

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

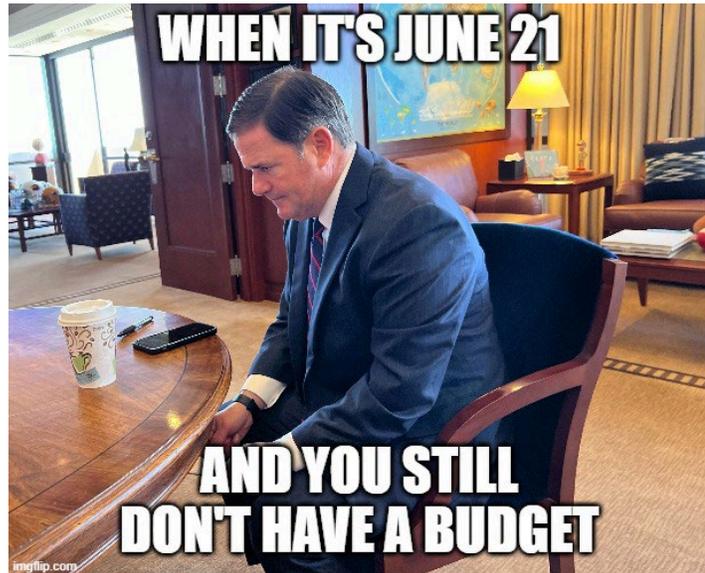
BRIDGETOWER MEDIA © by Arizona Capitol Reports, LLC unless otherwise credited. All rights reserved.

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP

TECHNICALLY IT'S A BIPARTISAN BUDGET

The FY2023 budget is on the move with at least one House Democrat in favor and one Republican opposed. House approved budget bills on a series of 8-5 votes, with J Hoffman in opposition and Chávez joining the other Republicans in support of the bills. Overall spending would go from \$13.44 billion to \$15.61 billion, according to a JLBC analysis ([LINK](#)). Highlights, Cobb told our reporter Tuesday morning, include \$1 billion over three years for water; \$1 billion to pay off the state's pension debt; and about \$500 million for border security. It does not include a state-level earned income tax credit, which Ducey called for in his budget proposal in January. "That would pull people that didn't like the earned income tax credit off the budget," Cobb said. She also said the proposal included \$1.4 billion more for K-12 education funding – something several Democrats disputed. But at least one Democrat indicated he was willing to support the budget. Chávez cited the impending June 30 deadline as a reason to get something passed. "I think that if we do not pass any type of budget then we don't have a budget," Chávez said. "We don't have anything to work with, and in the matter of working on something that will benefit the state of Arizona and the people of Arizona, as my responsibility as a lawmaker, I vote aye." Hoffman, who has been calling for a more fiscally conservative budget, said leadership could have crafted a budget that would have gotten all 31 House Republicans on board but that some of their voices weren't heard. "The reality is that this budget does not reflect the priorities of the majority," Hoffman said.



2+2 = \$1.4 BILLION

Democrats argued the increases add up to about \$500 million in new ongoing education funding, not the \$1.4 billion Republicans claim (which includes projected future spending). "Republicans have used shell games, accounting gimmicks and tax shifts to massively inflate the amount they are telling the public they are investing in schools," Bolding said. "In reality this plan only invests about \$500 million in new money in our schools, which doesn't even match inflation." Democrats opposed the inclusion of \$50 million to hire school resource officers, believing the money should go to counseling instead, and the elimination of the state equalization tax rate. While the money would be backfilled from the general fund, this is a less stable revenue source that Democrats worry is more likely to be cut in a future recession. Sierra noted that while the Legislature reduced general fund revenue last year by voting to phase in a flat income tax, there is plenty of new construction happening. "If I'm betting on where the more stable amount of money is going to be,

I'm going to go on property," he said. Butler also asked why charter schools would get a bigger increase in additional assistance money in the proposed budget – it includes an 8.4% bump for charters and just 7.2% for district schools. Udall replied that she has been pushing to switch to a per pupil formula and hopes to reach a deal. "That's still part of an ongoing negotiation and there may be a floor amendment to address that," Udall said. Butler then asked if any Democrats are involved in those talks; Cobb didn't say. Butler also objected to the makeup of the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Parent Oversight Committee that would be created by H2866 (K-12 education; 2022-2023), saying that it should include some members appointed by the minority party.

OUT OF HOUSE APPRO, INTO THE FIRE



While the budget made it through House appro, it still doesn't appear to have the votes to pass the Legislature. In the House, it's unclear if any other Democrats will join Chávez – something that will be needed if any other House Republicans come out against the proposal. A Democratic railbird said it wouldn't matter either way. "I know for a fact they don't have the votes in the Senate," the railbird said. In the Senate, Ugenti-Rita said it includes outrageous spending, and she can't get onboard with a bipartisan budget, a sentiment Petersen also expressed when a previous draft was leaked. Shope said Ugenti-Rita wants to "bite" into the ongoing revenue stream and cut education funding, which would get him off the budget in turn. "I think it's a desire to find the most conservative sounding thing to derail the budget process knowing that it won't derail the budget process," Shope said of her strategy. Ugenti-Rita wouldn't list all of her budget asks, but she reiterated that she wants tax cuts and a budget without Democrats. "It is the most over the top spending budget I have seen, in a time when we are in a pre-recession," she said. Boyer is also a no as he holds out for a semi-permanent agg limit fix, the removal of STO funding, new university funding, his fire district tax referral and charter school assistance. And it doesn't appear the Dem votes are there to make up for lost Republicans. The railbird said a bipartisan budget was close at one point, though. "And if they had given it a couple of days for broader conversations, you would have had it done," the railbird said. "But they're all proud and stubborn and hate talking to people they don't like for whatever reason." Dems are holding out for many of the same issues as Boyer. The railbird said that includes lifting the AEL, higher ed funding, more housing dollars and some combination of removing the equalization tax change, the Prop 123 trigger and new SRO funding. Without the votes in place, Fann threatened to move forward with a skinny budget. "If we can get a skinny budget done, then we'll have the governor pull us back into special session in July and August," Fann said – though it's not clear that has the votes to pass, either.

WELL, THEY DEFINITELY HAD A LOT OF THEORIES

Testifying today in front of the U.S. House select committee investigating Jan. 6, Bowers said that former Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani admitted to not having evidence of fraud in the 2020 election. “My recollection is he said, ‘We’ve got lots of theories, we just don’t have the evidence,’” Bowers told the committee. Bowers said he didn’t know if Giuliani made that statement unintentionally or not, but that he and the others with him at the meeting “kind of laughed about it afterwards.” Bowers also described an earlier phone call he received from the White House after the election. He said that Rudy Giuliani came on first followed by then-President Donald Trump. During the conversation, Bowers said he repeatedly asked for evidence of fraud but never received it, then or at a later date. After Giuliani insisted he had proof, Bowers said, “the president interrupted and said, ‘Give the man what he needs, Rudy.’ He said, ‘I will.’ And that happened on at least two occasions, that interchange,” recalled Bowers. In a second call in December, Bowers told Trump that he supported him and voted for him but would not do anything illegal for him. Bowers said that he refused Trump’s request that Arizona hold an official hearing about the election or to allow the testing of a legal theory that the electors could be thrown out and replaced with a slate of Trump supporters. He said he did not want to be used as a “pawn.” During a call with Trump lawyer John Eastman, Bowers said Eastman didn’t offer solid legal reasoning for getting rid of the electors, instead telling Bowers to “just do it and let the courts sort it out.”



WITHOUT TRUMP, HE ONLY WOULD’VE WON BY 15,000 VOTES



During his testimony, Bowers responded to a prebuttal that Trump released earlier today alleging Bowers in November 2020 thanked the former president for helping get him elected, said the election was “rigged” and claimed Trump won Arizona. “I did have a conversation with the President. That certainly isn’t it,” Bowers said. He added that “Anywhere, anyone, anytime has said that I said the election was rigged, that would not be true.” In addition to pressure from the White House, Bowers said people showed up in his neighborhood, threatening neighbors, sometimes carrying guns and playing videos that said he was a “pedophile and a pervert and a corrupt politician.” Toward the end of his testimony, Bowers read from a journal he kept in December 2020. “It is painful to have friends who have been such a help to me turn on me with such rancor,” Bowers read. “I may, in the eyes of men, not hold correct opinions or act according to their vision or convictions. But I do not take this current situation in a light manner, a fearful manner or a vengeful manner. I do not want to be a winner by cheating.”

THE PRODIGAL WATER BILL RETURNS

Ducey might not get his proposed Arizona Water Authority by name, but a new bill would remake the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority to give it some of the powers and directives Ducey envisioned for the AWA. That would include administering two funds to invest in water projects and explicitly granting it the ability to import water from out-of-state facilities, including



desalination plants. S1740 (water infrastructure financing; supply; augmentation) would move WIFA out from under the control of the Arizona Finance Authority, making it an independent agency that reports only to its own seven-member board. The bill appears to confirm what a draft budget leaked earlier this month hinted at – there’s no plan for a new water agency, but lawmakers are ready to drop a significant chunk of change into water projects through other channels ([YS, 6/7](#)). Budget bills introduced yesterday show plans to put \$1 billion towards water initiatives over the next three years, in line with the governor’s stated goal. The bill modifies WIFA’s existing water supply development revolving fund to expand the range of projects it can invest in and sets a \$3 million cap on loans and \$2 million cap on grants. (Ducey’s original proposal called for a fund under the AWA that would give loans up to \$2 million and grants up to \$250,000.) The bill would eliminate the existing drought mitigation revolving fund from statute and put whatever money is left into the new water supply development revolving fund. It also creates a long-term water augmentation fund that could fund water infrastructure projects within and outside Arizona, buy up out-of-state water or water rights, or extend financing for water-related contracts. But there’s an important restriction that could push the money towards the governor’s preferred plan: a water desalination project in Mexico. The bill requires that 75% of the long-term water augmentation fund spending each year go to “funding water supply development projects that import water from outside the boundaries of this state.” The bill doesn’t include conservation goals but states that WIFA officials can consider conservation as they’re selecting and prioritizing projects. The House dropped H2873 (water infrastructure financing; supply; augmentation) shortly before our deadline, which appears to mirror the Senate bill.

DEMS ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS

The bill would put the revamped WIFA under the control of a seven-member board, with three members appointed by the governor, two by the Senate President and two by the Speaker of the House. That should effectively ensure that a majority of the members will be appointed by GOP officials for the foreseeable future, because Republicans are expected to retain majorities in the House and Senate in this year’s elections. Ducey’s original plan called for a nine-member board, with all members appointed by the governor. The board would also have more authority to meet behind closed doors than other public bodies. The bill allows the WIFA board to go into executive session “to discuss potential project opportunities and strategies that, if made public, could potentially harm the applicant’s, the potential applicant’s, or this state’s competitive position.”

·WAKE UP CALL·

[Lawmakers seek funds for road projects in their districts](#)

Capitol Media Services

Republican legislative leaders are trying to line up the votes for what could be a \$15 billion budget, including about \$1 billion in earmarks for specific road projects.

[Mesa high-voltage line for Facebook going to hearing](#)

East Valley Tribune

The Arizona Corporation Commission is slated to hold a hearing in Mesa beginning June 27 on Salt River Project's application to build a half-mile high-voltage transmission line to serve the Meta Data Center campus currently under construction at Elliot and Ellsworth Roads.

[Arizona fires sweep land rich with ancient sites](#)

Associated Press

As Jason Nez scans rugged mountains, high desert and cliffsides for signs of ancient tools and dwellings unique to the U.S. Southwest, he keeps in mind that they're part of a bigger picture.

[Drag queen says Arizona GOP governor candidate Kari Lake hired him to perform](#)

Associated Press

Kari Lake, the frontrunner in the Republican primary for Arizona governor, condemned the growing cultural clout of drag queens, jumping into the latest social grievance taking hold on the right.

[Sweltering streets: Hundreds of homeless die in extreme heat](#)

Associated Press

Hundreds of blue, green and grey tents are pitched under the sun's searing rays in downtown Phoenix, a jumble of flimsy canvas and plastic along dusty sidewalks. Here, in the hottest big city in America, thousands of homeless people swelter as the summer's triple digit temperatures arrive.

[Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers, Georgia election officials to testify before Jan. 6 panel](#)

Arizona Mirror

The fourth Jan. 6 hearing on Tuesday will focus on pressure put by President Donald Trump and his allies on state officials in Arizona, Georgia and elsewhere to overturn the 2020 presidential election results.

[20 Arizona tribes to receive \\$135 million for affordable housing](#)

Arizona Mirror

Twenty of Arizona's 22 tribal nations were awarded nearly \$135 million in grants by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help increase affordable housing for Indigenous people.

[\\$15 billion Republican budget will be considered Tuesday morning, as shutdown looms](#)

Arizona Mirror

With the state only 10 days away from the end of the fiscal year, Republican leaders on Monday released a proposal for a state budget they hope will garner bipartisan support and avert a government shutdown.

[Will Trump zealots bring out the gallows for Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers?](#)

Arizona Republic (Opinion, EJ Montini)

Arizona's House speaker is about to do two things that are unacceptable to the GOP: Speak the truth and honor his sworn oath.

[More uranium mining near the Grand Canyon? Might as well just poison our water now](#)

Arizona Republic (Op-ed, Carletta Tilousi)

Arizona issued a permit to the Pinyon Plain Mine, putting groundwater that flows through our homelands, including the Grand Canyon, at serious risk.

·PRESS RELEASES·

Bipartisan Group of Senators Announce *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) released the following statement:

“Today, we finalized bipartisan, commonsense legislation to protect America's children, keep our schools safe, and reduce the threat of violence across our country. Our legislation will save lives and will not

infringe on any law-abiding American's Second Amendment rights. We look forward to earning broad, bipartisan support and passing our commonsense legislation into law.

The Senators' *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* is fully offset and follows their previously released [bipartisan proposal](#) supported by Senate leaders from both parties and a bipartisan group of 20 Senators.

To view the Senators' legislation click [HERE](#).

###

Democratic Leader Bolding: 'Deeply Flawed' GOP Budget Shortchanges Schools with Gimmicks, Shell Games

PHOENIX – House Democratic Leader Reginald Bolding released the following statement regarding the proposed Republican budget plan that passed out of House Appropriations Committee today.

"We still have an opportunity to get this budget right, but somewhere it has taken a hard turn off the cliff," Bolding said. "With a \$5 billion surplus and a rare opportunity to finally meet the needs of our students and remove our public schools from the national funding basement, this proposed budget is a failure. Republicans have used shell games, accounting gimmicks and tax shifts to massively inflate the amount they are telling the public they are investing in schools. In reality this plan only invests about \$500 million in new money in our schools, which doesn't even match inflation. At the same time, this budget spends more new money on a border fence than on our universities or our affordable housing crisis. It also takes away money designated for teacher compensation while adding tens of millions for school police officers as their only solution for gun violence."

Bolding added, "Republicans saying we must accept and pass this deeply flawed budget or face a government shutdown is just brinksmanship. They have been wasting time for weeks in order to bring us to this moment. But there is still time to get it right. A true bi-partisan budget is within our reach and within our means, but the games must end."

###

44 Arizona Legislators Score Perfect Small-Business Voting Records

NFIB issues biennial report card revealing the true friends of Main Street enterprises

PHOENIX, June 21, 2022—The Arizona arm of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) today released its report card on legislators' voting records so that all may see who the true friends of small business are in deeds, not just in words.

"The Legislature is still in session, but the votes on key issues vital for small-business survival have been cast and we need not wait until the very end to publicize them," said Chad Heinrich, Arizona state director for NFIB, the nation's leading small-business association. "I think it impressive that nearly half of the Legislature had 100% pro-small-business voting records. That makes our claim to be a pro-small-business state a matter of fact, not political rhetoric."

Lawmakers were graded on their votes on eight issues taken during the 2021-2022 session. Sixteen senators and 28 representatives scored 100%. The next highest in the Senate was 63%, and of the remainder in that chamber, no one had higher than 25%. In the House, 28 representatives racked up 100% records with the remainder scoring no higher than 38%.

A brief description of all eight legislative bills, and how every legislator voted on them, can be [read here](#). Every elected official and candidate for office claims to be a friend of small business, but NFIB's voting records on Congress and state legislatures are the national standards for measuring the veracity of their claims.

- [Retweet this news release here](#)
- Read this news release on the [NFIB Arizona webpage](#)

Keep up with the latest on Arizona small business news at www.nfib.com/arizona or by following NFIB on Twitter [@NFIB_AZ](#)

###

Salmon For Arizona Governor Announces Former Arizona State Senator Frank Antenori's Endorsement

Phoenix – Former Congressman and Republican gubernatorial candidate Matt Salmon today announced the endorsement of former Arizona State Senator Frank Antenori.

"I am so grateful for Frank's endorsement in my race to serve as the next governor of Arizona. This man knows what it means to serve. He spent years in uniform overseas defending our nation and the freedoms we cherish, and, in addition to giving an authoritative voice to the people of southern Arizona in the state legislature, Frank continues to advocate for their constitutional rights as a private citizen. He tells it like it is and he stands up for what he believes – a trait that our leaders could use a lot more of," said Salmon.

Antenori said, "Matt Salmon is my number-one choice for Arizona's next governor. His conservative credentials are undeniable, and he has the knowledge and experience to get important things done as our state's chief executive. His plans to secure the border, grow the economy, and stand up for veterans are detailed, ambitious, and actionable – and I am very excited to see him implement them. I urge all Republicans to join me in voting for Matt Salmon as governor."

You can see a list of Salmon's endorsements, including from current and former Arizona state legislators, [here](#).

###

Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries Endorses Jevin D. Hodge for Congress

SCOTTSDALE, AZ -- In one of the nation's most competitive races, today Jevin D. Hodge announced the support of another member of Democratic leadership, Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries. Chairman Jeffries joins Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in endorsing the campaign. In addition to the support of prominent Democratic leaders in-state and nationally, the campaign was also added to DCCC's Red to Blue list, noting it as one of the most important challenger races in the entire country.

Statement from Jevin D. Hodge, Candidate for Congress, AZ-01:

"As I talk to voters all across this district, I hear the same thing over and over again: David Schweikert is failing us and we're ready for change. I'm honored to have Chairman Jeffries' support and I look forward to working with him in Washington to make healthcare more affordable and accessible, to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and to fight for every Arizona small business."

###

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich Applauds Supreme Court Opinion in School Choice Case

PHOENIX – Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced a win today for First Amendment rights in *Carson v. Makin*, with the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruling in favor of parents using state tuition assistance for religious schools.

"I am proud to have joined the amicus in this case supporting school choice," said Arizona Attorney General Brnovich. "Education is the key to upward mobility in our society. A state should not be able to discriminate against a school simply because it is religious."

Maine operates a tuition assistance program for high school students since more than half of its school districts do not have a high school. However, Maine has specifically excluded any type of "sectarian" school from that program. Because of this religious exclusion, families must either forgo an education benefit to which they are statutorily entitled, or send their children to a school that will not best meet their needs. The exclusion of religious schools violates the First Amendment rights of parents because it discriminates against schools and parents based on the religious status of the schools that parents choose for their children.

SCOTUS held that the state of Maine violated the Constitution by prohibiting students from choosing to use their tuition aid to attend schools that provide religious instruction.

###

NEW VIDEO: Women's Health Care Is Facing a National Crisis

With Abortion Rights in Jeopardy, Strengthening and Protecting Women's Health Access is Paramount

[Watch the Video Here.](#)

(PHOENIX) — Today, Protect Our Care is releasing a new video explaining how Republicans have waged a war against women's health care. In the coming weeks, right-wing Justices on the Supreme Court are expected to overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, opening the floodgates for states to ban abortion. In addition to attacking abortion rights, Republicans and their allies have spent years eroding access to other types of essential care — only making the Supreme Court's pending decision even more dangerous. Republicans oppose measures to combat the maternal mortality crisis, they are undermining access to contraception and preventive services, and they are fighting legislation to drive down health care costs and expand affordable care. The video follows a [new report](#) outlining urgent measures to improve women's health care access as the nation faces a crisis for abortion rights.

[Read the full report here](#)

Video Script:

Women's health care is facing a national crisis.

Any day now, right-wing Justices on the Supreme Court could overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, opening the floodgates for states to ban abortion.

Abortion has long been at the center of the Republicans' war on women's health, but the GOP has also spent years eroding women's access to other types of care.

The Republican lawmakers seeking to ban abortions are the same people who have fought to repeal the Affordable Care Act, sabotaged access to contraception, refused to address the maternal mortality crisis, and opposed Medicaid expansion and other common sense reforms to lower the cost of health care for working families.

Now, with the impending court decision, protecting women's access to care and passing reforms to help mitigate some of the worst impacts is paramount.

Every woman in this country deserves affordable, quality health care – including full access to reproductive health. For more resources and to learn how to get involved, check out these websites.

###

“Rep. Andy Biggs’ Actions on the Morning of January 6 are Disqualifying”

Gilbert, Arizona - Today, Arizona's Speaker of the House, Rep. Rusty Bowers, testified under oath to the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol that Congressman Andy Biggs asked Mr. Bowers on the morning of January 6, 2021 to sign on to a letter supporting the baseless decertification of the Biden electors. Bowers refused. Speaker Bowers is one of a precious few who protected our republic from being overtaken against the will of the voters.

“Speaker Bowers’ courageous testimony about Rep. Biggs’ involvement in attempting to destroy our democracy is disqualifying,” said Clint Smith, an independent candidate for Congress running against Biggs. “Let’s be clear, the elected Congressman for Arizona’s 5th District was asking Speaker Bowers to break the law and turn his back on his oath to the Constitution, and to our country. There is no conceivable way of defending Biggs’ actions. They are indefensible and reckless, and he clearly has no regard for the will of Arizona voters. It’s time to vote him out of office.”

Clint Smith was a lifelong Republican until he changed his registration to Independent last year. A husband, father and grandfather and an outdoorsman, he is an engaged citizen in the community, a man of faith, and for the past 35 years, has been a small business owner in the East Valley - running his own law practice. Smith's law practice reflects his character, helping people improve their lives. Clint Smith will appear on the November ballot as an independent.

To arrange for an interview or to seek further comment, email Info@ClintSmithforCongress.com. Visit www.ClintSmithforCongress.com for more information.

###

Rep. Grijalva Statement on Contreras Fire and Intensifying Threat of Wildfires to Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. – Today, Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva released the following statement:

“As drought and extreme temperatures intensify, it is clear that catastrophic wildfires are becoming an extraordinary frequent threat, especially to Arizona. I applaud the deployment of ground crews, air support, and coordinated suppression efforts to protect Tohono O’odham communities and Kitts Peak observatory from the Contreras Fire. I ask that Governor Ducey support any requests for declaration of a state of emergency, if deemed necessary, to provide expanded resources to meet the current efforts and any post recovery needs for the impacted areas.”

“Climate change is driving the frequency and ferocities of wildfires that are ravaging our nation and threatening our communities. We cannot continue to ignore the blatant signs of climate change. I applaud yesterday’s [announcement](#) by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland of the allocation of \$103 million in fiscal year 2022 for wildfire risk reduction efforts throughout the country from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the establishment of an interagency wildland firefighter health and wellbeing program.”

“I will continue working with our federal partners, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry and Wildfire Management and Tohono O’odham Nation leadership to ensure they have the firefighting and post fire resources needed to fight the Contreras fire, including post recovery needs, and to lead efforts in Congress to move forward urgently needed climate change legislation to protect our communities.”

###

Mark Kelly's Broken Promise

PHOENIX — Democrat Mark Kelly promised to fix the border wall gaps near Yuma, Arizona, but Kelly has failed. Six months later, “[nothing has been done since then](#),” *KYMA* reported last night. It is another broken promise from Mark Kelly.

After Joe Biden [shut down border wall construction](#) his first day in office, gaps in the wall remained. Unused border wall materials [piled up](#). Illegal immigrants [flocked to the gaps](#). “[Yuma’s wall gaps have become a symbol of the border crisis](#) and a point of confusion for locals I’ve met at the wall,” *KYMA* reported.

The Biden administration has now walked back its plan to fix the gaps. Yuma Mayor Doug Nicholls told *KYMA*, “[The latest release from the secretary’s office talks about one gap in Yuma being closed. Well there’s 52 gaps](#).” Mayor Nicholls said that is not what he discussed with Biden’s Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. DHS [has not responded for comment](#) to *KYMA*.

It represents a pattern with Mark Kelly, whose [rhetoric does not match reality](#). *KTAR* pressed Kelly about [another broken promise](#) — to make Biden pay for Arizona National Guard troops on the border. Kelly revealed to *KTAR* that [he regularly talks to Mayorkas](#) and said, “[it’s a constant negotiation with this administration on the border](#).” Mark Kelly must be the worst negotiator in the country.

“Democrat Mark Kelly’s broken promises are stacking up like the unused border wall materials in Yuma. Mark Kelly failed to deliver a promised fix to border wall gaps. Instead, Kelly has delivered a record-breaking border crisis that is overwhelming Border Patrol agents and small towns like Yuma.” – RNC Spokesperson Ben Petersen

###

Hearing Takeaway: Trump and His MAGA Allies Illegally Harassed and Pressured State Officials to Overturn the Will of the People Based on Conspiracy Theories and Lies

Schiff: "What [Trump] Did Was Without A Doubt Unconstitutional, It Was Unpatriotic, And It Was Fundamentally Un-American."

[Washington, DC] – In the fourth hearing of the January 6th Select Committee, we learned more about the pressure campaign of Trump and his MAGA allies to overturn the results of the election. An all-Republican panel first detailed Trump and his officials' harassment, and an election worker and her mother described their experiences after they were falsely accused by Trump of meddling in the election.

"Trump pressured state officials to overthrow the will of the people in order to stay in power, and exposed election workers to threats and harassment by publicly and falsely accusing them of crimes," **said Defend Democracy Project Communications Director Nicole Haley**. "There is no depth that Trump will not sink to, including attacking innocent people for just doing their jobs. The threat is ongoing, and those involved must be held accountable no matter if they are former presidents, members of Congress, or other officials."

1. Officials described Trump and his allies' campaign to pressure officials to overturn the results of the election they lost.

- Committee Chair [Bennie Thompson](#): "Pressuring public servants into betraying their oath was a fundamental part of the playbook."
- Trump lawyer John Eastman [told Rusty Bowers](#), "Do it, and let the courts decide."
- Giuliani, imploring Arizona Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers to go along with the scheme, asked, "[Aren't we all Republicans here?](#)" Instead, Bowers told Trump he had supported him, voted for him, but wouldn't do anything illegal for him.
- Trump accused Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger of committing a crime by [refusing to accept his outlandish claims](#) of voter fraud in the state.

2. Officials found no evidence of voter fraud in Arizona and Georgia.

- Rep. Adam Schiff [asked](#) Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives Russell Bowers if he ever received evidence of voter fraud in Arizona. His answer? "[Never](#)."
- Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger [said](#) "President Trump did come up short" in Georgia.

3. At least one U.S. congressman and one senator participated in the conspiracy by pressuring state officials and trying to deliver fake elector certificates to Vice President Pence.

- Bowers said Arizona Rep. Andy Biggs asked him to sign a letter [decertifying](#) Arizona's electors.
- Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson's chief of staff [texted](#) a top aide to Mike Pence, planning for Johnson to give Pence fake [electors certificates](#) from Wisconsin and Michigan. Pence's aide said, "Do not give that to him."

4. President Trump's blatantly illegal actions directly resulted in threats of violence against people doing their jobs and carrying out their oaths to the Constitution.

- Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, a Georgia election worker attacked by Rudy Giuliani and Donald Trump, detailed the [numerous threats](#) she received after being targeted, including "be glad it's 2020 and not 1920."
- Moss's mother, Ruby Freeman, testified that she [no longer introduced herself with her name](#) and that she needed to leave her home for safety after Trump mentioned her in a phone call to Raffensperger. "There is nowhere I feel safe. Nowhere," she said.
- Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson [feared for her and her son's safety](#) as Trump followers threatened her home: "Are they going to attack my house? I'm in here with my kid," she testified.
- Raffensperger [described being doxxed](#), lewd texts received by his wife, and how his daughter-in-law's house was broken into thanks to Trump's harassment.

The Select Committee will continue to lay out real evidence gathered by non-partisan career prosecutors proving that Trump and his MAGA allies [planned, promoted, and paid for](#) a criminal conspiracy to overturn an election they lost.

This [criminal conspiracy extends well beyond the violence perpetrated on January 6, 2021](#), that injured 140 police officers, including making it harder for people to vote, attempting to appoint bogus electors to overturn the will of voters, and intimidating state officials to change the results in contested states. Getting to the truth during these hearings and then demanding accountability at the courts and the ballot box is [how we stop the current MAGA campaign to sabotage future elections](#) by changing state laws, threatening state officials, and packing election administration offices so that they can have the final say over election results – even when they lose.

###

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“But they’re all proud and stubborn and hate talking to people they don’t like for whatever reason.”

- *A Democratic railbird on Republican leadership during budget negotiations*