



March 9, 2024

HOBBS SUPPORTS BIDEN'S BORDER INVASION

Keeping Arizona communities safe from the border invasion is not only a top priority for our citizens, but also for Senate Republicans. Governor Hobbs showed just how tone-deaf she is on our most pressing issue by irresponsibly vetoing SB 1231, the Arizona Border Invasion Act. The Legislature did its job to protect our citizens, but Hobbs failed to do hers. This veto is a prime example of the chaos Hobbs is currently unleashing in our state while perpetuating the border crisis as Biden's accomplice. Our local, county, and state law enforcement officers are pleading for help, and they support this legislation. Their blood, sweat, and tears shed while trying to protect our citizens from the staggering number of border-related crimes hitting our state will not be in vain. The Republican-controlled Legislature will continue to prioritize closing our border and providing law enforcement with the tools they need. This veto is a slap in the face to them and our citizens.



-Senator Janae Shamp

REPUBLICANS PASS BILL TO LOWER HOME PRICES

Hardworking Arizonans are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase their first home and begin their pursuit of the American dream because of outrageous prices. In response, the Legislature just passed the Arizona Starter Homes Act. I sponsored the legislation with Majority Leader Biasiucci because I believe this policy is a step in the right direction in bringing prices down by eliminating some of the restrictive government red tape and expensive regulatory constraints being passed onto homebuyers. Government should do everything in its power to make the lives of our citizens better, but local municipalities are overstepping their authority by trying to control private property rights, instead of focusing their attention on valid rules and regulations protecting against nuisance and safety issues. The Arizona Starter Homes Act is a no-brainer, and I'm encouraged it received bipartisan support. I look forward to the Governor taking appropriate action on behalf of our citizens by signing it.



-Senator Sonny Borrelli



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HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

There are instances where local governments routinely and repeatedly fail their citizens by not enforcing laws. An example of this would be the City of Phoenix's handling of the former homeless encampment known as "The Zone." This area was not only a public safety and public health disaster for those who camped there, but it was also a detriment to the livelihoods of small business owners who set up their shops in the area. Money talks, and as a way to encourage municipalities to enforce the law, Speaker Toma and I teamed up to sponsor HCR 2023/ SCR 1006. This measure is a ballot referral that would protect law-abiding citizens. If approved by voters, property owners would be allowed to request a refund for expenses incurred to mitigate the problem, up to the amount of their property tax liability. The funds would be deducted from the local government's state shared revenue. This measure passed out of the Legislature, but sadly, all Senate Democrats voted 'no.'



-President Warren Petersen

A MAJOR VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY

A few months ago, in an egregious abuse of power, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled former President Donald Trump was ineligible to run as a presidential candidate, under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. President Petersen filed a brief on behalf of the Arizona Legislature with more than two dozen other states to defend President Trump against this bad ruling, which posed an enormous threat to our democracy. I'm proud to report Colorado got it wrong. Their efforts to disqualify him in the 2024 presidential election did not prevail. This week, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with us and unanimously overturned the state's attempt to disenfranchise voters by keeping him off the ballot. I'm proud to be a part of a Republican caucus that believes in protecting the integrity of our elections and doesn't shy away from joining legal battles when our freedoms and democracy are on the line. We are leading the way for other state legislatures to do the same.



-Senator Wendy Rogers



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CRACKING DOWN ON ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT

California has been forced to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to fight an enormous rise in organized retail crime because of their liberal policies that oppose holding people accountable for breaking the law. Businesses have been forced to shut down and pull out of the state. We don't want to turn into California, but unfortunately Arizona is also experiencing a rise in these crimes. We need to get ahead of the issue to prevent going down the same path, which is why I sponsored SB 1411 to establish a task force to combat crimes that relate to stealing, embezzling, or obtaining retail merchandise by fraud, false pretenses, or other illegal means for the purposes of reselling the items. The task force will be comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement, in order to use their combined skills, expertise, and resources more effectively. This bill passed out of the Senate with strong bipartisan support. We all want to protect our businesses and keep our communities safe from theft.



-Senator David Gowan

A WIN FOR OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

It's always an honor to team up with the Arizona Humane Society, whether to create legislation to protect our precious animals, or to discuss that legislation on Pets on Parade. This week, my wife Melissa and I joined the show to highlight SB 1047, which passed out of the Senate with strong bipartisan support. I proudly partnered with AHS to create this bill, which will strengthen Arizona's animal laws and narrow the definition of animal cruelty. A more specific outline will help prosecutors be more successful in cases involving animal cruelty. I look forward to seeing this legislation make its way to the governor's desk and am hopeful she'll sign it into law. This legislation provides much-needed clarification to our laws and will create a safer environment for pets in Arizona. I will always be an advocate for these innocent animals who cannot speak up or defend themselves. This is also the perfect time to remind you there are hundreds of pets - dogs, cats, bunnies and more, available for adoption at AHS!



-Senator T.J. Shope



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