

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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Wednesday, May 19, 2021

NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP

DOUG WINS AGAIN

Four months after Ducey laid out his budget priorities to lawmakers, the deal the Ninth Floor and legislative GOP leadership struck looks almost exactly like his original budget proposal, except it includes a tax cut of \$300 million more than Ducey originally proposed. Originally, Ducey's tax plan included a cut of \$1.2 billion over three years – growing from \$200 million to \$600 million by the third fiscal year. Now the tax plan is \$1.5 billion that is front loaded with an \$826 million cut in FY22, which will grow to \$1 billion in FY23 and \$1.5 billion in FY24.

While it's technically true that the cuts will not affect the revenue Prop 208 is expected to generate, Ducey's budget director Matt Gress acknowledged in a press briefing on the budget today that they landed on the FY22 number because it "is the estimate that we have for the Prop 208 surcharge." Rather than boosting the total top income tax to 7 percent, as envisioned under Prop 208, high earners will be capped at 4.5 percent total. The 3.5 percent surcharge for education will still go to education, but the state will be on the hook for the remaining tax liability for those who otherwise would have paid 7 percent. Ducey still stuck to his spending plan on infrastructure, education and public safety (including enough money to put two body cameras on all Dept of Public Safety officers and raises for DPS and Corrections officers). While the budget in its current form doesn't have 16 and 31 votes yet, some of the budget holdouts' asks in theory shouldn't be too hard to negotiate. Overall, the two plans have negligible differences in total spending. The January proposal had a bottom line of \$12.63 billion, while the current bottom line comes out to \$12.76. An additional budget handout is available in our "documents" section ([LINK](#)).



CAN'T WE CUT TUCSON A LITTLE EXTRA?

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns estimates cities will lose an estimated 31 percent of their current shared state revenue once planned income tax cuts fully take effect, but the Governor's Office insists cities will gain, not lose, revenue over the next several years. Meanwhile, legislators offered to include a plan to hold cities harmless over the next three years in a BRB, but cities argue it doesn't go far enough. By 2024, when the 2.5 percent flat tax and 4.5 percent marginal tax rate are fully in effect, state income tax revenue is expected to be down \$1.9 billion, and cities would miss out on \$285 million in shared revenues, according to the League. The governor's office contends that this is a simplistic view, as cities stand to receive additional revenue from taxes on recreational marijuana sales and online sales tax revenue. "If anyone is saying cities will have to cut their budgets, they won't because their budgets will increase," Ducey Chief of Staff Daniel Scarpinato said today. Lawmakers, meanwhile, offered the League and its legislative allies a deal to ensure state shared revenue stays the same for the next three years. The switch to a 4.5 percent cap will take effect in FY22, costing the state an estimated \$836 million in income taxes, but the BRB plan would give 15 percent of that \$836 million to cities, so they'll effectively receive 15 percent of what would have been collected sans tax cuts. In FY23 and FY24, the state will compare what cities received in FY22 to what they'll get from 15 percent of state shared revenue, and make up the difference. "So they're taking our growth, something we'd already received, and using that to lower the local government offset," League legislative director Nick Ponder said. After three years, cities are on their own. Cities are still seeking an alternate solution of raising the portion of state shared revenue.

GREAT NEWS FOR EVERYONE STILL UNEMPLOYED NEXT YEAR!

The budget deal struck by Ducey and legislative leaders will also increase weekly unemployment benefits from \$240 to \$320 beginning July 1, 2022, provided the state meets certain triggers. The proposal more closely mirrors Fann's version of unemployment increase than Cook's bill. Unemployment must be at or below 5 percent and the employment trust fund must reach \$1.1 billion in order for the additional funding to kick in. The total number of weeks during which unemployed Arizonans can receive benefits would shrink to 24, which is a problem for Cook and legislative Democrats. Cook told our reporter rural Arizonans are more likely to need the full 26 weeks of benefits as it's harder to find new employment in small, spread-out towns with few industries, and costs to the state for the full period are minimal because 93 percent of people on unemployment find a new job within 22 weeks. "93 percent of the people find work by week 22, so why would we punish the 7 percent, probably in rural Arizona, who haven't?" Cook asked.



IT'S EASIER TO JUST ANSWER THAN TO LET US SPECULATE



The Ninth Floor is playing coy about the \$10 million it agreed to give the House and Senate in the negotiated budget package. Asked why lawmakers needed the funding, Ducey Chief of Staff Daniel Scarpinato couldn't answer. "I don't know, that would probably be a question best directed at them," he said. (Legislative leaders are so far staying mum, though railbirds have speculated that it has to do with increasing security around the Capitol.) Of course, the Ninth Floor has negotiated this package and signed off on the provisions

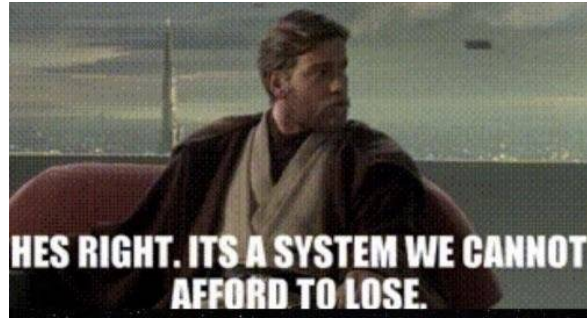
inside. Asked if the Governor's Office asked lawmakers why they need the additional \$10 million in one-time funding, or if the office just signed off on the appropriation without ever wondering what the money was for, Scarpinato didn't answer. "If there's any additional information I can get you, I will," he said.

THE MORE THE MERRIER

Gosar joined the defamation lawsuit Finchem and Kern still haven't served against Fernandez. The complaint, first filed in Yuma County Superior Court in February, now argues that Fernandez also defamed Gosar in the letter she signed along with the rest of the House and Senate Democratic caucuses in January ([LINK](#)). The letter, written to FBI Director Christopher Wray and acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen in January, asked for help determining the roles of Finchem, Kern, Biggs and Gosar in the Jan 6 insurrection. The other Democrats are not named in the lawsuit. Finchem, Gosar and Kern's attorneys, Alexander Kolodin and George Wentz, did not respond to questions via emails yesterday or on March 24. According to the amended complaint, Finchem, Gosar and Kern want a court order for Fernandez to retract the "false and malicious allegations" in the letter. They're also seeking punitive damages, saying that Fernandez's "conduct was driven by an evil motive or was undertaken with reckless disregard for the rights of others." Fernandez and her attorney did not respond to a request for comment. In early March, Fernandez's attorney wrote in a letter that the suit was "utterly meritless" and that if it's not voluntarily withdrawn, Fernandez will seek attorney's fees and records about the Republicans involvement in the attack on the Capitol ([YS, 3/8](#)).

ORO VALLEY IS HARD – USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM

A volunteer for the Recall Finchem effort filed a police report over the weekend after a Finchem supporter snatched and ripped up her petition sheets at the Oro Valley Public Library. Aimee Carillo was collecting signatures outside the library and asked Melvyn Hockwitt when he was entering and exiting if he would like to sign. Hockwitt walked away from the library before coming back and confronting Carillo, according to the police report. Carillo told police that Hockwitt yelled at her to take off her mask and that she and Hockwitt then played tug-of-war with her clipboard before he ripped her signature papers. She had collected 17 signatures so far. “Having voter’s signatures taken from my hand and torn up isn’t going to stop me from petitioning to remove Mark Finchem,” Carillo said in a statement. Hockwitt was later arrested and cited for disorderly conduct. Hockwitt told police that Carillo was “harassing him” and that he became frustrated and ripped up her papers. “I told Melvyn that he cannot be doing that and he said that he knew, but that she got under his skin,” an officer wrote in the report. Finchem told our reporter that he hoped the police would investigate the complaint vigorously. “I was shocked at the report of an assault, I was even more shocked at the intimation that the confrontation was directly related to me,” he said. Finchem said he was “committed to a peaceful, civil society” where disagreements were sorted out in court, adding that was why he sent Rural Arizonans for Accountability a cease and desist letter last week ([YS, 5/14](#)). Tony Cani, spokesman for the recall campaign, said the letter had invigorated fundraising and signature-gathering efforts. “His attempt to silence the campaign with a lawsuit led to the best fundraising day and the best signature days that we’d had,” Cani said. Cani said that there have been other situations where recall volunteers have been verbally accosted while going door-to-door but that this was the first time the situation had crossed the line into something physical. The campaign said in a statement that it will now send signature gatherers out in teams of at least two, even at places like the library.



EVERY LAWMAKER SEES A GOVERNOR IN THE MIRROR

Lieberman is expected to jump into the governor’s race any day now and has already hired campaign help from DC, according to one Dem railbird. Lieberman confirmed to our reporter that he is “considering it closely,” but said his priority right now is the budget. “I do think there is a real need in Arizona for common sense leaders who can help this great state not just recover, but thrive and grow,” Lieberman said. “I can say this, if I run, I will have a top-flight team with a track record of winning statewide in Arizona and all the resources I will need to compete and win.” Despite his status as a bench sophomore in the House, Lieberman has long had his eye on higher office, according to the Dem rumor mill, and he has deep pockets to match his ambition. According to the Dem railbird, Lieberman recently hired former Kelly media consultant Brandon Hall from LeftHook Strategy to help run his campaign, who has worked on campaigns for high-profile politicians like Julian Castro, Kirsten Gillibrand, Kelly and Kirkpatrick. Hall couldn’t be reached for comment. The Dem railbird told our reporter Lieberman found Hall through an unorthodox approach. “He looked them up and cold called them off the FEC report,” the source said. “Like legit an email to the info box.” Lieberman’s webpage has not yet been updated to reflect his plans to run for governor, nor has he filed a statement of interest or a campaign finance committee. Another Dem source with ties to LD28, Lieberman’s district, confirmed to our reporter that Lieberman has discussed running with LeftHook and said he has “a lot of resources” if he ultimately decides to run. The last time a representative ran for governor without serving in the Senate, or other higher office, was Burton Barr, who lost to Evan Mecham in the 1986 Republican primary.

CAN THE TREASURER WEAR A COWBOY HAT, TOO?

Shope confirmed that he is “doing a deep dive” into running for treasurer after Yee announced her gubernatorial campaign this week. However, he allowed that he may also opt to run for state Senate again, and he plans to announce his decision in late June, giving time for the legislative session to end and to take a post-session vacation. Shope has long been rumored to run for Congress, and representatives from the National Republican Congressional Committee were still talking to him this spring, but the news that Arizona won’t receive a long-expected 10th Congressional seat threw many politicians’ visions for 2022 out of whack.

WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?

Ugenti-Rita is banking on lawmakers to finish their work next week, since she has a big announcement coming up. In a Facebook update today, she invited supporters to an “end of session” get together one week from today. She promised a “super exciting announcement” at the event.

•WAKE UP CALL•

Republican lawmakers propose flat tax, \$12.8B budget

Arizona Capitol Times

House and Senate leaders and Gov. Doug Ducey have agreed on a roughly \$12.8 billion spending plan, including the state’s largest tax cut in recent memory – but the budget lacks the Republican votes it needs to pass in its current form.

Judge’s lax inquiry leads to new trial

Capitol Media Services

A man convicted of transporting more than 240 pounds of marijuana in Cochise County with another person will get a new trial because he didn’t have his own attorney.

Fann threatens Maricopa County with more subpoenas

Capitol Media Services

Senate President Karen Fann said lawmakers may have to take new steps — including new subpoenas and possibly going back to court — to get information that Maricopa County election officials are refusing to provide about their ballots and equipment.

Where money came from in discrimination ban fight

East Valley Tribune

Mayor John Giles publicly spoke against a group that wanted to shoot down Mesa’s non-discrimination ordinance. Privately, he let his checkbook show how much the issue meant to him.

Travel restrictions to be extended through June 21

Nogales International

Travel restrictions at the U.S.-Mexico border aren’t going anywhere for at least another month, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat (SRE) announced in a tweet on Tuesday morning.

Leaked Records Show More Inmates Are Attempting Suicide in Maricopa County Jails

Phoenix New Times

The number of incarcerated people who are attempting suicide and killing themselves inside Maricopa County jail facilities is spiking this year, according to internal records obtained by Phoenix New Times.

Grijalva leads coalition urging sanctions, denouncing police brutality in Colombia

Arizona Mirror

Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., is leading a coalition of 55 members of Congress calling on the U.S. to suspend weapons sales, training and direct assistance funding Colombia’s national police force amid a human rights crisis stemming from deadly repression of anti-government protests.

Audit official says he ‘recovered’ files, undercutting claim county officials deleted them*Arizona Mirror*

A contractor said he was able to recover data that the Senate’s election audit team previously accused Maricopa County of deleting, undermining a serious allegation the audit publicly lodged against county election officials.

Arizona recount creates backlash in state*The Hill*

Simmering tensions between Republicans over the ongoing audit of election results in Arizona’s largest county are bursting into the open.

In Arizona, G.O.P. senators defend their vote review but retract claims of deleted election data.*New York Times*

The 70-minute meeting on the audit convened by Republican senators raised only minor questions about the November election

Addams family values are on display at the Arizona election audit*Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)*

It’s time for every scaredy cat elected official in Arizona to take a stand on the sham election audit.

Kimberly Yee goes all-in Trump in her run for governor. Has she not heard of Martha McSally?*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)*

State Treasurer Kimberly Yee has already nailed the most important qualification for a Republican candidate seeking the governor’s office in 2022. But will that help her or doom her?

Fann really thinks accusing Maricopa County supervisors of election crime isn’t personal?*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)*

Senate President Karen Fann wonders why the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors took it personally when auditors basically accused them of a crime. Is she really this clueless?

Arizona Republican Party is blowing the 2022 election with this farcical election ‘audit’*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Robert Robb)*

2022 should be a big rebound year for Republicans in Arizona. But not for a Trump GOP still fighting the 2020 presidential election.

Finally, a breakthrough in Phoenix’s fierce fight for independent police oversight*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Elvia Diaz)*

The Phoenix City Council is poised to approve an ordinance to set up the Office of Accountability and Transparency that was shelved months ago

I watched the GOP’s Arizona election audit. It was worse than you think.*Washington Post (Opinion, Jennifer Morrell)*

When Arizona’s secretary of state asked me whether I would serve as an observer of the Arizona Senate’s audit of Maricopa County’s ballots, I anticipated that I would see some unusual things.

·PRESS RELEASES·

AEA Statement on Proposed State Budget Agreement

PHOENIX – May 18, 2021 – Today, the Arizona Legislative Republican leadership and Governor Doug Ducey reached an agreement on a state budget proposal that prioritizes tax cuts for the rich over investing in our public schools.

“Our state’s leaders have an opportunity to invest billions of dollars into our public schools over the next decade without additional taxes,” says AEA President Joe Thomas. “We could ensure every student has access to nurses, librarians, counselors, and still hire enough teachers to reduce class size. Instead, Republican leadership proposes

eliminating those critical student supports by cutting up to \$1.5 billion from future school budgets and giving those dollars to the wealthiest Arizonans through new tax cuts.”

“The voters passed INVESTinED because they want to increase funding in our schools, specifically to address the state’s teacher shortage crisis,” says Thomas. “By undermining the funding INVESTinED was created to build upon, we erase all the gains we made for our students. This proposed budget is a slap in the face to educators and voters.”

Also today, the [U.S. Census Bureau released a report](#) ranking Arizona nearly dead last in per-pupil spending in the United States. While Arizona sits on billions of dollars in surplus and a rainy day fund, the poorest state in the country, Mississippi, spends \$659 more per student than Arizona.

This short-sighted budget deal includes a regressive flat income tax that will permanently drain billions from state revenue and tip the scales in favor of the 1%.

“Arizona’s lower income families will be hit hardest by this budget by placing the tax burden on them,” says Thomas. “Fewer state resources mean fewer educational opportunities for our students.”

LUCHA & The Colibri Collective Earn 2 Reed Awards

PHOENIX – After a historic election, [LUCHA](#) and [The Colibri Collective](#) are two-time winners of the esteemed Reed Awards for their [#LUCHABlue](#) campaign. Receiving a record number of entries this year, the Reed Awards are hailed as the most exacting award in the political campaign industry. The two organizations received “Best Spanish Language Website” for the second year in a row and “Best Use of Digital Out of Home (DOOH).”

You can learn more about the [#LUCHABlue](#) campaign [here](#).

The [#LUCHABlue](#) campaign was designed and produced by The Colibri Collective, the first Latina-owned digital marketing firm in Phoenix. It was a part of an effort to directly engage Latino voters in the swing state during the 2020 presidential election. With a national attack on vote by mail, the campaign’s utilization of the website and billboards was deemed extremely successful at increasing both awareness and messaging.

“We’re so thankful for our partnership with LUCHA. Their grassroots work has driven major changes in Arizona politics. Our innovative use of digital in the out-of-home billboards is a key example of how our design thinking leverages digital strategies for successful political campaigns,” **said The Colibri Collective CEO Gaby Cardenas.**

“The 2020 Election saw unprecedented voting numbers because of the hard work of activists and organizers. The Colibri Collective has been a key partner in LUCHA’s efforts to mobilize voters. The Colibri Collective drives political campaigns with invaluable passion for elevating Latino communities.” **said LUCHA Co-Executive Director Alex Gomez.**

“The [#LUCHABlue](#) campaign was a significant point of success in turning Arizona blue in 2020. LUCHA is proud to continue our work with The Colibri Collective as they transform our ideas into beautifully-crafted work. We value the perspective The Colibri Collective brings to the table as a diverse, multicultural team,” **said LUCHA Co-Executive Director Tomás Robles.**

Release: Yee Announces Run for Governor, First of Trump’s Cronies to Pick Up Ducey’s Failed Agenda

PHOENIX — Yesterday, in a [campaign video](#) that reeks of recycled Trumpian rhetoric, Kimberly Yee announced her run for governor.

Not only did the Arizona State Treasurer campaign heavily for the one-term president, but she is also the highest-ranking state official [not to publicly accept the results](#) of November’s presidential election. Arizonans didn’t learn much about the gubernatorial candidate from her announcement video except that she is, in fact, a Trump Republican. Instead of learning the lessons from the 2020 election, Yee is doubling down on Trump’s fringe agenda that voters rejected. Arizonans have seen this before, and know exactly what to expect from Yee’s campaign. Like Ducey, she’ll prioritize her corporate donors and big-money interests over small businesses and middle-class families. She’ll continue to perpetuate dangerous conspiracy theories and vilify the media for the sake of winning a vote—even if it means jeopardizing the future of our democracy.

“Governor Ducey’s policies have done nothing but put party politics ahead of the needs of Arizona families,” **said Arizona Democratic Party Communications Director Alex Alvarez.** “Like Doug Ducey, Kimberly Yee is more focused on honoring the memory of a failed, one-term president than working towards recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and helping Arizonans get back on their feet. While the Arizona GOP continues to run candidates who push Ducey’s tired, failed, and fringe agenda, we’ll continue to fight on behalf of Arizona families.”

Governor Ducey Signs Legislation To Help Prevent Fentanyl Overdoses

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey signed legislation yesterday to exclude fentanyl testing products from the list of illegal drug paraphernalia, allowing those who use drugs or suffer from addiction to identify drugs that have been laced with the lethal narcotic.

“Drug use claims far too many lives each year,” said Governor Ducey. “We want everyone who is using drugs to seek professional treatment. But until someone is ready to get help, we need to make sure they have the tools necessary to prevent a lethal overdose. Senator Christine Marsh lost her son to an overdose last year, and she took the lead on today’s legislation to protect those who are taking drugs from fentanyl overdoses. My heart goes out to her for her strength and commitment to protecting other Arizona families. Thank you, Senator Marsh.”

Deaths from fentanyl continue to rise, and it is now the drug implicated in the most overdose deaths in Arizona. It accounts for 522 of the 1,106 overdose deaths in the state in 2018.

Senate Bill 1486 aims to combat this devastating trend by excluding narcotic drug testing products that are used to determine whether a controlled substance contains fentanyl or a fentanyl analog from the list of illegal drug paraphernalia. Even a very small amount of fentanyl can be deadly, and heroin and other drugs have been laced with fentanyl without the knowledge of the person using the drugs.

Senator Marsh lost her son, Landon, one year ago to a fentanyl overdose. Since then, she has worked to ensure other families don’t have to suffer the same loss.

“No one should have to suffer the loss of their loved one to addiction or accidental overdose,” said Senator Marsh.

“Illegal drug use can be extremely dangerous, and with the prevalence of fentanyl being laced into other drugs, it can be deadly. We have to make sure families and young Arizonans have the resources needed to prevent a lethal fentanyl overdose, and this legislation will provide an additional tool. I am grateful to everyone who supported Senate Bill 1486.”

In 2016, Governor Ducey signed legislation allowing pharmacists to dispense Naloxone without a prescription to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose, a family member or community member in a position to assist that person. This has led to more than 36,000 doses of this life-saving medication being administered in Arizona since June 2017.

Governor Ducey Announces Application Extension For Clerk Of The Superior Court In Mohave County

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey extended the deadline for applications for an interim appointment to fill the position of Mohave County Clerk of the Superior Court.

Applications will now be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, June 4th, 2021. A copy of the application and instructions for applying can be downloaded at <https://bc.azgovernor.gov/>.

To qualify for appointment, applicants must be eligible to vote and a Republican.

The Governor’s Office will review applications and interview qualified applicants in order for the Governor to make an appointment to fill the vacancy pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute 16-230(A) and Arizona Attorney General Opinion 85-007, until a clerk can be elected during the next general election. For further information about the position and its responsibilities, visit the Mohave County Clerk of the Superior Court website and Arizona Revised Statute 12-283.

The salary for the Mohave County Superior Court Clerk is \$63,800 as provided by law.

Event Saturday, May 22, Kicks Off Next Phase of ADHS Vaccination Outreach in Phoenix *Kicks off door-to-door canvassing in underserved neighborhoods and has free vaccination clinic*

PHOENIX — A pop-up vaccination clinic for kids and a neighborhood canvassing event Saturday, May 22, will launch the next phase of targeted outreach by Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and partners in underserved areas disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

To be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Grant Park, 701 S. Third Ave. near downtown Phoenix, the event will kick off outreach that includes knocking on doors and distributing yard signs promoting COVID-19 vaccination. This outreach focuses on Phoenix City Council Districts 7 and 8, which cover neighborhoods east, south, and west of downtown Phoenix and include much of the Maryvale area.

In partnership with ADHS, the Equality Health and HeroZona foundations are organizing a children's vaccination clinic at the event, continuing its [One Community Initiative Against COVID-19](#). Kids 12 and older, along with their parents, are eligible for this free event. An event offering second doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be held June 12 at the same park..

"Mass-vaccination sites have done a great job of getting limited supplies of vaccine into the community quickly and efficiently," said ADHS Director Dr. Cara Christ. "Now, with vaccine readily available throughout the state, we will increase our focus on promoting vaccination at the neighborhood level in partnership with local health departments and other groups."

To register for the Grant Park vaccination event, which lasts from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., please call 888.587.3647. Walk-ins are welcome as well.

Saturday's event advances targeted outreach that began with an ADHS pilot program in ZIP code 85009, just west of downtown Phoenix and has expanded to the Phoenix City Council districts, Yuma County, and parts of Mesa.

Outreach in each community has included telephone town halls in English and Spanish as well as targeted social media posts. The next phase, which starts Saturday for the Phoenix City Council districts, includes distributing yard signs and going door-to-door to explain the benefits of vaccination and helps direct residents to providers.

One of the partners in Saturday's Grant Park event is nearby Lowell School, which is promoting vaccination for children ages 12-15. Attendees can take home yard signs that promote the benefits of vaccination.

A review of the data suggests that this targeted outreach is having measurable success, with a percentage point increase in vaccination exceeding that of the state as a whole:

- In ZIP code 85009, the share of residents with at least one dose of vaccine increased nearly 18% from 14.7% to 32.5% between March 21 and May 2.
- In Phoenix City Council District 8, vaccination coverage increased over 22%, from 25.1% in late March to 47.7% in early May.
- In District 7, the increase was also over 22% as well, from 23.5% to 46.2%.

Statewide during the same time period, there was a 13% increase in vaccine coverage, with 29% of the total population receiving at least one dose by March 21 compared to 42% who had received at least one dose by May 2. Since December, 5,599,098 doses of safe, highly effective, and free COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Arizona to 3,169,782 individuals, including 2,660,462 who are fully vaccinated. State-run vaccination sites in the Phoenix area, Tucson, Yuma, and Flagstaff have administered 1,559,932 doses to 852,545 individuals, including 755,673 who are fully vaccinated.

Today, the COVID-19 vaccine is readily available at hundreds of locations in communities across Arizona, including standalone pharmacies, grocery store pharmacies, pop-up clinics, and an increasing number of doctors' offices and other neighborhood providers. Last month, ADHS enabled doctors' offices and other providers to order the Moderna vaccine directly from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) rather than through county health departments. This week, ADHS has expanded that access to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the Pfizer vaccine, which is available to those 12 and older.

To find a location near you offering COVID-19 vaccination, please visit azdhs.gov/FindVaccine, which links to registration information and allows visitors to search for sites offering different types of vaccine.

Vaccine outreach by ADHS complements that of local health departments, whose efforts have included pop-up clinics in neighborhoods and at workplaces.

On May 13, the first day ages 12 to 15 could be vaccinated against COVID-19, ADHS partnered with the Equality Health and HeroZona foundations at a pop-up clinic that vaccinated 650 children and adults in the Roosevelt School District serving south Phoenix. ADHS provided Pfizer vaccine, personnel, and support for operational costs.

The Equality Health Foundation, one of 13 providers under state contract to operate pop-up clinics, is partnering with the HeroZona Foundation and ADHS to offer another vaccination event this Saturday, May 22, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at South Mountain Community College, 7050 S. 24th St. in Phoenix, offering the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, Moderna, and Pfizer vaccines. To register for this event, please call 888.587.3647.

"There continue to be barriers to vaccination, even with vaccine available in hundreds of places throughout the Phoenix and Tucson areas and around Arizona," Dr. Christ said. "By working with community-based partners on targeted outreach, promoting the benefits of vaccination, and continuing to share that COVID-19 vaccinations are safe, effective, and free, we can continue moving Arizona toward keeping COVID-19 in check."

For more information COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination, please visit azdhs.gov/covid19vaccines.

Senators Kelly, Sinema: \$4.4 Million in Federal Funds Going to Arizona and Tribal Head Start Programs

WASHINGTON – Arizona Senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema announced over \$4.4 million in Head Start funds for Arizona and tribal communities.

Head Start programs provide services that promote school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families. Head Start programs support children's growth in positive learning through different types of services in early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Head Start programs are available at no cost to children ages birth to 5 from low-income families, provide transportation for regular transportation, and families and children experiencing homelessness are also eligible.

"COVID-19 has taken a toll on Arizona's schoolchildren, who have experienced interruptions and changes to their learning for over a year. This important Head Start funding will help Arizona kids get back to their education and support their families as they get back to work," **said Senator Kelly.**

"Today's Head Start funding will help Arizona's kids access early education in healthy and safe environments as they grow and develop, setting them up for successful futures and to make up for learning that may have been lost as a result of the pandemic," **said Senator Sinema.**

These Head Start funds were made available from December's coronavirus-relief package that was championed into law by Kelly and Sinema.

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

**“I told Melvyn that he cannot be doing that
and he said that he knew, but that she got
under his skin.”**

***- A police report about a Finchem supporter who ripped
petitions out of the hands of a Finchem recall worker***