



# Arizona Legislative Updates



Rally for Voting Rights -- and Take Action!

# RALLY FOR VOTING RIGHTS!

Join the Arizona Voting Rights Coalition on  
Monday, 3/6/2023 from 1-2PM at the  
AZ Capitol Lawn for the inaugural  
*- Pro-Democracy People's Hearing -*  
A rally to demand AZ Legislators protect &  
expand voting rights during the  
2023 Legislative Session!



March 4, 2023

Hi all!

This week, the Arizona House and Senate considered a whole bunch of bills on the floor, most of which advanced from one house to the other. Among them were numerous bills that negatively affect voting rights. **To help counter that, the Voting Rights Coalition is hosting a rally on Monday at 1:00 PM on the lawn at the Capitol. Be there and then attend the Elections Committee meeting to demonstrate support for voting rights.**

Also, this week HB2471 and SB1500 (government investments; plans; fiduciaries; products) passed 31-28-1 and 16-14, respectively. These bills require a fiduciary to take into account only pecuniary factors when evaluating an investment, so they cannot consider environmental, social, or governance factors. The bills also prescribe requirements and prohibitions relating to the State Treasurer's investments, again prohibiting consideration of anything social or environmental. We will keep fighting these and other bills that prohibit consideration of important environmental and social concerns in investing decisions.

And now for some good news from this last week, [SB1697 highways; bicycle paths; walkways; prohibition](#) (Hoffman) failed in the Senate 14-15-1. Had it passed, it would have prohibited the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) from planning, designing, or constructing bicycle paths or pedestrian walkways and accepting federal monies conditioned on the design and construction of a bicycle path or pedestrian walkway. Senate Democrats and Senator Carroll voted no to stop this bad bill. Please thank them! Sadly three other bills to hinder efforts to plan for reducing vehicle travel passed, one of which will be heard in the House next week, SB1313.

As we have noted, there are significant attacks on both voting rights and direct democracy via the citizen initiative and referendum process. **This week, [please ask your Arizona representatives to oppose two measures](#) to make it more difficult to get initiatives on the ballot and to get them passed. Use the button below to take action.**

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Take Action!

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If you have not signed up yet for the Request to Speak system to voice your position in support or opposition to bills, we encourage you to do so now as you will need to get the account activated at the Capitol. [Here is a link for signing up](#). To learn more about how to use the Request to Speak System, you can sign up for one of the trainings sponsored by Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. [Here is their sign-up link](#).

**Please sign in on the Request to Speak system to OPPOSE these bills SB1066, SB1095, SB1141, SB1144, SB1213, SB1257, SB1312, SB1313, SB1565, SCR1015, HB2308, HB2322, HB2415, HB2437, HB2472, and HB2496, and to SUPPORT SB1224 and HB2373.**

To review bills we are tracking, [go to this link](#).

**For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).**

Thanks so much for speaking up for democracy and more!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director

## Coming Up This Week at the AZ Legislature



Historic Capitol courtesy of Sandy Bahr

### Monday, March 6th

**House Committee on Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM in HHR3**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [SB1002 appropriation; livestock loss board \(NOW: livestock compensation; appropriation\)](#) (Kern) appropriates \$250,000 for this Livestock Loss Board to compensate the livestock industry for livestock killed or injured by wolves. We do not support this board as it does not encourage more responsible stewardship relative to cattle, sheep, etc. and those who benefit from the fund serve on the board. **MONITOR**
- [SB1224 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) appropriates \$10 million per year from the state lottery funds for the State Parks Heritage Fund for local parks, trails, cultural resource protection, and historic preservation. This is an ongoing appropriation as was originally intended by the voters when they established the fund in 1990. **SUPPORT**

**Senate Committee on Elections at 2:00 PM in SHR1**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [HB2305 ballots; signature verification; observers](#) (McGarr, Biasiucci, Carter, et al.) requires county recorders to allow representatives of the two largest political parties to observe each stage of the signature verification process for early, provisional and conditional provisional ballots. **MONITOR**
- [HB2308 secretary of state; election; recusal](#) (Jones, Harris, McGarr, et al.) prohibits the Secretary of State from taking action in the portion of an election in which they are a candidate. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2322 early ballots; signatures; guidelines; challenges](#) (Kolodin) says the SOS July 2020 signature verification guide constitutes the minimum requirements for comparison of signatures. The challengers of questioned ballots must be allowed to be present and make challenges during signature verification. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2415 active early voting lists; removal](#) (Biasiucci; Bliss, Carbone) removes voters from the active early voting list if they fail to vote early in one election cycle, instead of two. This will result in a significant purge of this list and in fewer people voting. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2477 electoral college; support](#) (Montenegro) says the legislature affirms the importance of the electoral college. **MONITOR**

**Senate Committee on Finance at 2:00 PM in SHR109**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [HB2472 social credit; use; prohibition](#) (Montenegro) prohibits the state from requiring a bank or financial institution to use a social credit score when the bank or financial institution evaluates whether to lend money to a customer. **OPPOSE**

## Tuesday, March 7th

**House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in HHR1**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [SB1257 water resources; assistant director](#) (Petersen) requires the Department of Water Resources director to appoint an assistant director that only works with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority on augmentation and instate storage. This would put even more resources into augmentation versus conservation. Why not have this person focus on that? Or on adjudications? Or on establishing additional active management areas (AMA) or irrigation non-expansion areas (INA)? Or any of the myriad water issues that would help us better be prepared and help address our water shortages. This bill has no additional funding for this position. **OPPOSE**

## Wednesday, March 8th

**Senate Committee on Government at 9:30 AM in SHR2**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [HB2373 permits; automated permitting platform](#) (Biasiucci: Contreras, L. Hernandez, et al.) allows for online solar permit compliance and removes requirement for a diagram. **SUPPORT**

**House Committee on Municipal Oversight and Elections at 2:00 PM in HHR4**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [SB1066 election mailings; third-party disclosures](#) (Kavanagh) requires any nongovernmental entity that mails an official election-related document to include the disclosure not from a government agency on the outside of the envelope. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1095 early ballot envelope; notice](#) (Carroll: Gowan: Livingston) requires an early ballot envelope to include a statement that says the election will be delayed if you return your ballot after the Friday before the election, which could discourage people returning early ballots. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1141 early ballot drop off; identification](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) requires additional voter ID to drop off an early ballot. This is unnecessary as they already have the signature verification. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1142 voter registration events; posting](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Kern, et al.) requires the Secretary of State and county recorders to post a list on its website of each event at which they provide voter registration services. **MONITOR**
- [SB1144 electronic ballot adjudication; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits the county board of supervisors from using an electronic vote adjudication system and requires, for a ballot that is damaged or defective and cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy of the damaged or defective ballot to be made by hand. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1180 voter registrations; payment prohibited](#) (Bennett) prohibits a person from paying for voter registration based on the number of voter registrations or voter registration forms collected, completed or submitted. **MONITOR**
- [SB1201 early ballots; signatures; electronic pollbooks](#) (Kavanagh) prohibits a county recorder from comparing the signatures on the voter's early ballot affidavit with the signatures from the electronic pollbook. **MONITOR**
- [SB1213 legislative council; procedures manual \(NOW: legislative audit committee; procedures manual\)](#) (Kern: Kolodin) requires the Secretary of State's official instructions and procedures manual to be submitted to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, in addition to the Governor and Attorney General, for review and approval prior to issuance. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1565 ballot processing; electronic adjudication; limitation](#) (Carroll: Bennett, Gowan, et al.) prohibits the use of machines, devices, firmware or software that contain artificial intelligence or learning hardware, firmware or software for an election. Why? **OPPOSE**

- [SCR1015 initiative; referendum; signatures; legislative districts](#) (Mesnard: Bennett, Kaiser, et al.) refers to the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment that would require a proportionate percentage of petition signatures from each legislative district to put a measure on the ballot. This would be extremely difficult and expensive. **OPPOSE**

**House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at 2:00 PM in HHR**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [SB1312 vehicle mileage; tracking; tax; prohibitions](#) (Hoffman) prohibits the state or any political subdivisions from developing land use or transportation plans that include vehicle miles traveled reductions, prohibits VMT tracking, and prohibits any per mile fees. This last item is being looked at as an alternative to the gas tax. This bill also runs counter to state implementation plans for reducing pollution. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1313 general plan; transportation; independent study](#) (Hoffman) prohibits general plans from including policies or projects that reduce vehicle traffic and removes element from the general plan regarding multimodal transportation. **OPPOSE**

**Thursday, March 9th**

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 9:00 AM in SHR2**  
**Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).**

- [HB2026 appropriation; on-farm efficiency fund](#) (Dunn) appropriates \$30 million from the state General Fund to the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Fund for grants to farmers to buy and install approved water efficient irrigation systems that modify or replace flood irrigation. One concern about this program is it provides an incentive for continuing to grow the same thirsty crops as it requires that they grow crops that have been grown there historically. **MONITOR**
- [HB2215 hazardous waste manifest resubmittals; fee](#) (Griffin) removes provisions related to the old form for filing a manifest relating to transportation of hazardous waste as there is now a federal e-manifest system. **MONITOR**
- [HB2216 hazardous air pollutants program](#) (Griffin) removes the requirement that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality have a hazardous air pollutant program and makes it permissive. Originally, this we intended to allow for some more stringent provisions, but the legislature has made it so the agency cannot adopt anything more stringent than the feds. We are looking at the implications of this. **MONITOR**
- [HB2217 water protection; technical correction \(NOW: appropriation; brackish groundwater; studies; review](#) (Griffin) appropriates \$50,000 for updating studies on the availability of brackish groundwater. **MONITOR**
- [HB2374 state lake improvement fund; appropriation](#) (Griffin) allows these dollars to be used for search and rescue and appropriate funds. **MONITOR**
- [HB2375 state land transfer; Bullhead City](#) (Biasiucci) transfers 9.95 acres of state land from the State Land Department to Bullhead City for Bullhead City for park and public recreation purposes. Note this is not state trust land. This seems okay. **MONITOR**
- [HB2437 transmission lines; applications; exceptions](#) (Griffin) exempts a transmission line that is entirely on private land from being required to obtain a certificate of environmental compatibility from the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee, so there would be no environmental review. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2496 transmission lines; definition](#) (Griffin) changes the definition of a transmission line to include lines that are more than one mile. This means they would have no review by the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee. We tried to get this amended to address our concerns, to provide a way to trigger review, but the bill sponsor would not even consider it. **OPPOSE**

