

# YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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Thursday, April 16, 2020

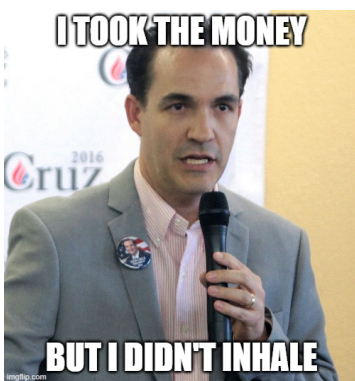
## ·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

### YOU GOTTA SPEND MONEY TO MAKE MONEY

Yesterday was the Q1 campaign finance deadline for PACs and candidates, and the effort to legalize adult-use marijuana has pulled in a whopping \$2.7 million to date, but is still burning money faster than a skinny joint. Smart and Safe Arizona took in roughly \$1.1 million this quarter, though it has only \$80,000 left after spending heavily on consultants. The weed campaign is leaning heavily on the dispensaries for contributions, with most of its money coming from the two biggest chains – Harvest and CuraLeaf. Harvest kicked in \$245,000 in cash or in-kind contributions, and CuraLeaf contributed another \$200,000. Cresco Labs, another dispensary, gave the PAC \$300,000 as well. Harvest has now outspent all other contributors, and has pumped more than \$1 million into the legalization campaign. (Of course, dispensaries stand to see a massive financial benefit if legalization passes, as they will have first-dibs on recreational licenses.) And although Smart and Safe has burned through most of its income, it still has more cash on hand than the opposition group that formed last month. Arizonans for Health and Public Safety, which previously refused to tell our reporter who its backers are ([YS, 3/17](#)), has only brought in \$50,025. It has two backers – one from an individual contributor who gave \$25 and the rest from the Center for Arizona Policy, which contributed \$50,000. Smart and Safe spent \$100,000 on signature gathering in March – more than its opposition PAC was able to raise overall.



### CQ WORKS FOR WEED, AGAINST WEED



Smart and Safe Arizona has a large network of consultants and lobbyists helping push to legalize recreational marijuana, but none are more surprising than Republican consultant Constantin Querard. The Smart and Safe committee paid Querard's company, Grassroots Partners, \$5,000 for "government relations" in March. Querard told our reporter he was hired to help make sure a competing effort to legalize marijuana through the Legislature didn't see the light of day, but the session adjourned and the effort never got a sponsor. He said he was not lobbying though, which would have been illegal because he hasn't filed paperwork with the Secretary of State's Office to lobby on weed's behalf. "There was no bill, so I ended up not having to do any work with members," he said. "If I ever had to do any lobbying, they would add me to their filings." Querard has

worked as a lobbyist to gain support from his Republican campaign clients for a host of issues. The contract comes as a surprise considering Querard, a staunch conservative, said in 2016 (when the last effort to legalize marijuana failed) that he would never help to legalize it. "To whoever keeps spreading the rumor that I'm working 4 legalizing marijuana (cue Liam Neeson voice) 'I will find you' – Not now, not ever!" Querard tweeted ([LINK](#)).

## **ALL SORTS OF MONEY, NOT ENOUGH SIGNATURES**

Three other initiatives raised more than \$1 million in Q1. Arizonans for Second Chances, Rehabilitation, and Public Safety, the criminal justice initiative, brought in \$1.2 million, though it burned through more than half of that. That PAC has a remaining balance of \$565,000, but still is battling a court case on whether it can collect signatures online, so all that fundraising may be for naught. The Second Chances' initiative, which aims to increase public safety and reduce recidivism, received all of its cash contributions from the same group – a San Francisco organization called Tides. Tides is a liberal dark money group. The group also has ties to Democratic political billionaire George Soros ([LINK](#)). Arizonans for Fair Elections, which aims to overhaul the state's election laws, making it easier to vote and limit spending from corporations, among other provisions, brought in nearly \$2 million, almost all of it coming from the Arizona Advocacy Network. The PAC spent nearly all of that money, however, leaving it with just more than \$50,000 at the end of March. Arizonans Fed Up with Failing Healthcare already had half-a-million dollars to start, and brought in another \$1.2 million this quarter. But it spent nearly every penny it had. All of its money came from a California group Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers West. SEIU's former president Andy Stern has strong ties to Soros as well. Both the healthcare and election initiatives are caught up in a federal legal battle over collecting signatures online. Oral arguments were held on Tuesday and the judge said a decision could happen by the week's end ([LINK](#)). Outlaw Dirty Money raised roughly \$500,000 in Q1, but recently pulled the plug on its campaign. Invest in Education raised \$230,000 this quarter, and has \$170,000 remaining as of the end of March. The Save Our Schools Act has raised a mere \$1,500.



## **ALL THE ASTRONOMICAL JOKES HAVE BEEN MADE ALREADY**



Mark Kelly continues to outraise McSally, collecting nearly \$11 million in the first quarter of 2020 to end March with close to \$20 million on hand. McSally, meanwhile, gathered just over \$6 million (her best haul of the cycle) and ended the quarter with \$10.2 million in available cash. And the demand for longshot GOP challenger Daniel McCarthy just isn't there – the candidate reported \$8,700 in Q1 income, ending the quarter with \$11,800 in available cash and outstanding debts of more than \$200,000. Kelly was already the most prolific fundraiser of any Senate candidate this cycle ([YS](#), [10/17/19](#)). McSally has raised the second most of any

Senate candidate, followed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's Democratic challenger Amy McGrath. And the tens of millions of dollars controlled by the Kelly and McSally campaigns don't come close to representing total spending in the hotly contested race, where outside groups report spending \$66 million supporting Kelly, \$23 million attacking McSally and \$3 million to support McSally.

## **CD6 IS REALLY THE RACE TO WATCH**

Hiral Tiperneni financially crushed the other Democrats running in the four-way Democratic primary to take on Schweikert, and doubled the haul that Schweikert pulled in for the quarter, ending March with a war chest five times larger than his. Tiperneni pulled in \$507,000 this quarter and ended it with \$1.2 million in the bank, while the congressman, who faces a dragging ethics investigation, pulled in just \$221,000 (the vast majority of which went directly to his lawyers in the ethics case) and has a mere \$226,000 on hand. (That's not including the \$98,000 in debt his campaign is carrying.) Democrat Anita Malik raised a meager \$34,000 this quarter and has less than that on hand, while Carl Gentles, raised \$41,000 and has \$81,000 on hand. Democrat Stephanie Rimmer didn't file a Q1 report. The campaign told our reporter that their campaign manager, Jim Malichi, passed away last week, and that the campaign alerted the Federal Elections Commission that they'll be filing their Q1 report tomorrow. The campaign had not sent us its fundraising numbers by deadline.



## **NORMAN WHO?**

The four-way GOP primary to take on Kirkpatrick has a new frontrunner: Tucson businessman Norman Ruden raised more than Kirkpatrick this quarter, though almost half of his haul came from his own pocket. Ruden pulled in \$235,000 this quarter, after entering the race in January, though he kicked in \$108,000 himself. Kirkpatrick's Q1 haul was just shy of \$200,000. Still, the congresswoman has a respectable war chest – she ended March with \$690,000 cash on hand. Former University of Arizona lobbyist Shay Stautz, who is also seeking the GOP nomination, raised \$100,000 this quarter, though he also self-funded almost half of that. Ruden and Stautz ended the quarter with 155,000 and \$114,000 on hand, respectively. Republican Brandon Martin raised \$36,000 while Republican Joseph Morgan raised a meager \$2,000.

## **A GOOD START, BUT SHE'S NO TOM O'HALLERAN**

Tiffany Shedd continues to lead the CD1 GOP field in fundraising, bringing in \$152,000 this past quarter, 77 percent of which came from individual contributions. But she's been spending a lot of money, and has just \$112,000 cash on hand. Meanwhile, O'Halleran's pile of cash grew larger, as he reported \$322,000 this quarter and ended March with more than \$1 million cash on hand. Tucson attorney Nolan Reidhead raised just \$28,000. Republican Doyel Shamley did not file a Q1 report. John Moore, the mayor of Williams, cancelled his campaign, as did Republican Chris Taylor ([YS, 2/24](#)). O'Halleran's primary challenger, Democrat Eva Putzova doesn't seem to be posing much of a threat – she raised \$64,000 this quarter and has just \$40,000 cash on hand.

## **ALEX HAS ALL THE CASH ADAM PROMISED TO BRING**

Ugenti-Rita's Republican challenger, conservative attorney Alex Kolodin, loaned his campaign \$100,000 and paid more than \$5,000 to Mesa-based AR Corp for signature collections as he raced to make the ballot after starting his campaign in March. He also paid Bolick's son, Ryne, about \$500 for "professional services." Kolodin collected just \$1,825 from individual donors, including a \$25 contribution from his dad in Georgia. Former lawmaker Adam Kwasman, who dropped out of the primary after Kolodin gathered his signatures, collected around \$38,000, about a third of which came from his family. Ugenti-Rita added about \$9,000 in individual contributions and \$4,500 in PAC money this quarter, and ended March with about \$54,000 after spending on digital ads, bank fees and paying \$1,000 for signature collections just before the deadline. Democrat Seth Blattman, who will face the primary winner, collected about \$11,000 and ended March with \$24,000.



## **MARSH MARCHES ON**



Brophy McGee trailed Democratic challenger Christine Marsh in Q1 fundraising but still holds a healthy cash lead over the challenger. Brophy McGee collected \$38,000, mostly from Hell Week fundraisers, and spent \$18,000 on consultants, ads and events. About \$8,000 of her Q1 income came from political action committees. Marsh, on the other hand, raised nearly \$50,000, all but \$500 of which came from individual contributions. She has been fundraising hard during the legislative session, reporting new contributions every week. Brophy McGee ended the quarter with \$244,000 cash on hand, compared to Marsh's \$106,500.

## **SENATOR ROGERS?**

S Allen, who collected a measly \$10,650 this quarter, trails both primary opponent Wendy Rogers and general election foe Felicia French. The \$6,000 Allen brought in from individual contributions came almost entirely from Phoenix-area residents, while French, who told our reporter she's been campaigning full-time across the district since last fall, collected slightly more than \$50,000, largely from donors in their northeast Arizona district. Rogers, who has a donor network built up from multiple unsuccessful congressional runs, collected \$78,000 this quarter, entirely from individual donors from across the country. Rogers ended the quarter with \$226,000 on hand, while French has \$81,500 and Allen has \$54,000.

## **CARTER HAS THE CASH**

Barto outraised Carter by about \$2,000 this quarter and spent far less, but the incumbent Senator is still sitting on a pile of campaign cash nearly three times larger than her challenger. Carter started the quarter with \$236,000 on hand and collected about \$19,000 in individual contributions and \$10,500 in contributions from PACs. She spent roughly \$30,000, primarily on consultants, leaving her with an ending cash balance of \$235,000. Barto, meanwhile, started the quarter with about \$62,000 in cash, collected \$23,000 in individual contributions and \$8,500 from PACs and spent about \$7,000 on signs, ads and consultants. Barto has \$86,000 cash on hand. Both lawmakers were limited in fundraising this quarter because of the legislative session.

## **EVERYONE LOVES OPEN SEATS**

Nurse and educator Selina Bliss is pulling ahead of the pack in a crowded, six-way Republican primary for two open House seats in LD1. Bliss, whose campaign bio says humbly that she's "accustomed to being in a position that makes a difference in the lives of others," pulled in around \$21,500 in Q1, ending the filing period with around \$8,800 on hand. Not far behind is Ed Cocchiola, who raked in \$17,223 from Clean Elections and only spent around \$3,700. Former lawmaker Judy Burges struggled to find support, only receiving \$7,100 in contributions during the period.

## **WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING TO THE LEFT IN ARIZONA**

LD2 House incumbents are attempting to fend off progressive challenger Billy Peard, and both D Hernandez and Dalessandro had significant Q1 hauls. Hernandez brought in \$43,000, while Dalessandro was one of the first candidates to qualify for Clean Elections funding and brought in \$23,000. Hernandez now sits on a \$29,000 war chest, while Dalessandro's has just over \$19,000 remaining. Peard, a former attorney for the ACLU hoping to flank the moderate Hernandez, pulled in \$17,000 in the quarter, but spent all but around \$2,000 of that sum. Most of his money came from small-dollar contributions – with the exception of \$3,000 from Pima County Public Defender Joel Feinman. Peard had worried that the COVID-19 epidemic would tamp down individual contributions. Hernandez told our reporter today he's hardly been

campaigning, as he's spent most of his time working to save a hospital in his district teetering on the brink of closure due to lost revenues stemming from the elective surgeries ban. Next door, in the LD3 House race A Hernandez and Cano are both trouncing primary challenger Javier Soto, who pulled in just over \$7,000 during the quarter. Hernandez, by comparison, netted even more than her brother: \$43,686, spending just under \$15,000 of that sum. Soto is one of a handful of union-backed Democratic candidates mounting primary bids against some of the Democratic Party's moderate members.

### **THE MAYOR KNOWS HOW TO FUNDRAISE**

In LD6, Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans – one of Democrats' best bets to flip a state House seat – pulled in a hefty \$76,615 in the quarter, dwarfing both Republicans Blackman and former Rep Brenda Barton. Blackman's committee took home \$50,618 and spent more than \$43,000 in the quarter. Barton barely passed \$3,000 in fundraising. Almost all of Evans' money came from small, individual contributions, often from out of the district. Exceptions include \$2,500 from developer Walter Crutchfield and \$1,500 from Petsmart CEO Phillip Francis. Another major contributor in Evans' corner is Karla Jurvetson, a Silicon Valley physician and big-time Democratic donor who serves on the board of EMILY's List and who paradoxically contributed thousands to Arpaio's 2018 Senate bid, in addition to almost exclusively funding Elizabeth Warren's presidential Super PAC. She contributed \$5,200 to Evans' campaign.

### **HE COULD TEACH SCHWEIKERT A THING OR TWO**

In the LD8 House race, Cook's increasingly intense House Ethics investigation doesn't seem to have hurt his fundraising – he pulled in almost \$58,000 this quarter and has \$115,000 cash on hand. Some of those contributions came from figures in the investigation, including \$200 from AnnaMarie Knorr, a former agricultural lobbyist with whom Cook is alleged to have had an affair, and \$500 from a relative of Knorr's father, Bas Aja. Pratt, who hopes to make the switch from the Senate, pulled in over \$33,200, while Neal Carter, who hopes to improve representation for the district's suburban population, received only \$11,657 – though he managed to only spend around \$523 of that amount.

### **WELCOME HOME, STEVE?**

Former lawmaker, congressional candidate and Snapchat sexter Steve Montenegro is giving the LD13 incumbents a run for their money. He pulled in a whopping \$91,506 over the quarter, ending with an \$88,000 war chest. However, around \$40,000 of that was transferred from an aborted Montenegro campaign committee. Osborne received \$48,500 during the period, with Dunn pulling up the rear at \$43,021. Most of Montenegro's money came from large individual contributions from wealthy Arizonans, including \$5,000 from developer Edward Robson, \$2,500 from Louis Ollson, the director of the Wildlife World Zoo and \$5,000 from the Brophy family, along with others.

### **SHE'S REALLY KNECHTING WITH VOTERS**

In LD21, one of the top House targets for Democrats this election, House Democratic candidate Kathy Knecht has a war chest of \$43,000, which is more than Payne and the two other Republicans running in that primary combined. Knecht raised \$21,000 in Q1. Payne only raised \$6,000 this quarter putting his cash on hand at \$37,000 and the other Republicans Randy Miller and Beverly Pingerelli both have less than \$2,500 in their war chests. Rivero decided to drop out of the running, opening up a seat.

### **IT'S CLASSIC CATHERINE**

Former lawmaker Catherine Miranda didn't file a Q1 campaign finance report in her bid to unseat one of the LD27 House Democratic incumbents. Rodriguez leads with roughly \$8,200 raised in Q1, and \$8,700

cash on hand. Bolding only raised \$3,000 in Q1, but has the largest war chest, with \$23,000. Miranda, who's hoping to get back in the Legislature after an unsuccessful bid against Gallego in 2018, raised \$3,700 in 2019.

## ·PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS CLIPS·

### New Organizing Campaign Launched with 400+ Arizonans, Progressive Leaders & Groups on Zoom Call

*Arizona Ready Focusing on Digital Organizing, Training Arizonans on Newest Organizing Techniques During COVID-19 Pandemic*

**PHOENIX**— Labor organizations, progressive groups & co-chairs Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman, and Arizona Education Association (AEA) Executive Director Luis Heredia launched **Arizona Ready** last night through a Zoom virtual video conference.

Arizona Ready brought in hundreds of Arizonans to begin the campaign to defeat Donald Trump's agenda. Here are some key statistics from the call:

- **416 Arizonans** joined the Kickoff, including from Yuma, Flagstaff, Mesa, Casagrande, Tucson, Tempe, Scottsdale, Phoenix, and Bullhead City.
- Progressive groups joined the call including **LUCHA, One Arizona, Indivisible Arizona, and the Arizona Education Association.**
- **50% of attendees signed up to volunteer.**
- **Climate change, health care access, immigration and education access** ranked as attendees' most important issues in 2020.

Arizona Ready is focusing on building up local talent and adapting a digital-first organizing strategy due to the current COVID-19 crisis. Arizona Ready is hiring in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Tucson, Yuma and other areas of rural Arizona; interested applicants can apply here: <https://azready.org/jobs/>.

The campaign is community-based and volunteer-driven, designed to get the progressive infrastructure running earlier than ever before, and to energize the grassroots in battleground states. The campaign is a federally-independent organizing effort to beat Donald Trump's agenda, and give volunteers a home on and offline, and recruit volunteers across six battleground states — Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

"We are living through an epochal moment in our nation and our state's history. In times of change and crisis it is everyday individuals who step up and help lead the way forward. Arizona Ready is an organization built to give Arizonans from all walks of life the tools and training they need to make positive change in their communities, to meet this moment and to define the future of our country," said **Alex Steele, Arizona Ready Campaign Director.**

**For more information, please visit [www.azready.org](http://www.azready.org).**

### Arizona Supreme Court Hears Appeal of ABOR Tuition Lawsuit

**PHOENIX** – Attorney General Mark Brnovich's ongoing effort to seek greater transparency and accountability from Arizona's public universities continued today before the Arizona Supreme Court. The lawsuit was brought against the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) over the skyrocketing costs of attending Arizona's public universities, where in-state tuition and mandatory fees have risen more than 300 percent since 2003 despite a state constitutional requirement that such instruction be provided "as nearly free as possible."

"This action was bought on behalf of Arizona's hardworking students and families who are being priced out of an affordable higher education by our public universities," said Attorney General Mark Brnovich. "ABOR ignores the

constitutional requirement that instruction be provided nearly as free as possible and refuses to answer to anyone. I am hopeful the justices will recognize the ability of an Attorney General to bring such cases in defense of our constitution and on behalf of the people. No government entities, including public universities, are above the law.”

Instead of debating the merits of the tuition lawsuit, ABOR has skirted accountability by using *Arizona State Land Department v. McFate*, a 60-year-old Arizona Supreme Court ruling that limits the ability of the Attorney General to pursue litigation against a state agency. Late last year, the Court of Appeals unanimously opined that the *McFate* decision “appears to be flawed,” and urged the Supreme Court to revisit the matter, which the court did today.

Today, the AGO argued that *McFate* incorrectly restricts the power and independence of the Attorney General to file a lawsuit when there are matters of state concern or violations of the constitution.

“While no one can predict what the court is going to do, I believe we made a very compelling case on the need for an independent Attorney General,” said Attorney General Brnovich. “This matter goes far beyond any individual Governor or Attorney General. It’s about having the appropriate checks and balances in place to ensure that Arizona is always operating within the guidelines of its constitution.”

Earlier this month, a bipartisan coalition 66 current and former Attorneys General from across the country [weighed in on the matter](#), urging the Supreme Court to overturn *McFate* and arguing that the Attorney General has authority to uphold the law and the Arizona Constitution that goes beyond simply litigating on behalf of the Governor or some other executive or subdivision of state government. The Attorneys General stated, “The essential role of an Attorney General, relative to other constitutional offices, would be radically transformed if ABOR or other state officials were able to exercise veto power over the Attorney General’s public interest litigation.”

The case is now under review by the Arizona Supreme Court following [today’s Oral Argument](#). There is no date for when a decision will be announced.

## Arizona Department Of Insurance Seeks Insurance Extensions For Arizona Customers

PHOENIX — The Arizona Department of Insurance is urging insurers across the state to work with Arizonans to ensure their coverage continues, providing much-needed support to the individuals, families and businesses facing financial challenges because of COVID-19.

“Arizona is working to ensure those facing financial hardship because of COVID-19 get the support they need to get through this,” said Governor Ducey. “We have called on insurers across the state to work with consumers during this health emergency to make sure Arizonans do not lose the coverage they depend on. My thanks to the insurers already working with their customers in good faith to provide relief for people who need it.”

The request applies to all insurers providing coverage including life, health, motor vehicle, property, casualty and any type of insurance for individuals, groups and businesses.

In the letter, the Department urges insurers to provide customers relief, including:

- Refraining from cancelling policies due to non-payment during this time of hardship;
- Working with consumers on premium payment plans for late premium payments;
- Waiving late fees, interest, and penalties;
- Delaying premium increases;
- Suspending the use of credit reports for rating;
- Refraining from cancelling auto policies due to deferred expiration of driver’s license;
- And extending time frames to undergo medical examinations.

Many insurers are already offering options and resources for consumers, and Arizonans are encouraged to connect with their insurance companies to learn more about their options during the state’s public health emergency.

The Department of Insurance is also making it easier for auto-insurers who have experienced savings due to less people being on the road, to offer rebates and premium credits to individuals to allow them to share in the savings and provide some additional financial assistance during this time.

View the letter from the Arizona Department of Insurance [HERE](#).

## Amid Ethics Investigation, Rep. David Schweikert Spent \$180,000 on Lawyers

*Schweikert Spent Almost As Much As He Raised This Quarter on Legal Consulting Fees*

**Philadelphia** — The first quarter of 2020 fundraising numbers are in and it's not great news for Rep. David Schweikert's campaign in Arizona's sixth congressional district. Most of Schweikert's campaign cash is going into the pockets of lawyers as he faces a years-long ethics investigation for corrupt practices including alleged [misuse of taxpayer funds](#).

According to his [quarterly report](#), Schweikert raised a net \$205,965.60 in Q1 of 2020. However, a closer look at his campaign's [itemized disbursements](#) shows Schweikert spent a staggering \$180,580.63 on legal fees.

An August 2018 [report](#) by the Office of Congressional Ethics outlined Schweikert's alleged use of official House resources to benefit his congressional campaign, and in December 2018, the House Ethics Committee [unanimously voted](#) to expand the probe.

While Schweikert [claimed](#) last year that he saw "a light at the end of the tunnel" to the investigation, his campaign spending certainly tells a different story.

Schweikert also said last June that he ["expected everything to be cleared up with House Ethics in September or October"](#) of 2019, which is...clearly not the case.

"Arizonans deserve better than David Schweikert, a corrupt politician who expects to get away with misusing taxpayer money," said **Brooke Bainum, Communications Director of 314 Action**.

## McSally to Hold Telephone Town Hall with Special Guest Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich

U.S. SENATE – Tomorrow, Friday, April 17, U.S. Senator Martha McSally (R-AZ) will host a telephone town hall with special guest Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich to provide an update on the coronavirus, discuss the latest COVID-19 consumer scams, provide tips for keeping you and your loved ones safe, and answer your questions. This will be McSally's fifth telephone town hall since the coronavirus outbreak. To date, she has spoken to nearly 100,000 Arizonans about the federal resources available during these unprecedented times.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is committed to protecting consumers and providing information to help recognize and avoid consumer fraud. Brnovich has made it a top priority to hold fraudsters accountable has returned nearly \$100 million to Arizona consumers who have been swindled.

Details are as follows:

**WHAT:** Sen. McSally to host a telephone town hall with special guest AZ AG Mark Brnovich

**WHEN:** Friday, April 17, 2020 at 11:20am AZ

**CALL-IN:** [855-962-1520](tel:855-962-1520)

## McSally Named to President Trump's Economic Recovery Task Force

U.S. SENATE – U.S. Senator Martha McSally (R-AZ) announced today that she will serve on President Donald Trump's bipartisan congressional task force to provide counsel on the re-opening of America in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The coronavirus pandemic has given way to unprecedented challenges unlike any we have seen in our nation's history. Americans have been asked to stay home and not work in order to save lives and that gravely impacted the livelihoods of so many," **McSally said**. "But I am confident America and Arizona will recover from this extraordinary time stronger than ever."

"It is an honor to be named to the president's bipartisan task force to plan our country's path forward. This morning, I spoke to President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Senators on both sides of the aisle to discuss how to allow people to safely return to work while saving lives and defeating the virus. I've been in constant communication with Arizona small business owners, industry leaders, and elected officials to understand the challenges they are facing and develop solutions that will put us in the best possible position to harness economic growth once we have turned the



corner on this crisis. I will take Arizonans' concerns and ideas straight to the task force of decisionmakers to inform a strong economic recovery that benefits Arizona's families and businesses while prioritizing the safety of all citizens."

## Congressman Andy Biggs Appointed to President Trump's Congressional Task Force on Reopening the American Economy

**GILBERT, ARIZONA** – Today, Congressman Andy Biggs was appointed to President Trump's Congressional Task Force on Reopening the American Economy. Congressman Biggs issued the following statement:

*"Under President Trump's leadership over the past three-plus years, the American economy enjoyed historic success. Millions of jobs were created. The unemployment rate was at a record low. And wages were rising. The Trump administration's pro-growth policies were paying dividends for millions of American individuals, families, and businesses.*

*"As we pivot from a shutdown of our economy due to the coronavirus outbreak, it's important to keep the president's track record of tremendous results in mind as we move to restore the economy to its former brilliance. President Trump believes in the American people to be the masters of their own economic destinies, as do I. I am grateful to be included on this team, and I look forward to assisting the president with his tireless efforts to make America greater than ever before."*

## Pandemic is No Time for Profit on PPE Sold to First Responders, Stanton and Gallego Say

PHOENIX—U.S. Reps. Greg Stanton and Ruben Gallego today urged companies who supply essential personal protective equipment (PPE) to forgo profit on life-saving goods sold to first responders, doctors and nurses who are on the front lines battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pair sent letters to executives at two suppliers who in recent weeks have raised prices for N95 masks to about 600 percent higher than normal.

"Over the last few weeks, we have seen the very best of our nation—doctors and nurses putting themselves in harm's way to help strangers, police officers and firefighters fearlessly taking on new threats to our safety, everyday Americans lending a helping hand to neighbors in need," Stanton and Gallego wrote. "At a time when so many are doing so much, it is maddening that some choose to look at those same Good Samaritans as prey."

Just recently, after pressure from Stanton and Gallego, one of the nation's largest suppliers to first responders said it would supply N95 and KN95 masks to first responders at no profit to the company. The two Valley representatives said it's time for other companies to follow suit.

On April 1, Stanton and Gallego requested that the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission investigate what appears to be a price-gouging scheme on the part of PPE manufacturers and suppliers. They have also urged the House Judiciary Committee, of which Stanton is a member, to hold oversight hearings on the issue. At the state level, Gov. Doug Ducey has signed an executive order prohibiting price-gouging. To date, state Attorney General Mark Brnovich has refused to enforce the order.

The letters are available [here](#) and [here](#).

## “QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“To whoever keeps spreading the rumor that I'm working 4 legalizing marijuana (cue Liam Neeson voice) ‘I will find you’ – Not now, not ever!”

*- Constantin Querard, conservative consultant who was on the payroll for the marijuana legalization initiative this year, on Twitter in 2016*