



January 20, 2024

## BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS

We hosted a joint session in the House this week, where sheriffs from Cochise and Yuma counties briefed lawmakers on the current state of affairs with Biden's border crisis. Folks, we have a huge national security problem on our hands, and the federal government is nowhere to be found. Sheriff Mark Dannels described the invasion as the ugliest he's ever seen it. Over the past 24 months, his deputies booked nearly 3,000 individuals for border crimes, engaged in more than 400 felony high-speed chases, and have been forced to release more than 30,000 illegals into our communities. Sheriff Wilmot showed disturbing images of the death and destruction his deputies are encountering in our communities from the cartel and human smugglers. While our Democrat Governor is speaking out against Biden's handling of the border, we need her actions to match her words. She vetoed three good border bills last year. Governor, sign our border legislation. -President Warren Petersen



## DEFEND THE GUARD

Arizonans deserve a vote before our very own National Guard goes to war! My bill, SB 1121, would prohibit Arizona's National Guard units from being deployed into active combat without a formal declaration of war by Congress. If Congress refuses to vote, then it's a war the Arizona National Guard should not be fighting. Last session, I sponsored the Defend the Guard Act. This year, I'm reintroducing this legislation with every Senate Republican as a co-sponsor. The New Jersey National Guard is currently deploying about 1,500 soldiers to Iraq and Syria in the state's largest deployment since 2008. This adds to the more than 650,000 national guard troops that have been deployed overseas since 2001. My goal is to prevent this from happening in Arizona. Our National Guardsmen should be defending our border, not fighting in Joe Biden's undeclared, endless wars. As a 5th-generation military veteran, I'm proud to have the unanimous support of my colleagues on this bill.



-Senator Wendy Rogers



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## HOBBS' VETO CAUSED BUDGET SHORTFALL

Senate Republicans are working together to remedy a funding gap, that frankly, would have never happened had the Governor not vetoed our Republican state budget we sent her in February of 2023. That fiscally responsible plan would have left available \$1.8 billion in cash to absorb revenue losses. Unfortunately, Hobbs recently announced a wildly unrealistic partisan budget proposal for this year that raises taxes on Arizonans in order to fund new spending and removes half of the students enrolled in Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts program. Her proposal erroneously assumes a \$463 million shortfall in the current fiscal year, while year to date revenues are already nearly \$500 million less than anticipated. At the same time, she wants nearly \$500 million for new initiatives, most of which is ongoing spending masquerading as one-time spending, and her cuts strictly target Republican priorities. These elements are dead on arrival with us. *-Senator John Kavanagh*



## HOBBS ATTACKS HISTORIC WATER INVESTMENT

It was incredibly disheartening to see Hobbs' budget proposal included a significant cut to the state's financial commitment to secure our future water resources. Her plan directly contradicts her expressed desire to make Arizona's water supply a priority. In 2022, I championed a historic bipartisan water bill to invest more than \$1 billion in the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority over the course of three years. WIFA is a statewide entity with the necessary resources to promote water conservation, while identifying and developing new, innovative, long-term water sources. This legislation required broad bipartisan collaboration, the opinions of many experts, and practical solutions. Hobbs' proposed budget decreases a promised \$333 million for fiscal year 2025, to less than \$100 million over three years. Now is not the time to pull back our water investments. To ensure Arizona's future is to invest in the conservation and augmentation of our most precious resource.



*-Senator Sine Kerr*



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## EASING RISING HOME PRICES FOR FAMILIES

Homeownership is the foundation to pursuing the American dream. Sadly, countless Arizona families and young adults are now finding it increasingly difficult to afford their first home. Since January 2020, the median Arizona home sale price has increased by 53% and currently sits at about \$430,000. The main reason why home prices are so high is because we have a supply shortage of roughly 270,000 housing units in Arizona, driving up demand. In order to bring down prices, we must increase supply. Unfortunately, when building starter homes, developers are faced with requirements from cities and towns that increase costs, which are passed onto buyers. In an effort to get government out of the way and bring down prices for first-time buyers, I'm introducing the Arizona Starter Homes Act. This legislation would allow for homes to be built on smaller lots and would prohibit municipalities from mandating costly aesthetic requirements. Read more about the legislation [here](#).

*-Senator Sonny Borrelli*



## PROTECTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS

We're holding accountable the troubled Arizona Commerce Authority after both our Auditor General and Attorney General found that under the Hobbs Administration, the agency engaged in constitutional violations and outright illegal activity with taxpayer dollars. Corporate CEOs were the beneficiaries of extravagant gifts, like luxury resort accommodations and expensive suites at the Super Bowl. This week, the Senate Government Committee of Reference recommended to revise or consolidate the ACA during its Sunset Review. The agency's mission of supporting job creation has never been called into question, but the ACA has failed to execute on that mission within the parameters of Arizona law. As stewards of the public trust, it's our responsibility to make sure we have a government working for everyone. Now we begin the process of reimagining the critical mission and programs supporting private sector job growth in a manner consistent with Arizona law.

*-Senator Jake Hoffman*





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## STRENGTHENING ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS

The current animal cruelty case involving an East Valley woman, Rachel McLaughlin, accused of keeping dozens of special needs dogs in horrific living conditions, is a stark reminder that our K-9 friends need our protection. However, this is not an isolated case. The Arizona Humane Society has sadly seen a significant increase in the amount of calls and cases it's receiving involving animal abuse. I gladly partnered with AHS to propose legislation to strengthen Arizona's animal laws and narrow the definition of animal cruelty. A more specific outline will help prosecutors be more successful in these types of cases, which Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell has confirmed. I appreciate her support on this legislation, SB 1047, and look forward to creating a safer environment for pets in Arizona. I will always be an advocate for these innocent animals who cannot speak up or defend themselves.



*-Senator T.J. Shope*

## ADDRESSING THE HOMELESS CRISIS

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it would hear a challenge to a detrimental Ninth Circuit ruling in an Oregon case which has prevented states from establishing critical solutions to the homeless crisis. The Court greatly misinterpreted the Eighth Amendment when it ruled that laws against camping on sidewalks, streets, parks or other public places violates the U.S. Constitution. President Petersen filed a brief back in September to encourage the Supreme Court to weigh in on the issue, which has so far tied the hands of elected leaders, law enforcement, social workers, and healthcare professionals. The hope now is that the ruling will be overturned, giving back the ability for state and local authorities to adopt and enforce laws to tackle the homeless crisis. This issue doesn't just impact Phoenix, Pima County's homeless population has seen an enormous increase over the past few years, and we need to have the ability to execute solutions.



*-Senator Justine Wadsack*



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