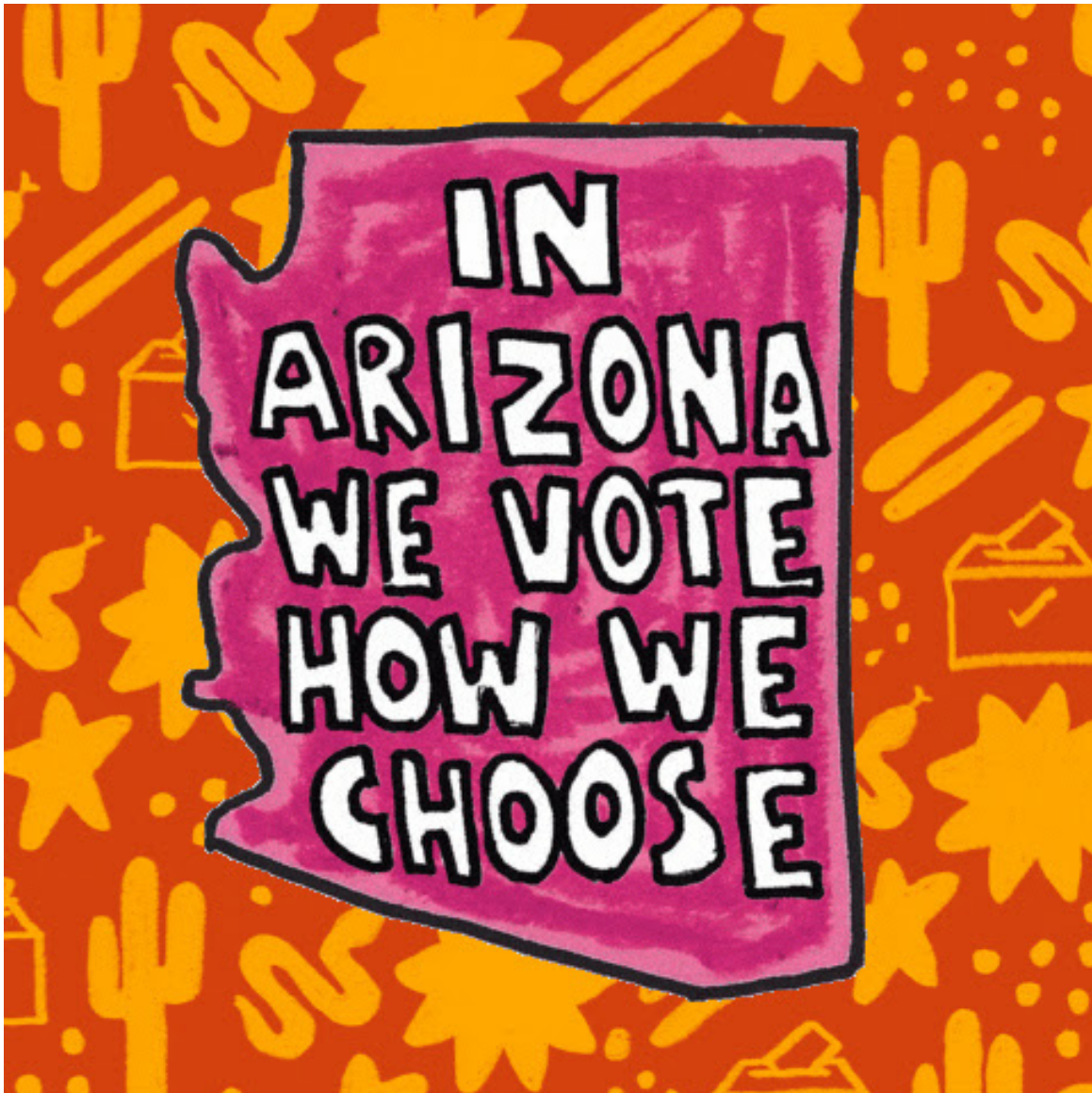




Arizona Legislative Updates



Help Stop Voter Suppression Bills!



March 12, 2021

Hi everyone!

Finally, some good news on the attacks on the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and its clean energy rules. [HB2248 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Griffin) and [SB1175 corporation commission; electric generation resources](#) (Kerr: Gowan, Gray, et al.) do not have the votes to pass in the Arizona Senate after [Senator Boyer announced that he will not vote for them](#). He along with the 14 Democrats provide enough votes to defeat the measures. Please thank all of them! You can find their numbers [here](#).

[SB1156 \(now: solid waste; advanced recycling facilities\)](#) (Mesnard) is being promoted by the plastics industry and is making the rounds throughout the U.S. It seeks to masquerade the processes outlined as "advanced recycling" and part of a "circular economy," but instead they are producing more of the same, including the production and burning of fossil fuels, as well as pyrolysis. It exempts these plastics processes, including pyrolysis and conversion of plastic to fuel, from the definition of solid waste, so they are more lightly regulated, and also includes them in the acceptable uses for grants for the Recycling Fund monies. This failed on Thursday, but will be brought back next week. **Please call your senator and ask them to vote no. You can find their numbers [here](#).**

The "Right to Harm" bills, [HB2372](#) (Dunn) and [SB1224 agricultural operations; nuisance; liability](#) (Kerr), that significantly increase the requirements for bringing a nuisance action against large concentrated animal feeding operations appear to be dead, but another version is being advanced via the striker on SB1448.

[SB1485 \(now: early voting list; eligibility\)](#) (Ugenti Rita) removes voters from the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) if they do not vote an early ballot in two consecutive primary and general elections. It would result in a significant purge of the PEVL, plus eliminates the word "Permanent" from the statute.

If there is any doubt about the goal of this and other voter suppression bills, see Rep. John Kavanagh's comments this week to CNN. He said, "Quantity is important, but we have to look at the quality of votes, as well." Despicable. Voting early was okay until a lot more people started doing it. **Please use the button below to take action.**

Oppose Attacks on Early Voting!

Please sign in on the [Request to Speak](#) (RTS) system to oppose HB2309, HB2569, HB2714, HCR2023, HCM2003, HCM2004, SB1003, SB1010, SB1336, SB1409, SB1448, SB1497, SB1531, and SCR1024.

Please sign in to support SB1345 and SB1384.

If you had an account with [RTS](#) previously, it is still active. If you do not have an account, go ahead and set one up, but we will have to help you activate it as it requires going to the Capitol. Contact me directly about that or reach out to [Civic Engagement Beyond Voting](#).

[You can see bills we are tracking here.](#)

If you don't know who your legislators are, just use this [Find My Legislator link](#) and enter your address to find your district, then go to [Members](#) to see who represents your district. You will find their phone numbers and email addresses there as well.

Thank you so much for taking action!



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up This Week at the Arizona Legislature

Monday, March 15th

Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 PM

- [HB2569 elections; private funding; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Biasiucci, et al) prohibits the state or other public bodies from utilizing any private dollars to help conduct or administer elections. This would severely hamstring the state and counties as they receive private grants and in-kind support to fund election work as the legislature does not adequately fund it. **OPPOSE.**
- [HCR2023 elections; state authority; infringement; opposition](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Biasiucci, et al) says the AZ Legislature opposes the federal government interfering with the legislature's authority over elections and urges Congress to oppose HR1, a bill that would limit voter suppression and provide for automatic voter registration for federal elections, prohibit improper voter list purges, including based on not voting in a recent election, and prohibit requiring additional identification (beyond a signature) when voting by mail. **OPPOSE.**

House Committee on Land, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM

- [SB1384 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) appropriates \$3 million from the state lottery funds to the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund for local parks, trails, and protection of historic and cultural resources. We would love to see the full \$10 million included, however. **SUPPORT.**
- SB1448 Arizona department of agriculture; continuation (Kerr: Gowan, Shope) will have a [S/E: agricultural operations; nuisance; costs; damages](#) that is a slightly different version of the agricultural nuisance bills, HB2372 and SB1224. This version would have a chilling effect on any nuisance actions by small farmers or property owners against these big concentrated animal feeding operations by giving further deference to these facilities and forcing a plaintiff to risk having to pay attorneys' fees. **OPPOSE.**

Tuesday, March 16th**Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM**

- [HB2077 state lake improvement fund; appropriations](#) (Biasiucci: Cobb, Borrelli) appropriates \$3 million for the State Lake Improvement Fund and \$2 million for the State Parks Revenue Fund for operation of State Parks. This seems like it is likely okay. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2778 stream adjudications; cooperative extension; appropriation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) allows the University of Arizona to offer pro bono assistance to small property owners in the general stream adjudication of water rights and appropriates \$500,000 for that purpose. This is no longer limited to those with low incomes and could go to help wealthy individuals who own a small amount of land. What about providing assistance to small Tribes? **MONITOR.**

Wednesday, March 17th**House Committee on Ways and Means at 9:00 AM**

- [SCR1024 initiatives; tax increases; vote requirement](#) (Petersen) refers to the voters a measure to require a two-thirds vote for certain initiatives and referenda that include tax increases. This is a reaction to Prop. 208. **OPPOSE.**

House Committee on Government & Elections at 9:00 AM

- [SB1003 early voting; signature required; notice](#) (Ugenti-Rita) limits curing an early ballot with a missing signature to 7:00 PM on Election Day. Currently, they can take several days to contact voters to let them know they forgot to sign and allow them an opportunity to sign. This is unnecessarily restrictive. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1010 \(now: recounts; requests; procedures; audits\)](#) (Mesnard) increases the minimum number of precincts in a post-election hand counts and allows individuals to file an action and bond in Superior Court for a recount of any election or portion of an election that is not subject to an automatic recount. So, people with money can challenge any election and demand a recount? **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1083 elections; recount margin](#) (Ugenti-Rita) increases the automatic recount margin. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1105 ballot measures; 200-word description](#) (Menard) increases to 200 words the short description that goes on ballot measure petitions. This seems like it is probably okay. **MONITOR.**
- SB1336 vehicle impoundment; exceptions; storage charges (Gowan) will have a [S/E: annexation; unincorporated territory; applicability](#) creates an exemption from requirements that annexations not create new county islands for one development in Apache Junction. Is this really good public policy? Should we be draft special bills for one big developer? **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1409 zoning ordinances; property rights; costs](#) (Petersen) requires cities to consider impacts on the costs of housing before adopting any zoning ordinance or zoning ordinance text amendment. While not as bad as it was, it is still intended to limit protective actions by the cities. **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1492 election law amendments](#) (Shope) makes a significant number of changes to election law, mostly technical in nature, but we should keep an eye on it. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1497 ballot measures; proposition 105; disclosure](#) (Ugenti-Rita) requires the official ballot and the publicity pamphlet to include a Proposition 105 notice. This notice will appear right above both the first statutory measure and also right above the first referendum. The notice states, "NOTICE: PURSUANT TO PROPOSITION 105 (1998), THESE MEASURES CANNOT BE CHANGED IN THE FUTURE IF APPROVED ON THE BALLOT EXCEPT BY A THREE-FOURTHS VOTE OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND IF THE CHANGE FURTHERS THE PURPOSE OF THE ORIGINAL BALLOT MEASURE, OR BY REFERRING THE CHANGE TO THE BALLOT." The Legislature should absolutely not put this on the actual ballot. The ballot is no place for messaging, analysis, etc. That belongs in campaign literature and in some cases may be appropriate for the publicity pamphlet. We do not put any other notices on the actual ballot, including fiscal analysis, why include this? **OPPOSE.**
- [SB1531 petition signatures; description; invalidity](#) (Mesnard: Leach) voids the signature of any initiative or referendum petition signer that signs the petition without either hearing or reading the initiative or referendum description printed on the petition. This is another ridiculous requirement.
What if you actually had read the measure? Why should you have to read or hear the

description? It also says the circulator has to cross out a signature if they think the person did not read or listen to the description. **OPPOSE.**

- [SB1714 campaign expenditures; out-of-state; disclosures](#) (Mesnard) requires a political action committee that makes an expenditure for an advertisement to disclose the aggregate percentage of out-of-state contributors and the disclosure has to be at least 10 percent of the vertical height of the advertisement, sign, billboard or television broadcast. **MONITOR.**
- [SB1793 voter registration databases; death records](#) (Gowan) requires the Secretary of State to establish a nonpublic database for county recorders to use to cancel the names of deceased persons from the voter registration databases. **MONITOR.**

[Senate Committee on Finance at 10:00 AM](#)

- [HB2153 renewable energy storage equipment; valuation](#) (Dunn: Cobb, Cook) exempts retail purchases of electric storage equipment from transaction privilege tax and use tax and requires the property value of renewable energy electric storage equipment to be assessed at 20% of the depreciated cost. **MONITOR.**
- [HB2714 environmental technology; biomass; forestry](#) (Nutt) allows a company to qualify for the Arizona Commerce Authority's Environmental Technology Assistance Program if it locates or makes additional capital investment in a facility that processes biomass and forestry industry products. This is a subsidy for biomass, which is not carbon neutral, pollutes, and does not focus on forest health. **OPPOSE.**

[Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM](#)

- Presentation - Department of Forestry and Fire Management – Update on Invasive Plants Grant Program
- [HCM2001 salt cedars; urging eradication](#) (Griffin) asks the federal government to find innovative ways to deal with salt cedar. They really need to be more specific about these asks. **MONITOR.**
- [HCM2003 Colorado River; urging augmentation](#) (Griffin) indirectly encourages the feds to operate the Yuma Desalination Plant, a plant that is old and inefficient. They have no effective means of dealing with the brine and operation of this would redirect water from the Cienega de Santa Clara. **OPPOSE.**
- [HCM2004 floodwater harvesting; study; urging Congress](#) (Dunn: Barton, Biasiucci, et al.) asks the feds to fund a study to build a dam and pipeline to redirect water from the Mississippi to Arizona. They forgot to mention build power plants to pump it uphill. This is ridiculous. It would be unbelievably expensive to pump water uphill for that distance and build a pipeline. The cost of the Central Arizona Project would pale in comparison. Why not ask the government to invest those dollars in conservation and living within our means? It is much cheaper and makes a lot more sense. **OPPOSE.**

[House Committee on Transportation at 2:00 PM](#)

- [SB1345 neighborhood electric shuttles](#) (Shope) includes requirements, safety standards and operating restrictions for neighborhood electric shuttles. This seems like a good idea. **SUPPORT.**
- [SB1460 ADOT; state motor vehicle fleet](#) (Shope) transfers the State Motor Vehicle Fleet from the Arizona Department of Administration to the Arizona Department of Transportation and includes an outdated reference to the minimum requirements. We would still like to see that addressed. **MONITOR.**

[Thursday, March 18th](#)

[Senate Committee on Judiciary at 9:00 AM](#)

- [HB2309 violent; disorderly assembly; public order](#) (Roberts: Barton, Biasiucci, et al) defines a violent and disorderly assembly as when a gathering of seven or more people, with the intent of engaging in a riot, causes damage to property or injures another person; makes participating in a disorderly assembly a class 6 felony; and targets protesters by increasing the penalties of lower level offenses to a felony if part of a gathering. This is clearly targeting the movement for Black Lives and people of color. **OPPOSE.**

3/13/2021

Sierra Club Mail - Sierra Club 2021 Legislative Update #11



Desert Tortoise



Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter