

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP

LIFE IS GOOD IF YOU'RE GOVERNOR

After opening up appointments to those age 55 and older yesterday, Ducey today received his first dose of the Covid vaccine, cutting the line as other 55-year-olds waited for appointments to become available. Ducey is now eligible to sign up for an appointment after yesterday's announcement that Arizona will prioritize people over 55, but the new appointments could not be booked until noon today and the first appointments would be available on March 4. Ducey, who was caught on video by an *ABC15* reporter who happened to be at State Farm Stadium to report on the new rules, received the vaccine just before 9:30 am. Ducey's team later posted a video package of him receiving the vaccine, which Cara Christ administered, and encouraging others to receive their vaccine ([LINK](#)). The internet slammed Ducey on two fronts – Democrats criticized the governor for not waiting until noon to register for an appointment later in the week, as other 55-year-olds are doing, and for getting the shot ahead of higher-risk people. (Many likened him to former President Trump, who was secretly vaccinated in January, the *New York Times* reported yesterday ([LINK](#))). Far right Republicans panned him for buying into the pandemic. Ducey has long said that he would get a shot when it was his turn, but the secretive nature of the event raised eyebrows among members of the media, who complained that Ducey hasn't held a single press briefing this year. Had he held a press event, he would have faced questions about how he signed up for the shot before the appointments had even become open. (The 55,000 appointments for 55-year-olds that opened today were filled in a matter of hours.) Former Dept of Health Services Director Will Humble said Ducey missed an opportunity to see first-hand the problems his constituents face trying to sign up for a vaccine appointment on the DHS portal. "I will give him credit for saying that he was going to wait in line. So, he did do that, well he didn't quite. He cut the line two days early, but it really was a missed opportunity," Humble told our reporter.



LIFE IN THE PUBLIC EYE REALLY IS A CRAPSHOOT

Ducey's under-the-radar event served as a stark contrast to the high-profile vaccination of Christ, who received a shot in December with much pomp and circumstance. Christ said she was receiving the shot to prove that it was safe and to lead by example. One Republican consultant said it was surprising that Ducey didn't just receive his vaccine from day one, and that receiving the shot has a lose-lose component to it politically. The source said there's really "no right answer" to whether Ducey should have gotten his vaccine in front of an audience, as Christ did, or done so privately, as he opted to do. "On one hand you've got a very strong argument that his position is critical being the governor and the one that is in charge of making hard decisions on the vaccination program," the source said. "On the other hand, though, I think it's altruistic that he stated he wasn't gonna jump the line and wait his turn." The source said that the argument that Ducey should lead by example is disingenuous, since the governor receiving the shot isn't going to sway anti-vaxxers. Ducey's spokesman CJ Karamargin did not respond to our reporter's questions about why Ducey did not alert the press, but told Howie Fischer that Ducey didn't jump the line, and that the governor was trying to create a public service video.

AS ONE CHAPTER ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS

The Senate ethics committee voted on party lines today to dismiss the ethics complaint against Rogers over her alleged mistreatment of former assistant Michael Polloni. Steele and Engel sought to move ahead with a hearing, saying that even if the evidence didn't satisfy all of Polloni's claims to the "clear and convincing" standard required by the Ethics Committee, her behavior clearly reflected adversely on the Senate. "There are assistants, pages, other people in this building who are looking at what we do here. We have evidence to support Mr. Polloni's accusation that the senator yelled, that she saw him crying, that she swore at him," Steele said. "I don't want assistants in this building thinking that it's OK for them to be treated this way." Engel said dismissing the complaint would send a message that senators can mistreat staff members with no consequences. Kerr, Leach and Pace all said the evidence presented did not meet the "clear and convincing" standard. "A hearing wouldn't provide any more information than has already been asked for," Pace said. He said Polloni and Rogers could settle their issue in the courts, where Polloni could potentially receive a monetary benefit if a judge or jury believed he has sufficient evidence. The three Republicans also rejected an Engel motion to dismiss the complaint on the condition that Rogers take a four-hour course through the Dept of Administration that is required for state employees in supervisory roles. Kerr said Senate leaders could consider providing more supervisory training as part of the workplace harassment training it already provides. Former lawmaker turned Polloni attorney Adam Kwasman told our reporter today that he will move ahead with legal action against the Senate and potentially Rogers as an individual. "What they just did was a political outcome," Kwasman said. "We'll be pursuing a legal outcome." He said he plans to file a notice of claim with the Senate "imminently" and will demand \$500,000 to settle the case.

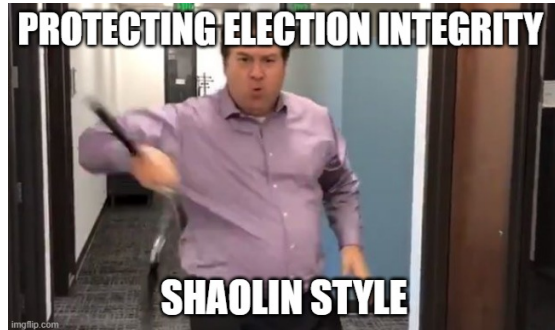


AND NOW WE WAIT

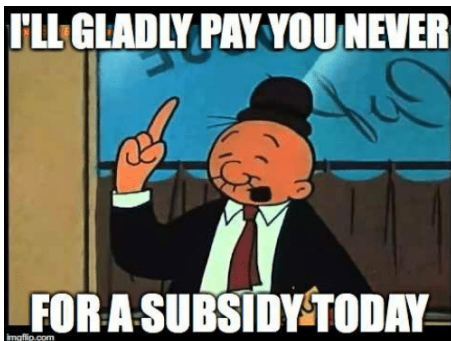
During the US Supreme Court's oral arguments on *Brnovich v. The DNC* today, justices wrestled with the question of whether laws that may appear neutral at face value can be enacted with discriminatory intent. Court watchers said while it appears clear that the justices will side with Arizona on the merits of the law, they were more wary of declaring that the court will offer a sweeping opinion that would undercut Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Jessica Amunson, attorney for state Secretary of State Hobbs, said the Supreme Court needed to look at how the restrictions interact with "the facts on the ground," which the lower court found did impose a "discriminatory burden on minority voters," who were more likely to have their ballots discarded for voting out of precinct and to have third parties deliver their ballots. Amunson and DNC attorney Bruce Spiva pointed to a "racially tinged" video from former Maricopa County Republican Chair A.J. LaFaro ([YS, 12/4/14](#)) and "the pervasive influence" of former state Sen Don Shooter as having an effect on the legislation. Shooter had previously pushed similar anti-ballot collecting legislation to "keep Hispanics in his district from voting," Amunson said. "It was premised on far-fetched racially tinged allegations that Latinos in the district were engaging in fraud with respect to ballot collection," she added. Earlier in oral arguments, Justice Barrett had wanted to know why the Republican National Committee was involved with the case and asked what its interest was in keeping out-of-precinct voter ballot disqualification laws on the books. "It puts us at a competitive disadvantage relative to Democrats," lawyer for the RNC Michael Carvin said. "Politics is a zero-sum game, and every extra vote they get through unlawful interpretations of Section 2 hurts us. It's the difference between winning an election 51-49 and losing." The court is expected to rule in early summer.

THE MOST FUN HE’S HAD SINCE THE NUNCHUCK BILL PASSED

During his time in front of the nation’s high court, Brnovich argued voters have a “plethora of options available” to cast their ballots, such as voting by mail, absentee voting or early voting. In a testy exchange with Justice Kagan over hypothetical voting hour restrictions and whether they would violate Section 2 of the VRA, Brnovich was noncommittal, saying whether or not they violate the VRA you have to consider all the circumstances and whether there are alternative ways for people to vote and how many people are affected by the limited hours. Justice Barrett said she didn’t understand how time, place and manner restrictions that disproportionately affect a minority group didn’t affect their access to the polls. “If it takes one opportunity away, I guess I still don’t understand how that isn’t reducing the ability of those voters to vote, relative to other white voters that don’t share that same burden,” Barrett said. Brnovich responded that focusing too much on de minimis disparities would lead to grounds where the statute then might “run afoul of the 14th and 15th amendments.” “The desire to enhance the convenience of voting must never outweigh the imperative of securing the integrity of the result,” Brnovich concluded.



BOB ROBB STILL HAS A FOLLOWING



At least one Republican consultant is furious that the gaming compact negotiations between Ducey, the Legislature and Arizona tribes will help billionaire sports owners, among other concerns. “It is incomprehensible to me,” the source said. “As Bob Robb and others have pointed out, why would you hand out such valuable licenses to multi-billionaire sports owners who live in stadiums that are subsidized with taxpayer dollars? It’s an unconscionable public giveaway.” The source referenced a recent column from the *Arizona Republic’s* conservative columnist who wrote that the state should require an auction for off-reservation gambling licenses rather than giving “these oligopolistic licenses to politically

preferred organizations, for a price to be determined later by the Department of Gaming” ([LINK](#)). The consultant went on to criticize just about everybody involved in the process. “It’s beneficial to a vast majority of urban Native American tribes, who have seen a once-in-a-lifetime generational wealth swap that I’ve never witnessed in my life between casinos and water on the Native American side,” the source said. “What accountability exists here on the Native American side, and why give it out for free to billionaires? It’s gross. It’s a gross abdication of public responsibility,” the source said. Both bills carrying the governor’s plan – Weninger’s H2772 (fantasy sports betting; event wagering) and Shope’s S1797 have strong bipartisan support, which is necessary since not all Republicans are on board. The consultant said Democrats are in favor because of the relationship between the tribes and the Dem caucus. “Crossing them is the equivalent of, on the Republican side, crossing Cathi Herrod,” the source told our reporter. “You just don’t do it.”

DEMOCRATS DON’T KNOW AN OPPORTUNITY WHEN IT KNOCKS

One Democratic consultant told our reporter that the Democrats in the Legislature who support the plan must be “dumb” and argued Democratic lobbyists should push to kill the gaming compact effort. The legislation can’t pass without Dem support, the source said. (Besides the razor thin margins in the House and Senate, the bills contain emergency clauses, which means they need a two-thirds vote from each

chamber.) “They’re being pressured to not offer any amendments because the tribes are so worried that any amendment will sink the legislation, and the Democrats don’t want to piss off the tribes,” the source complained. “Democrats don’t even understand the power they have in this dynamic.” The source noted that the Hopi tribe has not signaled its support yet, noting they are one of the largest tribes in the state. Arizona Board of Regents and the state’s three public universities are against it. “The craziest thing of all to me is how Democrats are refusing to negotiate this with so little information like what the hell is going on?” The consultant also had problems with Democrats supporting the bill when most of the revenue will be going into the General Fund. “They’re literally just going to turn around, get a bunch of money in the general fund and then use it to cut taxes. They’re not going to use it to boost education funding. I mean we have a surplus right now and they won’t use it to boost education,” the source said.

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Senate changes rules to allow votes cast remotely](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

The Senate changed its rules to allow people who have tested positive for Covid to vote from home, setting aside constitutional concerns after a Republican contracted the disease.

[Report: State behind on #20×2020 pay raise promise](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

Average teacher salaries in Arizona have increased by 13.3% since fiscal year 2017, but that’s still shy of the 15% cumulative goal laid out for this point in Gov. Doug Ducey’s #20x2020 plan.

[Report on Rogers’ alleged ethics violations draws no conclusions](#)

Arizona Capitol Times

A Senate panel could decide as early as tomorrow whether a vocal freshman senator violated ethics rules by mistreating her former assistant.

[Up next for Covid vaccine: 55 and older](#)

Capitol Media Services

Citing medical risks for older adults, state health officials are now making Covid vaccines available for adults at least 55 years old.

[County leaders support mining project, despite concerns environmental review was rushed](#)

Coolidge Examiner

As federal agencies have weighed in recently, several Pinal County leaders expressed their support for Resolution Copper’s controversial mining project slated for Oak Flat, in the north-central portion of Pinal County.

[Arizona careening toward water shortage crisis](#)

Payson Roundup

Payson’s 20-year struggle to secure a “forever” water supply stored in the C.C. Cragin Reservoir looks more and more like a stroke of genius as the state’s 20-year mega-drought continues and the reservoirs on the Colorado River dwindle.

Border communities preparing for possible influx of migrants, asylum seekers

Herald Review

Border communities in Cochise County are preparing for the potential influx of migrants and asylum seekers coming across from Mexico once the federal government allows people to enter through Arizona's ports of entry, a handful of government officials said Monday.

Phoenix Employee on Life Support After 15-Hour Shift in the City's Understaffed 911 Dispatch

Phoenix New Times

Shirley Ryan had just left the house to go to the store on Saturday when she got a call about her daughter that no mother wants to get.

Paul Gosar spoke to a white nationalist conference, and they chanted his name

Arizona Mirror

Arizona Congressman Paul Gosar surveyed the crowd as he settled in at the podium for the Feb. 26 headlining speech at the America First Political Action Conference, an event organized by a young white nationalist.

Arizona rep to play leading role in GOP women's group ahead of midterms

The Hill

Republican women's group Maggie's List named Arizona Rep. Debbie Lesko (R) as its 2021 congressional chairwoman on Monday as women in the party look to capitalize on the gains made in the House in November.

House Freedom Caucus chair weighs Arizona Senate bid

The Hill

Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) — one of former President Trump's most vocal supporters in Congress and chairman of the House Freedom Caucus — is weighing a run for Senate in Arizona in 2022.

Native American protesters help delay Arizona mining project

The Hill

Native American protesters helped delay the Resolution Copper mining project planned for Arizona, after officials on Monday temporarily blocked the transfer of federal lands for the project for at least several months.

Prosecutors must be held accountable for charging protesters as gang members

Arizona Mirror (Opinion, January Contreras)

When I became a prosecutor, what attracted me to the job was the mission — acting in the interest of justice. This means protecting public safety while holding people accountable within the bounds of the law.

Will Sen. Kyrsten Sinema support Arizona voters or the filibuster?

Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)

The best chance to protect voter rights against suppression efforts going on across the country is H.R. 1, but Republicans in the Senate could block it with a filibuster.

Rep. Andy Biggs may run for the Senate. Has he not heard of Martha McSally?

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)

Rep. Andy Biggs is pondering a run for the Senate. Has he learned nothing from Martha McSally's disastrous campaigns that lost not one but two Senate seats from Arizona?

Why are no Republicans condemning Rep. Paul Gosar for cozying up to white nationalists?

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)

Arizona Rep. Paul Gosar spoke at a white nationalist conference and the condemnation from the Republican Party is ... non-existent.

[Why should Arizona support D.C. statehood? Because its Black residents deserve a voice](#)

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Reginald Bolding)

As a Black state lawmaker, I see statehood for Washington, D.C., and its mostly racial minority residents as a racial justice and civil rights issue.

[Why I support the recall of Rep. Mark Finchem](#)

Arizona Daily Star (Opinion, Tim Kennedy)

What separates this country from those that have succumbed to autocratic or authoritarian rule is our ability to hold free and fair elections and hold those we elect accountable.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Senators Steele and Engel Speak Out Against Dismissal of Ethics Complaint Against Senator Wendy Rogers

PHOENIX-Senators Victoria Steele and Kirstin Engel, members of the Senate Ethics Committee, released the following statement after the Senate Ethics Committee dismissed the ethics complaint against Senator Rogers.

“I am disturbed at the Ethics Committee’s decision to not declare Senator Roger’s behavior unethical, especially after reading the report. No one should ever experience harassment and abuse at work or by their employer,” said Senator Victoria Steele. “There are pages and assistants who will receive the message that we will not protect them if a Senator harasses and abuses them, and I absolutely do not want our staff thinking it’s acceptable to be treated this way. If we don’t at the very least hold a hearing to hear both sides then we are saying this behavior is acceptable and tolerable. Senate staff deserve better and they deserve to be protected.”

“Senators do not have carte blanche to abuse their staff. To dismiss the unethical behavior of Senator Rogers is to ignore this conduct and tacitly support it in the future,” added Senator Kirsten Engel. “I want to make it clear to all assistants, pages and Senate staff that this behavior is intolerable. We have seen several instances of clear and convincing evidence that Senator Rogers’ behavior adversely affected the Senate. Considering the Ethics Committee ruling against a hearing, Senator Rogers should be required to complete four hours of supervisory courses from the ADOA, which I believe is a suitable and appropriate course of action to prevent this type of behavior from Senator Rogers in the future.”

Governor Ducey Receives First Vaccine Dose

Gov. Ducey: “Vaccine Is Safe, Effective And Free”

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey today received his first COVID-19 vaccine dose at State Farm Stadium following yesterday’s updated guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to include Arizonans 55 and older. ADHS Director Dr. Cara Christ administered the Pfizer vaccine for the Governor.

“This vaccine is safe, effective and free,” said Governor Ducey. “I’m proud to join the more than 1.2 million Arizonans who have already received the vaccine, and I encourage everyone who is eligible to sign up for a vaccination appointment. It’s the best way you can protect yourself and your family, while getting our kids back to school and bringing jobs back to Arizona.”

Governor Ducey Appoints David McDowell and Stasy Click To The Maricopa County Superior Court

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey today announced the appointments of David McDowell and Stasy Click to the Maricopa County Superior Court. These appointments are to fill vacancies created by the retirement of Judges Douglas Gerlach and Jeanne Garcia.

David McDowell has been a partner at Rose Law Group pc since 2014 and serves as the head of Litigation, managing the department and overseeing all of the firm's litigation. His practice is focused on civil litigation matters, consisting of premise and product liability litigation, contract and real estate disputes, administrative agency proceedings, and employment claims. His practice also includes transactional matters, encompassing commercial real estate purchase and sale agreements, financing documents, contracts with governmental agencies, company governance documents, and employment agreements. Since 2017, David also has been serving as a Judge Pro Tempore for the Maricopa County Superior Court handling civil settlement conferences.

Before joining Rose Law Group, David was co-managing shareholder of Renaud Cook Drury Mesaros, PA, where he managed a firm of 110 employees. Throughout his career, he has practiced in nearly every major area of the law. From 2016 to 2018, David served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Phoenix Zoo/Arizona Center for Nature Conservation. He has been a Fiesta Bowl parade volunteer and donated his time with various nonprofit organizations such as UMOM and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He also volunteered with the State Bar of Arizona's program aiding Hurricane Katrina victims who had relocated to Arizona in 2006.

"David's leadership and complex commercial experience will make him a valued member of the judiciary. I am delighted to appoint him to the Maricopa County Superior Court," said Governor Ducey.

David received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with honors from Washington State University. He then received his law degree from the University of Idaho, graduating with honors.

Stasy Click is an experienced family law practitioner who has had her own firm since 2009. She also takes on pro bono cases representing victim's rights in criminal proceedings and preparing wills for first responders through Wills for Heroes. In addition, Stasy has been serving as a Judge Pro Tempore for the Maricopa County Superior Court since 2018, presiding over family and criminal law cases. While managing her firm, Stasy also worked as a family law attorney with the ASU Alumni Law Group from 2015 to 2017. Additionally, she was a Family Law Clinic Supervisor, as well as an Adjunct Professor of Family and Community Property Law, for Arizona Summit Law School from 2012 to 2015.

Prior to opening her firm, Stasy was a civil and family law associate at Burch & Cracchiolo from 2005 to 2009. Prior to that, she was the Director of ASU's Victim's Legal Assistance project from 2001 to 2004, where she created and implemented the nation's first pro bono legal clinic representing crime victims. During this time, she also served as a Judge Pro Tempore for the Gilbert Municipal Court and as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law for the University of Phoenix. Stasy also has a strong criminal background, having worked in both the Maricopa County and Pima County Attorney's Offices, as well as a criminal defense attorney for local firms.

Stasy has been recognized as a Southwest Super Lawyer for several years. Currently, she serves on the Board of the Family Law Section for the Maricopa County Bar Association. She has volunteered for many years with Operation Stand Down, aiding homeless veterans in family and criminal court matters, and with the Children's Law Center, assisting the Court in determining if child abuse has occurred in family law matters.

"Stasy's vast experience and passion for giving back to the profession and local community in a multitude of ways makes her an excellent addition to the bench. I am pleased to appoint her to the Maricopa County Superior Court," said Governor Ducey.

Stasy majored in Philosophy and minored in Political Science at Drake University in Iowa, graduating cum laude. Thereafter, she graduated from the University of Arizona College of Law.

Attorney General Brnovich Defends Arizona Election Integrity Measures at U.S. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Attorney General Mark Brnovich argued to protect Arizona's commonsense election integrity laws before the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) on Tuesday morning. The Attorney General's Office (AGO) is asking the High Court to uphold two Arizona laws that place restrictions on ballot harvesting and prohibit out-of-precinct voting. At the heart of the case is whether states can pass laws to protect the integrity of elections.

"There is no more sacred duty for a public servant than preserving both the people's right to vote and their confidence in the election process," said Attorney General Mark Brnovich. "Arizona's ballot box safeguards are shared by many states, were recommended by a bipartisan commission, and are constitutional because they equally protect us all."

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) has been challenging Arizona's restrictions on out-of-precinct voting and ballot harvesting since 2016.

Since the 1970s, Arizona has required voters who vote in-person to cast ballots at their assigned precinct, where voter rolls can be easily accessed and confirmed. This rational measure ensures order in our elections, minimizes lines, and prevents anyone from being disenfranchised in local races. Today, the majority of states require people to vote at their assigned precinct.

Arizona also restricts the collection and delivery of ballots by third-parties or political operatives, commonly known as ballot harvesting. The Arizona Legislature passed the law in 2016, with exceptions for family, caregivers, mail carriers, and election officials. In 2015, the [City of Phoenix warned of reports of unauthorized individuals](#) claiming to be city officials going door-to-door to collect early ballots. Civil Rights leaders had also raised concerns about elderly and vulnerable communities being targeted by ballot harvesting activists. In December 2020, the [AGO indicted two individuals](#) from Yuma County for allegedly engaging in ballot harvesting.

And in 2005, the bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform, chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker (Carter-Baker Commission), recognized that "absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud." The [Carter-Baker Commission recommended](#) that states prohibit third-parties from handling absentee ballots, except for family members, the post office, or election officials (the same exceptions included in the Arizona law).

The DNC claims Arizona's restrictions on ballot harvesting and out-of-precinct voting violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the ballot harvesting restriction was also enacted with discriminatory intent. Attorney General Brnovich argued Tuesday morning that Arizona's laws were proper under the Voting Rights Act and U.S. Constitution, something even the Biden Justice Department acknowledged in a recent [SCOTUS filing](#). SCOTUS is expected to make a decision by this Summer.

A transcript of Attorney General Brnovich's [opening and closing statements can be viewed here](#).

Statement from Equality Arizona and ONE Community on Historic Passage of Non-Discrimination Ordinance in Mesa, Arizona

Non-Discrimination Ordinance Overwhelmingly Passes with 5-2 Vote

(Mesa, ARIZ. March 1, 2021) – Tonight, the Mesa City Council took a historic step and passed an LGBTQ+ inclusive non-discrimination ordinance. This ordinance will fully protect LGBTQ+ families and individuals from discrimination in public accommodations, employment, and housing in the City of Mesa. This model ordinance is the result of visionary leadership by the Mayor and City Council members, years of collaboration between city leaders and stakeholders.

In his comments in favor of the ordinance, Mayor John Giles said, "Tonight we celebrate equality, respect and fundamental rights." This ordinance is a major victory for fairness, equality for all, and for LGBTQ+ people and families in Mesa. It will have an immediate benefit for the City and its people.

The City of Mesa joins six other Arizona cities with inclusive non-discrimination ordinances including Winslow, Flagstaff, Sedona, Phoenix, Tempe and Tucson. Arizona has no statewide law barring discrimination against LGBTQ people in employment, housing or public accommodations.

"We know the costs of discrimination are too high, especially after the devastating impact of the pandemic on our local economy," said Angela Hughey, President of One Community. "The passing of this ordinance sends a clear message that Mesa is ready to lead in economic recovery and committed to growing as a model city for the 21st century. We are grateful to Mayor John Giles, Vice Mayor Jen Duff, Councilmember David Luna, Councilmember Francisco Heredia and Councilmember Julie Spilsbury for their leadership and willingness to work with stakeholders across the community."

"Inclusion and equal rights are universal values, central to the beliefs of Arizonans, faith communities, and to good business practice," said Michael Soto, Executive Director of Equality Arizona. "We all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, without exception, and this ordinance is a historic step forward for Mesa and Arizona."

It was clear from personal testimony that passing the non-discrimination ordinance tonight was the right choice for the City of Mesa. While changing the law will not end all unfair treatment overnight and will not change the hearts of people who hold personal bias against LGBTQ+ people, it is essential to ensuring that all people, including LGBTQ+ people, who want to work and make their homes in the city of Mesa are treated fairly, treated equally, and have the same opportunities as every other resident.

Tonight, every Mesa resident will go to bed knowing that their home, their city, is a place where fairness is valued, and that Mesa is open to all.

Oak Flat Land Swap Decision Withdrawn

PHOENIX, AZ – The Biden administration has [withdrawn](#) a Final Environmental Impact Statement and decision that would facilitate the transfer of ownership of Oak Flat, a sacred land to at least a dozen Indigenous Tribes, to a mining company with ties to the destruction of an Aboriginal site in Australia. The move follows years of opposition from [Apache-Stronghold](#), the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona, and other Tribal entities, religious leaders, locals, and environmental groups.

Oak Flat is a holy ground where the Apache have prayed and performed ceremonies for centuries. The site is also home to numerous Apache burial grounds, sacred sites, petroglyphs and medicinal plants.

In response Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Director Sandy Bahr issued the following statement.

“We’re pleased to see the Biden administration rescind these rushed and ill-advised actions in order to address Tribal and public concerns about the harmful impacts of this land swap and the damaging mining that will follow. We encourage the Forest Service not to just listen, but to act on input of Native leaders and to do everything possible to stop the destruction of Oak Flat and protect these lands.”

Governor Ducey Response To Resolution Copper Project Setback

PHOENIX — The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it has directed the U.S. Forest Service to rescind critical federal documents needed to move forward with the Resolution Copper Project, a mine that will be located near Superior, Arizona and is projected to create about 1,450 jobs and generate about \$149 million annually in total employee compensation. Governor Doug Ducey released the following statement in response to the setback on the project:

“I am extremely disappointed in the Administration’s decision to cease progress on Arizona’s Resolution Copper project, which is set to grow jobs and is estimated to create a direct and indirect economic impact of more than \$1 billion to Arizona’s economy every year.

“An effective and predictable regulatory environment is a critical factor in Arizona’s booming economy. In Arizona, we follow what works. Undoing lengthy, comprehensive, and already-completed federal environmental studies on a whim with the changing of federal administrations doesn’t work. This type of activity threatens an untold number of major projects in Arizona and around the country. I am calling on the USDA to reissue these crucial documents in a timely manner and continue progress on this job-creating project.”

The U.S. Forest Service was directed to revoke the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision, two federal documents that represent a critical step forward for the Resolution Copper Project.

Mayor Regina Romero, Mayor Kate Gallego and Councilmember Francisco Heredia to call on Congress to pass direct aid for cities, states, counties and schools

As the Senate nears a vote on the American Rescue Plan, leaders and front-line workers will stress why aid is necessary to jumpstart Arizona’s economy and beat this pandemic

TUCSON – This Wednesday, March 3 at 12:00 p.m. MST, Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Mesa Councilmember Francisco Heredia will join front-line workers to urge Congress to “go big” and swiftly pass flexible, direct federal aid for cities, states, counties and schools as part of the next stimulus. Ahead of the full Senate vote, speakers will discuss the importance of federal aid for preserving essential public services, keeping public service workers on the job and providing support to working families and struggling small businesses. Front-line workers will also discuss their experiences serving on the front lines and the importance of federal aid to get our economy moving again, vaccinate Arizonans and finally beat this pandemic.

WHO: Mayor Regina Romero, City of Tucson

Mayor Kate Gallego, City of Phoenix

Councilmember Francisco Heredia, City of Mesa

Jason Henley, an industrial mechanic for Phoenix water services

Lena Chacon Bernal, a support service aide for Phoenix sewer services

WHAT: Press call with Arizona state and local leaders on need for direct federal aid for cities, states, counties and schools

WHEN: Wednesday, March 3 at 12:00 p.m. MST

PHONE NUMBER: 203-518-9544, **PASSCODE:** ARIZONA

*****Please RSVP to nathaniel.sigal@tucsonaz.gov**

Congressman Biggs Submits 13 Amendments to H.R. 1

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Yesterday, Congressman Andy Biggs introduced 13 amendments during the House Rules Committee hearing on H.R. 1. Congressman Biggs issued the following statement:

“I am extremely disappointed in the outcome of yesterday’s Rules Committee hearing on H.R. 1. Democrats ignored most of the amendments submitted by Republicans and proceeded to ram the bill through the committee with minimal bipartisan input. The Left talks about unity; however, they continue to block Republicans from participating in the legislative process as they continue to introduce and pass the most radical bills our country has ever seen.

“Instead of strengthening and securing the integrity of our federal election system, the Democrats’ bill to nationalize America’s elections, H.R. 1, opens the door to malfeasance and massive voter fraud. If this bill were to become law, states will be forced to register ineligible individuals and non-citizens and to accept same-day voter registration. Online voter fraud will also become more prevalent. H.R. 1 endangers the future of our election systems – the foundational element of our constitutional republic. Americans should be very fearful of the impact of this legislation on the future of our great country.”

These are the amendments Congressman Biggs introduced:

- Amendment [#38](#): Eliminates the section of the bill that would use taxpayer dollars to fund campaigns.
- Amendment [#39](#): Ensures that voters are not registered in multiple states.
- Amendment [#40](#): Allows states to maintain accurate voter rolls.
- Amendment [#41](#): Strengthens penalties to dissuade aliens from voting.
- Amendment [#42](#): Requires individuals registering to vote to provide proof of citizenship.
- Amendment [#43](#): Repeals the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter Act).
- Amendment [#44](#): Makes voting by an illegal alien a deportable offense.
- Amendment [#45](#): Eliminates the section of the bill that requires states to allow mail-in voting without any additional conditions or restrictions.
- Amendment [#46](#): Eliminates the requirement for states to accept a sworn written statement to meet identification requirements for voting.
- Amendment [#47](#): Requires states to remove ineligible voters from the registration list before elections.
- Amendments [#73](#), [75](#), [77](#): Eliminate sections of the bill that would change the composition of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and give new powers to the FEC and FEC Chair.

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“What they just did was a political outcome. We’ll be pursuing a legal outcome.”

- Adam Kwasman, attorney for Michael Polloni and former lawmaker, on the Senate Ethics Committee dismissing the complaint against Rogers