires a county recorder to publish a list of eligible voters, with certain identifying information redacted, on the county recorder's website 10 days before a primary and general election. It requires that they digitally publish a list of everyone who voted and their voting method, all ballot images and a sortable cast vote record. These are more unnecessary requirements feeding the conspiracies. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2786 voter registrations; ballot requests; source](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Biasiucci, et al) prohibits a county recorder from using the signature on a request to amend a voter's registration or a request for an early ballot that is not on an official form printed by a county recorder. It removes the ability for a candidate, political committee or other organization to distribute early ballot request forms or Active Early Voter List request forms to voters. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM in HHR3

- [SCM1003 Grand Canyon; monuments; rename](#) (Boyer: Borrelli, Bowie, et al.) asks the Board on Geographic Names to rename geographic features in Grand Canyon with traditional Native American names. **SUPPORT**

Senate Committee on Transportation & Technology at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- HB2685 (Carroll) will have a strike-everything amendment on [election; transportation tax](#). It is an emergency measure telling the Maricopa County board of supervisors to call an election for the continuation of the county transportation excise tax. **MONITOR**

Tuesday, March 22nd

House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM in HHR1

- [SB1067 Now: cities; water infrastructure finance authority](#) (Shope) outlines requirements and exceptions for municipalities, counties, and sanitary districts to enter financial assistance loan repayment agreements with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority. **MONITOR**
- SB1171 unlawful feeding; wildlife; exception (Gowan) has a strike-everything amendment on [treated process water; storage credits](#) that adds treated process water to the definition of water that cannot reasonably be used directly, commonly referred to as water BUD, and outlines rules regarding the storage of that treated process water. This appears to be a narrow change that will facilitate some water efficiency. **MONITOR**
- SB1197 TPT; exemption; agricultural equipment (Shope: Borrelli, Gowan, et al.) will have a strike everything amendment on [irrigation districts; service area; WIFA](#) that allows this to be used for additional purposes. **MONITOR**
- SB1564 domestic water districts; wastewater; annexation (Shope) will have a strike-everything amendment on [farm irrigation efficiency; fund; appropriation](#) that establishes an on-farm irrigation efficiency pilot program and appropriates \$30 million for it. This could be positive in that it may help reduce agricultural water use. **MONITOR**

House Committee on Commerce at 2:00 PM in HHR3

- [SB1396 hydrogen study committee](#) (Shope) establishes a hydrogen study committee. It includes studying a pipeline and blending hydrogen with fracked gas infrastructure. There is no specific provision for studying green hydrogen -- hydrogen derived from water, not methane gas. There are also some other troubling provisions in it. **OPPOSE**

Wednesday, March 23rd

House Committee on Government and Elections at 9:00 AM in HHR1

- [SB1008 elections; recount margin](#) (Ugenti-Rita) increases, from one-tenth of one percent or a set number of votes to one-half of one percent, the trigger for an automatic recount in a primary or general election for certain offices. **MONITOR**
- [SB1259 recounts; requests; procedures; audits](#) (Mesnard) Increases the minimum number of precincts included in post-election hand counts and allows the attorney general, secretary of state, or Legislative Council to request an election recount. Again, this is unnecessary and harmful tinkering with election processes. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1329 Now: elections; counties; tabulation; posting](#) (Boyer) requires the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections to post the number of early ballots returned at voting locations on election day on its website and enter the ballots into an early ballot tracking system. This is only required if it is practicable, so is probably not a huge issue. **MONITOR**
- [SB1362 early ballot on-site tabulation](#) (Mesnard) allows every county recorder to provide a method to have a completed early ballot tabulated on site at a polling place or voting center. **MONITOR**
- [SB1411 early ballots; tracking system](#) (Mesnard) requires all counties to provide an early ballot tracking system and provide voters with access to the system on the county's website. **MONITOR**
- [SB1460 election law amendments](#) (Shope) modifies requirements regarding the issuance of ballots at a polling place to persons that previously received an early ballot, procedures following redistricting, the filing of nomination papers and nomination petitions, the signing of nomination petitions, voter registration information and vacancies due to the withdrawal of a candidate. It appears to be okay. **MONITOR**
- [SB1477 voter registration; felonies; clerk; database](#) (Townsend: Borrelli, Livingston, et al.) requires a superior court clerk to send a monthly record of felony convictions to the Secretary of State to notify the appropriate county recorder. **MONITOR**
- [SB1638 early ballots; visually impaired voters](#) (Pace: Shah) requires all Arizona elections to provide for voting by the use of a remote accessible vote by mail option for persons who are blind or have a visual impairment. **SUPPORT**
- [SCR1032 plenary legislative authority; elections](#) (Townsend: Borrelli, Gowan, et al.) opposes any attempt by the federal government to "usurp or otherwise interfere" with state legislative authority over elections. This is intended to target voting rights bills at the federal level. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Appropriations at 1:30 PM in HHR1

- [SB1632 appropriation; land department; management system](#) (Kerr) appropriates \$225,000 and two full-time equivalent positions to the Arizona State Land Department to improve the enterprise-wide management system. **MONITOR**

Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- Executive Nominee
ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD
 - Sarah King
 - John R. Sefton
- ARIZONA POWER AUTHORITY
 - John Francis Sullivan
- STATE CLIMATOLOGIST
 - Dr. Erianne Saffell
- Presentation
 - Economic Benefits of Glass Recycling in Arizona - Alex Cameron and Heidi Erm, Owens Corning
- [HB2324 animal fighting; cockfighting; minors presence](#) (Kavanaugh: Shah) says that any person who knowingly causes, allows, or assists a minor to be present at an animal fight or cockfight is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor. **SUPPORT**
- [HB2554 Now: counties; land divisions; surveys](#) (Griffin) prohibits counties from requiring surveys as a condition for approving land divisions. This is the last thing we

need as it will encourage more lot splits and harmful unregulated development.

OPPOSE

- HB2619 will have a strike everything amendment on rainwater harvesting program, but it is not yet posted.
- [HCR2008 Now: Good Samaritan mine act; support](#) (Griffin) expresses the Legislature's support for this bill, which appears to be significantly improved over previous versions.

MONITOR

- [HCR2024 30x30 land program; opposing](#) (Griffin) expresses the legislature's opposition to the Biden Administration's 30 by 30 program and other efforts to protect public lands from development, including as wilderness, conservation lands, etc.

OPPOSE

- [HCR2038 supporting proper forest management](#)(Griffin) contains revisionist history regarding the history of national forests. It fails to recognize the impacts of commercial logging on forest health -- most of the larger trees were logged in Arizona, leaving more opportunities for the dense growth of smaller trees -- fire suppression, and livestock grazing. There is no mention of climate change. It seeks to repeat the mistakes of the past that have contributed to unhealthy forests. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Transportation at 2:00 PM in HHR3

- [SB1356 transportation tax; election; Maricopa county](#) (Pace: Carroll) directs Maricopa County to call an election on continuing the transportation excise tax. **MONITOR**
- [SB1377 \(now: off-highway vehicles; fund; instruction; operation\)](#) (Kerr: Rogers) says that landowners and lessees do not have a duty to keep lands safe for entry and use by recreational users or to warn of or maintain lands and trails against unsafe conditions. Don't we all have a duty to try to address unsafe conditions? **OPPOSE**

Senate Committee on Commerce at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [HB2674 Now: housing supply study committee](#) (Kaiser: Chavez) establishes a housing supply study committee. This is better than the bill they were proposing, but the committee is not very inclusive. **MONITOR**

Thursday, March 24th

Senate Committee on Judiciary at 9:00 AM in SHR1

- [HB2722 strategic actions: public participation](#) (Toma) expands the applicability of motions to dismiss strategic actions against public participation (SLAPP) and allows a court to quash a strategic action against public participation. **MONITOR**

