



## Changing the Rules to be more Opaque, More Attacks on Democracy, and time to Support the Heritage Fund



January 28, 2023

Hi all!

Happy weekend! I'm sorry to get this update out a day late, but there were a lot of bills to review -- note the long list below for Request to Speak. This week, legislators exempted themselves from the public records law and will now destroy emails to and from them and their staff after 90 days and texts immediately, passed a bill to try to allow for the destruction of desert washes on private property, and also advanced a bill to refer to the ballot a measure to make it more difficult to pass citizen initiatives that are constitutional amendments. The legislative majority also passed rules to limit debate on bills and vote explanation to shut down the minority party. It seems like some of these legislators forget that they are supposed to represent and work for the people.

We have heard that there will be an attempt to pass a bare bones budget next week. It will be dead on arrival on the Governor's desk, so you have to ask, "What is the point?" They have taken no action to remove the spending cap for schools, which if not done will be a huge train wreck. It seems like they should be working on that instead.

See below for what is coming up at the Capitol next week and details on Environmental Day at the Capitol.

If you have not signed up yet for the Request to Speak system to voice your position in support or opposition to bills, we encourage you to do so now as you will need to get the account activated at the Capitol. [Here is a link for signing up](#). To learn more about how to use the Request to Speak System, you can sign up for one of the trainings sponsored by Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. [Here is their sign up link](#).

**Please consider signing in on Request to Speak to oppose HB2233, HB2304, HB2307, HB2411, HB2415, HB2444, HB2472, SB1066, SB1100, SB1103, SB1122, SB1135, SB1138, SB1141, SB1170, SB1257, SCR1015 and to support HB2373 and SB1224.**

To review bills we are tracking, [go to this link](#). We're still updating this, but it should be in good shape later next week.

**For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).**

Thank you so much for taking actions!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

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## Coming Up This Week at the AZ Legislature



Historic Capitol courtesy of Sandy Bahr

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### Monday, January 30th

**House Committee on Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM in HHR3**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [HB2375 state land transfer; Bullhead City](#) (Biasiucci) transfers 9.95 acres of state land from the State Land Department to Bullhead City for Bullhead City for park and public recreation purposes. Note this is not state trust land. This seems okay. **MONITOR**
- [HB2376 agricultural land; foreign ownership; prohibition](#) (Biasiucci: Bliss, Cook, et al.) prohibits selling, leasing or subleasing agricultural state land to any foreign entity. This seems to miss the point of the problem regarding water pumping on state trust lands. **MONITOR**
- [HR2002 securing America's lands; foreign interference](#) (Griffin) asks Congress to prohibit land sales to foreign entities. **MONITOR**

### Senate Committee on Elections at 2:00 PM in SHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

Presentation • Election Mechanics Part 2 by Shelby Busch, We the People AZ Alliance (more election conspiracies)

- [SB1066 election mailings; third-party disclosures](#) (Kavanagh) requires any nongovernmental entity that mails an official election-related document or looks like one to include the disclosure "not from a government agency" on the outside of the envelope. This is indirect way to try to discredit legitimate mailings from the League of Women Voters and others who do voter registration. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1068 election board workers; political party](#) (Kavanagh) requires the inspector, marshal, and judges of an election board to include at least one member of each of the two largest political parties. **MONITOR**
- [SB1095 early ballot envelope; notice](#) (Carroll: Gowan: Livingston) requires an early ballot envelope to include a statement that says the election will be delayed if you return your ballot after the Friday before the election. **MONITOR**
- [SB1105 early ballots; election day tabulation](#) (Carroll: Gowan) requires, rather than allows, a county recorder to provide for a way for a voter to have completed early ballot tabulated on site at a polling place or voting center. **MONITOR**
- [SB1135 spoiled early ballots; election day](#) (Kavanagh) requires an early ballot not delivered or mailed to the county recorder to be exchanged by the voter at a polling place by 7:00 p.m. on election day in order to be counted and valid and removes a voter who exchanges an early ballot for a regular ballot from the Active Early Voter List. It repeals a county board of supervisors' authority to establish the use of emergency voting centers. This would result in more people getting purged from the early voting list and having fewer voting opportunities. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1141 early ballot drop off; identification](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) requires additional voter ID to drop off an early ballot. This is unnecessary as they already have the signature verification. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1144 electronic ballot adjudication; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits the county board of supervisors from using an electronic vote adjudication system and requires, for a ballot that is damaged or defective and cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy of the damaged or defective ballot to be made by hand. **MONITOR**
- [SB1170 ballot drop boxes; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits unmonitored drop boxes. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1178 early voting; identification; signature](#) (Bennett) says an early ballot issued at any voting location, during the period of early voting after presenting and confirming identification, as ready for tabulating. **MONITOR**
- [SB1180 voter registrations; payment prohibited](#) (Bennett) prohibits a person from paying for voter registration based on the number of voter registrations or voter registration forms collected, completed or submitted. **MONITOR**

### Senate Transportation and Technology at 2:00 PM in SHR2

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1065 appropriation; widening; I-10](#) (Shope: Borrelli, Teran) appropriates \$360 million for widening I-10 between Chandler and Casa Grande. **MONITOR**
- [SB1100 all-terrain vehicles; definition](#) (Carroll, Gowan, Shamp, et al) increases, from 2,500 to 3,500 pounds or less, the maximum weight of an

all-terrain vehicle. The bigger vehicles do even more harm to trails and the land.

**OPPOSE**

- [SB1102 appropriation; SR 303; Route 60](#) (Carroll: Shamp, Livingston) appropriates \$3 million for improvements to the interchange at State Route 303 (SR 303) and U.S. Route 60. **MONITOR**
- [SB1122 transportation tax; election; Maricopa county](#) (Farnsworth: Cook) directs Maricopa County to hold a election for the sales tax for transportation and prescribes how much it will be and what it will be used for, including that 80% will go to freeways.

**OPPOSE**

## Tuesday, January 31st

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

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- HB2217 water protection; technical correction (Griffin) has a [strike-everything amendment on appropriation; department of water resources; studies; brackish groundwater; exemption](#) that appropriates \$50,000 to the Department of Water Resources to review and update information contained in studies on the availability of brackish groundwater in Arizona. **MONITOR**
- [HB2437 transmission lines; applications; exceptions](#) (Griffin) exempts a transmission line that is entirely on private land from being required to obtain a certificate of environmental compatibility. **MONITOR**
- [HB2444 natural resource conservation districts; revisions](#) (Griffin) establishes a Natural Resource Conservation District Commission and sets up a whole system for them to get more money. Most of these entities represent industrial agriculture. **OPPOSE.**
- [HB2448 appropriation; groundwater; Santa Rosa canal](#) (Martinez: Cook, Smith) appropriates \$25 million to the Arizona Department of Water Resources to distribute to two irrigation districts as part of a settlement agreement. **MONITOR**
- [HB2496 transmission lines; definition](#) (Griffin) changes the definition of a transmission line to include lines that are more than 1/4 mile. **MONITOR**
- [HCM2006 urging eradication; salt cedars; waterways](#) (Griffin) asks Congress to appropriate dollars to eradicate salt cedars from Arizona waterways and asks the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop innovative solutions to control the proliferation of salt cedars. Looking at innovative ways to remove salt cedars and replace them with native trees and restore more natural flows would be helpful. **MONITOR**

### House Committee on Commerce at 2:00 PM in HHR3

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2019 licensing; permitting; criteria; clarity](#) (Grantham) requires an activities permit to be issued or denied within 30 days. **MONITOR**
- [HB2472 social credit; use; prohibition](#) (Montenegro) says a state cannot require the use of a social credit score for bank lending. Again, this would limit requiring banks to look at the environmental harm or public health impacts of the dollars they loan. **OPPOSE**

## Wednesday, February 1st

### Senate Committee on Government at 8:30 AM in SHR2

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1048 campaign finance; reporting threshold; lobbyists](#) (Kavanagh) increases the threshold for reporting the details on individual contributors, including occupation and employer, from \$100 to \$200. **MONITOR**
- [SB1061 public officials; home addresses; confidentiality](#) (Shope) makes it unlawful to make a public official's personal information available on the Internet. **MONITOR**
- [SB1103 administrative review; approvals; developments](#) (Petersen: Borrelli, Kavanagh, et al.) provides for no hearing on certain aspects of development, including plats, development plans, etc. and also for expedited review. **OPPOSE**

- [SB1115 land sales; foreign entities; prohibition](#) (Kern: Rogers) prohibits sale or lease of state land to foreign entities. They focus on who rather than what is being done, promoting more xenophobia. **MONITOR**
- [SB1138 banks; discrimination prohibition; social criteria](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Kern, et al.) says banks can't discriminate based on social credit, environmental, social, governance, or other impact criteria. That would mean a bank could not say no to a developer based on the harm of that development. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1139 government investments; products; fiduciaries; plans](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Kern) requires the state treasurer to post investments and prohibits any investments to consider social implications. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1142 voter registration events; posting](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Kern, et al.) requires the Secretary of State and county recorders to post all voter registration events in which they participate. **MONITOR**
- [SCR1015 initiative; referendum; signatures; legislative districts](#) (Mesnard: Bennett, Kaiser, et al.) refers to the ballot that would require a proportionate percentage of petition signatures from each legislative district to put a measure on the ballot. This would be extremely difficult and expensive and put ballot measures more in the hands of the wealthy. **OPPOSE**

#### House Committee on Regulatory Affairs at 2:00 PM in HHR5

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2373 permits; automated permitting platform](#) (Biasiucci: Contreras, L. Hernandez, et al.) allows for online solar permit compliance and removes requirement for a diagram when using it. **SUPPORT**

#### House Committee on Municipal Oversight & Elections at 2:00 PM in HHR4

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2233 election contests; procedures](#) (Harris: Jones, McGarr) allows early ballots to be challenged due to any inconsistencies in personal information or signature. This is unnecessary and will result in more delays as people frequently have changes in their signature due to illness, age, etc. Elected officials follow up on those and should not have to now also deal with a flood of individual challenges from election deniers. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2304 voting locations; precinct-based](#) (McGarr: Biasiucci, Jones) allows only precinct-based polling locations, so no early ballot locations that allow any county to voter. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2305 ballots; signature verification; observers](#) (McGarr: Biasiucci, Carter, et al.) requires the county recorder to allow party representatives to observe each stage of the signature verification process for early ballots. **MONITOR**
- [HB2307 elections; hand counting; machines; prohibition](#) (McGarr: Biasiucci, Griffin, et al.) requires all ballots to be hand counted. This would take forever and be less accurate. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2415 active early voting lists; removal](#) (Biasiucci: Bliss, Carbone) removes voters from the active early voting list if they fail to vote early in one election cycle, instead of two. This will result in a significant purge of this list and in fewer people voting. **OPPOSE**

#### House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure at 2:00 PM in HHR3

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#):

- [HB2079 state route 90 extension](#) (Diaz) appropriates \$40 million for the extension of this route. **MONITOR**
- [HB2288 roundabouts; right-of-way; large vehicles](#) (Cook: A. Hernandez, Pena, et al.) allows large vehicles to go outside their lanes on roundabouts. Will this make them more dangerous? **MONITOR**
- [HB2411 water supply; elimination; reduction; damages](#) (Cook: Martinez, Toma, et al.) tries to make Scottsdale liable for termination of water service to Rio Verde. What they really should be doing is tightening regulation, not proposing this kind of bill to reward wildcat development. **OPPOSE**

- [HB2419 moving violations; injured pedestrians; penalties](#) (Gress) provides for additional information on pedestrian and bicycling rights for traffic school and longer loss of license when pedestrians are injured or die in an accident with a vehicle. This seems like a good step to help reduce pedestrian deaths, although slowing down drivers and narrower roads with protected bike lanes would help more. **MONITOR**

### Thursday, February 2nd

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 9:30 AM in SHR2**  
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1224 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) restores the \$10 million from lottery dollars for the State Parks Heritage Fund for trails, protecting cultural sites, education, etc. **SUPPORT**
- [SB1257 water resources; assistant director](#) (Petersen) requires the Department of Water Resources director to appoint an assistant director that only works with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority on augmentation. This would put even more resources into augmentation versus conservation. Why not have this person focus on that? **OPPOSE**

## Environmental Day at the Capitol, Briefings, & Training



Don't forget to sign up for Environmental Day at the Capitol and some of our briefings and workshops! We will cut off registration at 250 people, so reserve your space today!

### Environmental Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM (meetings with legislators, as can be scheduled)

11:30 AM Registration

Noon Program, Tabling, News Conference, and Opportunities for Action

### 4:00 PM Wrap up

[RSVP here.](#)

- To view **Water, Climate, and Democracy**, a reflection on the 2022 AZ Legislative Session and an overview of the 2023 AZ Legislative Session to date, [go here](#).
- To view the **Climate and Clean Energy in Arizona** briefing from Monday, [use this link](#).
- To view the **Volunteer Lobbying Workshop** from Wednesday, [go here](#).
- Last night's **Water 101**, an introduction to water issues in AZ can be [watched here](#).
- On January 31st at 6:00 PM join our program on Environmental Justice. [RSVP here](#).
- On February 3rd at 6:00 PM, we will be holding a Briefing on Environmental Day Bills. [Register for that here](#).

