YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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Monday, February 01, 2021

·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

SEEMS LEGIT, WENDY

In a two-page response to the complaint filed by her former legislative assistant, Rogers argued that the allegations against her aren't true, and that they wouldn't violate the Senate's ethics rules even if they were. Rogers' former assistant, Michael Polloni, alleged that she harassed him to work while he was out sick with Covid, berated him for his weight, asked him to work for her campaign on the state's time, screamed at him until her spittle hit him in the face and nearly broke his hand while slamming a door – all over the course of a single



month working for the Legislature. Polloni was forced to resign on Jan 14. Rogers dismissed the complaint as "a complete fabrication by an outgoing, brand new employee who worked only one official day for the state of Arizona after the swearing in of senators." She cited a procedural issue with his complaint – that Polloni didn't name the law or Senate ethics rule she violated – as proof that the complaint should be dismissed. Senate ethics rules only prohibit violating state or federal law or "any improper conduct that adversely reflects upon the Senate," Rogers wrote, and she argues that the allegations against her don't rise to that level. (It is a violation of state law to campaign on state time, and federal and state law and Senate policies all prohibit workplace harassment.) Rogers further argued that the committee should dismiss the complaint because she doesn't believe it is true. "I believe the allegation by the Complainant alleging I created a hostile work environment is not true; therefore, the alleged, untrue allegations do not constitute improper conduct that adversely reflects upon the Senate. This alleged personnel matter is not a matter of Senate ethics," she concluded. A copy of her response is in our "documents" section (LINK).

BETTER IDEA: A 1487 FOR THE LEGISLATURE

The Corporation Commission may be the next branch of government that legislators can force the Attorney General to investigate. Parker, the new LD16 representative who formerly worked as Commissioner Justin Olson's assistant, introduced a bill that is identical to a 1487 complaint, but tailored to Corp Comm. Her H2737 (corporation commission actions; investigation) would allow any legislator to force the AG's Office to investigate Corp Comm for a decision the lawmaker thinks breaks state law or overreaches the commission's authority. It would also withhold 10 percent of its budget, if the AG found a violation and Corp Comm refused to make a change. Corp Comm voted to take a neutral stance on the measure, Commissioner Anna Tovar told our reporter today after commissioners met to discuss the legislation. Tovar said she and Sandra Kennedy are opposed, Olson and Jim O'Connor support the bill and Lea Marquez Peterson had some issues with language, including that it would only give the AG's Office 30 days to complete a full investigation and give Corp Comm a chance to fix any violations. "I think [the sponsors] are getting a directive from the governor," Tovar said. "I mean, when [Ducey] openly states what he wishes to happen at a chamber luncheon, I think it's clear where he is giving his orders in regards to what he wants to see happen at the Arizona Corporation Commission." At the luncheon, Ducey said the commission should stick to setting rates and let the Legislature set energy policy (LINK). Tovar also pointed to Olson as the possible source for the bill, noting that Parker worked for him before being elected. "At some point, you got to think someone is spoon-feeding her language to put into a bill," Tovar said. She called the governor and Republican commissioners "sore losers" and said she thinks Ducey is in favor of stripping away some of Corp Comm's power now that she flipped one seat and a Democratic agenda is closer to a reality.

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THE TRUMP TEAM WILL LEAD US INTO THE POST-TRUMP FUTURE

Ducey continued his recent national media blitz over the weekend, going on *CNN*'s "State of the Union" with Dana Bash and offering an interview to the *Wall Street Journal*. While none of the news was truly newsy to *Yellow Sheet* readers (he mostly repeated the same talking points he's said for weeks), the fact that he's doing so much national media lately might be his way of reminding a wider audience that the Republican Party shouldn't be construed as Kelli Ward and her ilk. Chuck Coughlin, the president of HighGround, told our reporter Ducey is in a position to shape his own narrative now that Trump is no



longer leading the Republican Party and that he and former VP Mike Pence are the ones who will try to reshape the Party for future elections. (It has long been rumored Pence and Ducey could be a potential presidential ticket in 2024, especially with Ducey denying he is going to run for US Senate, despite his specific choice of words leaving it open for interpretation (YS, 1/25).) Coughlin said he sees Ducey's newfound fondness of the national media as a way for Ducey to "elevate" himself on this national stage as chair of the Republican Governors Assn and that Ducey is likely trying to drown out the noise from Ward and other Trump loyalists. "I think the perception is that it elevates him above the fray of a Kelli Ward conversation. It makes her hill steeper because we know that the Ward constituency represents 30 percent of Republicans in general, and he's speaking to a broader audience," Coughlin said, adding that his advice is to never pick a fight with someone who is "smaller" than you, politically speaking.

THOSE DEM PRESIDENTS ARE ALWAYS STEALING AZ TALENT



Teller resigned from the Legislature effective Sunday to take a job as assistant secretary for tribal affairs for the US Department of Transportation in the Biden administration. "I am honored and humbled to have been selected by President Biden to work for his administration," Teller wrote in the resignation letter he sent to Bowers. "I look forward to continuing my public service in this new role and am grateful for your sincere support and guidance during my time at the House." Teller worked in management for the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation

before he first ran for the House in 2018, rising to the rank of deputy division director. His replacement will be quick – the Secretary of State must notify the Apache County Board of Supervisors of the vacancy immediately, then they have seven days to appoint a citizen panel to vet applicants, and they must submit to the board a list of three qualified applicants within five days. Those applicants must be Democrats from the LD7 portion of the county. After that, the law is silent on how quickly the board of supervisors must make the appointment. Teller briefly spoke on the House floor Monday to say goodbye to his former colleagues. "It has been nothing but a pleasure, a sincere pleasure working with all of you," he said. "Despite our disagreements, despite our party affiliations, at the end of the day we have worked for our communities we represent." Teller said he will be working remotely out of Arizona for the time being, either out of his home in Chinle or in Phoenix, but expects to move to DC in April or May. He said his job will be to voice tribal transportation needs at DOT, giving as an example the many tribal school bus routes that operate on dirt roads and affect children's education. "This administration has elevated tribal concerns in an unprecedented time, so I am going to be serving a wonderful administration with a fantastic Department of Transportation secretary, Mr. Pete Buttigieg," Teller said.

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WE JUST LOVE REMINISCING ON THIS ONE

The last time there was a vacancy in LD7, the Apache County Board of Supervisors filled it with Carlyle Begay, a Democrat who Democrats said was really a secret Republican and who later became a Republican. Jack Jackson Jr resigned from the Senate back in 2013 after accepting an appointment in the Obama administration as a senior advisor for Native American affairs within the US State Department. Begay was among the three names that a citizen board – rather than the Democratic PCs – chose to send to the board of supervisors. (If a district doesn't have at least 30 PCs, as is still the case in LD7, then PCs are cut out of the process, and a citizen board is created to vet possible appointees and send names to the county board.) Former lawmaker Albert Hale filed a lawsuit alleging Begay wasn't eligible to fill the



appointment because he had spent the last seven years in Gilbert, not in the district (\underline{YS} , 7/31/13), but was ultimately unsuccessful. After being the lone Democratic vote for the 2015 budget, which made massive cuts to public education and government services in general, Begay switched parties. He announced his new party flanked by John McCain, Jeff Flake and other then-prominent Republicans – the AZGOP even created a slick video of him explaining the switch, including an epic slow-motion shot of Begay riding a white horse through the snow (\underline{YS} , $\underline{11/23/15}$). But his status as a shining star in the Republican Party was short-lived. Begay ran unsuccessfully for CD1 and later claimed to have scored a job with the Trump administration, which turned out to be not true (\underline{YS} , $\underline{31/17}$).

AFTER PROP 208, THE CHAMBER COULDN'T AFFORD HIM



Glenn Hamer is leaving the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry after 14 years to lead the Texas Assn of Business. "We have been so fortunate to have had Glenn at the helm of the Chamber for the last 14 years. The Arizona business community could not have asked for a more talented, dedicated advocate," Arizona Chamber chair Dawn Grove said in a press release (LINK). Hamer is one of Ducey's closest allies and cheerleaders and a top power broker in Arizona politics who has built up the chamber's reputation and contributed to the campaigns of Republicans across the board and business-friendly Democrats.

Hamer will stay with the Chamber until Feb 18 when the chamber will announce an interim replacement.

REST IN PEACE

Bowers announced Monday that his daughter, Kacey Rae Bowers, died Thursday after a lengthy illness. "She is a marvelous and talented woman, a strong defender and vibrant advocate for her son, Lorenzo, 20, for her family and faith, and for the wonderful people she worked with in her counseling service work," Bowers wrote in a Facebook post. "How she loves you all, constantly speaking of growth and hope and successes her clients made. Please don't give up." Services will be held at 10 am on Saturday, Feb 13 at the Salt River Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mesa. Family and friends are invited to a viewing reception that morning, and Bowers said he would announce details of an online ceremony in the near future.

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·WAKE UP CALL·

Voter Protection Act blocking bipartisan bill

Arizona Capitol Times

Rep. Leo Biasiucci was waiting his turn to fight a parking ticket in court when the idea came to him.

Senate to do its own audit of election equipment

Capitol Media Services

Unhappy with what Maricopa County has proposed, state senators are going ahead with their own audit of the general election, a move that could lead to a new court fight and even potentially a contempt vote.

Arizona Republican Party chair rejects election audit call

Associated Press

Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Kelli Ward, who faces questions about her reelection, said the party lacks the structure to perform an audit of the election results, but said she welcomed input to improve future elections.

Arizona police union wants anti-cop videos removed from Google

Herald-Review

The Arizona Fraternal Order of Police wants Google to stop providing a platform for individuals who record law enforcement and then post videos on YouTube badmouthing the cops.

The FBI Has Now Connected Local Troll Baked Alaska To a 2016 Election Fraud Scheme

Phoenix New Times

It turns out that joining the January 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol wasn't the first time that Baked Alaska tried to disrupt the democratic process.

Repairman Said He'd Beat Black Veteran in Avondale 'Like a F***ing Slave'

Phoenix New Times

Ricky Barnes, a Black Avondale resident and U.S. Air Force veteran, was hoping to get the refrigerator in his garage fixed on the afternoon of January 20.

Maricopa County Attorney: No Charges for Phoenix Cop Who Killed Ryan Whitaker

Phoenix New Times

Maricopa County Attorney Allister Adel won't file charges in the fatal shooting of Ryan Whitaker, a 40-year-old man who was shot by a Phoenix police officer last summer.

AG Brnovich wants to cancel Biden's 100-day pause on deportations

Arizona Mirror

Hours after a federal judge in Texas wrote that agreement between the Department of Homeland Security and the attorney general there raises constitutional issues, Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich asked DHS to comply with a nearly identical agreement with his office related to immigration enforcement.

Some low-level offenders wouldn't have to register as a sex offender for life under new plan

Arizona Mirror

House Speaker Rusty Bowers is taking another shot at passing legislation making it easier for some people to get their names off the state's sex offender registry.

Arizona governor says state GOP's censuring him is 'of very little consequence'

Politico

"I think that the state party chairman should focus on winning races," Gov. Doug Ducey said.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey Sees a 'Fever' in the State GOP. Others See the Future

Wall Street Journal

After the state went for Democrats in top races, the GOP debates whether the governor is the problem or the solution to regaining lost ground.

Denying Washington, D.C., statehood is partisan, prejudicial and worse ... un-American

Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)

If you go by the numbers it's a no-brainer. But then there's partisan politics. And prejudice.

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Reps. Paul Gosar & Andy Biggs can't shake their links to extremists. That is a good thing

Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)

They shouldn't be allowed to. It's a hole they dug for themselves.

Fed up with the Arizona Republican Party? Then let's talk about a top-two primary

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Robert Robb)

Punishing the Arizona Republican Party isn't the best argument for a top-two primary system. But the party's descent does make passage more likely.

What new data tell us about COVID-19 outbreaks in Maricopa County schools

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Joanna Allhands)

New data reveal important insights on the COVID-19 outbreaks in Maricopa County schools – and what we should do about them.

Joe Biden has one job: Ignore the extremes to fix the mess that Trump left us

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Greg Moore)

Joe Biden was elected to clean up Donald Trump's mess, first and foremost on COVID-19. He's doing that so far by sticking to his base.

Maricopa County's election audit isn't about 2020. It's about the future

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Jack Sellers and Stephen Richer)

Hiring independent auditors to audit Maricopa County's election hardware and software is a small price to pay to ensure voter confidence.

Mexican consular IDs are secure and make us safer. It's time Arizona recognized them

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Jorge Mendoza Yescas)

A Consular ID program would not only improve public safety in our state, but it also would strengthen ties between Arizona and Mexico.

Mail-in voting isn't broken in Arizona. Lawmakers should stop trying to 'fix' it

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Grant Woods)

Bills ranging from the comically absurd to the patently prejudicial are an effort to chip away at Arizona voters' basic rights

·PRESS RELEASES·

Second state-run COVID-19 vaccination site launches at Phoenix Municipal Stadium

Patterned on State Farm Stadium site, operation is ready to scale up with vaccine supply

PHOENIX – The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and partners today launched a second COVID-19 vaccination site at Arizona State University's (ASU) Phoenix Municipal Stadium, building on a state model that has vaccinated more than 100,000 people since Jan. 11 at State Farm Stadium.

"We have drastically ramped up COVID-19 vaccination throughout the state thanks to our state-run site at State Farm Stadium, and we'll accelerate that momentum at our new Phoenix Municipal Stadium Site," said Governor Doug Ducey. "Arizonans want this life-saving vaccine and we have capacity to get it to them, but we need more doses from our federal partners. We will open up more sites across Arizona once we get more supply. My sincere thanks to ASU, Arizona Complete Care, the Arizona Diamondbacks, Walmart, and all partners who have been instrumental in expanding vaccinations at this site."

Unlike the 24/7 State Farm Stadium site, which vaccinates thousands a day, the Phoenix Municipal Stadium site will start out by offering 500 appointments a day seven days a week between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. When additional vaccine doses are available from the federal government, the site can be quickly scaled up to the same capacity as the other state-run site.

"Opening this second state vaccination site is a story of partnership and potential," said ADHS Director Dr. Cara Christ. "Working closely with the Arizona Department of Emergency Management, we have established a model

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that's drawn attention from other states, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other federal partners. If Arizona is allocated additional vaccine in the future, we can rapidly expand this site, add appointments, and open even more sites around the state."

The Phoenix Municipal Stadium site, launched in partnership with ASU, Arizona Complete Care, the Arizona Diamondbacks, Walmart, and others, began serving those with appointments at noon today. The patients include healthcare workers, first responders, teachers, law enforcement officers, Arizonans over age 65, and others at the top of the priority list for vaccine distribution.

Volunteers with Arizona Complete Health and the Arizona Diamondbacks will be critical to operating the site. "At Arizona Complete Health, our mission is transforming the health of the community, one person at a time," said Martha Smith, President and CEO of Arizona Complete Health. "We are humbled to be part of this public-private partnership at Phoenix Municipal vaccine distribution site, a model of our aligned mission. Striving toward improving our community's health means rolling up our sleeves, not just to get the vaccination when it is our turn, but also to be of service. For the next few months, our employees are honored to help check people in, collect paperwork, and direct traffic. These seemingly trivial functions will have a lasting impact in helping Arizona turn the corner on this pandemic and we are thrilled to do our part."

ADHS has contracted with Walmart to provide pharmacy support and ASU to provide operational support and additional staffing, supplies, and resources.

"ASU takes fundamental responsibility for the communities we serve, so when the state called and requested assistance in running its vaccination sites, we were quick to jump into action," said ASU President Michael M. Crow. "Our experience managing more than 100 COVID-19 testing sites across the state allowed us to quickly operationalize the State Farm vaccine site. In partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services, we're now pleased to launch the Phoenix Municipal Stadium vaccine site and will support this effort through site staffing, traffic control, and clinicians to quickly deploy the COVID vaccines to more Arizonans. I would like to personally thank all of the staff and volunteers who are working 24/7 to help Arizona defend against COVID-19."

All appointments at the Phoenix Municipal Stadium and State Farm Stadium sites have been booked through February, though ADHS plans to make more appointments available as additional vaccine becomes available. Registration is available for the vaccination sites at State Farm Stadium and Phoenix Municipal Stadium and several other sites throughout the state at <u>podvaccine.azdhs.gov</u>. Information about all vaccination sites across Arizona can be found at <u>azhealth.gov/findvaccine</u>. You can use the patient portal at <u>podvaccine.azdhs.gov</u> to make an appointment for a relative in a prioritized group, such as someone 65 and older.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccination, please visit azhealth.gov/COVID19vaccine.

February 3rd is Virtual 'Environmental Day' at the AZ State Capitol

(PHOENIX, AZ) More than 300 people from throughout Arizona will be meeting online for a socially distant Environmental Day at the Capital to meet with their legislators about key environmental issues, including climate change, water, and funding for parks. This year's theme is "One Planet. One Future. Climate Justice Now!" Participants will include members from more than 20 organizations and at least five Arizona high schools, with each attending scheduled meetings with their local representatives and senators in the Arizona Legislature. Youth leaders will hold a news conference at 11:30 A.M. to read their "love letters to the Earth" and speak about some of the priority bills and issues for the session, including sustainability, climate, and protecting watersheds.

WHO: Legislators, youth, and others from throughout Arizona who care about protecting our environment

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 3, 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. *News Conference at 11:30 A.M. WHENE: Zoom (DSVR for Zoom link and pageword)

WHERE: Zoom (RSVP for Zoom link and password)

* Animal Defense League of Arizona * Arizona Chapter of Elders Climate Action * Arizona Faith Network Cherishing Creation Collaborative * Arizona Heritage Alliance * Arizona Interfaith Power and Light * Arizona Poor People's Campaign * Arizona Youth Climate Coalition * Care for Creation Ministry at the Franciscan Renewal Center * Chispa Arizona * Citizen's Climate Lobby * Citizens Water Advocacy Group * Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection * Defend Our Future * Earth Justice Ministry at UUCP * Ecomadres * Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy Environmental Coalition * Great Old Broads for Wilderness * Humane Voters of AZ * Kids Climate Action Network * Phoenix Lobos-Rising Packtivist Group * Protect Our Water Arizona * Sierra Club – Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter * Sky Islands High School * Union of Concerned Scientists * Violence Impact Project Coalition * Western Watersheds Project * Yuma Audubon Society *

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PRESS RELEASE: Tanva Wheeless Named Chief Deputy Recorder

February 1, 2021 (Phoenix) – Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer has named Tanya Wheeless as Chief Deputy Recorder.

Wheeless joins the Recorder's Office from the Office of U.S. Senator Martha McSally, where Wheeless served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of State Operations. Prior to her government work, Wheeless held multiple leadership roles in the private sector, including President and CEO of the Arizona Bankers Association and Senior Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs for the Phoenix Suns.

Wheeless earned her Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University, and she has served on several civic boards including the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and Phoenix Suns Charities. The Phoenix Business Journal previously named Wheeless to its "40 Under 40" list.

"We are incredibly lucky to have Tanya on the team. She's a leader; she's a collaborator; she's a person of integrity; she's talented; she's knowledgeable," said Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer. "Tanya has hit the ground running and is already working to the great benefit of Maricopa County."

"As a lifelong resident of Maricopa County, it's an honor to serve this great community at such a pivotal time," said Maricopa County Chief Deputy Recorder Tanya Wheeless. "I'm grateful to Recorder Richer for the opportunity."

Lieberman Introduces 5-Bill Climate and Green Energy Package

PHOENIX – To kick off Environment Week at the State Capitol Representative Aaron Lieberman has introduced a five-bill package to help Arizona contend with climate change and create more green-energy jobs. Maricopa County had some of the <u>worst</u> air quality in the nation and 2021 began with <u>record-breaking</u> air pollution in the Valley. December was also Arizona's most intense period of drought in the past 20 years with nearly <u>77 percent</u> of the state impacted. Lieberman said ignoring climate change can no longer be an option.

The most simple and direct bill that Lieberman introduced is a one-sentence measure, <u>HB2496</u>, "develop a plan to address the effects of climate change on this state."

"We have a responsibility and obligation to leave this beautiful state to our kids and grandkids in at least in as good a shape as we found it," said Lieberman, D-Paradise Valley. "The state of Arizona should have a plan to deal with climate change, what could be simpler? We need it, let's do it."

In addition to creating a state climate plan, Lieberman's bills include:

- HB2286 encourages more water-efficient plumbing fixtures.
- <u>HB2287</u> a \$1.5 million appropriation to the Department of Education to provide grants for electric school buses.
- <u>HB2498</u> Increases renewable energy capacity with \$5 million to create grant program to spur research and development of improved battery storage.
- HB2528 supports roof-top solar by allowing customers to distribute power they generate back to public power utilities.

Arizona Recognizes Black History Month

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey proclaimed February 2021 to be Black History Month in Arizona to recognize the accomplishments and significant contributions of the African American community.

"Black History Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the many ways the African American community influences Arizona and the entire nation," said Governor Ducey.

Black History Month was established in 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford and has since been recognized by every U.S. President. Governor Ducey has issued a total of six Black History Month proclamations. View a PDF of the proclamation HERE.

Congressman Biggs Leads Delegation to the Southern Border

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last week, Congressman Andy Biggs, the co-chair of the Border Security Caucus, led a tour of the United States-Mexico border in southern Arizona with eight Members of Congress. U.S. Representatives Lauren Boebert, Warren Davidson, Bob Gibbs, Andrew Clyde, Matt Rosendale, Bob Good, Glenn Grothman, and

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Barry Moore joined Congressman Biggs on this trip to Sasabe, Nogales, and Sierra Vista. The congressional delegation met with Border Patrol agents, members of local law enforcement, customs officials, and a mother of a former City of Mesa police officer, who was killed by an illegal alien.

Congressman Biggs has led several congressional delegations to the southern border since taking office in January 2017, hosting 34 Members of Congress from 21 states.

Congressman Biggs and members of the recently completed delegation released the following statements: "I am grateful for my eight colleagues, who took time to visit the U.S. border in Arizona. Thanks to the Trump administration, the United States made tremendous progress to secure the border. We have built the border wall along hundreds of miles of rugged terrain, including many miles where experts previously thought such a feat was impossible. We have constructed roads along many stretches of the wall, and increased our technology capabilities to help Border Patrol and members of local law enforcement safely and effectively do their jobs. The Trump administration also instituted key policies, working in conjunction with Mexico and Latin American nations, to discourage illegal immigration into the United States.

"The Trump administration's efforts to secure our border were working, but the new Biden administration is threatening to undo all progress that has been made over the last four years. They stopped construction on the border wall — even in dangerous drug smuggling corridors that were in the process of being sealed. And they are currently reversing the policies that have discouraged illegal immigration into our country. If the Biden administration persists with its open-borders policies, the United States will be overrun with an historic surge of illegal aliens, who are chasing amnesty and sanctuary from the rule of law. I hope this administration will stop pandering to the radical left when it comes to securing our border and enforcing our laws. Border security is national security, and I promise to keep fighting for border security in the U.S. House of Representatives." — Congressman Andy Biggs (AZ-05)



"I believe the complaint against me is a complete fabrication by an outgoing, brand new employee who worked only one official day for the state of Arizona after the swearing in of senators."

- Rogers, in her response to the ethics complaint by her former campaign volunteer and assistant

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