



Governor Announces Aid For Students

Governor allocates \$19 million to assist students

Amid a surge of new COVID-19 cases, Governor Ducey and Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman announced \$19 million in funding to support schools and students who are most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding, provided by the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to support help students not fall behind by using the Acceleration Academies Grant Program.

The program is administered by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Eligibility is determined through a partnership with Read On Arizona and the Maricopa Association of Governments. These organizations consider AZMerit scores, percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, access to computers and internet, COVID-19 cases in the community and unemployment claims. Eligible schools can choose the best fit for their needs such as:

- Training teachers in best practices for math and literacy instruction;
- Teacher stipends for additional student tutoring sessions;
- Contracting with qualified math or reading specialists to do one-on-one or small group work with students;
- Operating summer math or reading intensive programs.

For more information on this program click [here](#) and all of the Covid-19 funds to support K-12 in AZ, (AZ Cares Flexibility and Funding,) click [here](#).

AZDHS Issues COVID-19 Update

Governor Ducey urged residents statewide to remain vigilant and use precaution amid a surge of new COVID-19 cases. Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) officials reported more than 3,000 COVID-19 cases in a single day, the most since July 15th. For November, the state is averaging nearly twice as many new cases daily than October and the highest daily average since July. Arizona is also averaging the most daily deaths since August.

AZDHS figures show that 88% of inpatient beds and 86% of ICU beds were in use, which includes people being treated for COVID-19 and other patients. COVID-19 patients were using 16% of all inpatient beds and 20% of ICU beds. Overall, 33% of ventilators were in use. The state's COVID-19 rate of spread (Rt) is above 1 at 1.13 (the average number of people a COVID-positive individual will infect). Of known test results from last week, AZDHS reported that 9% have come back positive. A positivity rate of 5% or less is considered a good indicator that the spread is being controlled.

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

Governor extends Executive Order for reporting COVID-19 data

Governor Ducey issued an executive order that extends the Enhanced Surveillance Advisory for 60 days amid a surge of new COVID-19 cases and increased testing positivity.

Issued in March, the advisory requires hospitals and other facilities to report daily statistics on staff resources, ventilator availability, intensive care unit bed availability, inpatient bed availability and levels of personal protective equipment and medical supplies; testing laboratories must report results of all COVID-19 tests. According to the Governor, the continued flow of data will provide Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) “with the real-time information they need to make informed decisions and allocate critical resources while keeping the public informed.”

To review the Enhanced Surveillance Advisory, click [here](#).

President Fann requests independent review of election

Senate President Karen Fann (LD1) sent a letter to Arizona Secretary of State (AZSOS) Katie Hobbs seeking an independent analysis of the testing of Arizona voting machines.

President Fann explained that raising concerns and having an independent analysis performed would assure those suspicions of fraud and prevent them from lingering and which could cause substantial damage to the trust in our election results. President Fann requested that Secretary Hobbs make the data available to an independent expert for evaluation and to expand the hand count audit in Maricopa County to five percent of the voting center locations, up from two percent. President Fann wrote, “assuming the allegations of fraud are without merit, an independent analysis would help to restore credibility.”

Secretary Hobbs responded that the election was a success. She wrote “to be clear, there is no ‘current controversy’ regarding elections in Arizona, outside of theories floated by those seeking to undermine our democratic process for political gain.” She continued, “it is patently unreasonable to suggest that, despite there being zero credible evidence of any impropriety or widespread irregularities, election officials nonetheless have a responsibility to prove a negative.” Secretary Hobbs declined President Fann’s request and indicated that launching an independent review with taxpayer dollars could jeopardize the orderly completion of the election.

President Fann believes that her request is reasonable. She stated, “if there’s no factual basis on any of these things, then absolutely, let’s put that to rest and show them that’s not true.” She continued, “If there’s something there that needs to be fixed, let’s fix it.”

To read President Fann’s letter, click [here](#).

To read Secretary of State Katie Hobbs’ response denying President Fann’s request, click [here](#).

House and Senate Democrats Elect Minority Leadership

Both House and Senate Democrat caucuses have chosen leadership for the next session. Representative Reginald Bolding (LD27) was elected by one vote for the role of Minority Leader. Representative Bolding will assume the position of current Minority Leader Representative Charlene Fernandez (LD4).

Representative Jennifer Longdon (LD24) will serve as Assistant Minority Leader and Representative Domingo DeGrazia (LD10) will serve as Minority Whip.

The Senate Democrat caucus elected Senator Rebecca Rios (LD27) as Senate Minority Leader. Senator Lupé Contreras (LD19) was re-elected as Assistant Senate Democrat Leader and Senators Martín Quézada (LD29) and Victoria Steele (LD9) were elected as Co-Minority Whips.

Senate Announces Committees and Chairs for 55th Legislature

- **Committee on Appropriations:** Chairman Senator David Gowan, Vice Chairman Senator Vince Leach
- **Committee on Commerce:** Chairman Senator Javan Mesnard, Vice Chairman Senator Michelle Ugenti-Rita
- **Committee on Education:** Chairman Senator Paul Boyer, Vice Chairman Senator T.J. Shope
- **Committee on Finance:** Chairman Senator David Livingston, Vice Chairman Senator Vince Leach
- **Committee on Government:** Chairman Senator Michelle Ugenti-Rita, Vice Chairman Senator Kelly Townsend
- **Committee on Health & Human Services:** Chairman Senator Nancy Barto, Vice Chairman Senator Tyler Pace
- **Committee on Judiciary:** Chairman Senator Warren Petersen, Vice Chairman Senator Wendy Rogers
- **Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water:** Chairman Senator Sine Kerr, Vice Chairman Senator T.J. Shope
- **Committee on Transportation:** Chairman Senator Tyler Pace, Vice Chairman Senator T.J. Shope

House announces Committees and Chairs for 55th Legislature

- **Committee on Health & Human Services:** Chairman Rep. Joanne Osborne, Vice Chairman Rep. Regina Cobb
 - **Committee on Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs:** Chairman Rep. Tim Dunn, Vice Chairman Rep. Joel John
 - **Committee on Military Affairs & Public Safety:** Chairman Rep. Kevin Payne, Vice Chairman Rep. Quang Nguyen
 - **Committee on Rules:** Chairman Rep. Becky Nutt, Vice Chairman Rep. Travis Grantham
 - **Committee on Commerce:** Chairman Rep. Jeff Weninger, Vice Chairman Rep. Steve Kaiser
 - **Committee on Education:** Chairman Rep. Michelle Udall, Vice Chairman Rep. Beverly Pingerelli
 - **Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water:** Chairman Rep. Gail Griffin, Vice Chairman Rep. Judy Burges
 - **Committee on Government & Elections:** Chairman Rep. John Kavanagh, Vice Chairman Rep. Jake Hoffman
 - **Committee on Judiciary:** Chairman Rep. Frank Pratt, Vice Chairman Rep. Jacqueline Parker
 - **Committee on Ways & Means:** Chairman Rep. Shawna Bolick, Vice Chairman Rep. Brenda Barton
 - **Committee on Appropriations:** Chairman Rep. Regina Cobb, Vice Chairman Rep. John Kavanagh
 - **Committee on Criminal Justice Reform:** Chairman Rep. Walt Blackman, Vice Chairman Rep. Shawna Bolick
 - **Committee on Transportation:** Chairman Rep. Frank Carroll, Vice Chairman Rep. Justin Wilmeth
 - **Committee on Ethics:** Chairman Rep. Becky Nutt, Vice Chairman Rep. Frank Pratt
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Governor Ducey issues COVID-19 Advisory



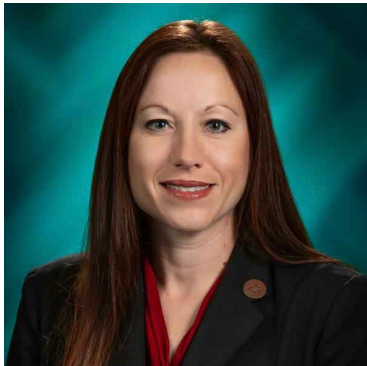
Arizona Update on the Issues



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
Rep. Jennifer Jermaine (D)
Monday, November 23rd

Representing LD18, Representative Jermaine was first elected to the Legislature in 2018 and recently re-elected. Jermaine is a graduate of San Diego State University where she earned a degree in International Business and in 2014, received an M.P.A. from ASU.

She is the co-founder of Stronger Together Arizona and the We the People Summit, both empower individuals to collaborate to influence public policy. Last session, her top legislative priority was to address issues related to missing indigenous persons and unidentified human remains.

To wish Representative Jermaine happy birthday: jjermaine@azleg.gov



Happy Birthday
Rep. Kirsten Engel (D)
Saturday, November 28th

Representing LD10, Representative and now also Senator-Elect Kirsten Engel will take the seat of Senator David Bradley next session. First elected to the Legislature in 2016, Engel is a Professor at the UofA College of Law. A Chicago native, Engel received her B.A. from Brown University and J.D. from Northwestern University. An environmental law expert, Engel worked for the EPA and was an Assistant Attorney General in the Massachusetts until 2005.

Last session, a top legislative priority for Representative Engel was to repeal legislation that blocked counties and municipalities from requiring an owner, operator or tenant of a business, commercial building or multifamily housing property to measure and report energy usage and consumption.

To wish Representative Engel happy birthday: kengel@azleg.gov

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