



## Governor Releases FY2022 Budget Proposal

Governor Ducey has released his \$12.6 billion FY2022 budget proposal. Major components are K-12 education, public health and safety, infrastructure investment, and tax cuts.

A priority for the Governor and Republican Leadership is \$200M in state income tax cuts this year, increasing to \$600 million by the third budget year. The cuts proposed for this year represent nearly a 4% reduction in state income tax revenues.

Key areas in the proposed budget:

### *K-12 Education*

- **\$389M** to establish a grant program for high-impact intervention and programming to mitigate learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **\$10M** to inform families about education options and support transportation to expand school choice.
- **\$6.9M** to advance early literacy learning and instruction.
- **\$500,000K** to expand the Alternative Teacher Development Program.

### *Higher Education*

- **\$35M** to support the public universities' workforce development for the "New Economy" initiative.
- **\$115M** in COVID-19 relief, provided via CARES Act funding.
- **\$6M** in Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding to support the state's future teachers through the Arizona Teachers Academy.

### *Health and Welfare*

- **\$3.3M** for AHCCCS to hire 32 additional long-term care surveyors to address high caseloads and backlog.
- **\$18M** to fund the continuation of the Child Care Waitlist and implement a new pilot program that provides childcare to children of parents pursuing education and nursing degrees.
- **\$92.7M** in FY 21 supplemental funding for the stabilization of childcare centers and support of providers during the pandemic.
- **\$25M** for the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act which focuses on keeping children safe with their families.

House and Senate Majority leaders are expected to release their budget proposals in the near future.

To view the Governor's FY2022 Summary Book, click [here](#).

To view the State Agency Book, click [here](#).

### **Ethics Complaint Filed Against Representative Mark Finchem**

Representative Cesar Chavez (LD29) filed an ethics complaint against Representative Mark Finchem (LD11) alleging that he violated his oath of office.

In a letter to Representative Becky Nutt (LD14), Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Representative Chavez wrote that Representative Finchem violated his oath of office by “supporting the violent attempt to stop members of Congress from certifying the Electoral College vote as provided in the United States Constitution.” The request comes after all House and Senate Democrats signed a letter addressed to the FBI asking the bureau to investigate Representative Finchem, who was in Washington, DC the week some protestors forced their way in to the United States Capitol which resulted in several deaths.

According to staff, Chairman Nutt will review the complaint and then decide what steps to take. Violating the Legislature's code of ethics can result in a range of punishments, up to expulsion.

To read the Ethics Complaint, click [here](#).

#### **AZDHS Issues COVID-19 Update**

Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) reported 92% of inpatient beds and 93% of ICU beds in use. COVID-19 patients are using 54% of all inpatient beds and 59% of ICU beds. Overall, 52% of ventilators are in use.

To view the AZDHS dashboard, click [here](#).

For more information on free COVID-19 testing sites click [here](#).

#### **AZDHS COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) officials announced that they have lowered the age requirement for phase 1B eligibility.

Phase 1B originally limited those eligible for the vaccine to individuals aged 75 years and older, law enforcement and K-12 and childcare workers to sign up for the vaccine. As of January 19, the eligibility age was lowered to include Arizonans 65 years. Thus far, more than 750,000 Arizonans are eligible.

For information on each county's vaccination phase and vaccination locations, click [here](#).

Registration to receive a vaccine is available [here](#) or by calling 844-542-8201.



**Governor Ducey Gives State Of State Address**



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## **Arizona Update on the Issues**



Click here to find COVID-19 resources and volunteer opportunities

Click here to find out how to donate a mobile hotspot

## Legislators' Birthdays



Happy Birthday  
Senator Rick Gray  
Saturday, January 16th

Representing LD21, Senator and Majority Leader Gray was first elected to the Legislature in 2011 and served until 2016. He was appointed to the Senate in 2018 to replace State Senator (now Congresswoman) Debbie Lesko. A native of Nebraska, Gray moved to Arizona in 2006. He is a small business owner and previously was a real estate agent.

This session, Gray will serve as Vice Chairman of the Rules Committee. In addition, he will be a member of the Senate Education, Natural Resources and Water, and Transportation committees. Outside of the Legislature, Gray is a member of the Sun City Homeowners Association, Sun City Taxpayers Association and serves as a board member of Northwest Valley Connect.

To wish Representative Gray happy birthday: [rgray@azleg.gov](mailto:rgray@azleg.gov)

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