



Arizona Faces Projected \$1.1 Billion Shortfall

Officials Project Revenue Shortfall

In a recent legislative committee hearing, conducted on-line with a number of prominent economists and representatives of the Governor and Legislature's budget offices, the statewide economic impact of COVID-19 was discussed. Officials predicted that the pandemic would reduce general fund revenues by nearly 25 percent during the final quarter of FY20 and lead to a \$1.1 billion budget shortfall by the end of FY21. However, that is a general estimate which may be off by as much as \$500 million in either direction. JLBC economists noted that they do not know the impact of tax collections yet because the monthly sales tax for a given month are not paid until the end of the next month. It will not be until May that the state knows how deep the economic hit was from March and it will be June before they can analyze the April impact. Officials expect the pandemic to affect state finances until at least June 2021. For the detailed JLBC presentation scroll down to **Arizona Update on Issues**.

Legislature did not reconvene on April 13th

Legislative leadership chose not to reconvene on April 13th as originally planned due to concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaker Bowers in an email directed towards members and staff wrote "President Fann and I will continue to monitor state and federal guidelines and reassess the situation at the end of the month. Members will be given sufficient notification before we go back into session." When legislative leadership drafted language to recess a few weeks ago, they added language that gave them leeway to make changes to the day to return. As things change over the course of the next few weeks, I will update you!

Governor Announces Mobile Hotspot Donation Drive

The Governor announced a Mobile Hotspot Donation Drive to help K-12 students without home internet access online curriculum during the COVID-19 emergency. The donation drive partnership between the Arizona Commerce Authority and Arizona Department of Education will match donated wireless internet hotspots to students in need. ADE is working with schools across the state to match the hotspot devices to students that have access to take-home computers, but do not have home internet service. Since the announcement, the Arizona Department of Administration has identified more than 200 hotspot devices across state government that the state is offering to students. Companies interested in donating 20 or more mobile hotspots can click [here](#).

Arizona Hospitals To Receive Advance Payments

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Ducey announced that the AHCCCS will work with its provider partners to make available more than \$50 million in accelerated hospital payments. This will extend an additional \$5 million in new COVID-19 related funding to Critical Access Hospitals throughout the state. Recent federal legislation, The Families First Coronavirus Response Act authorizes AHCCCS to use the 6.2 percent increase in federal matching dollars to increase supplemental payments to Critical Access Hospitals by \$5.3 million in additional payments. AHCCCS expects to accelerate supplemental payments to hospitals that participate in graduate medical education programs and operate trauma facilities. For a complete list of Arizona's COVID-19 actions to date click [here](#).

Arizona Supreme Court To Intervene In State Lawsuit

House and Senate leadership successfully petitioned the Arizona Supreme Court to intervene in the state lawsuit filed against Secretary of State Hobbs which forces the state to expand the ability to gather online signatures for citizen initiatives. In their request, legislative leaders cited Article IV, Part 1, Section 1 of the Arizona Constitution, which requires an affidavit from petition circulators stating that they witnessed each of the signatures on the attached petition sheets. It is important to note that the state constitution expressly forbids initiatives from collecting signatures online. A federal judge is expected to hear the suit on April 14th.



Governor Ducey Provides COVID-19 Update



Arizona Update on Issues



Click here to find COVID-19 resources and volunteer opportunities

Click here for the detailed JLBC presentation

Upcoming Legislators' Birthdays



Happy Birthday
Senator Sean Bowie (D)
Tuesday, April 21st

Representing LD18, Senator Bowie is serving his second term at the Capitol. Earning his B.S. in political science from ASU in 2008 and M.P.P. from Carnegie Mellon University in 2013, he works as a Professor at ASU's School of Public Affairs. Since his tenure at the Capitol began, Bowie has been highly regarded by his peers as a champion for mental health awareness. This session, his top legislative priorities are ensuring the passage of SB1444 requiring the Department of Education to identify mental health as an excused absence and SB1445 which makes it mandatory for all school counselors and social workers to enroll in a suicide prevention training class. To wish Senator Bowie happy birthday: sbowie@azleg.gov



Happy Birthday
Rep. Mark Finchem (R)
Friday, April 24th

Representing LD11, Representative Finchem was first elected to the Arizona House in 2015. A Michigan native, he worked for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety for 21 years before moving to Tucson in 1999. Multi skilled, he has worked for a software manufacturer and is a licensed real estate agent. At the Legislature he serves as Chairman of the House Federal Relations committee and is a member of the House Judiciary and Natural Resources committees. His top legislative priority this session is HCR2042 which establishes a classroom code of ethics in our schools. To wish Representative Finchem happy birthday: mfinchem@azleg.gov

Arizona Governmental Affairs

Address:

99 E. Virginia Avenue, #180
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.296.5966

[E-mail AZ Governmental](#)