

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

“MASKOTS” WORK BETTER THAN LAWS

At his weekly COVID-19 press conference today, Ducey argued Arizona is on a clear downward trend, noting the number of COVID-like illnesses, hospitalizations and the percent of positive tests are down from their peaks several weeks ago. “We can deliver some good numbers today,” he said, calling it evidence that the sacrifice Arizonans have made is working. The state’s Rt rate has fallen below 1, he noted, and has stayed there for several days. “This is a fluid number, but today and yesterday, we’re as good as any state in the nation,” he said. Ducey didn’t provide any updates about school reopening, saying only that “there is going to be more to follow” about the guidelines he promised to deliver by Aug 7. The single PowerPoint slide on the topic stated the metrics are “TBD” and Ducey said he is looking to other states that have developed similar benchmarks. He repeatedly refused to answer questions about whether the state would step in and boost unemployment benefits – Arizona’s benefits, without the federal boost, are \$240 per week, among the lowest in the nation – when the federal match drops off at the end of the week. Rather than issue a masking mandate, Ducey today rolled out more masking advertisements, including one “really good ad” showing Arizona’s “maskots” – sports mascots wearing masks. The state allocated \$3 million for that advertising campaign.



OH, NOBODY WANTS TESTS ANYMORE?

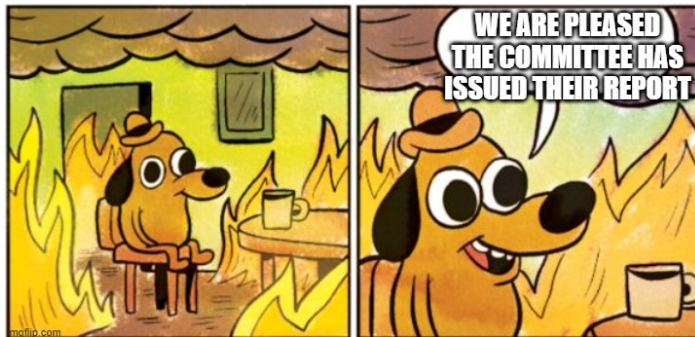
Dept of Health Services Director Christ claimed the state is still on track to get the “project catapult” on track for 60,000 tests by the end of August – even though the state has already failed to meet its July goal of 35,000 tests per day. (She also pushed back her promised deadline to clear out the 29,000 backlogged tests at Sonora Quest labs to this Sunday – she had previously said it would be cleared out by Friday.) Ducey blamed private testing labs and Arizona residents for not being able to meet the goal, saying Sonora Quest needs to “step up their game” and deliver results faster, and the two testing sites that have two-day turnaround times haven’t hit capacity in the 12 days they were open. “There simply wasn’t the demand,” he said. As previously noted, the basic laws of supply and demand have hindered Ducey’s efforts to expand testing. After Ducey started imploring people to go get tested last month, the state was flooded with headlines about miles-long lines for drive-up testing sites, many of which were turning people away for lack of tests, and Ducey said the state was caught flat-footed by the incredible demand. Since then, the state has been flooded with headlines about the long turnaround time for tests, which have sometimes taken two weeks or more to provide results. Former Dept of Health Services Director Will Humble told our reporter today that turnaround times for tests are “terrible” and the Ducey administration’s inability to get test turnaround times down is “malfeasance” that is contributing to the lack of demand. “It’s super hot. Who... wants to go into the sun to get a test when they likely won’t get an answer for 2 weeks? That has to be part of [the lack of demand],” he said. “Turnaround times have just never been a priority for Cara. They have been bad for weeks now. When it became news, it became a priority.”

THE ACCOUNTING ERROR COST \$50K AND MAYBE THE ELECTION

After more than a year of claiming the ethics investigation against him was over nothing more than an accounting error, Schweikert today was hit with an official reprimand and a \$50,000 fine. The US House Ethics Committee agreed with the unanimous declaration from a bipartisan investigative subcommittee that Schweikert violated House Rules, the Code of Ethics for Government Service, federal laws and other ethical standards in a string of allegations that includes campaign finance violations, the misuse of his per diem, pressuring his staff to perform campaign work and his “lack of candor and due diligence” during the investigation. The Ethics Committee report ([LINK](#)) and the more detailed subcommittee report ([LINK](#)) state that Schweikert “gave untruthful testimony” that was based on more than “minor memory lapses” about the allegations against him, and that his “assortment of unethical conduct” dates as far back as his first run for Congress in 2010. “Throughout the course of this investigation, Representative Schweikert made vague or misleading statements to the [subcommittee] and [Office of Congressional Ethics] that allowed him to evade the statute of limitations for the most egregious violations of campaign finance laws,” the report states. While Schweikert attempted to lay much of the blame at the feet of his former Chief of Staff, Oliver Schwab, the subcommittee didn’t buy it. In its extensive 113-page report, the subcommittee stated, “Representative Schweikert not only engaged in such conduct, in some instances (particularly with respect to campaign reporting requirements), he was a direct participant in conduct that resulted in violations.” The investigative subcommittee unanimously concluded that a harsher House-level sanction was in order, but agreed to back off under the negotiated settlement, which requires an admission of wrongdoing on 11 separate allegations and the \$50,000 fine.



ACCOUNTING ERRORS HAVE CONSEQUENCES



The investigation lasted more than two years and is the prime reason CD6 is the most highly-targeted seat in the state for national Democrats. Schweikert’s likely Democratic opponent, Hiral Tipirneni, has crushed him in fundraising ([YS, 7/16](#)). And the investigation hasn’t been cheap – in total, Schweikert’s campaign has paid more than \$700,000 in legal fees to four different law firms, with the bulk (\$610,000) going to Holtzman Vogel Josefiak Torchinsky, a

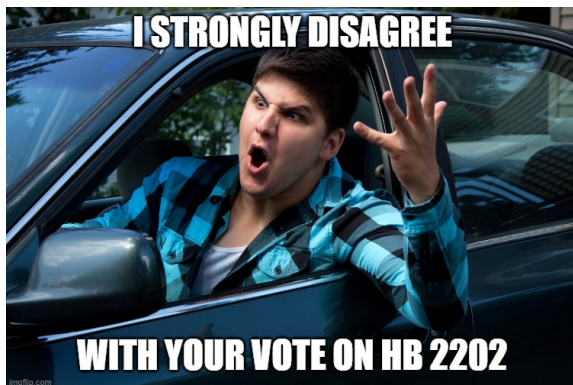
pricy, top firm in DC. His legal fees make up 60 percent of his total disbursements this election cycle and he is still \$95,000 in debt, with just \$230,000 cash on hand. Chris Baker, Schweikert’s campaign consultant, previously downplayed the seriousness of the ethics violation saying, “95 to 98 percent of this is not Schweikert, it is his chief of staff,” and expected it to wrap up in three months. That was roughly 18 months ago ([YS, 2/1/19](#)). “We are pleased the Committee has issued their report and we can move forward from this chapter. As noted in the review, all issues have been resolved and Congressman Schweikert will continue working hard for Arizona’s 6th District,” a spokeswoman for Schweikert said in a statement today.

POLITICS BRINGS OUT THE CRAZIES

The arson on the Maricopa County Democratic Party headquarters this weekend reignited memories from multiple lawmakers who have fielded credible threats of violence. Arizona is no stranger to political violence – the most notable example was the 2011 shooting of former US Rep Gabby Giffords that left six dead and 13 injured. More often, however, politicians face intimidation, harassment and a looming fear that the people who badger them over political stances could turn out to be the next mass shooter. While some threats, especially those made in public, might make it into news coverage, most are handled quietly. Terán experienced that last spring, after J Allen insisted on holding a committee hearing on an abortion bill she asked him to hold after realizing it contained a drafting error. As written, Terán’s 2019 bill would have eliminated an entire section of statute that requires medical intervention for fetuses who survive abortion, leading critics to accuse her of supporting killing babies out of the womb. One man sent Terán an email containing a threat to kill her and the lawmakers who co-sponsored the bill, and House security shared that message with DPS. After DPS met with him, Terán said she received a second email from the man explaining that he did not intend to harm her. But before her 2018 election, Terán was an immigration activist, and her work frequently brought her into contact with border militia groups that would show up to immigration protests. One of the men she crossed paths with, militia leader J.T. Ready, went on to shoot himself and four other people at his home in 2012. “I remember clearly looking into his eyes and seeing that hate towards our community as we were organizing. And then for him to have done that, that has always stuck in my head. We were one gun away from this person taking action against our movement,” Terán said.



ONLINE FIGHTS TURN INTO REAL LIFE FIGHTS



Townsend has forwarded a number of threats to DPS over her years in office, the most recent of which was a road rage incident turned political confrontation. She had tapped her brakes “like an old lady” while turning into a parking lot, upsetting another driver who jumped out of his car, fists balled and screaming. The man apparently recognized her and had gotten into some kind of dispute with the lawmaker on social media before meeting her in the parking lot, Townsend told our reporter. “Holy cow, it turned into full-on road rage,” she said. “It was very, very frightening for me, but you know I didn’t run away I just reported it to

DPS. It happens from time to time.” A few years ago, Townsend said, she would have chalked the incident up to a side effect of being an outspoken politician. But now, as new videos depicting “Karens” and altercations filmed by one party after an encounter has already become heated seem to go viral each week, Townsend said she believes anyone is at risk of the kind of public attack once reserved for public figures. It’s become acceptable, even encouraged, to “shred” people who disagree with the shredder, she said. “We celebrate when someone shreds someone else online. And I think the online has metastasized into the street, and now it’s accepted and celebrated when we shred, physically verbally or worse. That’s become a new political norm, and it’s wrong. It’s dangerous.”

YOU’LL GET OUT OF PRISON BEFORE YOU GET A TEST

Despite pledging to test all of the roughly 40,000 people in prison three months ago, the Dept of Health Services director Cara Christ said the state hasn’t made much progress because up until recently, the state was only testing those showing symptoms. Prisons started testing more inmates last week after dropping Sonora Quest as the contractor because the testing company is facing a backlog of 29,000 tests (down from 60,000 earlier this week – Christ previously promised that backlog would be empty by Friday (YS. 7/28)). Christ wouldn’t say if she thinks 13 percent of inmates tested to date is acceptable, but said she’s hopeful for future testing. “I think it’s a pretty good number that will continue to grow, but it does take a bit to get the staff out there to do the assessment [and get results],” she said. Christ told our reporter that the Dept of Health Services and Dept of Corrections have been working closely to “develop a testing plan” and while she would not provide our reporter with a timeline, she said she would check with Dept of Corrections Director David Shinn to hopefully come up with one.



PAGING HELEN PURCELL



Early voting in Maricopa County came to a crashing halt for about 24 minutes today as the county “experienced network connectivity issues” that prevented people from voting. One source in government said they went to cast their ballot at the Phoenix Union High School voting center just after 9 am, when they were told the entire system was down, and the county could only accept dropped-off mail-in ballots. The source left before casting their ballot, but worried that others turned away may not have the same ability to return at a later date.

“I get that sh*t happens, but they would have crucified Helen [Purcell, the former county recorder] for this,” the source said. County Elections Department spokeswoman Megan Gilbertson told our reporter via email that the outage only lasted 24 minutes and the department has a back-up system in place should a prolonged outage occur. “Fortunately, that back-up was not needed in this instance,” she wrote, adding the county “investigated the root cause of this issue and has taken the appropriate corrective actions to ensure this does not occur again.”

·PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS CLIPS·

ARIZONA CAN'T GET BACK TO WORK WITHOUT CHILD CARE

Arizona Early Childhood Alliance Publishes A Policy Brief About the Arizona Child Care Crisis

(PHOENIX, AZ) – Today, the Arizona Early Childhood Alliance (AZECA) published a policy brief about the insurmountable challenges that the child care industry currently faces as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic which may lead to the biggest child care crisis in modern history if targeted state support is not provided now.

“Child care programs have been struggling throughout this pandemic to keep their doors open, reopen if they closed, and remain open,” stated Rebecca Gau, Chief Executive Officer of Stand for Children and Co-Chair of the AZECA Leadership Team. She continued, “This important brief exposes the issues and highlights the data, and most importantly, provides policy recommendations for our elected officials to consider in addressing this looming disaster. Child care is an essential infrastructure for parents to be able to go to work, and without state support soon, this industry will collapse.”

Child Care Resource & Referral recently surveyed licensed child care providers statewide about their current and future status. The resulting data — from 831 providers across all 15 counties — reveals an industry on the brink of collapse. A third of licensed and regulated child care providers — businesses that Arizona families count on to care for their young children while they work — have been forced to close. And those providers who remain open are serving many fewer children than they did before the crisis. Programs are now serving just 38 percent of the total number of children they were prior to COVID-19. And nearly 40 percent of programs have had to lay off or furlough staff.

Arizona has already received \$88 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act through the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) earmarked for child care relief. The expectation is that there will be additional funds when Congress agrees on the next COVID relief package. The policy brief outlines policy recommendations that ensure the preservation of much needed safe and reliable child care with this and any future federal funding.

Read the policy brief [here](#). Access the policy brief infographic [here](#).

Latino Victory Fund Endorses Five Down-Ballot Candidates in Battleground Arizona

The candidate slate includes legislative candidates in an election in which Democrats are within striking distance of flipping the Arizona House and Senate.

Washington, D.C.--Ahead of Arizona's primary election next week, Latino Victory Fund announced the endorsement of five down-ballot candidates in Arizona, a key battleground state with an impactful Latino electorate.

The candidates are **Anna Tovar**, Arizona Corporation Commission; **Will Knight**, Maricopa County Attorney; **Andres Cano**, 3rd House District; **Diego Rodriguez**, 27th House District; and **JoAnna Mendoza**, 11th Senate District.

*“Arizona's Latino voters are a powerful bloc that can impact races at all levels of government and help turn the tide for Democrats in November,” said **Nathalie Rayes, Latino Victory Fund president & CEO**. “Our Arizona candidates are talented leaders dedicated to ensuring their communities thrive and whose inspiring campaigns are primed to energize Latino voters.”*

The candidate slate also signals Latino Victory's commitment to helping flip Arizona's state legislature--the **Democrats need three seats to flip the state Senate and two seats to flip the state House**. The organization supports Arizona down-ballot candidates to increase local Latino representation and help mobilize the Latino electorate to help Democratic candidates at the top of the ticket. Arizona's Latino population is [31 percent](#), and there are [1.2 million eligible voters](#), which accounts for 24 percent of the voter share.

Meet the Latino Victory Arizona Slate:

Anna Tovar, Arizona Corporation Commission

If elected, Tovar would be the first Latina elected to statewide office in Arizona.

Will Knight, Maricopa County Attorney

If elected, Knight would be the first Latino to be elected Maricopa County attorney.

Andres Cano, Arizona 3rd House District

Cano is up for re-election after serving one term, during which he advocated for investment in education, access to affordable healthcare, and working families.

Diego Rodriguez, Arizona 27th House District

Rodriguez is up for re-election and will continue advocating for affordable healthcare, public school funding, and creating liveable wage jobs.

Joanna Mendoza, 11th Senate District

If elected, Mendoza would be the first Latina to represent Senate District 11. This seat would also flip red to blue.

DNC RELEASES NEW SPANISH LANGUAGE TV AD IN AZ: ‘This Is Not a Test’ (‘Esto no es una prueba’)

The DNC War Room released a new Spanish language television ad in Arizona today, “[This is Not a Test](#)” (“Esto no es una prueba”), to call out Donald Trump for gambling with children’s health and safety. Trump is trying to force schools to fully reopen before they’re able to do so safely, despite coronavirus cases surging across the country, because he thinks it will help with his reelection.

The ad will run in the Phoenix media market starting today targeted to reach Latino parents with school age children and teachers as part of a six figure buy.

Experts, scientists, teachers, and parents know that Trump can’t be trusted to decide when schools should reopen. It’s Trump’s fault that the outbreak got this bad in the first place. Trump should focus on getting the virus under control, and stop trying to force schools to reopen before they’re able to do so safely.

“Donald Trump has put Arizona families in an impossible position. Parents shouldn’t have to stay up at night worried that the president of the United States is compromising their kids’ safety. Children shouldn’t be exposed to a deadly virus, or risk passing the virus to their parents, grandparents, and loved ones. Trump will do anything to help his reelection chances. He can’t be trusted to make this life-or-death decision for our children. It’s time for a leader who will protect Arizona’s kids, and give families and teachers the support they deserve. It’s time for Joe Biden,” **said DNC Chair Tom Perez.**

New Kelly Campaign Ad “Work Hard” Focuses on Working Class Roots, Making Health Care More Affordable

Today, the Mark Kelly for Senate campaign will begin airing a new TV ad, “[Work Hard](#),” where Mark shares how his roots growing up in a working class family have shaped how he will work for Arizona in the Senate to lower health care costs and create jobs you can raise a family on. Kelly is the son of two police officers, and frequently shares with Arizonans how watching his mother work to become a police officer in the 1970’s motivated him to work hard and pursue his dreams of becoming a combat pilot and an astronaut.

“Growing up in a working class family, I learned pretty quickly that life’s not gonna hand you anything. You have to work hard every step of the way, Kelly says in the ad. “But so many politicians in Washington don’t know what that’s like. And that means everyday Arizonans don’t have a voice in their government.”

Watch “[Work Hard](#)” here

McSally Betrays Out-of-Work Arizonans, Stays Silent As Senate Republicans Propose Major Cut to Unemployment Income

McSally Voted Against \$600 Income for Unemployed Workers In March

PHOENIX — With the [worst decline in quarterly GDP ever recorded in the U.S.](#) and [23,157 more Arizonans filing initial jobless claims this week](#), joining the 259,548 Arizonans already depending on unemployment income, McSally and Senate Republicans have introduced a plan to drastically cut unemployment income.

Despite promising “swift relief” for the nearly one million Arizonans who have lost their jobs, appointed Senator Martha McSally voted against allowing them \$600 in unemployment income, and now will seemingly let unemployment income expire, endangering hundreds of thousands of Arizonans who are living on the edge of poverty due to this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

McSally and the Senate Republicans have introduced a [bill that cuts the \\$600 down to \\$200 per week](#) which amounts to a monthly \$2,000 paycut, threatening Arizonans’ financial security and impacting businesses who have been able to stay open during the pandemic.

According to [Arizona Republic reporter Ryan Randazzo](#),

“That \$600 a week has allowed many people to continue spending at a somewhat normal level [...] So let’s say I’m a cook at a restaurant where 10 percent of the customers today are getting jobless benefits, and they stop eating out once a week because they only have \$240 coming in instead of that additional \$600 a week. Now I might be applying for jobless benefits.”

“Sen. McSally is breaking her promise to Arizona’s workers and families of swift relief,” said **Honest Arizona executive director Niles Harris**. “She is siding instead with Mitch McConnell and jeopardizing a critical lifeline that is keeping Arizonans afloat and able to pay rent and other critical bills.”

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Holy cow, it turned into full-on road rage,”

- Townsend, on a traffic altercation that got heated when the other driver recognized her as a lawmaker