

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

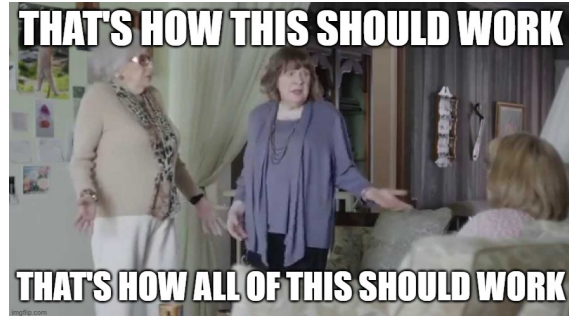
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Thursday, January 21, 2021

·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

A RARE MOMENT OF BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT

Erika Neuberg will be the next chair of the IRC, serving as the all-powerful tie-breaking vote on decisions that will determine the state's political landscape for the next decade. The commission voted for her unanimously today and commissioners didn't even nominate anyone else. "I'm deeply honored by this selection and I truly view this as a collective vote of confidence in the legitimacy and independence of our process by all parties involved," Neuberg said after taking her oath of office. "I have the greatest belief Republicans, Democrats and independents



will be very fairly represented and will have a voice in this process." Neuberg, who hails from Maricopa County, joins two Democrats – Shereen Lerner from Maricopa County and Derrick Watchman from Apache County – and two Republicans – David Mehl from Pima County and Douglas York from Maricopa County – who were selected by the legislative caucus leaders. She said she would view the new IRC as a success if it can avoid "chronic 3-2 votes." "If I'm your chair, some 3-2 votes might be necessary, but if it's always 3-2 – and especially if it's always in one direction – that's a warning sign," Neuberg said in her Jan 14 interview. There are six factors outlined in the state Constitution that the IRC must consider when drawing maps: staying in compliance with the US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, ensuring all districts are roughly equal in population, ensuring districts are compact and contiguous, respecting communities of interest, incorporating visible geographic features, and drawing competitive districts. Neuberg said that the previous commission wrongly elevated competitiveness above all other factors. "I think they did a good job maybe creating a few competitive districts, but it certainly came at the expense of some of those other principles," she said. The full commission unanimously selected Watchman as the vice chair and decided to meet next on Feb 2 to select the commission's executive director.

GREEN BEATS RED AND BLUE EVERY TIME

Neuberg is a psychologist who has contributed to the campaigns of both Republicans and Democrats through her work on American Israel Public Affairs Committee. The Arizona Democratic Party highlighted her contributions to Ducey as a reason she should not be the chair, but conveniently left out that she has also contributed to plenty of Democrats, including to outgoing chair Felecia Rotellini – Neuberg contributed \$100 to her 2014 AG campaign. She has also contributed to O'Halleran, Gallego, Kirkpatrick, Stanton, Biggs, Lesko and Sinema, as well as many former elected officials, including Jeff Flake, Kirk Adams and McSally. "I don't know if I've given more to one party or not," she said, adding that her checks came from a desire to advance the relationship between the US and Israel. She was a registered Republican until 2014, and pulled Republican ballots in the primaries until 2020, when she sat out the primary election, a GOP railbird with access to the voter file told our reporter. In her interview, Neuberg noted a potential weak spot of her application – that she is a white woman from Maricopa County, but noted she will try to make up for it by listening to people from around the state who "don't look like me." Last cycle, Colleen Mathis, Neuberg's predecessor, received death threats and was the subject of much scrutiny in a long process that involved her removal and reinstatement, but Neuberg said she's not adverse to conflict. "I think almost everything that I've done in terms of significant leadership and significant accomplishment comes with conflict. I'm just simply not afraid of it," she said.

THEY LIKE HER NOW...

Democrats and Republicans cheered Neuberg's selection, though the state Dem Party has remained silent after advocating against her. Tony Cani, a Democratic operative, commended the IRC for selecting Neuberg due to her nonpartisan attributes. "The Commission's Dems & Reps unanimously selected the only candidate without an obvious partisan history: Erika Neuberg," Cani tweeted. GOP consultant Barrett Marson described her as "clearly the best choice." ([LINK](#)). D Hernandez hailed her as a "true independent" (Neuberg contributed to his campaign last year). Progress Arizona also jumped on the Neuberg bandwagon, saying the group expects transparency and fairness from her ([LINK](#)). All on the Line, an Obama-created group that focuses on ending partisan gerrymandering, sent out a statement about the Neuberg announcement, but didn't indicate whether it supported or opposed the selection ([LINK](#)).



@AZHONEYBADGER IS OUR NEW FAVORITE THING TO GAB ABOUT



As Republicans decry the end of free speech over Twitter banning Trump and purging thousands of pro-QAnon accounts, Finchem and Townsend have voluntarily left Twitter. The duo, who have spent the last two months using the social media application to blast out conspiracies, have earned huge followings on the site, skyrocketing from a few thousand followers each before the election to tens of thousands of followers before deactivating their accounts yesterday. With Parler shut down, both Finchem and Townsend have taken to Gab, which bills itself as the online home of free speech, but which is largely a haven for neo-Nazis and QAnon supporters who have been banned from more mainstream social media sites. Finchem goes by the name @AZHoneyBadger, and has "pro" status, meaning he's paying a minimum of \$99 for a one-year plan. Since starting his Gab account on Jan 12, Finchem has warned of his pending departure from normal social media sites, trashed Republicans who voted to impeach Trump, tagged Ali Alexander, the creator of the #StopTheSteal movement, in a video calling Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey the new "propaganda minister" and pushed Q-aligned conspiracies about the next deep state information dump. He also pushed a prediction that Trump would run for Congress in Florida in 2022, become speaker of the House, impeach Biden and Harris, and then become president again. Townsend, so far, has only posted to Gab once – simply writing "Test" on Jan 10. "Your Qtown following loves and appreciates you," one follower replied.

ONLY THE REAL NEWS IS ALLOWED

The AZGOP will not allow reporters to attend its annual organizational meeting Saturday – at least reporters who haven't proven their fealty to Trump. The state party's organizational meeting is an "invite-only press event" and the only media allowed in will be organizations like *Right Side Broadcasting Network* and *OANN*, both of which have far outflanked *Fox News* as the official mouthpieces of Trump and the new far right. *Right Side Broadcasting Network* will stream portions of the event – though not the main attraction of the resolutions to censure Ducey, Jeff Flake and Cindy McCain. Reporters from local and traditional news outlets will be allowed to wander the church premises, but will not be allowed inside, AZGOP spokesman Zach Henry told our reporter. Henry had previously said that despite AZGOP's feigned outrage that reporters "leaked" the publicly available location of the meeting, the party was leaning toward allowing local and national reporters from actual news outlets to attend ([YS, 1/13](#)). The event has always been open to the press in the past.

HE’S THE PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE, ALL ROLLED INTO ONE

Sergio Arellano, a late-comer to the AZGOP chairman race, told our reporter that he stepped up to challenge Ward after seeing Republicans leave the party discouraged and divided from her leadership and losses in the 2020 election. Arellano, who is a former LD2 chair, RNC Arizona engagement director and Trump Latino advisory board member, said the fundamental flaws of Ward’s leadership are a lack of coordinated leadership and communication and her desire to make the party “the Kelli Ward Show.” “Dude, we can’t have Kelli Ward. There’s no way. We can’t keep losing. I just can’t do it,” he said. Arellano, who would be the first Latino to lead the state party, said among his biggest strengths is the ability to communicate to Latinos on the many issues where they agree with the Republican Party, such as economics, personal responsibility and family values. He said the party’s messaging isn’t racist but, rather, uninformed as Latinos haven’t been a traditional part of the GOP base, and electing a Latino as leader of the party would help change that. “The ability to build a small business, pay less taxes and achieve the American Dream is a message for all, not just Latinos. We just need to stand by that and bring it back to our values. It’s the reason we all got involved, not running around screaming,” he said. His weakness, he said, is that he hails from outside the “great state of Maricopa” and lacks the name ID of both Ward and Bob Lettieri, the AZGOP treasurer who is also seeking to unseat Ward. As the war for the soul of the GOP is getting underway in the post-Trump era, Arellano described his personal politics as somewhere between the old school chamber of commerce Republicans and the new Trumpian faction of the party. “I’m the future,” he said.



FRAUD PROBABLY HAPPENED – GET OVER IT



Ward has garnered international attention for her disproven conspiracies about electoral fraud, and while Arellano said he would have taken a different approach to supporting the former president and stamping out electoral fraud, he doesn’t fault Ward for staying true to Trump and having suspicions about the election results. Arellano has a background in election integrity in Santa Cruz County, where he formed a group and filed a lawsuit to successfully challenge election procedures in the county. While he stopped short of saying there definitely was massive fraud in Arizona’s 2020 election, he suspects something fishy happened. “Yes, there’s a possibility that that happened, for sure, but also I recognize we fell asleep at the wheel,” he said, noting that the

Maricopa County Republican Party leader didn’t show up to the county’s logic and accuracy test. “In my bones, yeah, I do [believe the election was stolen]... I’m not gonna go full blown and say everything was rigged, but something was off. But my job isn’t to follow up on it – it’s over.” Instead, he said he would ensure the party was focused on vetting election procedures before the 2022 election to ensure “this doesn’t happen again.” He said at the end of the day, if there was fraud, it was on Ward to prove it and she couldn’t. “Either furnish the proof or not – and in this instance, it wasn’t there,” he said. Arellano also walked a fine line on the resolutions to censure some of Arizona’s most notable Republicans, including Jeff Flake, Cindy McCain and Ducey, saying that while the former probably deserve slaps on the wrists for supporting Biden, he doesn’t think that Ducey has broken faith with the party.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Former Congressman Renzi pardoned](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

President Trump issued pardons or commutations to 143 people on his last full day in office January 19, including a former Arizona congressman who served two years in prison after a 2013 conviction related to a land swap deal.

[Renowned attorney speaks up for ‘the guy in horns’](#)

Missouri Lawyers Media

When you're accused of something as outrageous as participating in the storming of the U.S. Capitol while dressed in a horned headdress, you need a lawyer like Al Watkins.

[County OKs access to ballot copies, equipment](#)

Capitol Media Services

Facing a contempt vote in the Senate and a possible adverse court ruling, Senate President Karen Fann said Maricopa County supervisors agreed Wednesday to give lawmakers pretty much everything they are demanding in election materials and access to voting equipment.

[Arizona lawmaker wants to require notarized signatures on mail-in ballots](#)

Arizona Daily Star

A plan by a Peoria lawmaker to curb what he says is an opportunity for election fraud could end up throwing roadblocks in the paths of some who want to vote.

[Biden to review Trump's changes to national monuments in Southwest](#)

Associated Press

President Joe Biden said Wednesday he plans to review the Trump administration's downsizing of two sprawling national monuments in the American Southwest, including one on lands considered sacred to Native Americans who joined environmental groups in suing when the boundaries were redrawn in 2017.

[Ex-Arizona official to head to prison for illegal adoptions](#)

Associated Press

A former Arizona politician must report to prison Thursday to begin serving the first of three sentences for running an illegal adoption scheme that paid pregnant women from the Marshall Islands to come to the U.S. to give up their babies.

[Arizona remains worst state in nation for virus](#)

Today's News-Herald

513 new cases, 16 deaths reported in Mohave county; public health department expects to make vaccine announcement today

[This Week in COVID: Vaccine Eligibility a Mess, Cases Numbers Dip Slightly](#)

Phoenix New Times

It's Wednesday, January 20. More than 685,600 Arizonans have contracted COVID-19 and more than 11,260 have died as a result.

[After 2020 Election, Arizona GOP Lawmakers Push Restrictions on Early Voting](#)

Phoenix New Times

Republican state legislators are pushing bills that would make it harder to vote by mail in Arizona after the system helped put Democrats Mark Kelly in the U.S. Senate and Joe Biden in the White House.

[Maricopa County will turn over election materials for legislative audit](#)

Arizona Mirror

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday agreed to drop its legal fight challenging sweeping subpoenas for voting machines, ballots and other election materials that the Arizona Senate issued and will instead turn over the requested items so lawmakers can conduct an audit of Joe Biden's win in the November election.

[Arizona Republican's brothers say he is 'at least partially to blame' for Capitol violence](#)

The Hill

The brothers of Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) said their sibling is “at least partially to blame” for the deadly riots at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

[The Three Types of Republicans Donald Trump Created](#)

New York Times

Never Trumpers, the unlikeliest group of “RINOs” and Trump loyalists are fighting for the future of the party.

[Rep. Andy Biggs predicts Joe Biden will do the damage Donald Trump already has done](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)

The congressman tried to make dire predictions about a Biden presidency by describing (unintentionally, one would hope) the damage his Dear Leader already has done.

[Should the Senate drive a stake through Donald Trump’s political heart?](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)

The U.S. Constitution has its own ‘Dracula clause.’ If convicted in an impeachment trial, Trump won’t be able to run for office again. Arizona went through this once.

[Maricopa County’s election audit may be a go, and that’s good news for Republicans. Or is it?](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)

It’s a good thing that Maricopa County’s election results will be audited. Or, if you’re a Republican who has spent months creating chaos, it could be a terrible thing.

[Sen. Ted Cruz had no business attending Joe Biden’s inauguration](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Elvia Diaz)

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz had no shame showing up at Joe Biden’s inauguration that only two weeks prior he and others tried and failed to overthrow.

[Resolution Copper has been modified and vetted. We just need the opportunity to mine](#)

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Andrew Lye)

Resolution Copper could generate millions in taxes each year for Arizona. And the mining would be done responsibly.

[What the Biden era will feel like, six months in](#)

Washington Post (Op-ed, Jeff Flake)

The Biden era is well underway by now.

·PRESS RELEASES·

AOTL STATEMENT: AZ’S INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MUST HOLD A TRANSPARENT PROCESS

IRC Hearings Must Be Accessible to All

With the selection of Erika Schupak Neuberg as the Chair and Derrick Watchman as Vice Chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), the commission is complete and the next phase of Arizona’s redistricting process begins. Hundreds of Arizonans submitted comments, concerns, and recommendations throughout the candidate evaluation process, and All On The Line (AOTL) applauds citizens from all backgrounds getting involved in the early stages of Arizona’s redistricting process. AOTL further commends the public servants that have stepped up to serve this commission and work towards fair maps.

“Though the Census data may be delayed, the Commission has critical work they must do in the coming days and weeks. The commissioners must begin to further their understanding of the state and its diverse communities, and work to fairly incorporate public feedback to ensure that our maps are fair and people-driven. Upon hiring qualified and effective staff, commissioners should immediately start offering robust and accessible public hearings long before 2020 Census data reaches the state,” **said Kendra Alvarez, AOTL Arizona State Director.**

These early hearings have traditionally served to help new commissioners hear from Arizonans and understand the local communities and geographies that must be reflected in the maps. AOTL AZ remains committed to the work of encouraging public involvement in the map drawing process, and calls on the five commissioners of the IRC to

demonstrate that they deserve the trust and faith of Arizona citizens by offering robust public hearings that are transparent and accessible to all Arizonans.

#NOHONEYMOON COALITION ACTION

Arizona organizers, activists, and working class leaders join to demand that President Joe Biden support the American people by backing and enacting necessary progressive policies.

On January 23, 2021, groups and community leaders including RootsAction.org, the Phoenix chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, the Arizona Progressive People's Alliance, CODEPINK, the United Campus Workers of Arizona, and the Progressive Democrats of America – Arizona will lead a #NOHONEYMOON car caravan and social distancing rally to demand that President Joe Biden support and enact the following necessary progressive policies during his first 100 days:

- Medicare for all
- The green new deal
- A federal job guarantee
- Abolishing the electoral college
- Abolishing I.C.E. and ending the practice of detaining immigrants and refugees
- A moratorium on deportations
- A moratorium on evictions
- Rental relief for tenants who are out of work because of the pandemic
- Funding communities and defunding police
- \$2000.00 monthly survival checks – retroactive to March 2020
- Complete student debt cancellation
- Ending the endless wars

The action will begin at 1:00pm MST as attendees gather in Madison Park (1440 E Glenrosa Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85014) to decorate cars and prepare for the caravan. After instructions and encouragement from the host organizations, attendees will depart in a caravan from Madison Park and circle Senator Mark Kelly's Phoenix office (2201 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016) before gathering again for a socially distanced rally to be held outside of Senator Kelly's office building. Digital route maps will be made available to attendees and press upon request.

CURRENTLY, FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES DESCEND DIGITALLY ON THE ARIZONA CAPITOL, CALLING FOR CHANGE

Phoenix, AZ—On January 25, 2021, *ReFraming Justice Day at the Capitol* will bring the voices and stories of the individuals and families who bear the brunt of mass incarceration directly to those who have the power to change those laws.

ReFraming Justice Day (RFJ Day) is an annual event organized by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) of Arizona. It is an opportunity for people who have been personally impacted by Arizona's criminal justice system—including incarcerated people, formerly incarcerated people, and their families—to speak directly to the legislators on the need to change Arizona's outdated and unjust laws.

Due to the COVID pandemic, AFSC-Arizona is pioneering a new set of virtual actions to educate, engage and mobilize support for reform this year:

- **Digital Stories:** AFSC reached out to people who are *currently incarcerated* in Arizona's prisons and collected their stories demonstrating the need for criminal justice reform. These messages will be read by AFSC staff and edited into short videos that will be posted online in the lead-up to ReFraming Justice Day.
 - Follow us on Twitter and Instagram
[@AFSCAZ](#); <https://www.facebook.com/AFSCArizona> #RFJDAY2021
- **Postcard Campaign:** Anyone can fill out a postcard with a custom message of why they support sentencing reform via AFSC-Arizona's webpage: <https://afscarizona.org/2020/12/18/afsc-arizona-postcard-generator/> These postcards will be physically printed and sent to AFSC, to be delivered to legislators.

- **Visits with Legislators:** On January 25, 2021, formerly incarcerated people and family members will conduct virtual visits with Arizona legislators via Zoom meetings to share their stories and help our leaders understand the need for change in our sentencing laws.

“Our lawmakers take an oath to represent the interests of everyone in their district, and Arizonans overall,” ReFraming Justice Program Coordinator Grace Gámez points out. “The fact that 1 in 13 Arizonans has a felony conviction means almost everyone knows someone whose life has been permanently altered by these policies. Even for those of us lucky enough to have escaped this dreadful lottery, we are still quite literally paying the price—our communities are torn apart, kids are growing up without parents, and we are siphoning off \$1 billion to pay for this failed system instead of the things that really make us safer, like healthcare, education, and behavioral health treatment.”

Arizona has the fifth highest incarceration rate in the nation. While the majority of other states have made efforts to reduce excessive sentences, expand opportunities for release from prison, and invested in programs and services that address the root causes of crime, Arizona remains stubbornly mired in the failed policies of the past. Legislative proposals put forward in previous years have been stonewalled by opposition, despite overwhelming, bipartisan support from the public for reform.

To arrange pre-event interviews with issue area experts or any of our RFJ Leaders for preview coverage of #RFJDAY2021, contact Jason Martinez, jmartinez@afsc.org; 520.309.8761.

Community Organizations Condemn Extreme Voter Suppression Bills Under Consideration by the Arizona State Legislature

At 2 pm today, the Senate Government Committee will hold a hearing on SB1069, a bill introduced by State Senator Michelle Ugenti-Rita that would purge hundreds of thousands of people from the permanent vote by mail list. The bill is one of a series of voter suppression bills currently under consideration by the Arizona state legislature, alongside:

[HB2369](#) (Representative Kevin Payne): would require early ballots to be notarized, essentially establishing a poll tax

[HB2370](#) (Representative Kevin Payne): would eliminate the permanent vote by mail list *entirely*

HCR2001 (Representative John Kavanagh): would undermine the citizen ballot initiative process by imposing a “single subject rule,” making it easier to use a technicality to challenge a ballot measure

These proposals come just weeks after an armed attack on the US Capitol that attempted to overturn the results of the 2020 election. That attack was sparked by lies about the election, which multiple sitting Arizona federal and state lawmakers helped to spread.

In response to the proposed bills, a coalition of Arizona community organizations and voting rights groups issued the following statement:

“These bills are blatant attempts at voter suppression, part of a larger pattern of attacks on our democratic norms. Many of the lawmakers pushing these bills are the same lawmakers who spread lies about the 2020 election. Others have moved to limit participation in the legislative process by barring remote testimony during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Arizonans, we are determined to stop these bills. Together, we must uplift and reaffirm our state’s commitment to democracy.”

New Report: Clean Energy Could Save Arizona \$2 Billion, Grow State Economy

Phoenix, Ariz. – Greater investment in clean energy, such as energy efficiency, solar, and batteries, consistent with the [new “Energy Rules”](#) approved by state utility regulators in November, could create an economic windfall of \$2 billion for Arizona, according to a new major study.

The [study](#) was released today by the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project and conducted by Strategen Consulting, a leading energy modeling and research firm.

The report identifies the cheapest way for Arizona to meet its energy service needs over the next 15 years. Using data from Arizona Public Service (APS) and Tucson Electric Power (TEP) — two of the state’s largest electric companies — Strategen built a model of Arizona’s power system and determined the state’s cheapest, most reliable mix of energy options moving forward.

The results were compared with new requirements approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission last fall. If fully implemented, the Energy Rules would direct APS and TEP to deliver 100 percent carbon-free power by 2050 — and demonstrate progress along the way — expand programs to help customers save energy, and boost investment in

battery storage. The Rules were developed after years of analysis, more than a dozen public meetings, thousands of written comments, and hundreds of hours of engagement by stakeholders.

This new study finds that:

- Arizonans could save over \$2 billion if APS and TEP meet and exceed the new clean energy requirements.
- Arizona's cheapest option is to invest in even greater levels of solar, energy efficiency, and battery storage than what is included in the Energy Rules.
- If utilities continue to pursue a greater use of solar, wind, and battery storage; make meaningful investments in energy efficiency; as well as take other measures consistent with the proposed Energy Rules, it would reduce electricity generation costs by more than \$2 billion through 2035. This amount represents an 11 percent reduction in generation costs relative to a "business as usual" scenario.

"The results speak for themselves. Capitalizing on Arizona's untapped clean energy potential would deliver billions in savings for all Arizonans," says **Ellen Zuckerman, Co-Director of the Utility Program for SWEEP**. "We cannot afford to delay. Arizona Corporation Commissioners must act now to finalize and implement the Energy Rules."

To read the Energy Rules Analysis, [click here](#) or visit www.arizonaenergyrules.com.

For more information about Arizona's Corporation Commission's Energy Rules, [click here](#).

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Dude, we can't have Kelli Ward.
There's no way. We can't keep
losing. I just can't do it.”

- *Sergio Arellano, candidate for AZGOP chair*