



Budget Vetoed, Legislature on Pause for a Bit



Climate Can't Wait!

May 9, 2026

Hi Friends!

Greetings! There is not a lot to report from the Legislature this week. On Monday, the Senate voted out the House budget and sent it to the Governor where she gave it the attention it deserved and summarily vetoed it. Subsequent to the veto, the House said "We're out" and adjourned until June 1st. The Senate is also basically out for a bit, but will be considering some executive nominations next week.

Late yesterday, we learned that Governor Katie Hobbs is putting her stamp of approval on the Desert Southwest Pipeline, a methane gas pipeline that will stretch over 500 miles through three states -- Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona -- and cost more than \$5.3 billion dollars. This pipeline will ensure that we export more of our energy dollars from Arizona, but much worse will lock in gas use for decades. The Governor should have at a minimum waited until she knew more about the impacts of this proposed gas pipeline instead of once again just giving the Arizona utilities -- APS, TEP, and SRP -- what they want. Please let the Governor know that you are disappointed in this decision by sending a quick message via her [contact form here](#). Climate Can't Wait!

Most of the bills we have been asking you to take action on are still in play. I will provide a few links below for actions. Sadly, it is unclear whether [HB2873 NOW: municipalities; referendum petitions; withdrawal](#) will matter, other than being a bad precedent. HB2873 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 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. Unfortunately, the Court just sided with Marana and the referenda are off the ballot, so unless there is a successful appeal, they won't need this terrible bill. It is really bad news for the people of Marana and our state. [Read more about that here](#).



Here are some of the harmful bills that are still alive in the process. Consider calling, emailing, or writing about them, including a letter to the editor.

We're pretty sure the Legislature is going to refer several harmful anti-voting measures to the ballot. [SCR1001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Bolick) and [HCR2001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Kolodin: Chaplik, Heap, et al) include provisions that are likely to be there. Remember this is how they get around the Governor's veto. SCR1001 and HCR2001 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!](#)

One bad wolf bill is lurking out there. [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.

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

The Legislature continues to be totally irresponsible with water. [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.

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

And we're still keeping an eye on [HB2975 state lands; solar score; maps](#) (Heap: Marshall). It 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.

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

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

Below is information on a volunteer training and Sierra Club and Coffee.

Thank you for continuing to take action!

Sandy Bahr
Director, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

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

Come Do Outreach/Tabling with Sierra Club!



TABLING VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

5.21.26 Thursday
6pm - 7:30pm
514 W Roosevelt St

**Come get trained as an
outreach volunteer!
Food and beverages
provided.**



Contact
grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org
or
sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Interested in getting more involved? Want to learn about what Sierra Club is working on in Arizona? Want to do outreach at events? Come join us for informational onboarding for volunteers.

The Sierra Club is looking for more volunteers who are interested in representing us at tabling/outreach events, such as Earth Day, water festivals, public lands events, and at community colleges and other schools. Many events are in the Phoenix area, but we participate in events throughout Arizona. There are no special skills required, just interest in volunteering and enthusiasm for connecting with people. We will help you with the rest.

This event will go through some fundamentals of outreach tabling as well as specific topics/priorities. Remember that you do not need to know everything about each issue. We can always follow up with people.

We will provide food and beverages, along with a warm and welcoming space for conversation and connection.

Register so we know how much food to get and let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

See you there!

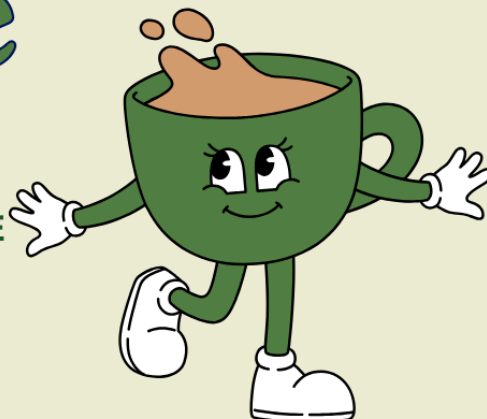
May 21st from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Sierra Club Office
514 W Roosevelt
Phoenix

[RSVP Here](#)

Join Us for Sierra Club and Coffee!

Sierra Club & Coffee

JOIN US FOR A COFFEE ON US AND
CONVERSATION ON LOCAL CLIMATE
ISSUES, WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON
AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



at
**Brick Road
Coffee
Tempe**

THURSDAY, MAY 28TH
7:30AM-8:30AM



bit.ly/SCAZ-Coffee

Join us for Sierra Club and Coffee! This month we will be meeting at Brick Road Coffee in Tempe. We will discuss local climate issues, what Sierra Club is working on, how you can get involved & bring your environmental questions! We look forward to seeing you there.

May 28th at 7:30 AM
Brick Road Coffee
Tempe

RSVP so we know how many people to expect.

5/9/26, 12:06 PM

Sierra Club Mail - 2026 Sierra Club Arizona Legislative Update #18

Coffee RSVP



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter