



Senate and House on Break -- Again, and Celebrating Senator Lela Alston



Raquel Terán helps celebrate Senator Lela Alston as she prepares to retire from the Arizona Legislature
photo by Sandy Bahr

June 5, 2026

Hi Friends!

The Arizona House and Senate came back for a couple of days this week, sending a few bills to the Governor and moving a few others along in the process. Legislative leaders still revealed nothing about when we will see the budget and what it will contain. As we have noted before, passing a budget is the only thing they absolutely have to do each session. We are now hearing it may happen next week. Stay tuned. We are asking legislators to keep tax incentives for clean energy and to eliminate all of the tax breaks for data centers, plus fund the Arizona Heritage Fund, heat centers, and the Water Quality Fee Fund.

Also at the Capitol this week, we celebrated Senator Lela Alston and her service to the state over many decades, including in both the House and Senate. It was a large gathering of staff and former staff, legislators and former legislators, lobbyists, family, and more, all there to say thank you and recognize a good legislator. Many noted her enormous service to the state. You can hear [Ken Bennett's "Lela" tribute here](#).

Take Action!

[SB1418 corporation commission; small modular reactors](#) (Carroll) preempts counties – except Maricopa and Pima – from regulating the location of small modular nuclear reactors if they are co-located with high-load factor electricity user such as data centers. We have data centers locating here in our communities indiscriminately and using enormous amounts of water and electricity, plus providing very few sustainable jobs.

[Ask your representatives to say no to lax siting for nuclear and data centers.](#)

Please take action on SB1418 even if you have previously. It is likely to be voted on next week. Note that this is a new alert form.

[SB1332 Now: light rail expansion; feasibility review](#) (Kavanagh) advanced this past week and could go to a Third Read vote next week too. SB1332 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. Please speak up for light rail, even if it does not affect you directly.

[Tell Your Representatives to Oppose SB1332!](#)

We know the majority in the Arizona Legislature want to refer something to the ballot and we expect that these twin referral bills may be on the list. [SCR1001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Bolick) and [HCR2001 citizenship; identification; contributions; early voting](#) (Kolodin: Chaplik, Heap, et al) 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." These bills would give the legislature the authority to shut down early voting too!

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

[SB1280 Public monies; Mexican wolf; Prohibition](#) (Farnsworth) 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!](#)

[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!](#)

[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.

Note, we are also watching the State Land Department continuation bill for harmful provisions on wind and solar. We will have more on that next week.

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

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

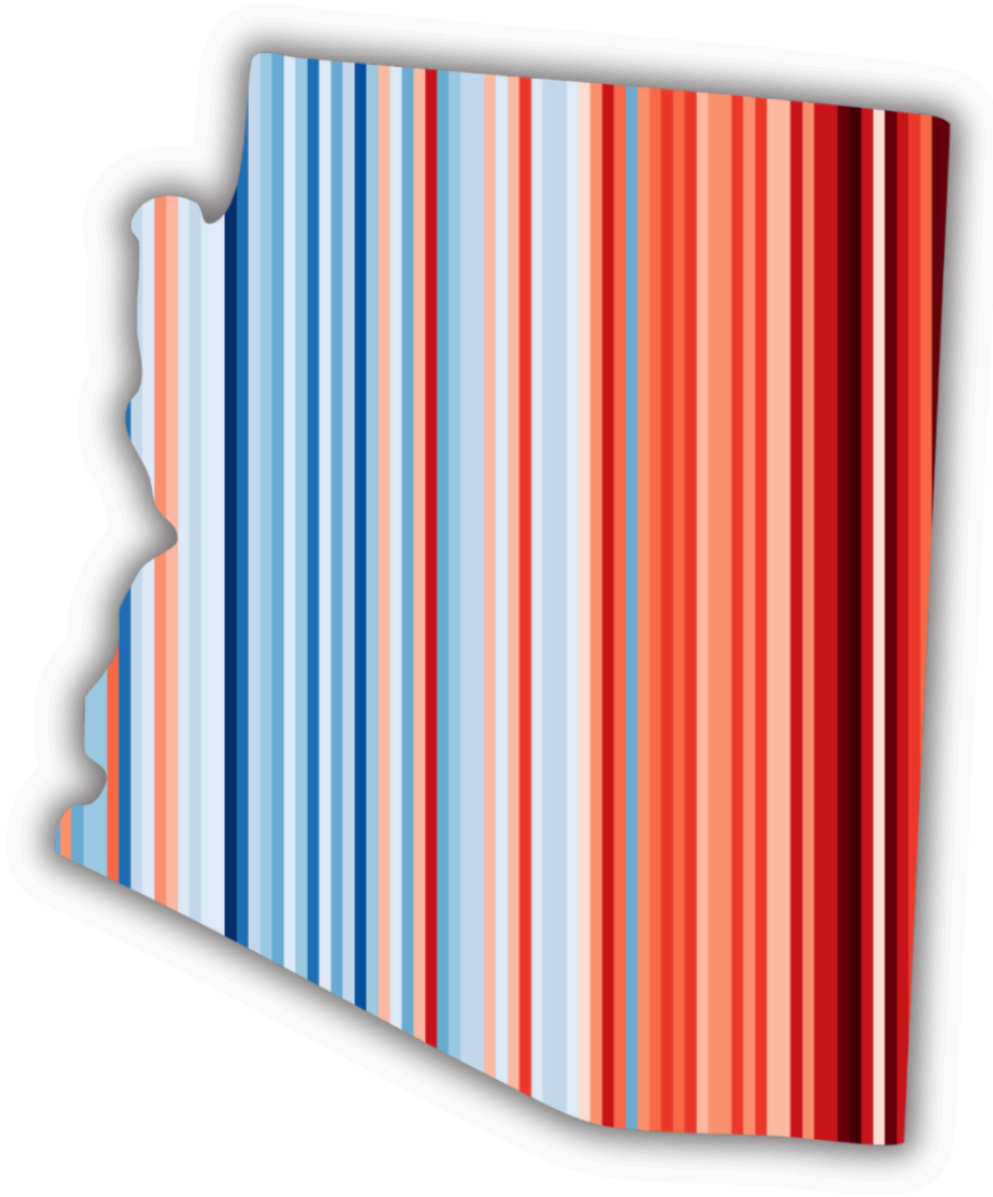
Below is information on a climate event on June 18th. Show Us Your Stripes for Climate!

Thank you!

Sandy Bahr
Director, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

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

Show Us Your Stripes for Climate!



These warming stripes, ranging from blue to red, are visual representations of the change in temperature as measured in each country, region, or city over the past 100+ years. The stripes turn from mainly blue to mainly red in more recent years, illustrating the rise in average temperatures around the globe. Here in Arizona it's easy to see that our heat is intensifying. Our climate is changing -- it's getting hotter and deadlier.

Join us at the Arizona Capitol to gather around a large climate stripes banner with red flash lights to indicate that we are in the red zones.

Bring a red light of some sorts (like a flash light), we'll have extra for those that need one and/or some red cellophane. We'll also have snacks and drinks and brief comments from informational speakers.

Thursday, May 18th at 7:00 PM
Arizona State Capitol
Senate Lawn
1700 W. Washington St.

6/7/26, 10:33 AM

Sierra Club Mail - 2026 Sierra Club Arizona Legislative Update #22

Phoenix, AZ 85007

[RSVP so we know how many people to expect.](#)

RSVP Here



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter