

# YELLOW SHEET REPORT

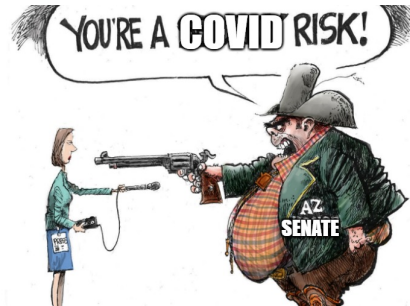
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Tuesday, February 02, 2021

## •NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP•

### **IT'S FEELING MORE AND MORE LIKE GOWAN'S HOUSE**

The Senate deactivated our reporter's badge and barred our reporter, and the public, from attending the Rules Committee yesterday in a crackdown the chamber is attributing to protecting against Covid, but which conveniently followed our reporter's attempt last Monday to ask Rogers questions about the ethics complaint filed against her. While the House broadcasts its Rules Committee and caucus meetings, the Senate holds those meetings in the camera-free first-floor caucus rooms. Unless a reporter is in the room, the public has no way to know the opinion of the attorneys hired to vet bills for constitutionality. Our reporter was booted from caucus last week, barred from Rules yesterday and discovered that the Senate deactivated our key card access to the building. Senate security eventually allowed our reporter into the building, but only while the Senate was on the floor, and only in the third-floor gallery. Security has been instructed to block us from the hallways – contradicting Fann's pledge before session that reporters could catch senators in the second-floor hallway ([YS, 1/7](#)). Senate GOP spokesman Mike Philipsen confirmed that the Senate has "temporarily" deactivated key card access to the building, and said he was unaware that Fann had promised reporters could lurk in the hallways. He said he hopes to reach a solution, such as allowing reporters to join the Zoom call that lawmakers attend during caucus, within the next few weeks. As for rules, Philipsen offered to tell our reporter what happened, and said he'd pass on our reporter's question about moving the meeting to one of the many other hearing rooms equipped for broadcasting. The Senate cited Covid risks in further restricting access to the building, though if our masked reporter is a Covid threat, the same could certainly be said for the Republicans who routinely wear their masks below their noses or take them off entirely to speak. Fann didn't return a call for comment, but has repeatedly complained that the press only covers the bad things lawmakers do and said if she's going to "bend over backwards" to give reporters access, she wants the press to "be fair" ([YS, 1/25](#)).



### **SPIES, LIES AND BS ALL AROUND**

Fann also ordered Dems to close their caucus down after Rios had made an open video call for anyone who asks to participate. Both Contreras and Quezada confirmed that Fann gave the order, and said Democrats couldn't do anything to stop it. "They run this building. They make the rules in this building, and that's a rule we have to follow," Contreras told our reporter. Contreras said Dems were told caucuses should be closed as part of the new Covid restrictions in the building, though, of course, streaming a meeting cannot possibly contribute to spreading Covid. Quezada told our reporter he was unaware that reporters were being barred from the Rules Committee because he participates virtually. The committee should be held in Senate Hearing Room 1 and streamed, even during normal times, he said. "I've always had a huge issue with that," he said. "I don't think our Rules Committee should be held behind closed doors at all." He said his understanding is that Republicans can force Dems to follow their rules for caucuses because majority staff controls meeting links. "Now whether that's a bunch of BS or not, I'll let you write about that," he said. And Quezada said Dems are now unable to send an intern to safely sit in on the GOP caucus, because Republicans won't provide a Zoom link and Dems aren't going to send an intern into a crowded room of potentially unmasked Republicans. Since they're not allowed to stream their meetings, Dems plan to have their interns act as "spies" by taking notes on Dem caucus and posting them for the public to see.

## **IT COULD BE WORSE**

Although today's meeting was only the second time the full IRC met, it already has an open meetings complaint. The complaint argued that the commission has moved into executive session without proper notice, and cut out the public due to technical difficulties with the video streaming system. Commissioners chalked the problems up to technical difficulties, but agreed to let an investigation play out. On top of the agenda today was hiring an administrative assistant and legal counsel, and updating the website, which still lists info about the 2011 commission. Andy Tobin, director of the Dept of Administration, which oversees the IRC, added some pressure for the IRC to start hiring, saying his employees won't be able to help out for too much longer due to their own restraints from Covid. The discussion over hiring legal counsel was the most interesting part of the mostly dull three-hour meeting, as there was a little contention over whether commissioners should hire two legal counsel teams – one for Democratic interests and another for Republican interests – as it has in the past, or if they can find one nonpartisan counsel that will be able to adequately represent both sides. Commissioners didn't settle on a decision, but said they are going to attempt for the latter while leaving open the possibility of hiring two firms. The commission voted on several different agenda items, and while the commission didn't make any substantial decisions, each vote was unanimous. For the foreseeable future, the IRC will meet every Tuesday between 9 am and noon. Next week's meeting will begin the process to open up applications to fill administrative roles.



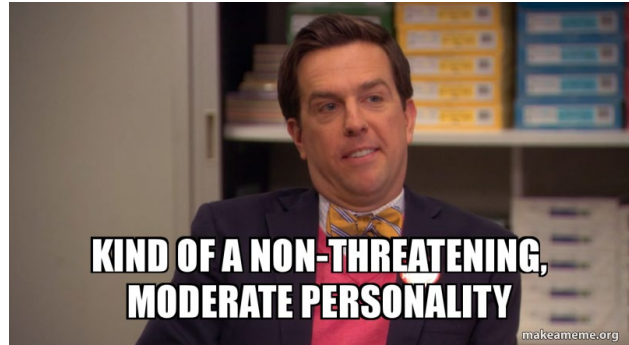
## **OH, DON'T WORRY, IT'LL GET WORSE**



As the IRC was holding its first meeting, Colleen Mathis, the former IRC commissioner, offered a somber assessment of the job. On *KJZZ's The Show* this morning ([LINK](#)) Mathis relived her tumultuous tenure as chair, saying it started friendly enough, but by the time she got her sea legs, the slings and arrows came out. "You're essentially starting up an administrative agency from zero. So it's a really big task... It's only when you start making those key hires that people really start to pay attention and decide whether they like who you hired or didn't and that's when the arrows start flying," she said. "Initially it's startling, frankly, because I hadn't anticipated all of the arrows that would be flying." She said while her fellow commissioners started out by trying to stay above the political fray and represent all Arizonans above their party, as time went on and "members of the commission were getting political pressure from their parties, perhaps, to behave in a certain way, or not trust the chair, maybe they started doing that." "The dynamic definitely changed," she said. She noted that one of her longstanding frustrations with coverage of the process is the assertion that she sided with the Democrats. "It's always been characterized as I sided with the Democrats, and I didn't they actually had to come around to my way of thinking if they wanted to have representation that they could live with," she said. "And that's what the independent has to do sometimes – you've got to put a line in the sand at some point if the four aren't agreeing on a particular item. The clock is ticking." Mathis noted that when voters first approved the IRC, only 18 percent of voters were registered independents, (though by the time she became chair, independents had crossed 30 percent) and the power of independents has only grown in the ensuing decades. The IRC chair role is not to remove partisanship, she said, but to represent those independents, just as the partisans represent their parties. "They're a fully engaged and functioning member of the commission representing the independent voice in this state," she said. "And their role is not to remove partisanship from the commission. That's impossible – four of the five members of the commission are partisans."

## **STAY MODERATE TO OWN THE MAGAS**

As potential candidates from both political parties eye the 2022 field, HighGround's Paul Bentz has some suggestions about how to win – and the path to victory predictably includes courting independents. It's no secret that independent voters or persuadable "Ducey-Sinema" voters are the ones who decide Arizona's elections, he noted. "Republicans must recognize that pandering to their base may get cheers in a district meeting or adoration on social media, but it destroys their ability to broaden the base," Bentz wrote on his blog today ([LINK](#)). But he also cautioned that Democrats "cannot assume [independents] will lean their way in 2022." In order to stay competitive in a still technically red state, Democrats must "avoid a messy free-for-all or electing far-left progressives who have proven time and again unelectable on a statewide level." And finally, as everyone tries to figure out what Republican Party looks like post-Trump, Bentz laid out a four-step process to salvaging the GOP's reputation: Stop suppressing Republican voters, unite the party, embrace early voting and stop trying to game the system. "Even with these steps, it may not be enough," he wrote. The best chance for Republican unification may be if the Biden agenda goes so far left as to create a Trump like environment which existed in 2016."



## **WHY SHOULD THE PUBLIC KNOW YOUR BUSINESS?**



Public officials were required to file their annual financial disclosure statements yesterday, but nearly a dozen didn't bother. The two Democrats on the Corporation Commission – Sandra Kennedy and Anna Tovar – didn't file their disclosures yet, while a handful of lawmakers also haven't yet filed theirs. Two senators are late – Gonzales and Ugenti-Rita – while former Sen Eddie Farnsworth also hasn't filed his disclosure (because the reports cover the previous year, outgoing politicians must still file one.) In the House, only one sitting lawmaker didn't file their report: Blackman. Former lawmakers who are still required to file, but didn't, include Anthony Kern, Bob Thorpe, Jay Lawrence, and Geraldine Peten. Remembering the deadline seems harder for lawmakers than other officials – all 207 superior court judges who were required to submit financial disclosure statements filed theirs on time. The Secretary of State's Office sent letters to those who haven't filed warning that there is a \$50 per day penalty, and that those who don't file within 30 days could face further enforcement.

## **WE'VE HAD TOO MANY R.I.P. HEADLINES LATELY**

Former lawmaker and Navajo Nation President Albert Hale, died Tuesday after battling with Covid, the Navajo Nation Council announced this afternoon. Hale, 71, served as his tribe's assistant attorney general before he was elected president, serving from 1995 to 1998. He represented his LD7 (and its previous iteration, LD2), in the state Senate from 2004 to 2011 and in the House from 2011 to 2017. "The Navajo Nation prays for the family and relatives of our leader, Hon. Albert Hale," Council Speaker Seth Damon said in a statement. "As a former president of the Navajo Nation, he is remembered for his service and dedication to the Navajo People, which continued beyond the borders of the Nation when he was called to represent our district in the Arizona Legislature."

## ·WAKE UP CALL·

### **Teller leaves Legislature to join Biden administration**

*Arizona Capitol Times*

Rep. Arlando Teller, D-Chinle, has left the Legislature to take a job with the Biden administration.

### **Rogers claims accusations against her false**

*Arizona Capitol Times*

A state senator accused of workplace harassment said Monday that a complaint filed against her isn't true, and it wouldn't violate Senate rules even if it were.

### **Details emerge on gambling expansion**

*Capitol Media Services*

OK. So you think Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray will rush for at least 75 yards in an upcoming game.

### **Historical society to preserve quilts dedicated to migrants who died crossing into Arizona**

*Arizona Daily Star*

Tucson's Migrant Quilt Project was launched in 2007 to remember dead, spread awareness.

### **Ducey sounds hopeful note for post-pandemic Arizona**

*East Valley Tribune*

There was no tinkling of silverware, no low murmurs of conversations and, in fact, no food at the annual breakfast visit from the governor last Thursday hosted by the PHX East Valley Partnership and the region's chambers of commerce.

### **Biden ban on new private prison contracts will not reach Pinal ICE detainees**

*Cronkite News*

President Joe Biden's order that the Justice Department stop contracting with private prisons could eventually affect thousands of inmates — but not the roughly 3,000 illegal immigrants being held in private facilities in Pinal County.

### **Advocates push wide-ranging new Arizona school voucher bill**

*Associated Press*

Advocates of using public money for private education are pushing a wide-ranging new school voucher program that would vastly expand Arizona's current system just two years after state voters overwhelmingly rejected a universal voucher system.

### **Concern over winter visitors jumping the line for covid-19 vaccinations raised**

*Today's News-Herald*

Mohave County following state's guidance that residence doesn't matter.

### **New Phoenix Vaccination Site Hamstrung by Short Supplies**

*Phoenix New Times*

A festive scene greeted the public in a Phoenix Municipal Stadium parking lot on Monday as the Arizona Department of Health Services opened its second drive-up vaccination site.

### **Paul Gosar Allegedly Met With Oath Keepers and Said the U.S. is in a Civil War**

*Phoenix New Times*

A member of the Yavapai County chapter of the Oath Keepers, an extremist right-wing militia group that was involved in the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, claimed in a recent YouTube video that Arizona Congressman Paul Gosar met with them and said that the U.S. is in a civil war.

### **553 County Vaccine Doses Discarded Due To No-Shows, Technical Issues**

*Phoenix New Times*

Even as demand for COVID-19 vaccines massively outstripped supply, 553 doses of the vaccine had to be discarded at Maricopa County sites in the first month that vaccines were available.

### **Kelli Ward demanded an audit of a local GOP leadership election before refusing one of her election**



*Arizona Mirror*

Less than two months before refusing calls for an audit of her re-election to lead the Arizona Republican Party, AZGOP Chairwoman Kelli Ward demanded GOP leaders in a north Phoenix legislative district conduct an audit of the party's December organizing election.

**Senate wants Maricopa County to set date to comply with election subpoena***Arizona Mirror*

The Arizona Senate wants Maricopa County to say by noon on Tuesday when it will provide the equipment, materials and data it wants for a controversial audit of the 2020 general election.

**Why Arizona's Senators May Collide With Democrats Who Elected Them***New York Times*

Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly ran on bipartisan approaches to governing, but some Democrats in Arizona view their openness to Senate Republicans with skepticism.

**Republicans want to make our democracy smaller. We can't let them.***Arizona Mirror (Op-ed, Katie Hobbs)*

In 2020, we were challenged in many ways. The year challenged our healthcare system, our economy, our families. It also challenged our democracy.

**Gov. Doug Ducey will veto any new election bill. Or was he lying?***Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)*

In December the governor laid out exactly why elections in Arizona are fair, efficient and secure. If he meant it, no new laws are necessary.

**Blame Rep. Andy Biggs for the rise of Marjorie Taylor Greene, the GOP's latest kook***Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)*

In just under a month, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green has already become a federal disaster area for the Republican Party. Why on earth did Rep. Andy Biggs urge this nut to run for Congress?

**Republican lawmakers in Arizona are scheming to block the 'wrong' sort of voters***Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)*

Not content with simply scheming to make it more difficult to vote, Arizona GOP lawmakers now are moving on to making it more difficult even to register to vote.

**If more Colorado River water flows to Queen Creek now, that could start World War III***Arizona Republic (Opinion, Joanna Allhands)*

A reversed recommendation on a proposed water transfer to Queen Creek couldn't have come about in a worse way ... and at the worst time for Arizona.

**Republicans will never agree to a \$15 federal minimum wage hike. Just do it, anyway***Arizona Republic (Opinion, Elvia Diaz)*

Let's not kid ourselves. Republicans will never agree to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Democrats must do it themselves.

**Joe Biden can pass COVID relief and still unify our nation***Arizona Republic (Opinion, Editorial Board)*

At the moment, Joe Biden's most important job is to work with Republicans to pass the American Rescue Plan, who also must show they are serious about COVID-19 relief.

•PRESS RELEASES•

## Superintendent Hoffman Delivers 2021 State of Education Address

PHOENIX – Today, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman delivered her annual “State of Education” address to the Senate Education Committee. Under the shadow of COVID-19 Superintendent Hoffman shared the incredible, unforeseen challenges Arizona’s schools have faced because of the pandemic – but also highlighted the remarkable empathy, kindness, and innovation of our students, teachers and families.

The hardships felt by every Arizonan over the past year, have also deeply impacted our students. Too many of Arizona’s youngest have coped as parents lost a job, struggled to learn over unreliable internet connections, and tragically too many have had to grieve the loss of a loved one to this virus.

We must get this virus under control, so we can fully focus on policies and investments to make our schools stronger. Our schools need predictable, sustainable funding to plan their budgets, to hire and fairly compensate every professional their students need, from reading specialists to school counselors.

Making Arizona’s public schools stronger, also means supporting Arizona families. Over the past year, we have learned just how deeply tied our schools are to families and communities. Saying that, “The truth is that family-centered policies support our schools and benefit all communities,” Superintendent Hoffman called the legislature to pass, bills like HB2015, SB1227, that will address pre-k, classroom size and, common-sense policies like SB 1756 that will provide paid-family leave to build stronger schools and stronger families.

But there is more work for the state to do to support our schools. Without predictable, on-going state funding, many public schools – particularly, small rural schools – will not be able to sustain their operations and provide a full range of services to students and families. “When the state sits on a billion-dollar rainy day fund and projects a two-billion-dollar surplus, there is no excuse to not fully fund every school,” Superintendent Hoffman said, “There has never been a more urgent time to tap into our safety net and provide for Arizonans. Anyone who thinks it’s not raining in Arizona right now needs to check their privilege.”

The pressure on our schools this past year has been immense, but they have risen to the challenge, transitioning to new learning models, and a new reality, with innovation, quick-thinking, and adaptation. Proving, our schools can be the backbone of our state’s recovery from this virus, in fact they must be.

A full transcript of Superintendent Hoffman’s address can be found [here](#). Also, please see attached audio files for your use.

## ADHS To Open New Appointments At State-Run Phoenix Municipal Stadium Tomorrow

Additional Doses Pave The Way For 21,000 New Appointments Over 2 Weeks In February

PHOENIX — The Arizona Department of Health Services is opening up registration for 21,000 more appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine starting tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 9 a.m. This is part of the state’s ongoing work to speed up the pace of vaccine distribution. These additional appointments will be available to prioritized Arizonans at the new state-run vaccination site at Arizona State University’s Phoenix Municipal Stadium.

These 21,000 appointments are now available thanks to vaccine supply identified because of Governor Ducey’s Executive Order last week. Appointments will be available from Friday, Feb. 5 through Thursday, Feb. 18, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Those who receive their first vaccinations at State Farm Stadium or Phoenix Municipal Stadium will have a guaranteed appointment for second doses at the same vaccination site.

Last week, Governor Ducey issued [Executive Order 2021-01](#) requiring all vaccine providers that have received more than 1,000 doses and had over 40% of those doses remaining unused to submit a plan to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). Plans submitted by counties and health care providers identified available doses of the Pfizer vaccine and allowed ADHS to open up additional appointments at Phoenix Municipal Stadium.

“Arizona acted quickly to ensure these vaccine doses will go to Arizonans with urgency, rather than sitting in a freezer,” said Governor Doug Ducey. “With State Farm Stadium and our new Phoenix Municipal Stadium, Arizona has dramatically increased the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered each day. These vaccination sites have become a national model for other states and we will continue to look for ways to ensure Arizona’s vaccine doses are being used.”

In addition, Arizonans registering for these new appointments online will have a simpler, easier user experience. New improvements to the state’s vaccine registration website recently went live at [podvaccine.azdhs.gov](#). Among them: a feature that shows the next available appointment rather than requiring a user to search by day for appointments.

Information about all the vaccination sites across Arizona can be found at [azhealth.gov/findvaccine](#). Those without

computer access or needing extra help registering can call 1-844-542-8201 to be connected with an operator who can assist. **Note: You can use the patient portal at [podvaccine.azdhs.gov](https://podvaccine.azdhs.gov) to make an appointment for someone else in a prioritized group, such as someone 65 and older.**

More than 702,664 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered so far to 579,225 Arizonans, including 109,617 who have received both doses. As of today, 123,242 Arizonans have been vaccinated at the state-run vaccination sites since the opening of State Farm Stadium on Jan. 11 and Phoenix Municipal Stadium on Feb. 1. In less than three weeks, State Farm Stadium has administered over 25% of the total vaccine given in Maricopa County, which includes sites that have had vaccine since Dec. 14. Over 95% of those vaccinated at the site are Maricopa County residents.

“We know the vaccine is in high demand, and we expect the appointments to fill quickly,” said ADHS Director Dr. Cara Christ. “Building off of the success of the State Farm Stadium site, we are able to replicate these sites quickly to add capacity when we get vaccine. Our only limiting factor is the amount of vaccine we are receiving from our federal partners.”

In an effort to add more appointments and in accordance with [Executive Order 2021-01](#), ADHS will prioritize allocating limited vaccine resources to sites that have proven, efficient administration, including:

- Sites that are open 7 days a week;
- Sites that have extended hours of operation;
- Sites that have the capacity to administer large numbers of vaccine doses (greater than 4,000 per day);
- Sites that are using the vaccine they receive on a weekly basis and not stockpiling; and
- Sites that vaccinate the priority groups determined by the Vaccine and Antiviral Prioritization Advisory Committee (VAPAC), which includes vaccinating people between the ages of 65 and 74 as a part of the priority Phase 1B population.

Groups prioritized to date include: frontline healthcare workers, emergency services workers, and residents and staff at long-term care facilities (in Phase 1A); and protective services workers; K-12, university, and community college educators; childcare workers; and adults 65 and older (prioritized Phase 1B). Each county’s [current vaccine phase](#) is listed on the ADHS website, which is updated daily.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination, please visit [azdhs.gov/COVID19Vaccines](https://azdhs.gov/COVID19Vaccines).

## **Fernandez Commends UPS for COVID-19 Response in Rural & Tribal Communities**

YUMA, Ariz. – In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Representative Charlene Fernandez encouraged delivery giant UPS to do more to help struggling communities, particularly the Navajo Nation and Somerton – in her district – which were among the hardest-hit in the nation.

UPS stepped up, donating and delivering shipments of badly needed masks and personal protective equipment to both locations. Today, Fernandez recognized the company for quietly continuing those efforts throughout the year, impacting tens of thousands of families in effort to slow the spread. Remarkably, UPS expanded its effort to include hundreds of thousands of dollars in education grants and scholarships for college-age youth in tribal communities.

“What began as an emergency request to literally help save lives has transformed into an effort by one company to transform lives,” Fernandez said. “I can’t commend UPS enough for the way in which their frontline workers and leaders threw their arms around our communities and our state at time when we really needed it. Thank you!”

Bruce DD Mac Rae, Vice President of U.S. Government Affairs for Ups, added, “We have a saying at UPSL Determined people working together can accomplish anything. We are all family here in Arizona, on the Navajo Nation, across the USA and the world. I personally thank former House Democratic Leader Charlene Fernandez for opening our eyes to the needs of the Navajo Nation. We are in this as one family, and we at UPS are honored to help out. May we all walk in friendship--always.”

### **UPS COVID-19 support on the Navajo Nation and other rural and tribal Communities included:**

- One truckload of mixed items containing water, hand sanitizer, emergency meals, dry goods, canned goods, hand soap and paper towels sent in March to support 300 people of the White Mountain Apache tribe in Fort Apache.
- 12,000 disaster relief meals to Partnership with Native Americans. These meals were assembled and packed by volunteers and donated to PWNA for its disaster relief program to tribal communities. They are stored in PWNA’s warehouse in Phoenix and delivered with other relief supplies when tribes request assistance.
- 30,000-plus bottles of UPS hand sanitizer provided in one UPS truckload were delivered to Chinle, Arizona.
- 60,000 masks delivered to the Chinle School District/Navajo Nation were delivered in July from Good360.

- 13,000 masks were transported by UPS to Yuma farm workers.
- Three truckloads of water including 4,000 five-Gallon emergency source water boxes delivered to Navajo Nations Donations center in Window Rock. Each truckload provides water for 5,000+ people – donated by Aquene Springs.
- Seven additional hand sanitizer shipments were sent to the Toolbank, Good 360 and Salvation Army in Phoenix. While not directly for Navajo Nation, if they receive donations from these NGOs, the products were most likely transported by UPS.

**Education and Economic development funding provided by UPS included:**

- \$275,000 grant to American Indian College Fund in May 2020. Used for the UPS Foundation Scholarship (\$175,000) providing 40 academic scholarships to Native American students attending tribal colleges and universities and Native Pathways Program (\$100,000), to encourage students to pursue higher education.
- \$75,000 grant to the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development in March 2020. Goes toward development of Native Edge, an online business-development and training system supporting commerce between tribal nations, government entities and corporations across the United States.
- \$10,000 sponsorship to the American Indian College Fund in March 2020. Provides sponsorship support of the American Indian College Fund, Epicurean Award to Support Scholars (EATSS), which replaced the Flame of Hope Gala.
- \$30,000 to the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development in March 2020. Provides sponsorship support of the Annual Reservation Economic Summit 2020 to be held in March.
- \$75,000 Brigham Young University for 20 scholarships for Native American students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

## **Bolding Seeks Transparency and Accountability in Police Use-of-Deadly Force Probes, has AG Support**

**PHOENIX**— House Democratic Leader Reginald Bolding on Monday introduced [House Bill 2765](#) to require third-party oversight into an officer's use of deadly force with key support from Attorney General Mark Brnovich. Currently in Arizona, when a deadly officer-involved shooting or use-of-force incident occurs, the investigation is often conducted by the same law enforcement agency.

If enacted, the legislation would require an outside law enforcement agency, the Attorney General's Office, or a County Attorney from another county to investigate an officer's use of deadly force. After the investigation is complete, the results would be presented to the County Attorney of the county where the incident occurred. Similar legislation has recently been proposed and adopted in Utah, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

"If we are going to restore the trust between law enforcement and the communities that they are supposed to serve and protect, we must ensure that officers who engage in police brutality or improperly use deadly force are held accountable," said Bolding, D-Phoenix, who has proposed several police reform bills. "You cannot objectively say that's the case in Arizona. This is a simple, common-sense step in the right direction to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure fairness and accountability. We greatly appreciate Attorney General Brnovich's support in this effort."

"Transparency and accountability should not be partisan issues," said Attorney General Brnovich. "Our law enforcement officers work hard to protect us each day and they are required to make split second decisions in the line of duty. It is in everyone's best interest to maintain public confidence in the investigations following officer-involved shootings."

Last year, Representative Bolding along with several of his Democratic colleagues, [called for a special session](#) to address a number of [police reform issues](#), including requiring the investigation of a law enforcement officer's use of deadly force to be conducted by a different jurisdiction from where the officer is employed.

Similarly, Attorney General Brnovich [called](#) for third party oversight in the investigations of officer-involved shootings and excessive use of force.

## **New Bill Allows the Return of Legal Sale of Alcohol to Go**

*Legislation Intended to Help Businesses Endure Hardships of COVID-19*

**PHOENIX (February 1, 2021)**—Yesterday, Arizona state House Representative Jeff Weninger (R, District 17), introduced HB 2773, allowing for restaurants and bars across Arizona to once again sell to-go cocktails, legally.



Bringing back one of the most popular features among consumers in the age of COVID-necessitated to-go dining, Weninger is hopeful this action will help the struggling hospitality industry recover from the challenges of 2020. “This is an important win all around,” says Weninger. “This bill will allow local restaurants and bars to provide a service that their customers want while earning the vital additional business revenue to help them survive, now and into the future.”

Since 2010, the importance of takeout or delivery food to customers has doubled, with 52 percent of adults saying that takeout or delivery is essential to the way they live, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only accelerated this trend. As the Arizona restaurant and bar industry looks to recover from the pandemic, the sale of to-go cocktails will play a key role — allowing customers access to their favorite alcoholic beverages to pair with their takeout food orders.

“As a restaurant and bar owner with a series 6 liquor license, I cannot overstate how important HB 2773 is to our industry,” say Matt Fulton, owner of Pigtales and The Whining Pig in Phoenix. “Over the past year, the hospitality industry has endured incredible challenges. But one of the bright spots that has emerged is our customers’ embrace of to-go cocktails. As the industry moves from survival to recovery, to-go cocktails will play a vital role in ensuring Arizona’s place as a culinary and hospitality leader. I want to thank Rep. Weninger for bringing this important legislation forward.”

HB 2773 will allow bars to sell to-go cocktails and give restaurants an opportunity to apply for and purchase an additional permit to sell to-go cocktails. The bill also creates a statutory structure for third-party delivery services to participate by allowing them to obtain a license from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control and setting a strict set of standards for the delivery of any alcoholic beverage.

“We are grateful to Rep. Weninger for sponsoring HB 2773, which brings customers a new and convenient way to access craft cocktails,” says Steve Chuceri, president and CEO of the Arizona Restaurant Association. “This measure strikes a balance between respecting currently existing to-go privileges, which are the purview of certain license types, while presenting a brand-new way for patrons to support their favorite restaurant or bar.”

The sale of to-go cocktails is a growing trend across the nation with eight other states having already passed legislation and another 12 others currently in the process. Arizona has historically been a leader in the food and beverage industry, and this important legislation ensures the State remains a prominent culinary destination.

**About the Arizona Restaurant Association:** Dedicated to helping its members become leaders in their communities through building customer loyalty, escalating awareness of food safety and healthy living, bolstering a thriving industry and rewarding workforce, and increasing financial success, the Arizona Restaurant Association is the brainchild behind events that support the state’s culinary scene including Arizona Restaurant Week and the Foodist Awards. For more information, visit [www.azrestaurant.org](http://www.azrestaurant.org).

## **Congressman Biggs’ Statement on Democrats’ Looming Actions to Strip Republican Member of Committee Assignments**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, Congressman Andy Biggs released a statement in response to Democrats’ plans to bring a resolution to the House floor to strip Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene of her committee assignments: *“Since taking back the House majority in 2019, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her Democrat conference have led the most radical agenda in our nation’s history, stopping at nothing to overthrow and undermine the Trump presidency and to demonize fellow Republicans in Congress. They seek to silence and discontinue conservative voices, while expanding their progressive, anti-American schemes. The Left is aided by their allies in the mainstream media, who issue hours and binders of propaganda from their ivory towers.*

*“Many members of the radical left in Congress have advocated for violence, anti-Semitism, anti-law enforcement, and other sentiments that have violated rules of decorum and principles of American decency. The left, and their allies in the mainstream media, have ignored and buried these egregious statements, while projecting their sins upon Republicans. The American people are repulsed by this hypocritical double standard and overt attempt to remove Republicans from power.*

*“All Members of Congress have a duty to hold ourselves to a higher standard when it come to our language and actions. While Congress does have specific rules governing some of our actions and rhetoric, we all understand that our constituents are the final arbiters of our performances. The Democrats’ moves to strip Congresswoman Greene of her committee assignments for thoughts and opinions she shared as a private citizen before coming to the U.S. House is unprecedented and unconstitutional, and these steps are a dangerous slope for our nation. All self-righteous Republicans beware: if this can happen to Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, it can happen to anyone of us.*

*"I unequivocally oppose this tyrannical move from the Democrats, and I call on all of my colleagues to stand against these political ploys to undermine our conference. We can disagree with statements that Congresswoman Greene – or any one of us – may have made, but we must reject attempts from the Left and the mainstream media to trash the First Amendment and to divide our conference based on a frenzied narrative. If the Left proceeds with this unprecedented action, Republicans should have no choice but to reciprocate when we have regained the majority."*

### **Statement: Senator Kelly Votes to Confirm Alejandro Mayorkas as DHS Secretary**

*Kelly spoke with Mayorkas about priorities including ports, vaccinations for CBP officers*

Today, United States Senator and retired Navy Captain Mark Kelly voted to confirm Alejandro Mayorkas to serve as the next Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Over the weekend, Kelly spoke with Mayorkas about the urgent need to get COVID-19 vaccinations to Customs and Border Patrol Officers and personnel working on the border and the critical need to ensure smart and strong border security that keeps communities safe and strengthens our economy, like modernizing and upgrading our Ports of Entry – both issues raised during [Kelly's visit to the border](#) in January. After that visit, [Kelly wrote](#) to the Department of Health and Human Services urging them to coordinate on-site vaccinations for CBP officers at field offices and ports of entry. Kelly and Mayorkas also spoke about the importance of restoring damage done by wall construction in environmentally sensitive areas of Arizona.

**"I want to congratulate Secretary Mayorkas on today's historic and bipartisan confirmation. When I spoke with him a few days ago, I shared the unique challenges facing border communities and the burdens our state often faces due to a broken immigration system. I encouraged Secretary Mayorkas to partner closely with local stakeholders in Arizona to secure the border, improve trade, and protect Arizona's natural resources and way of life. I look forward to working with him on these priorities and to fix our broken immigration system in a way that is fair and humane and helps rebuild our economy."**

## “QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“They run this building. They make the rules in this building, and that’s a rule we have to follow.”

**- Contreras, on Fann telling Senate Democrats they can no longer stream their caucus meetings**