



# Arizona Legislative Updates



## Legislature Continues Its One-day-a-week Schedule



See the end of the message for Earth Day Activities. Happy Earth Day, All!

April 19, 2024

Hi all!

Every day is certainly not Earth Day at the Arizona Legislature, where they continue to move along bills to whittle away at protections for air, water, lands, and more. This week, they came back to the Capitol on Wednesday for not quite a full day of work. They passed along a few bills and transmitted some to the Governor -- none of them good. The Senate passed a motion to hear the bill to repeal the 1864 ban on abortion. The House did not. Neither took action. Stay tuned.

The House transmitted [HB2646 power plants; public service corporations](#) (Bliss) to the Governor on Wednesday. She has five days to sign it, veto it, or let it become law without her signature. If you have not asked her for a veto already, please do so this week. See below for taking action.

This is a bad bill that would extend the life of outdated, expensive, dirty coal plants at the expense of utility ratepayers, setting out-of-reach parameters for their closures, and requiring the Attorney General to be engaged in opposing federal rules that would expedite their retirement. HB2646 seeks to prop up fossil fuel plants in an effort to rescue plants that are incredibly costly to keep in operation. Keeping fossil fuel plants operating longer is at the expense of ratepayers, who are kept on the hook to pay for expensive plants to remain in operation when it is more cost effective to transition to renewable energy like wind, solar, and storage.

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Ask Governor Hobbs to Veto HB2546!

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The House also transmitted [HB2002 power plants; transmission lines; definition](#) (Griffin) to the Governor. Please ask her to veto this too. It excludes switchyards and substations from review by the AZ Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee (Committee). The Committee is one of the few entities that considers environmental factors relative to siting and utilities are chipping away at what it applies to both at the Legislature and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

**You can call the Governor at (602) 542-4331.**

[HB2124 agricultural operations; water; protection; definition](#) (Smith) will go to a final vote in the House, likely this next Wednesday. It requires the court to award attorneys' fees for nuisance claims related to groundwater pumping. This is another bill to protect big pumpers at the expense of those harmed who may have few tools available to them to challenge the pumping. Bringing nuisance claims is not easy already and comes with considerable risk to those bringing them. In areas with no real regulation on groundwater pumping, however, a nuisance action may be the only mechanism for someone to seek redress, to keep the use and enjoyment of their property, and get at least some due process and access to justice relative to their wellbeing dried up or impaired.

[Ask House Members to Oppose HB2124!](#)

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Take Action Against Bad Water Bill!

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**Below are the potential ballot measures that the Legislature may refer. We are keeping an eye on them. If you have not done so already, contact your legislators about opposing them.**

[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.

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Tell Senators to Oppose HCR2040!

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Keep up the pressure against this terrible rural groundwater bill. SB1221 sets up an impossible process for establishing basin management areas and codifies current overpumping of rural groundwater. No bill is better than this bill.

[Tell your representatives to oppose SB1221!](#)

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Act to Protect Rural Groundwater!

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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](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).**

Thank you so much for taking action!

All the best,

Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

## Check Out Earth Day Activities This Weekend!



# EARTH DAY 2024

## Climate Solutions Now

Join the Chispa AZ and AZ AANHPI for Equity Earth Day on Saturday afternoon on April 20th from 4-7PM at Cielito Park in Phoenix.

And the following day, on Sunday, 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

