



Arizona Legislative Updates



Arizona Legislature Finally Adjourns *Sine Die*



Arizona historic Capitol at night photo by Sandy Bahr

June 16, 2026

Hi Friends!

After 153 days, the Arizona Legislature finally adjourned *sine die* on Saturday morning. Legislators passed a bipartisan budget that included a number of provisions we supported, including a three-year moratorium on tax breaks for data centers. We hope they come back and make that a permanent repeal in the next

session. The budget also did not include the hits to solar and wind that were proposed by the majority. There is funding in the budget for water quality programs, clean-up dollars for the Iron King Mine site, funding for heat relief centers, and some dollars for school community gardens (aka Trees for Kids). There was still too much funding for border "security," but less than before. It is not the budget we need for a sustainable, equitable, and healthy future, but it includes provisions that will actually help people now at a time when our communities are struggling.

A number of harmful bills died at the end of session due to inaction, including [HB2758 McMullen Valley; eligible entities; groundwater](#) (Griffin: Blackman). It was among the worst water legislation moving through the process. The bill allowed 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.

[HB2975 state lands; solar score; maps](#) (Heap: Marshall) also died due to lack of action in the Senate. It would have prohibited 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.

Sadly, legislators loaded up the ballot with bad referrals, including [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." This measure would give the legislature the authority to shut down early voting too! We need to vote this down. In total, the Legislature referred 10 measures to the November ballot.

There are several bills on the Governor's desk that should be vetoed too. See below to take action on a few of them.

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 Governor Hobbs to Veto SB1418.](#)

[SB1332 Now: light rail expansion; feasibility review](#) (Kavanagh) is also on the Governor's desk. It 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.

[Tell Governor Hobbs to Veto SB1332!](#)

[SB1280 Public monies; Mexican wolf; Prohibition](#) (Farnsworth) also passed the House in the waning days of the session and is on Governor Hobbs's desk. It 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 Governor Hobbs to Veto SB1280!](#)

[HB2873 NOW: municipalities; referendum petitions; withdrawal](#) (Weninger) 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 ask the Governor to veto HB2873.](#)

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

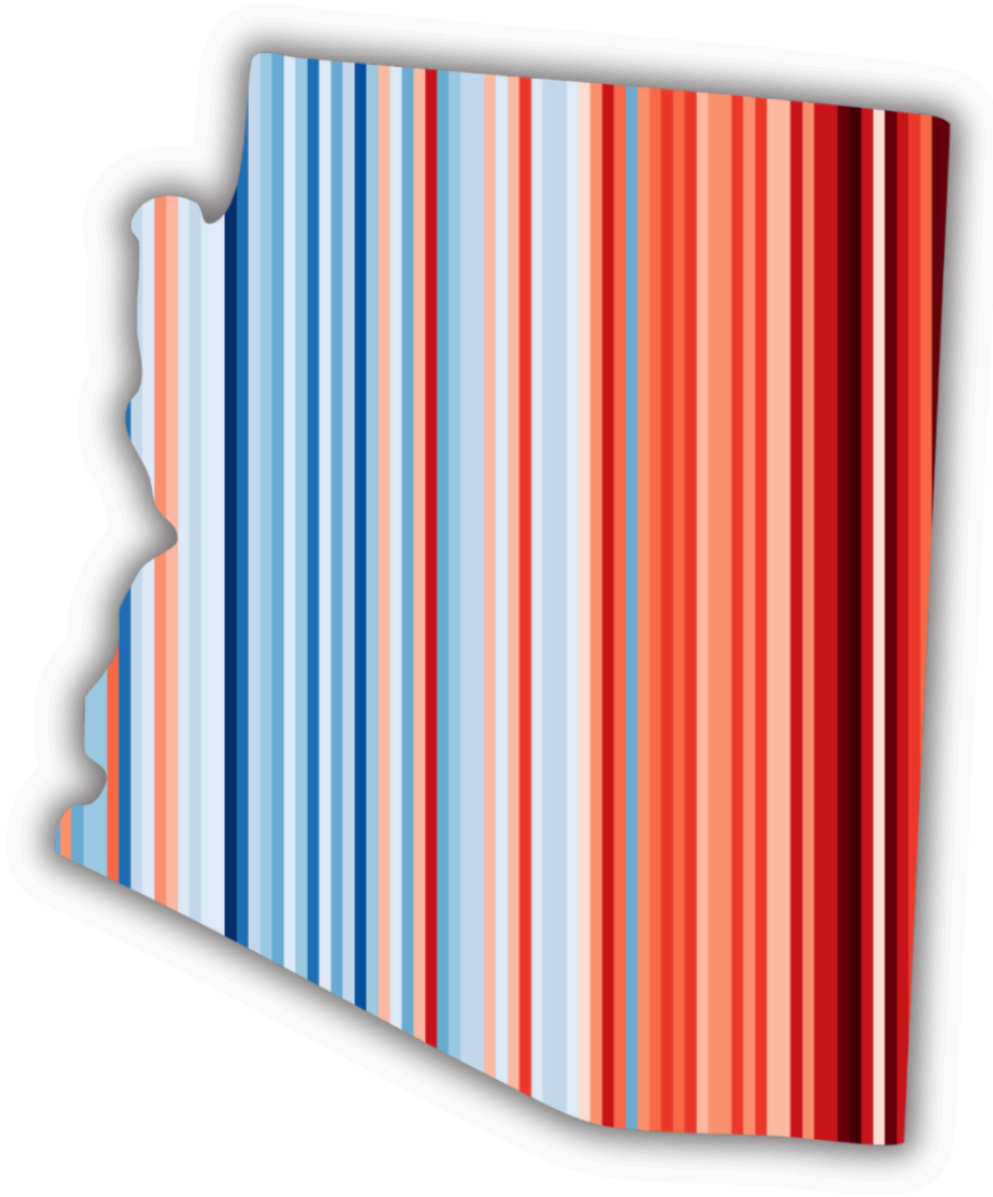
Below is information on a climate event on June 18th. Please stop by if you can!

Thank you for all of your good actions this legislative session! It made a difference.

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 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.

6/18/26, 5:37 PM

Sierra Club Mail - 2026 Sierra Club Arizona Legislative Update #23

Phoenix, AZ 85007

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

RSVP Here



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter