

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP

THE COURT STILL WON'T STOP THE STEAL!

A Maricopa County Superior Court judge today dismissed one of two lawsuits stemming from the AZ Republican Party January election, saying the internal affairs of the AZ GOP aren't justiciable and the issue doesn't "implicate any Arizona or federal statute, nor does it involve a core Constitutional concern." "The Court simply does not have authority to order the chairwoman of the Republican Party to order a Special Meeting to consider an audit, investigation, recount or re-vote of internal party procedures not involving public office or a core Constitutional concern," Judge Michael Kemp wrote. AZGOP attorney Jack Wilenchik said he plans to file a motion to dismiss in the other lawsuit, which seeks to have the results of the January election audited, on the same grounds if attorney Tim La Sota, who is representing committeemen Sandra Dowling and Bill Beard, doesn't back down. Kemp wrote that the plaintiffs have a couple of remedies at their disposal outside of court, including gathering another round of signatures to force a special meeting – something they've already attempted once. The members needed 294 signatures – 20 percent of the body – representing at least nine counties to force a special meeting. They got 352 signatures from 11 counties, but party secretary Yvonne Cahill said there weren't enough valid signatures collected ([YS, 3/26](#)). Beard said he still believes activists collected enough signatures and that it's problematic for someone who might be recalled to be the one determining whether signatures are valid. "The judge was essentially agreeing with the argument that the chair and the secretary – if it comes to holding a special meeting where they are being recalled – they get to decide whether or not the signatures are really valid," Beard said. "That kind of defeats the whole purpose." Beard said they have not decided yet whether to appeal. Kemp's order also says outside of court, members can seek a recall of Cahill or Ward, try to revise the bylaws for more transparency in the future or review the ballots and documents related to the January vote.

WHICH ELECTION IS MORE SUSPECT?

As part of an agreement in the other lawsuit, Beard and Dowling last week reviewed paper ballots from the election, and Beard said the review turned up inconsistencies and illustrated that Ward and the Party "have been operating under bad faith." Party insiders – including Beard, Dowling, La Sota, and consultant Constantin Querard, and others – met at Wilenchik's office to review ballots Friday. Beard said he was under the impression up until that meeting that they would be able to look at all ballots, not just the races in which he and Dowling were candidates. Wilenchik said the review followed the existing language in AZGOP's bylaws by allowing activists to review Beard and Dowling's races to but not others, since those were the races flagged within 10 days of the election. They were able to count how many ballots Republicans cast in the member-at-large races. Ultimately, Beard said, the number of ballots cast differed from the state party's official counts in three of the nine member-at-large races, including his own. "The count was three short of the total in the final tally report; I lost my race by three votes," Beard said. "If you have an election where after the fact you're counting things up and the discrepancy is the same or larger than the margin of victory, you have a problem." Querard tweeted that Friday's count was off in several races ([LINK](#)) and that a "nice large stack of filled out ballots" was found in a box of blanks. "A few marked spoiled. Most with no indication. Party believes they are all spoiled. Never seen spoiled ballots kept with blanks before," he tweeted ([LINK](#)).

WHY SUBPOENA IF YOU CAN'T GET 16 VOTES TO ARREST THEM?

The audit's vicious cycle of subpoenas, lawsuits and bickering continues as attorneys for the Senate are calling for more subpoenas against Maricopa County officials demanding answers why they won't hand over additional equipment and information for Cyber Ninjas to review. The Senate's attorney announced Friday plans to subpoena the county supervisors, Sheriff Paul Penzone and likely Scott Jarrett, the county elections director, though no subpoenas have been filed as of our deadline. Penzone called the move "mind-numbingly reckless and irresponsible" and Supervisor Chairman Jack Sellers attempted to separate the county from the audit even further and addressed what he called "misinformation" backers were spreading – all signs pointing to the two sides heading back to court for a new legal battle. The Senate is now seeking passwords for some of the counting equipment that county officials say only Dominion has. Senators also want the county's routers, which Penzone was adamantly against saying turning that over would "jeopardize the entire mission of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office." "We are talking about confidential, sensitive and highly-classified law enforcement data and equipment that will be permanently compromised," Penzone said in a prepared statement ([LINK](#)). Sellers said turning the routers over would "cripple county operations and cost as much as \$6 million if we must replace the routers while the Cyber Ninjas have them." "What makes me angry are the allegations of corruption being thrown around – sometimes by elected officials who should know better – denigrating the good names of public servants who devoted the last two years of their lives to running quality elections in 2020," Sellers wrote.

THREE WORDS: DREAM CITY CHURCH

Meanwhile, despite moving at a glacial pace so far, the denizens of the Madhouse on McDowell must pack up the ballots and election materials for high school graduations to commence next week. Senate liaison Ken Bennett told reporters today the latest estimate is around 275,000 ballots counted after 14 days of work. That leaves 1.825 million ballots to count and auditors still have not added workers to the 20 additional tables. It's unclear if the audit will legitimately continue past May 14 and if it does for how long. Back-of-the-napkin math shows they are on pace to finish in 93 days – much longer than originally anticipated. With ever-changing policies on the floor and an additional week off it's not out of the question that it could continue into July or later (unless it abruptly ends before they reach the roughly 2.1 million ballots.) One Republican source who is anti-audit told our reporter if the audit doesn't finish, then grassroots organizers will "have their heads." Regardless, the source said the audit is "headed off the cliff." "It's gone on too long and the national media is now looking at it. The longer it goes the more embarrassing for Republicans," the source said, adding that the inevitable "messy conclusions" will only invite more ridicule on the state. Boyer has already spoken out about his regret for supporting the audit – though it should be noted, he held his ground against his caucus when it came to trying to hold the five supervisors in contempt ([YS, 2/8](#)). He told *New York Times*, that the audit is making the senate Republicans "look like idiots." "Looking back, I didn't think it would be this ridiculous," he said ([LINK](#)). "It's embarrassing to be a state senator at this point." Meanwhile Shope took a different approach, saying he wants no ownership of the audit, but also isn't inclined to try to stop it. In Shope's eyes, Petersen is responsible for the audit in the same way that he was responsible for the investigation into former Rep David Stringer as House Ethics Committee chair two years ago. And while he acknowledged that most people probably wouldn't draw a distinction between the Senate and its Judiciary chair, he doesn't think most Arizonans are paying much attention to the audit. "I think outside of our bubble, people aren't as interested or have moved on overall," he said. "Within our bubble, we like to talk about it." Still, he said he doesn't believe the audit will do anything to change the minds of people who believe the election was full of fraud or those who trust the election process – which was ostensibly the whole point. Ugenti-Rita offered some procedural qualms on the *Daily Signal* podcast last week, saying she is concerned about private companies getting too involved in the Senate's audit. ([LINK](#)) "My one concern is that the Senate president continues to maintain complete control with the vendors and is in constant communication, telling them

what is expected and making sure that we don't farm out too much to people that we don't know or we're not familiar with," she said.

TOLD YA

Arizona Corporation Commissioner Jim O'Connor lied when he said through a spokesman that he didn't ask utility CEOs to not have their employees receive Covid vaccines last month. *Arizona Republic's* Ryan Randazzo received public records and spoke to O'Connor to officially confirm what we previously reported by citing several senior officials at the Commission ([YS, 4/14](#)). Our railbirds hit the nail on the head when they claimed O'Connor was sending around a vaccine conspiracy video. (We knew he wasn't being honest, and even gave him a chance to walk back his initial denial, but he didn't take that opportunity.) That video, it turns out, was from an Idaho doctor named Ryan Cole who has spread many conspiracy theories about Covid. O'Connor sent the video, which has since been removed from YouTube, to "all senior management of ACC regulated utilities," Randazzo found ([LINK](#)). O'Connor explained that he really felt like the vaccine killed people or turned them into "human vegetables." "There are something like 40,000 plus recorded cases of people that are now potted plants. They are human vegetables. They've lost their ability to function," he told the *Republic*, without any evidence. O'Connor also criticized Trump for getting the vaccine and encouraging others to do so. "The good man President Trump had been ill-advised on this subject matter," O'Connor said. "That happens very frequently in politics. Good people can be wrong."

EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE

After former lawmaker Jill Norgaard said reporters should dig into the fire at Hickman's Farms rather than the Senate's audit, Clint Hickman called our reporter to dispel the nonsensical conspiracy that he set fire to his own farm, killing 165,000 chickens, to burn some ballots. Hickman was flabbergasted that the former lawmaker would buy into such a conspiracy, noting it doesn't even make logical sense (there are easier ways to destroy ballots). "I'm very let down with this former legislator. I'm questioning her judgment of why she would direct media to talk about the tragedy that happened on our farm," he said, adding that kind of poor judgment "could be why she's no longer a state legislator." "I don't know when it becomes a bridge too far for people but I haven't found it yet," he said. "I honestly thought that one would start making people question the validity of a lot of things. But in actuality it has not." He said people he does business with have brought up the conspiracy, which originally took hold on *Gateway Pundit*, and wondered if there's some truth to it. Hickman went out of his way to praise Bowers for steering the House away from the kind of conspiracy-mining operation that the Senate has created with its audit, saying Bowers did it at "great political peril to himself" after taking the time to investigate county procedures himself. As for Fann, Hickman didn't have anything nice to say, so chose to say nothing at all. He said politics didn't used to be like this, and it doesn't have to be tribal warfare. While it's easy to blame Trump (and he does deserve some of the blame – though Hickman noted that he campaigned for Trump), Hickman said there's many factors that have contributed to the "religious fervor" that's engulfing Arizona and US politics. But has that religious fever and the attacks and conspiracies aimed at him caused Hickman to rethink his life as a public servant? He didn't want to say, adding his answer might give people who are coming after him a sense of victory. "I've got a couple years, I just won an election to a four-year term," he said. "I'm too much in the heat of the moment to say right now." Still, he noted that those who attempted a recall against him and the other Republican supervisors who certified the election results have all failed, with organizers declining to turn in a single signature, suggesting our reporter should investigate where all the money they raised for that effort really went.

165,000 CHICKENS DEAD ISN'T A JOKE

Hickman said he didn't return our initial call on the topic because he was in the middle of an insurance investigation and the tragedy was still too fresh – but now that the insurance issue is cleared up, he said he was happy to explain what actually went down. “People have sent messages to our company about how we lined our cages with Trump ballots, and if anyone knew anything about our operation, this is not Sylvester the Cat and Tweety Bird – we don't line our cages with newspaper like you see on cartoons,” he said. The accident happened after a skid-steer loader (a machine that scoops chicken poop out of the coops for their fertilizer business) started smoking and a young employee ignored his training and tried to diagnose the problem himself, Hickman said. The employee pulled the machine into one of the barns to get some shade, and parked it right against the wall. When he opened the cover of the engine, it started flaming, and the jets that blow air to keep the chickens cool sucked the flames into the plywood walls, he said. The employee tried to put out the fire himself, and was later admitted to the hospital for smoke inhalation, Hickman said. “We could have lost our entire farm. That's what's painful to me about Jill Norgaard trying to bring this up again and say look, look at the shiny toy over there. You should be looking at this, not the audit,” he said.

WE FOUND OBAMA'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE!

While compiling Ken Bennett's collection at the Library, Archives and Public Records, staffers there found the original copy of former President Obama's birth document that Hawaii sent to Ken Bennett after he threatened to refuse to let Obama on the 2012 ballot without it. In case you missed it, a former Seventh Floor staffer told our reporter that staff there went on a wild goose chase for the document after a birther requested the original, and they concluded that Bennett must have taken it home ([YS, 5/5](#)). We asked Bennett, who confirmed he took the document home. But that's not the original, color copy, state archivist Dennis Preisler told our reporter. “He took a copy of a copy,” he chuckled. Still, Preisler noted that while Bennett did the right thing by putting the original into the state archives, it puts the office in a weird position of having a living person's birth certificate. “I started to reach out to other state archivists to see their thoughts on the topic because it's an interesting set of circumstances about how we got this birth certificate and how much access we give to it,” he said. “If we were going through a collection and we found your birth certificate in there, I wouldn't allow the public to see your birth certificate.” It's different because Obama released his birth certificate to the world following the relentless birther conspiracy, he said, but it's still a sensitive document and he's considering making it available to view, but not for copies. By that same token, he said Bennett shouldn't have taken the document home, he said. “I don't think it crosses over into a legality issue, but for me as a professional, I play by ethical rules,” he said, noting he wouldn't recommend taking home even a copy of a copy of someone's birth certificate.

NOW THEY HUSTLE

Today is the 120th day of the legislative session, the final day that lawmakers will receive their full per diem rate, and the House is finally getting down to budget business. The House today adjourned until 10 am Thursday, and Toma said representatives plan to spend the next two days holding small group meetings and hopefully make some progress on a budget deal. Through the 120th day, Maricopa County lawmakers receive \$35 per day and out-of-county legislators get \$60 in daily allowances, on top of their \$24,000 salaries and mileage reimbursements. Starting tomorrow, rates drop to \$20 for distant legislators and \$10 for those who live in Maricopa County. Usually, the decrease in compensation serves as a motivator for lawmakers to hurry up and end the session, but it remains anyone's guess when the Legislature will end its work this year. “I keep hearing two weeks, but I've been hearing two weeks for a long time,” Shope told our reporter today. Also uncertain is what will come of Gowan's now-annual push to increase per diem rates, at least for rural lawmakers like himself. Gowan struck his latest attempt on to H2053 (salary; superior court clerk) and tried to use it as leverage on the sports betting bill Ducey wanted passed, but gave up after a Republican caucus revolt. Gowan's bill would get rid of the 120-day cutoff and increase payment

for rural lawmakers to roughly \$180 and in-county lawmakers to \$56 – or whatever the federal *per diem* rate, including lodging for rural legislators, becomes in future years.

WAKE UP CALL

Lawmaker: Retaliation behind Dem votes on vaping bill

Arizona Capitol Times

A vaping bill backed by the tobacco industry is moving forward in the Arizona Legislature after years of stalemates, and the Republican who led the fight against it blames political retaliation.

Former staffer: Bennett's role in audit uncharacteristic

Arizona Capitol Times

During his tenure as Arizona secretary of state, Bennett made it through relatively unscathed and without scandals or controversies – save for one that drew national attention.

New battle over equipment used in 2020 general election in Maricopa County heats up

Capitol Media Services

Senate Republican leaders are setting the stage for a new legal fight with Maricopa County.

Road Runner: Federal funding could restore Amtrak service between Tucson and Phoenix

Arizona Daily Star

A rail connection between Arizona's two largest cities hasn't been seen since a deadly derailment in 1995 and a lack of funding to upgrade the tracks.

Mesa discrimination ban prevails

East Valley Tribune

After the sudden withdrawal of a challenge, Mesa's Non-Discrimination Ordinance will go into effect at the end of June.

Data centers becoming dominant force in Mesa

East Valley Tribune

It may never rival Silicon Valley, but Mesa is fast becoming Data Center Alley.

Speakers at service say fallen Chandler officer was caring, giving

Pinal Central

A Chandler police officer killed when he was run over by a fleeing suspect was described Saturday as a caring man who served his community and his profession while showing compassion to those in need, including fellow officers coping with stress.

More than 3 million people in AZ now vaccinated against COVID-19

Mohave Valley Daily News

More than 3 million people in Arizona have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, well more than half of the population age 16 and older.

No Charges Yet for Scottsdale Fire Captain Accused of Terrorizing Teens With Gun

Phoenix New Times

A Scottsdale Fire Department captain and his wife were arrested early Sunday for allegedly terrorizing teenagers at gunpoint in their Mesa suburb.

Arizona Ballot Audit Plan Could Intimidate Minority Voters, Feds Say

Phoenix New Times

Part of the plan for the Arizona Senate's ballot audit of the November 2020 election looks like potentially illegal voter intimidation, a federal election official told Senator Karen Fann in a letter this week.

Fann tells DOJ she scrapped audit plans to knock on voters' doors

Arizona Mirror

Senate President Karen Fann has halted plans for a controversial provision of her election audit that called for auditors to knock on voters' doors to confirm voter registration information, she informed the U.S. Department of Justice.

Sinema urges Biden to take 'bold' action at border: 'This is a crisis'

The Hill

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) urged the Biden administration this week to take "bold" action to mitigate a migration surge at the border, saying that the nation is experiencing "a crisis."

Republican says 'embarrassing' Arizona recount 'makes us look like idiots'

The Hill

A GOP state senator blasted the 2020 election vote audit in an Arizona county, saying "it makes us look like idiots."

McSally's former deputy campaign manager pleads guilty to stealing campaign funds

Politico

A deputy campaign manager to former Sen. Martha McSally pleaded guilty Friday to stealing more than six figures from her campaign, the Justice Department announced.

In Arizona, a Troubled Voting Review Plods On as Questions Mount

New York Times

A makeshift review of the vote in the state's largest county has pleased followers of former President Donald J. Trump but is being widely criticized as a partisan exercise.

·PRESS RELEASES·

New Report Shows Arizona's Incarcerated Voters are Being Disenfranchised at Alarming Rates

The Arizona Coalition to End Jail Based Disenfranchisement collected data showing that, out of 5,912 eligible incarcerated voters, only 177 were able to cast ballots in the 2020 general election.

Today, the Arizona Coalition to End Jail Based Disenfranchisement is releasing "[Unlock the Vote Arizona, Part 3 – Jail-Based Voting in Arizona's November 2020 General Election](#)," a brand-new report examining how incarcerated voters in Arizona participated in, and were excluded from, the 2020 general election.

In Arizona, the vast majority of persons in jail are eligible to vote because they are not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction. But our report, which examines how Arizona's jailed eligible voters engaged in the 2020 general election — as well as the challenges they faced — reveals that incarcerated eligible voters in Arizona are being severely disenfranchised and systematically excluded from our democracy.

The report shows:

- Maricopa County had the highest number of eligible jailed voters with a total of 3,270. However, only 102 ballots were cast in the 2020 general election. The participation rate among jailed voters in this county is a low 3.1%, compared to Maricopa's overall registered voter turnout rate of 79.9%.
- In Cochise, Greenlee, La Paz, and Santa Cruz counties, zero incarcerated voters cast a ballot in the 2020 general election.
- Navajo County had the highest rate of voter participation, with 10% of incarcerated voters in the county participating in the 2020 general election.
- Arizona counties failed miserably to provide incarcerated voters with sufficient access to voter registration information, voter education, and ballots, and routinely ignored best practices to allow incarcerated voters to exercise their right to vote.

Teresa Mabry, Director of Program and Strategy at Arizona Advocacy Foundation, stated, “This voter suppression is inexcusable. We worked hard to provide the necessary resources for jailed voters, but jail officials and others blocked the democratic process from happening. We demand that these offices, especially the Sheriffs, show integrity and enact free, fair, and safe jail-based voting procedures.”

We are in contact with a person currently jailed in Yuma County who is open to discussing their story and struggles in obtaining a ballot, and who can provide more insight into the fight to allow incarcerated individuals to vote. If you are interested in interviewing this individual, or the authors of the report, please contact oscar@azadvocacy.org. You can find the [full report here](#). It is also attached to this email.

About the Arizona Coalition to End Jail Based Disenfranchisement: The Coalition came together informally to bring an incarcerated voter his ballot in 2018, and it has grown in the last three years to advocate for systemic and meaningful jail-based voting policy reform across the state. The Coalition is composed of directly impacted individuals, public defenders, criminal (in)justice reform organizations, abolitionist organizations, voting rights advocates, and community organizers.

Bipartisan Repeal of In-State Tuition Ban for Dreamers To Go Before Voters in 2022

Two Republicans in the Arizona House of Representatives led bipartisan effort to give voters choice to allow Dreamers to pay in-state college tuition

PHOENIX, ARIZONA — In a bipartisan effort led by Republican Reps. Michelle Udall and Joel John, the Arizona House of Representatives voted today xx to xx to put forward a ballot initiative that would provide standard, in-state college tuition to *all* students who attend and graduate from an Arizona high school, regardless of immigration status. The ballot initiative would repeal a 15-year-old ban on in-state tuition for undocumented high school graduates, including about 2,000 Dreamers per year. Since 2006, students without documents have been forced to pay out-of-state tuition rates, effectively depriving them of a college education and limiting their contribution to Arizona’s economy.

Senators and House members will join education, business, faith, and civic leaders in a press conference to discuss passage of the bill on Monday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden at the Arizona State Capitol complex, 1700 W Washington St.

Below are initial reactions to the bill’s passing:

Bob Worsley, co-chair of the Intermountain chapter of the American Business Immigration Coalition, said:

“We are grateful that representatives from both parties, including Reps. Michelle Udall, Joel John, David Cook and every Democrat who supported this came together to do what’s right for students and businesses across the state. The passage of this bill is economically important, morally right and politically smart.”

Reyna Montoya, founder & CEO of Aliento and DACA recipient, said: “This is a historic day in Arizona. I’m in tears of joy and have a deep sense of gratitude for all the house of representatives who voted yes today. Thank you for believing in our dreamers, improving our state’s education and economy. Today is a bright day and I am so hopeful that after almost 15 years I can finally tell my students that with the support of voters they can pay in-state tuition in the near future.”

Dallin Adams, ABIC’s Intermountain Coalition Director, said: “I am incredibly grateful for all of the representatives who supported our efforts, as well as the countless business, faith, and education leaders that worked tirelessly on behalf of our Arizona Dreamers. The impact of increased educational attainment on future economic growth can not be understated. Arizona’s voters deserve to have their voices heard, and I am confident they will stand in support of our students, businesses, and state.”

Deya Garcia, Mesa Community College student and DACA recipient, said: “In 2017, when in-state tuition for DACA students was going through the courts I was devastated. I wondered, ‘why would anyone want to make education less attainable?’ Since then, I have gone from being a full-time student to a part-time student which has prolonged my college journey. This year would have been my graduation year. SCR 1044 will allow me to become a full-time student and be on track to fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor.”

Denny Barney, former Maricopa County Supervisor, and current CEO of East Valley Partnership, said: “The children of ‘Dreamer’ kids are U.S. citizens, and they will be in our community. What path will we put these families on? The college-educated tend to assimilate and contribute. They develop a culture of self reliance. Their children will follow. Enabling these students to attend college is wise social policy.”

National Park Service Panned for Plan to Allow Trophy Hunting of Bison in Grand Canyon

45,000 hunters apply for opportunity to shoot tame bison in national park

(Washington, D.C.) – Animal Wellness Action and partner organizations called on Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to halt plans for the National Park Service (NPS) to open up a hunting season in the coming months for bison in the northern part of Grand Canyon National Park. The NPS this week conducted a lottery to select hunters to win the opportunity to shoot the bison in the fall and leave with the carcasses and trophies of the animals. There were 45,000 applicants, demonstrating that would-be participants believe this is a rare opportunity to shoot a bison in a national park and collect a trophy.

In a letter to Haaland sent late last week, Animal Wellness Action president Wayne Pacelle asked Secretary Haaland to “terminate a thinly disguised public trophy hunting program within Grand Canyon National Park.”

“The National Park Service may euphemistically call this action ‘a cull,’ but the agency has conducted a lottery to select participants, will allow the lottery winners to enter the park with firearms, and authorize them to gun down bison and leave with the carcass and trophy,” **added Pacelle.** “This has every imaginable feature of a bison hunt, and that’s entirely at odds with the history of Grand Canyon National Park and all other national parks in the U.S.”

The United States, except just one park with an expressed Congressional authorization for hunting of a single species, has long forbidden trophy hunting of animals in national parks. The same is true for national monuments. Not even in Yellowstone National Park, where the treatment of bison by multiple state and federal agencies has come under intense scrutiny, is the NPS allowing hunters to kill bison within the boundaries of the park.

There is no hunting of elk, deer, and other native wild animals in the Grand Canyon. There are already vast areas of northern Arizona managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the state of Arizona that allow sport hunting. Even when the NPS in the 1970s and 1980s viewed populations of burros at Grand Canyon as a management problem and as non-native animals, it eventually allowed animal protection groups to conduct a large-scale capture and translocation program.

“If the Park Service opens up Grand Canyon to hunting, it will set a precedent that the NRA and other trophy hunting will secure to exploit in other parks and monuments,” **added Pacelle.** “This plan is entirely at odds with the value system of the National Park Service.”

Reducing the small population of 400 – 600 bison can be achieved humanely, including with fertility control, if the agency feels the need to allow more human control of wildlife population dynamics in the park. The NPS has long used Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP), an immunocontraceptive vaccine, for the management of free-roaming equids and deer. In fact, that strategy has proven effective for an island population of bison at Catalina Island National Park.

“Shooting bison accustomed to staying put as hundreds of thousands of people stare at them is not a hunt, but an execution,” **warned Pacelle.** “It’s about as sporting as shooting a parked car. Yet there are 45,000 trophy hunters who are seeking an opportunity to do this very thing in a crown jewel of America’s national parks.”

Bison species have, since the Pleistocene, ranged from Yukon and Alaska to the Valley of Mexico. The bison occupies an outsized place within the annals of the National Park Service as well, and it is prominently featured on the logo of the agency.

Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that’s why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don’t. We believe helping animals helps us all.

The Animal Wellness Foundation (Foundation) is a Los Angeles-based private charitable organization with a mission of helping animals by making veterinary care available to everyone with a pet, regardless of economic ability. We organize rescue efforts and medical services for dogs and cats in need and help homeless pets find a loving caregiver. We are advocates for getting veterinarians to the front lines of the animal welfare movement; promoting responsible pet ownership; and vaccinating animals against infectious diseases such as distemper. We also support policies that prevent animal cruelty and that alleviate suffering. We believe helping animals helps us all.

The Center for a Humane Economy (“the Center”) is a non-profit organization that focuses on influencing the conduct of corporations to forge a humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both.

Mesa Loves Everyone Statement on Expected Referendum Failure

(Mesa, ARIZ. May 7, 2021 2021) – Today, the Mesa Loves Everyone committee filed an uncontested complaint citing the lack of valid signatures gathered by the United for Mesa committee in an attempt to overturn the LGBTQ inclusive non-discrimination ordinance in Mesa by referring it to the ballot. After review of the evidence and documentation, the United for Mesa committee has conceded they do not have the required number of signatures necessary, effectively ending the referendum effort. Once a judgement is made, the non-discrimination ordinance will be allowed to go into effect, protecting all who live, work and visit Mesa from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

The non-discrimination ordinance passed overwhelmingly with a 5-2 vote on March 1st, 2021 with support from Mesa Mayor John Giles. The ordinance is the result of years of dialogue with diverse stakeholders including businesses, faith leaders, community organizations and families.

“Today is a victory for the overwhelming majority of Mesa residents who support equality for all in our city,” said Mayor Giles. “This ordinance will give all residents and visitors a sense of belonging and will help us to attract opportunities to create a sustainable future and economy,” Mayor Giles concluded.

“We are profoundly moved and proud of the people of Mesa and the visionary leadership by Mayor Giles and Council,” said Angela Hughey, co-founder and President of ONE Community and a Mesa Loves Everyone committee member. “The passage of the ordinance was the result of years of dialogue and support from businesses, first responders, families, community organizations, faith leaders and more.”

“As a Mesa native, I am so proud to see equality and the truth triumph over the fears and lies spread by those opposed to equal treatment. This ordinance is a major victory for fairness, equality and opportunity for all, including LGBTQ people. Equal rights are universal values, central to the beliefs of Arizonans, faith communities, and good business practices,” said Michael Soto, Executive Director of Equality Arizona and Mesa Loves Everyone committee member.

Arizona State Legislature Democratic Caucus & City of Tempe Urge Sens. Sinema & Kelly to Co-Sponsor the PRO Act

May 10 – Amidst growing support for the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act members of the Arizona State Legislature’s Democratic Caucus and the City of Tempe Mayor Woods have signed on to letters supporting the passage of the PRO Act and urging Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly to co-sponsor the legislation.

“Outdated labor laws have been exploited by employers to coerce, intimidate and punish workers for exercising our democratic rights, to break the law with impunity, to avoid accountability, and to erode the democratic rights of workers.... The Arizona Democratic Caucus pledges to advocate for and support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to expand collective bargaining rights and balance the power between corporations and working people.”

-Excerpt of letter from the Arizona State Legislature Democratic Caucus, led by Arizona Senate Minority Leader Rebecca Rios and Arizona House Minority Leader Reginald Bolding, [linked here](#)

“According to the Economic Policy Institute, on average a worker covered by a union contract earns 11.2% more in wages than a peer with similar education, occupation, and experience in a nonunionized workplace in the same sector. This boost in wages is even higher for workers of color – unionized Black workers earn 13.7% more than their nonunionized peers and unionized Latinx workers earn 20.1% more than their nonunionized peers. The PRO Act would take a major step forward in addressing this inequality and closing that wage gap, which many economists believe is the key to economic growth.”

-Excerpt of letter from City of Tempe Mayor Corey D. Woods, [Sen. Sinema Letter linked here](#) & [Sen. Kelly letter linked here](#)

The PRO Act is the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the Great Depression and Arizona’s working families are grateful to have our leaders support and push for our right to organize.

Governor Ducey Appoints Malcolm Hightower To Director Of Residential Utility Consumer Office

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey announced the appointment of Malcolm Hightower to Director of the Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO), effective today, May 10.

Hightower replaces Laurie A. Woodall, who served as Interim Director since mid-December.

“Malcom’s years of leadership and commitment to serving communities in need make him a great fit to lead RUCO,” said Governor Ducey. “He will serve Arizona’s utility consumers well, and I look forward to working with him to ensure their needs are met. My thanks goes to Malcolm for stepping up to this role, and to Laurie for her dedicated leadership these last few months.”

Malcolm Hightower has spent 27 years working to improve the health, safety and well-being of children, families and communities. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF) where he was responsible for child well-being, juvenile justice, substance and physical abuse prevention, faith-based initiatives, and volunteerism.

He also facilitated and led implementation of the Arizona Management System (AMS) within GOYFF, where he helped develop and monitor outcome planning systems and key performance indicators to ensure safety and health of Arizonans.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to continue serving Arizonans and look forward to leading the team at RUCO,” said Hightower. “Thank you to Governor Ducey for appointing me to this new role — our team will take innovative measures to meet the needs of Arizona’s utility consumers.”

Prior to his work with GOYFF, Hightower worked in the Strategic Consulting arm of Casey Family Programs, a national operating foundation, to support safety and child and family well-being in local, state, tribal and national communities. Before that, Hightower spent six years as a social worker and case manager where he specialized in communities with primarily Native American and Black citizens.

Hightower received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Master of Science in Public Administration both from Seattle University in Washington. He also has training from the Arizona Management System at the Arizona Government Transformation Office, and from the Casey Family Programs in Project Management Principles for Human Service Organizations.

RUCO was established by the Arizona Legislature to represent the residential utility ratepayers in rate-related proceedings involving public service corporations. RUCO intervenes and participates in rate cases involving Arizona’s largest utilities, with smaller companies decided on a case-by-case basis.

State sites have administered more than 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine

Vaccine is widely available and easier than ever to get, often by just walking in

PHOENIX — The seven state mass-vaccination sites in the Phoenix metropolitan area, Tucson, Yuma, and Flagstaff reached another milestone today, having now administered more than 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine while helping to protect Arizonans rapidly and efficiently.

With vaccine increasingly available at pharmacies, pop-up clinics, doctors’ offices, and other neighborhood locations around Arizona, state sites won’t stay open indefinitely. So take advantage of them now while they are still open.

“Today, there is virtually no barrier to getting these safe, highly effective and free vaccines at a location convenient to you,” said Dr. Cara Christ, director of the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). “State sites have been a big part of the reason why Arizona has been able to vaccinate so many people since December. If you are waiting to get vaccinated at a state site, please don’t put it off.”

As of this morning, 5,363,835 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to 3,063,203 individuals, including 2,513,523 who are fully vaccinated. Over a quarter of those doses, 1,518,734, have been administered at state sites to 833,840 individuals, of whom 730,591 are fully vaccinated.

Sadly, COVID-19 continues to infect and cause death in Arizonans, though case numbers, percent positivity, intensive care unit use, and in-patient hospital bed use have been relatively stable since March. Today, ADHS added 642 cases and no deaths to its COVID-19 data dashboard.

Rigorous trials, federal reviews, and real-world data have shown all approved COVID-19 vaccines to be safe and highly effective at preventing serious cases and deaths.

Many sites across Arizona now offer COVID-19 vaccines, including grocery store pharmacies and standalone pharmacies. Doctors’ offices and other neighborhood healthcare providers can order vaccine directly from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This week, the federal government is expected to approve use of the Pfizer vaccine for those 12 and older, expanding from 16 and older. State-run sites offer the Pfizer vaccine, as do some pharmacies and doctors’ offices. ADHS offers a map of vaccination sites at azdhs.gov/FindVaccine that can be filtered by the type of vaccine offered at each.

Appointments for state sites and many others are available at podvaccine.azdhs.gov. Those without computer access or needing extra help registering can call 1-844-542-8201 to be connected with someone who can assist in English or

Spanish. Appointments aren't required at state sites but can reduce the duration of your visit because registration is completed in advance.
To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination, please visit azdhs.gov/COVID19Vaccines.

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“This is not Sylvester the Cat and Tweety Bird – we don't line our cages with newspaper like you see on cartoons.”

- Clint Hickman, on the bizarre conspiracy, repeated by a former lawmaker, that his chicken coops were lined with pro-Trump ballots when they caught fire