

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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Wednesday, March 31, 2021

NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP

CYBER NINJA, MEET WAYBACK MACHINE

The Senate announced this morning that it hired a team of auditors, led by a company owned by an election conspiracy theorist, but many questions remain unanswered. Petersen told our reporter via text that the contract was for \$150,000, all of which is coming from the Senate's own budget – lawmakers aren't taking My Pillow founder Mike Lindell up on his offer to fund the audit. Petersen said Fann did almost all the research on the potential auditors; Fann and a Senate GOP spokesman did not respond to calls or emails before our deadline. According to their press release, cyber security company Cyber Ninjas will lead the audit team, and companies called Wake Technology Services, CyFIR and Digital Discovery will participate in the team.



Doug Logan, CEO of Cyber Ninjas, was involved in the ill-fated attempt to prove fraud in Antrim County, Michigan ([LINK](#)), and has promoted false claims that Trump won Arizona's election. Though he recently deleted his Twitter account, @securityvoid, a quick look at the Wayback Machine ([LINK](#)) shows that on Jan 4, he retweeted a message promoting the Jan 6 rally turned riot. "We cannot wait until January 6!! It is going to be a beautiful day," he retweeted in a message that tagged many of the top Stop the Stealers. (To be fair, there was no way to know that event would turn into a deadly riot, though there was already ample evidence that the rally's premise – that the election was stolen – was pure nonsense.) In December, Logan was flooding the internet with lies and conspiracies about the election, using hashtags such as #StopTheSteal #FightBack and #HoldTheLine. "The parallels between the statistical analysis of Venezuela and this year's election are astonishing. I'm ashamed about how few Republicans are talking about it," he wrote. He also retweeted a host of other conspiracy theorists claiming fraud in Georgia, including one claiming former Trump lawyer Sidney Powell had "legally verified evidence of massive election fraud in GA." In fact, he appears to be a big fan of Powell, and retweeted her several times, including her tweet saying, "Pay attention! We made emergency filings in #SupremeCourt tonight for #Georgia & #Michigan. Will be filing #Arizona #Wisconsin shortly. These cases raise constitutional issues and prove massive #fraud. Our plaintiffs have #standing #WeThePeople will not allow #rigged elections." Of course, Powell lost every single one of those lawsuits, including the Arizona case. After being sued by Dominion, Powell claimed that no reasonable person would have believed her conspiracies ([LINK](#)).

IF YOU CAN'T TRUST THE CYBER NINJA, WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

Logan seems to have already made up his mind about whether there was fraud in Arizona – he retweeted Kelli Ward and Ron Watkins (who many believe is Q of QAnon fame ([LINK](#))) who claimed Trump actually received 200,000 more votes in Arizona than he did. Logan also helped promote the Sharpiegate conspiracy, retweeting several messages that sharpies cancelled ballots from conservatives. "They made me use a Sharpie and it bled completely through. I'm in AZ. This is voter FRAUD. AZ needs a recount!!" one woman said in a tweet he retweeted. Logan boosted a conspiracy promoted by failed legislative candidate and Stop the Stealer Liz Harris about "#PhantomSleepers." And Logan certainly doesn't trust Dominion. "Statistical analysis showing how votes are switched in a clear pattern, (aka a machine)," he wrote on November 22. "Software glitches are 'normal' with Dominion Software:." And in case there was any confusion, Logan also tweeted that he "wholeheartedly" supports Trump.

BUT CAN HE USE THE CAT BARCODE THING ON BALLOTS?

Meanwhile, Jovan Hutton Pulitzer, the auditor requested by Trump supporters, posted a message on Twitter today claiming that “technology” he developed is being used in the Senate’s audit. “I am happy to confirm that #ScanTheBallots for #KinematicArtifact detection is being used,” he wrote, calling the auditing team “one of the most impressive and qualified auditing teams ever assembled.” His Kinematic technology is essentially looking at folds in paper to determine if it could have been a mail-in ballot – if the paper isn’t folded, it couldn’t have come from the mail. *The Daily Beast’s* Will Sommer penned a truly wild article detailing several of the players in the Arizona fraud conspiracy circle recently that noted Pulitzer is also the inventor of the “much-mocked CueCat, a cat-shaped barcode scanner that was meant to let people reading magazines scan barcodes in ads, taking them to related websites.” Then using the name J. Jovan Philyaw, Pulitzer took in more than \$185 million in investments for what was dubbed “one of the most ridiculed products of the internet era” Sommer noted ([LINK](#)). He later remade himself as an amateur treasure hunter. When rumors circulated earlier this month that Pulitzer would be involved in the audit, Fann claimed she had never heard of him.



WE'RE SURE THEY'RE LEGIT, TOO

We know less about the other firms working under Cyber Ninjas. The Senate’s description of CyFIR, including that the company discovered a data breach at the US Office of Personnel Management, appears to refer to CyTech Services. CyFIR is one of the company’s products, which was used to discover security issues at the Office of Personnel Management ([LINK](#)). Digital Discovery is a Texas-based computer forensic company that lists prior work with federal government agencies including the Dept of Justice, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the FBI ([LINK](#)). The Senate’s description of Wake Technology Services says members performed hand-count audits in 2020 in Fulton County, Penn., and New Mexico and have investigated election fraud since 1994. “In that 1994 case, this team member worked closely with the FBI during the investigation,” the Senate’s announcement said. Our reporter could not immediately find more information on the group.

DON'T COUNT ON BIDEN TO SAVE US

Despite a massive influx of federal funds for schools, districts are still laying off teachers, and K Hoffman said the Legislature needs to step up, as declining enrollment and lower funding for distance learners take their toll on district budgets. On Friday, Gilbert Public Schools notified employees that 152 teachers and other employees would be laid off, citing enrollment declines ([LINK](#)). Hoffman said she was disappointed but not entirely surprised to see the news. “Our lawmakers are sitting on a \$1 billion rainy day fund and \$2 billion budget surplus,” she told our reporter. “And again, I just keep saying this, but there is no excuse for our state, to not be fully funding our schools in the sense of making up the difference of these enrollment declines, and also fully funding distance learning.” Distribution of the more than \$2.5 billion in relief from the American Rescue Plan is largely based on the Title I formula, meaning it won’t be evenly distributed across districts, which may also be a factor in whether districts face layoff decisions, Hoffman told our reporter. Hoffman said that some education leaders she’s spoken with viewed the third round of federal Covid relief as a lifeline in avoiding layoffs. In addition to the lesser funding for distance learners, Hoffman also pointed to the fact that the Enrollment Stabilization Grant Program was not fully funded. “Our state has created a budget deficit for our schools through those two means,” she said, adding that the federal funds may not close the gap for each district. “Many of our districts are in a situation where they have experienced enrollment declines, and they did not receive the amount from the enrollment stability grants that was promised to them,” Hoffman said. “And so now they’re facing difficult decisions.”

YELLOW SHEET – THE ENEMY OF COMPROMISE

By talking to *Yellow Sheet* about a potential deal to head off a referendum on Mesa’s non-discrimination act, Tyler Montague killed any potential for compromise, GOP consultant George Khalaf, who is working on behalf of the referendum, told our reporter. “Tyler’s commentary in the *Yellow Sheet* set back any conversation essentially to Square One,” he said, referencing an item from last week ([YS, 3/23](#)). The deal – or the possibility of a deal – fell through and proponents plan to file signatures with the city tomorrow afternoon, he said. “We have enough to file,” he said, though he wouldn’t say how many and wouldn’t go so far as to say organizers are confident they have enough to withstand challenges. (Organizers with United for Mesa need more than 9,000 valid signatures from registered Mesa voters to force a referendum.) Khalaf acknowledged that there were conversations about the possibility of a compromise, and laughed at the idea that a compromise was ever imminent. “Members of the committee were approached to see could there be a solution that would include giving a voice to the residents of Mesa, but I can’t comment on the status of those [conversations],” he said. “Throughout this entire process, United for Mesa’s sole goal was to ensure that Mesa residents had a voice and a seat at the table, which they have not felt like they had throughout this entire process.” Khalaf said that “as of right now,” they’re filing signatures, though he wouldn’t elaborate on whether or what they expect to change or if organizers of the referendum were still open to negotiations before the issue lands on the 2022 ballot. “I can’t even comment to you about the status, because the status is seemingly changing hour-by-hour, day-by-day,” he said. If the Mesa City Council were to repeal the ordinance, referendum backers would back off, he said. (There’s some precedence there, as lawmakers faced a referendum on a 2013 elections omnibus bill, and returned in 2014 to repeal it before it could go to the ballot). But as far as any kind of repeal and replace with a watered-down version, Khalaf wouldn’t comment, saying that’s hypothetical. “Mesa is awake. Mesa is frustrated. And anybody who doesn’t see that this ordinance passed by the city has woken up a lot of people... doesn’t have a clear understanding of what’s happening on the ground in Mesa,” he said. “That commentary fueled those people even more that are frustrated with the business as usual attitude.”



IF NEGOTIATIONS DON’T WORK, PREPARE FOR BATTLE



Montague told our reporter he was surprised to learn organizers were upset that he spoke to our reporter, and he’s still hopeful the two sides can reach some kind of compromise. “[Lead organizer] Thomas Brown said, ‘You at least said nice things about me,’” Montague said with a laugh. As organizers prepare to file their petitions, Montague said he suspects talks will continue, even if it’s after the city ordinance is put on hold for the referendum. He said it doesn’t appear the city council has any appetite to simply repeal the ordinance, but there’s still the possibility of a repeal and replace scenario. Or the city might just let the recall play out. “If the public is in favor of this thing 60-40 or something like that, they’ll just sit back and watch it win,” he said, noting he hasn’t seen any polling about Mesa’s ordinance specifically, but the concept has broad support in most polling. “Or if the people in opposition think they’ll lose in the election, they’ll have every incentive to negotiate.” He said much of the opposition is relying on “hyperbole and hypotheticals” and opponents just need to look to Phoenix or Tempe to show that the ordinances don’t result in the Dooms Day scenarios that some predict. “To be fair, it’s not crazy to worry about a law being abused, but that hasn’t happened elsewhere,” he said.

CORRECTION: BUT THE FOAM IS STILL POISON

Yesterday's report misidentified the recipient of a letter from Dept of Environmental Quality and misinterpreted a line in it. ADEQ sent two letters about contamination – one to first responders last October and the other to industry folk last week. The letter from last week was aimed at explaining the risks of using the firefighting foam and not, as we wrote, to encourage them to hold onto the foam in their inventory.

·WAKE UP CALL·

Candidates can start gathering signatures for state, federal office

Arizona Capitol Times

Candidates for Congress and the state Legislature can now collect signatures for office using the current redistricting lines for the 2022 election.

Finchem starts run for top election official

Capitol Media Services

One of the leading proponents of the claims of election fraud in Arizona now wants to be in charge of the system.

Ducey won't challenge local mask ordinances

Capitol Media Services

Gov. Doug Ducey is not taking any action to curb the decisions of some cities and counties to ignore his directive that they scrap their mask mandates.

Gun-rights bill goes to Ducey

Capitol Media Services

If the federal government imposes new restrictions on guns it's going to have to enforce them without Arizona's help.

SB 1411 headed to the House

Capitol Media Services

Legislation to boost state jobless benefits for the first time in 17 years cleared a crucial hurdle Tuesday.

Hudbay says it's found copper that could result in open pit mines on Santa Ritas' west side

Arizona Daily Star

Hudbay Minerals Inc. announced a "significant" new finding of copper mineralization next to its Rosemont Mine site.

Native American health clinics offering vaccine to visitors

Associated Press

The Indian Health Service announced Monday that it is shifting its vaccine distribution system to target individual hospitals and clinics with high demand for shots and taper supplies to hubs where most eligible patients have received doses.

GOP lawmakers take aim at Arizona renewable energy standards

Associated Press

As states across the U.S. West beef up their renewable energy requirements, a push to do so in Arizona has been met by fierce resistance from the Republican governor and GOP-dominated Legislature, which are looking to strip elected utility regulators of their power to set energy policy in one of the nation's sunniest states.

Arizona Senate proposal would ban nearly all abortions

Associated Press

A proposal in the Arizona Senate would ban most abortions even before many women know they are pregnant by making it a felony for a physician to perform the procedure if a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

Group wants Mesa discrimination ban on ballot

East Valley Tribune

On March 1, after the second of two marathon meetings with passionate public speakers on both sides of the issue, Mesa City Council voted 5-2 to create a non-discrimination ordinance.

[New advocacy group focuses on voting rights in Pinal](#)

Coolidge Examiner

Over the past few election cycles, progressive advocacy groups have increased their presence in more historically conservative rural areas, such as Pinal County.

[County officials face battle convincing residents to get vaccinated](#)

Payson Roundup

The number of people lining up for COVID shots has started to dwindle, which means Gila County health officials have a whole new challenge, especially now that Gov. Doug Ducey has lifted mask mandates and other social distancing restrictions.

[County says Ducey can't stop mask requirement](#)

Green Valley News

Pima County announced it would continue to enforce mask mandates countywide despite Gov. Doug Ducey calling for an end to local mandates.

[Angry Residents, Abrupt Stops: Waymo Vehicles Are Still Causing Problems in Arizona](#)

Phoenix New Times

A driverless Waymo vehicle caused a crash in October by stopping unexpectedly in the middle of the road, displaying a technical malfunction the Google-related company claims is rare.

[Redistricting commission narrows search for legal counsel](#)

Arizona Mirror

The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission chose four finalists to serve as its legal counsel, and in the process jettisoned the state's procurement process, giving it wider latitude to choose the attorneys of its choice.

[Rep. Ruben Gallego says vets linked to the Capitol riot should lose their benefits](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)

The Marine combat veteran has very strong feelings about those who break sacred oaths. He should. We all should.

[God help us. The Arizona Legislature has now declared the state a sanctuary ... for guns](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)

Here in Arizona, our Legislature has voted to protect guns. Heaven forbid, our leaders do anything to protect the people who come face to face with the business end of the barrel.

[No one wants a 'scorched-earth Senate.' How Democrats can make it functional again](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, Robert Robb)

If Democrats abolish the virtual filibuster, Mitch McConnell says he will use other rules to shut down the Senate. Dems should change those rules as well.

[Why I asked to drop the death penalty for my brother's killer \(and Arizona should, too\)](#)

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Arlis Keller)

Bringing my brother's killer to trial was stressful. I learned that 'closure' from the death penalty is a myth and an execution does not bring peace.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Arizona Senate hires auditor to review 2020 election in Maricopa County

(Phoenix, State Capitol) --- Arizona Senate leadership today announced it has hired a team of independent auditors to complete a comprehensive, full forensic audit of the 2020 election in Maricopa County, including a hand recount of all ballots.

After months of interviewing various forensic auditors, the Arizona Senate has found a qualified team consisting of Wake Technology Services, Inc., CyFIR, LLC, Digital Discovery, and Cyber Ninjas, Inc. to conduct the audit.

The team will be led by Cyber Ninjas, a cyber security company with a focus on application security, working across financial services and government sectors.

CyFIR is a digital security and forensics company specializing in enterprise incident response, computer forensics and expert witness support to litigation. Notable past engagements include the discovery of the Office of Personnel Management Breach in 2015 and forensic support to the largest individual bank fraud in the history of the IMF. As specialists supporting the highest levels of government and private industry, they are extremely familiar with responding to nation-state cyber activity, including Advanced Persistent Threats (APT).

Members of the Wake Technology Services group have performed hand-count audits in Fulton County, PA and in New Mexico as part of the 2020 General Election cycle. In addition, team members have been involved in investigating election fraud issues, dating back to 1994. In that 1994 case, this team member worked closely with the FBI during the investigation. Wake Technology Services team members also include intelligence analysts and fraud investigators from a variety of industries.

The audit will validate every area of the voting process to ensure the integrity of the vote. The scope of work will include, but is not limited to, scanning all the ballots, a full manual recount, auditing the registration and votes cast, the vote counts, and the electronic voting system. At the conclusion of the audit, the auditor will issue a report detailing all findings discovered during the assessment.

Senate leadership expects this audit to be done in a transparent manner with the cooperation of Maricopa County. “Our people need to be assured that the Senate and Maricopa County can work together on this audit, to bring integrity to the election process,” said Senate President Karen Fann. “As Board Chair Sellers and County Recorder Richer wrote in the [Arizona Republic](#)

‘a democracy cannot survive if its people do not believe elections are free and fair.’ They also acknowledge a significant number of voters want the additional assurance that a full forensic audit might bring. I look forward to continued cooperation.”

Because it is an independent audit, leadership will not be directly involved, and members do not expect to comment on any of the processes of the audit until the report is issued in about 60 days.

MCDP Reacts To AZ Senate GOP Election Audit Hire

PHOENIX - Five weeks after gaining access to more than 2.1M ballots and five months after the 2020 general election, the Arizona Senate Republicans finally announced the four firms they’ve contracted to conduct their election audit.

Instead of working to dispel conspiracy theories and election fraud claims, the AZ Senate GOP is now actively reinforcing these far-fetched notions, even after multiple independent audits found no fraud. The decision to move forward with an audit only serves to perpetuate the baseless election fraud claims and emboldens right-wing extremist efforts in overturning the 2020 general election results while justifying the countless voter suppression bills presented in the Arizona legislature.

Nancy Schriber, MCDP Chair, releases the following:

“The big lie is continuing to spread, and the AZ Senate Republicans are making it worse. By hiring firms with ties to ‘Stop the Steal’ far-right fringe groups, the AZ Senate GOP only adds fuel to the election fraud fire.

From the very beginning, the calls for election audits have come from extremist right-wing groups whose goal isn’t election security. They want to overturn the results of the Arizona 2020 general election. And now, with the AZ Senate GOP continuing an audit, they are validating these claims.

Not only does this cause a terrible precedent for future elections, but it also costs taxpayers thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, the AZ Senate GOP is not paying for contracting these firms. It’s taxpayers who will foot the bill. Instead of focusing on critical issues impacting the communities they represent, the AZ Senate GOP is wasting valuable time undermining our democracy. Worse, this political ploy is serving to justify the multiple voter suppression bills in the Arizona legislature.

Moving forward with this election audit fiasco is dangerous. The AZ Senate GOP is now actively advancing the far-right fringe agenda, which will have a troubling effect on voting in Arizona for years to come.”

House Approves Moving Arizona’s Income Tax Filing Deadline to Mirror Feds

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Arizona House of Representatives today approved SB 1297, a bill that was recently amended by Representative Shawna LM Bolick with legislative language to delay the state income tax return filing deadline in order to provide uniformity with new federal tax filing deadlines.

“Without this change to create uniformity with the new federal deadline, Arizona taxpayers are being rushed to file their state taxes before they need to file their federal taxes,” said Representative Bolick. **“That’s a problem for most, since Arizona income tax filings are often dependent on the federal adjusted gross income – a figure only determined once you file your federal taxes. I’m glad the House has acted quickly to address this disparity, and hope the State Senate will follow suit, so SB 1297 can be sent to the governor’s desk as soon as possible!”**

In March, the Internal Revenue Service announced it had postponed this year’s April 15 deadline for filing federal income tax returns to May 17, citing the COVID-19 pandemic and recent changes in tax law. Arizona’s current state tax deadline is April 15.

Shawna LM Bolick is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 20 in Maricopa County.

Governor Ducey Celebrates New Manufacturing Training Center In Coolidge

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey today joined elected officials and automotive manufacturing leaders in Pinal County to officially launch Drive48, an advanced manufacturing training center that will bolster Arizona’s workforce training efforts for high-tech jobs.

“Arizona is in the midst of a manufacturing boom,” said Governor Ducey. “We’re showing the nation what it means to welcome innovation and industry, while creating opportunities for people to work in high-skill, high-wage industries. When more products are ‘Made In Arizona,’ our entire economy benefits, and we look forward to keeping this momentum going.”

Drive48 is a 13,000 square-foot facility in fast-growing Pinal County that has the capacity to train more than 100 students at a given time in fields such as automotive, advanced manufacturing, heavy equipment and general industry.

“Talent is a key driver in business location decisions,” said Sandra Watson, President and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority. “With the opening of Drive48, we’re further enhancing Arizona’s robust manufacturing workforce pipeline, now and in the future. We’re grateful to the many partners who helped make this project possible.”

The facility features a main training room with multiple assembly robots used for training technicians in programming, maintenance, problem solving, troubleshooting, safety, general system requirements and more that will prepare workers for jobs in automotive manufacturing. It also includes several rooms that will offer hands-on training with tools, part assembly, various applications and safety aspects for in-demand work.

“Central Arizona College is excited to be the home of this cutting-edge regional workforce training center,” said Central Arizona College President Dr. Jackie Elliott. “This partnership is a testament to the commitment of all parties in investing in the state’s economy and enriching the lives of individuals through meaningful skilling and employment.”

Manufacturing jobs in Arizona have increased at one of the fastest rates in the nation, with 13,000 manufacturing jobs added since 2015. More than 180,000 Arizonans now work in the manufacturing industry, where jobs pay on average 21% higher than other private sector positions. Industry leaders to announce major relocations or expansions in recent years include Intel, Benchmark Electronics, Lucid Motors, Nikola Motor Company, TSMC, ElectraMeccanica, Raytheon and more.

“Thousands of high-tech jobs are coming online in Pinal County over the next few years,” said Mayor of Casa Grande Craig McFarland. “This facility and the many partners involved are ensuring our workforce can meet the demand while providing local graduates a pathway to gain new skills, acquire good-paying jobs, and stay right here in the community.”

Lucid Motors in 2016 announced it selected Casa Grande for its electric car manufacturing operation, located near the Drive48’s facility.

Intel last week announced a \$20 billion investment in Arizona with the expansion of its state-based manufacturing capacity. The investment will generate 3,000 high-tech jobs, 3,000 construction jobs, and an estimated 15,000 additional indirect jobs in the community.

In addition, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) in May 2020 announced it selected Arizona for the location of its new U.S. advanced semiconductor factory, creating more than 1,600 jobs.

To learn more about manufacturing jobs and other aspects of Arizona’s economy, click [HERE](#).

Arizona Community Organizations Call on Major Corporate Donors to Oppose Bills Attacking Voting Rights, Criminalizing Protest & Blocking Police Accountability

PHOENIX - Earlier today, more than 30 Arizona voting rights organizations and community groups released a letter to Allstate Insurance, CVS Health, Enterprise Holdings, and Farmers' Insurance, asking them to take a public stance against bills currently moving through the Arizona state legislature that would limit voting, criminalize protest and block police accountability.

The coalition is calling for all four companies to publicly oppose SB1713, SB1485, HB2309, HB2550, HB2567, and HB2295, among other bills, and to cease donations to the state legislators who introduced them.

- SB1713 would impose burdensome ID requirements on vote by mail voters. It has passed the Senate and is awaiting a floor vote in the House.
- SB1485 would purge 100,000+ Arizonans from the vote by mail list. It has passed the Senate and is awaiting a final floor vote in the House.
- HB2309 would criminalize protesters, making it easier for prosecutors to bring charges against protesters, especially Black and Brown protesters, who are exercising their First Amendment rights. It has passed the House and is awaiting a floor vote in the Senate.
- HB2550 aims to discourage people from making complaints about police abuse. It has passed the House and is awaiting a floor vote in the Senate.
- HB2567 virtually guarantees that any discipline or firing of an officer by a chief of police will be overturned. It has passed the House and is awaiting a floor vote in the Senate.
- HB2295 changes rules around the Brady List in order to reduce the consequences of police misconduct. It has passed the House and is awaiting a committee hearing in the Senate.

These bills are joined by dozens of other proposals introduced this session that undermine voting rights, attack democratic norms and institutions, criminalize protesters, and retaliate against last summer's protests against police violence.

All four companies are among the largest corporate donors to the state legislators sponsoring these bills. Farmers' Insurance has directly donated at least \$27,800, Enterprise Holdings has directly donated at least \$16,700, CVS has directly donated at least \$9,700, and Allstate has directly donated at least \$7,850, according to [research compiled by journalist Judd Legum](#).

In addition, all four companies have made clear public statements about the importance of voting and civic engagement, as well as statements about the importance of racial justice. And yet all four have taken no stance on the bills currently moving through the Arizona state legislature.

"Words are not enough: our democracy and our fundamental rights are under attack, and we need to see action," the letter read. "We are calling for you to speak out publicly, oppose these bills, and halt donations to the legislators who introduced them."

Copies of the letters are available here: <https://www.progressarizona.org/community-letter/>

TOMORROW: Press Call with Arizona Leaders on What Biden's Infrastructure Announcement Means for Arizona

State Sen. Kirsten Engel, Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, Phoenix Councilwoman Yassamin Ansari, and Communications Workers of America Legislative and Coalition Director Yolanda Bejarano to Discuss How Infrastructure Investments Will Spur Clean Energy Economy & Create Jobs in Arizona

Washington, D.C. – On Thursday, April 1st, [Climate Power](#) will host a press call with State Sen. Kirsten Engel, Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, Phoenix Councilwoman Yassamin Ansari, and Communications Workers of America Legislative and Coalition Director Yolanda Bejarano on what this week's announcement from President Biden on infrastructure means for Arizona. Today in Pittsburgh, Biden is expected to announce his American Jobs Plan in the framework of the Build Back Better agenda, which includes a reported [\\$2+ trillion investment in clean energy and infrastructure](#).

Following Biden's announcement, Arizona leaders will discuss **how these investments would boost the state's economy, create thousands of good-paying union jobs, and improve the quality of life for hard-working families in Arizona.**

The event features:

State Sen. Kirsten Engel

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods

Phoenix Councilwoman Yassamin Ansari

Communications Workers of America Legislative and Coalition Director Yolanda Bejarano

When: Thursday, April 1, 2021

Time: 11:00 AM MST

*This is an open press event. Media interested in covering this event can **RSVP to daniela@climatepower.us to receive dial-in information***

Arizona Legislature Praised for Moving Fast on Liability Protection

Small-business owners may soon breathe a sigh of relief over not getting unfairly sued

PHOENIX, March 31, 2021—Arizona may soon become the latest state to rightly protect its small-business owners against unfair COVID lawsuits, after yesterday's final passage of [Senate Bill 1377](#).

"This is common-sense protection for Arizona's mom-and-pop business owners. If signed into law by the Governor, small business owners will breathe a huge sigh of relief knowing they will not be targets for trial lawyers looking for a quick buck," said Chad Heinrich, Arizona state director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small-business association. "Our state has been down this road before with shakedown lawsuits, so it's great to see lawmakers putting a roadblock against it happening with COVID cases."

Arizona's legislative action follows on the heels of Florida's Governor signing similar protections into law on Monday. Even in the best of times, according to Heinrich, a lawsuit alleging anything can threaten to shutter a small business. It has been estimated that a lawsuit can cost as much as \$250,000 to defend against. Many small businesses would find it much cheaper to simply close up shop. When Congress failed last year to come up with federal liability protection against unfair COVID lawsuits, states began crafting solutions of their own.

Arizona's new law states, "If the Governor declares a State of Emergency for a public health pandemic ... a person or provider that acts in good faith to protect a customer, student, tenant, volunteer, patient, guest or neighbor or the public from injury ... is not liable for damages ... unless it is proven by clear and convincing evidence that the person or provider failed to act or acted [with] willful misconduct or gross negligence."

Kelly, Sinema Secure \$135.4 Million for Arizona Health Centers

Senators helped shape and pass new COVID-relief law providing critical funds to 23 Arizona health centers

Arizona Senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema secured \$135.4 million in the recently passed COVID-relief law for 23 Arizona health centers.

"Arizona's Community Health Centers have been central to the fight against COVID-19 because they're trusted and accessible to Arizonans in their neighborhoods and communities. These additional funds coming from the COVID-19 relief package will boost efforts to care for and vaccinate underserved and rural areas in every corner of Arizona as we work together to beat this virus and rebuild our economy," said Senator Mark Kelly.

"Strengthening Arizona's public health response will help us beat the coronavirus more quickly and fuel a full economic recovery. The COVID-relief we secured for Arizona health centers expands vaccinations and testing, and provides critical support for primary health care providers saving Arizonans' lives," said Senator Kyrsten Sinema.

"As the largest primary care organization in Cochise County, we have been working tirelessly to reach all corners of our service area to treat Arizonans with COVID-19 and administer vaccines. These new funds will allow us to dramatically expand our work to vaccinate all those in Cochise County who desire to be tested, treated and/or vaccinated for COVID-19. We are tremendously grateful for the work that Senators Kelly and Sinema have done to secure these resources for Cochise County and their continued support of Community Health Centers." Dr. Jonathan Melk, Chiricahua Community Health Centers

"North Country HealthCare is proud to be part of the national network of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) directly responding to COVID-19. FQHCs reach vulnerable populations. For North Country, that means the homebound, those experiencing homelessness, and those who live far from major metropolitan centers throughout northern Arizona. Because FQHCs are embedded in the communities we serve, we are able

to answer community questions and ease vaccination fears. We are all in this together. North Country appreciates Senator Kelly and Senator Sinema's support for these additional funds and the President's confidence in us and our colleagues to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, care, and education at this most difficult time. We look forward to expanding our healthcare workforce so that everyone has access to high-quality primary care, clinical pharmacy, dental services, and behavioral health in an atmosphere of dignity and respect." Dr. Anne Newland, North Country HealthCare

"A huge thank you to Senator Mark Kelly and Senator Kyrsten Sinema for their support of the American Rescue Plan. Valle del Sol is honored to be one of the recipients of these dollars to expand our reach in some of the communities hardest hit by Covid-19. Thank you, Congress, for investing in the health care of Arizonans." Carmen Heredia, CEO at Valle del Sol

These COVID-relief funds secured by Kelly and Sinema will expand COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and treatment for vulnerable populations in Arizona. Additionally, the relief will deliver preventive and primary health care services to Arizonans at higher risk for COVID-19 and expand operational capacity at Arizona health centers during the pandemic and beyond, including modifying and improving physical infrastructure and adding more mobile units.

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“The parallels between the statistical analysis of Venezuela and this year's election are astonishing. I'm ashamed about how few Republicans are talking about it.”

- *Doug Logan, CEO of Cyber Ninjas, the company heading up the Senate's audit, on his now-deleted Twitter*