



Arizona Legislative Updates



Voter Suppression Bills Signed By Governor



May 14, 2021

Graphic courtesy of Progress Arizona

Hi everyone!

While Arizonans love early voting, Governor Ducey and the majority in the Arizona Legislature do not. In the past week, they passed and the Governor signed two bills to discourage or disqualify voting and there may be more to come.

[SB1003 \(early voting; signature required; notice\)](#) passed out of the legislature along party lines and was signed into law by Governor Ducey. It limits the amount of time available for county elections officials to allow someone to address a missing signature on an early ballot. It requires it to be done by 7pm on Election Day, so those ballots dropped off without signatures on Election Day would automatically be disqualified. This will have a disparate impact on Tribal voters, especially in the more remote areas of the state. This bill will become law 90 days after the legislature adjourns unless it is challenged.

[SB1485 \(permanent early voting list; eligibility\)](#) also passed out of the legislature along party lines and was signed by the governor. It removes voters from the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) if they do not vote an early ballot in two consecutive primary and general elections -- even if they actually vote in person during that time. It also removes the word "permanent" from the law. This bill will also become law 90 days after the legislature adjourns unless it is challenged.

As you know, last week Governor Ducey signed [HB2691 \(now: ADEQ; water quality program; WOTUS\)](#) to enact the weak water program advocated for by the Arizona Mining Association. [Read more about how the mining and development interests had their way with the bill.](#)

[HB2309 \(violent; disorderly assembly; public order\)](#) is still in the mix. This bill targets protesters by increasing the penalties of lower level offenses to a felony if they are part of a gathering that the police have deemed a "violent or disorderly assembly." This will chill actions by protesters and have a disproportionate impact on people of color who are already targeted by law enforcement and will infringe on our First Amendment rights.

[Tell your state senator to protect our right to protest and vote NO on HB2309.](#)

These other anti-democracy bills are also still alive, but have not moved in either House of the Legislature for the past two weeks, at least:

- [HB2792 \(early ballots; request required\)](#) prohibits elections officials from providing an early ballot to someone who did not request it and makes it a class 6 felony to do so. This is ridiculous on so many levels, including that we do not currently allow mailing of ballots to people unless they have requested it. **This awaits Third Read in the Senate.**
- [SB1106 \(S/E registration; permanent early voting list\)](#) removes the requirement that a county recorder try to contact a voter at the voter's new residence address if an election notice is returned undeliverable. It makes it a felony to try and assist any other person that resides in another state in voting, including forwarding an early ballot addressed to the other person. **This bill awaits action in House Committee of the Whole.**
- [SB1531 \(petition signatures; description; invalidity\)](#) voids the signature of any initiative or referendum petition signer that signs the petition without either hearing or reading the description printed on the petition. We do not require people to read anything about candidates before signing their petitions or voting on anything, why to sign an initiative petition? It also says the circulator has to cross out a signature if they think the person did not read or listen to the description. The result will be more signatures disqualified. **It awaits action in the House Committee of the Whole.**
- [SB1713 \(S/E early ballots; identification; mailing\)](#) requires additional ID for early voting and creates a new reason to toss out early ballots if there's an error in writing the date of birth, driver's license number, or voter registration

number. There are also issues with access to the appropriate numbers as there are more 66,000 registered voters without a driver's license. **It awaits action in the House Committee of the Whole.**

- [HCR2001 \(initiatives; single subject; title\)](#) refers to the ballot a measure that narrows what can be included in a ballot measure and requires every subject to be in the title. This would make it impossible to place something on the ballot that is comprehensive and would provide another reason to toss out a ballot measure on a technicality. **This awaits action in the Senate Rules Committee.**
- [HCR2016 \(initiatives; supermajority vote requirement\)](#) refers to the ballot a measure to require a 55% approval rather than a simple majority approval for all ballot measures. This is a difficult threshold and will limit opportunities to address important environmental, animal, and social justice issues. **It awaits action in the Senate Rules Committee.**
- [SCR1024 \(initiatives; tax increases; vote requirement\)](#) refers to the ballot a requirement that initiatives and referenda that include taxes have a two-thirds vote from voters. This is an extremely high bar for these ballot measures. **It awaits action in the House Committee of the Whole.**
- [SCR1034 \(voter protection act; court determinations\)](#) refers to the ballot a measure to allow the Legislature to amend, supersede or appropriate or divert funds created by an initiative or referendum measure approved by the voters if the measure is found to contain any illegal or unconstitutional language by the Arizona or US Supreme Court. This would allow the legislature to throw out an entire measure, even if a small part was successfully challenged and would blow a big hole in the Voter Protection Act. **It awaits action in the House Caucuses.**

Updates on other bills:

[HB2248 \(corporation commission; electric generation resources\)](#) is staying on our watch list until the session ends. This bill infringes on the powers of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and seeks to derail clean energy rules that have already been derailed by the ACC itself. **This bill was held in the Senate Rules Committee in early April.**

[HB2623 \(fireworks; use; overnight hours; prohibition\)](#) would ban the use of fireworks between 10 PM and 8 AM. **This bill has not been heard in Senate Appropriations, so is likely dead.**

It is unclear when the legislature will adjourn this godawful session, but it looks like it could be the end of May. We do not expect any great positive actions in the budget, but also hope there will not be any further defunding of environmental programs.

Stop the attack on right to protest!

[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.

If you are not receiving these updates directly, you can sign up for them [here](#).

Thank you for taking action all session!



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up This Week at the Arizona Legislature

The House and Senate will primarily be engaged in Floor actions. You can watch the Floor action in the Arizona House and Senate by using this [link](#).

Thursday, May 20th

End the Filibuster Rallies

- [Flagstaff](#) at 5:30 PM
- [Phoenix](#) at 5:30 PM
- [Tucson](#) at 4:00 PM

Save Oak Flat Letters to the Editor Party at 6:00 PM

[RSVP here](#)



Black-footed Ferret

