



Arizona Legislative Updates



Help Stop Anti-Democracy Pro-Data Center Bill!



Arizona Historic Capitol at night

April 23, 2026

Hi Friends!

Happy day after Earth Day and Earth Month! There have been a lot of activities so far with more to come. Thanks to everyone who took the time to plan or be at an event and to take action in some way to make this a better place. Please keep

it up!

At the Legislature, there is still no state budget, the one thing the Arizona Legislature must do each legislative session, but we are hearing they will likely pass something next week and then send it to the Governor for a veto. That will begin the process and will also mean she will not veto every other bill that comes to her desk. We still hope she vetoes a bunch of them, including a harmful pro data center, anti-democracy measure that was just passed out of the Senate 20-9-1. That is bad news as it means it has enough votes for an emergency clause. We need to do better in the House. **Please thank Senators Diaz, Epstein, Gonzales, Hatathlie, Hoffman, Kuby, Ortiz, Sears, and Sundareshan for voting no. It was especially disappointing to see Senators Alston, Bravo, Fernandez, and Gabaldón vote for the bill.** See below for more information.

[HB2873 NOW: municipalities; referendum petitions; withdrawal](#) allows anyone who files a referendum petition with a city or town to withdraw the petition in writing at any time before it qualifies for the ballot. There are numerous problems with this, but the biggest one is allowing one person or one entity to disenfranchise every person who signed the petitions -- people who in good faith signed to have an opportunity to vote on the issue -- would now not have an opportunity to do so merely because an entity or person did not plan well or got cold feet.

This bill is clearly intended to benefit Beale Infrastructure to clear the path for them to construct data centers in Marana, and squarely aimed at disenfranchising the people of Marana, ignoring their desire to have a say on a harmful data center.

[Please tell your representatives to reject this anti-democracy measure and to vote NO on HB2873.](#)

Say No to HB2873!

Please keep up the pressure on legislators to vote NO on [SCR1001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Bolick) and [HCR2001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Kolodin: Chaplik, Heap, et al). They refer identical measures to the ballot to limit early voting and require all voters (even those voting mail ballots) to "show valid government-issued proof of identity." Currently, our signatures on our early ballots are used for identification and have proven to be an effective means of confirming the identity of the voter. Counties would also have to immediately tabulate mail-in ballots onsite. These bills would give the legislature the authority to shut down early voting too! These measures are clearly intended to hinder voting and there has been little thought given to actual implementation, including providing on-site tabulation equipment. The referral adds some troubling language about the Legislature adopting additional laws to expedite elections.

[Ask your legislators to vote NO on SCR1001/HCR2001!](#)

Protect Early Voting - Take Action!

Don't let them forget that they should absolutely vote no on [SB1280 Public monies; Mexican wolf; Prohibition](#) (Farnsworth). SB1280 would prohibit the Arizona Game and Fish Commission from

transporting Mexican gray wolf puppies into Arizona and also from spending any money for transporting wolf puppies into the state. This is also known as the Cruella de Vil bill.



[Tell your representatives to vote no on SB1280!](#)

Take Action to Oppose SB1280!

While things have been quiet, rural Arizona's water remains at risk to a New York Hedge Fund!

[HB2758 McMullen Valley; eligible entities; groundwater](#) (Griffin: Blackman) is among the worst water legislation moving through the process. The bill allows private water companies and a New York hedge fund, Water Asset Management, to engage in the interbasin transfer of groundwater from the McMullen Valley in La Paz County to elsewhere in La Paz County or to an active management area - basically the Phoenix area. Learn more about the small communities fighting this bill [here](#).

[Please ask your Senator to Vote NO on HB2758!](#)

Protect Rural Arizona Water!

It's time to kill that last bad solar bill!

[HB2975 state lands; solar score; maps](#) (Heap: Marshall) prohibits the State Land Department from using solar score maps or other similar types of evaluation of state trust lands for its appropriateness for solar energy generation. This removes transparency and is contrary to the good planning. It is intended to be punitive of solar as it then goes on to require mapping for mining and housing. Why mining and not solar?

[Please ask your senator to vote no on HB2975!](#)

Speak up for Solar!

There has been no movement on this anti-light rail bill lately either, but it does not mean it is dead. We expect it to rear its ugly head any time. [SB1332 Now: light rail expansion; feasibility review](#) (Kavanagh) requires a biased study of light rail and attempts to pit it against other forms of transportation. Requiring an analysis that compares light rail and autonomous or semiautonomous vehicles is an apples to oranges comparison and provides no real beneficial information or benefits to our communities. Light rail is not in competition with other forms of transportation but rather augments them and is especially important to coordinate with buses, plus it is a key component of our transit system in the Phoenix area.

It's not like there are no studies on light rail either. Just visit the Valley Metro page and you will find several.

Call your representatives and ask them to vote NO on SB1332. You can find their phone numbers [here](#).

[Find our 2026 bill tracker here.](#)

Below is information on a pollinator event in Phoenix. Join us if you can.

Thank you, as always, for caring for the planet and all of its creatures!

Sandy Bahr
Director, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

If you have any questions, reach out to sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Join Us on Sunday to Help Arizona's Pollinators!

EARTH DAY AT THE RIO SALADO

Celebrate earth day by caring for our local pollinator garden.

- Plant native plants
- Learn about local pollinators
- Snacks & drinks provided

**SUNDAY APRIL 26TH
7-10AM • PHOENIX**

SIERRA CLUB
GRAND CANYON
CHAPTER

H₂O
Sentinels

bit.ly/SCEarthDay2026

Join us in the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area to plant native plants to help our local pollinators. It is a great way to get outdoors while helping care for this local area. We will provide snacks and drinks, but do bring a refillable water bottle, a hat, and sunscreen. Wear closed-toe shoes as we will be using shovels and picks.

This will be fun beneficial for our native pollinators!

April 26th at 7:00 AM
Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area
[RSVP Here](#)

