



## Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected

### Governor Ducey Issues Stay At Home Order

After consulting with DHS Director Christ and CDC officials, Governor Ducey issued a stay at home order effective from April 1st to April 30th unless extended. The order officially titled as a "Stay home, Stay healthy, Stay connected" policy, asks Arizonans to limit time outside of their home. The Governor's decision mirrors what other states are calling a "shelter-in-place" order, although the Administration is trying to brand it differently by adding a mental health component and urging people to go outside while maintaining six feet of separation. The executive order urges Arizonans to "limit their time away from their place of residence or property," except to conduct or participate in "essential activities" including working or volunteering in "essential functions" and to utilize any services or products provided by "essential businesses." The Governor emphasized that those who do not abide by the order could be subjected to a Class 1 misdemeanor which is a \$2500 fine and up to 6 months in jail. The executive order can be found [here](#).

### Governor's Office Updates List Of Essential Services

In the latest effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Governor's Office provided "additional guidance" about essential services. In a statement released late Friday, Governor Ducey said that barbers, cosmetology, hairstyling, nail salons, aesthetic salons, tanning salons, tattoo parlors, spas and massage parlors must be closed by 5 p.m. on April 4th. Additionally, amenities at public parks where social distancing can't be practiced will be closed such as basketball courts, splash pads, playgrounds and public restrooms. It is worthwhile to note that parks can remain open "to the greatest extent possible." The full statement can be found [here](#).

### Unemployment Growth Causes Delay

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, unemployment claims have risen in Arizona and have triggered delays with the state unemployment insurance office. Callers have reportedly received busy signals when calling or have been kicked off the states website while trying to apply for benefits because of the massive traffic increases. According to state officials, we have had more than 28,000 claims in the week ending March 21 and nearly 89,000 last week. The agency projects another 100,000 claims will be filed by the end of this week. The agency said that they normally process about 3,500 claims a week and the previous record was just above 11,000 during the Great Recession in 2009. Arizona pays a maximum of \$240 a week to people whose claims are approved but the \$2.2 trillion stimulus package signed by the President adds \$600 weekly to that amount for four

months. Information about unemployment benefits can be found [here](#).

## **ASU Researchers Look For Traces Of COVID-19**

A group of Arizona State researchers are looking for traces of COVID-19 in wastewater which could serve as an early warning system of the viruses spread. The ASU Biodesign Center for Environmental Health Engineering has created a test to determine whether genetic material of the virus can be detected in untreated sewage. City officials said that more data on how widespread the virus is throughout the city could provide enhanced opportunity to deploy essential resources and protective equipment to medical workers who are handling the outbreak. If the testing works, researchers will collect samples from different parts of the city's sewer system and monitor trends such as if the viruses amount in wastewater increases or decreases. The researchers noted that this test is not about combating the virus itself, it is about giving healthcare workers clarity on where the virus is spreading and how to allocate the necessary resources in areas of high contagion. Tempe is believed to be the first city in the United States to undertake a study such as this.

## **Arizona Supreme Court Upholds Ride-share Fees**

The Supreme Court last Thursday unanimously upheld a City of Phoenix ordinance to increase ride-share fees at Sky Harbor. The decision came as a surprise for many who believed that the court would side with Attorney General Brnovich's suit that viewed the ordinance as a violation of Proposition 126, a voter approved initiative that prohibits new taxes on services. The ordinance adopted by the City Council earlier this year imposes a \$4 pick-up and drop off fee for ride-share companies like Uber and Lyft. In court, city officials argued that the fee is essentially a use charge for the privilege of doing business on airport property, much like the fees that concessionaires pay for doing business inside of the airport. Despite the ruling, the fight over the fee increases is far from over. This session, Representative Travis Grantham and a bi-partisan group of lawmakers introduced HB2817 which would prohibit public airport operators and public bodies operating a public airport from imposing a tax, fee or assessment of any kind on transportation network companies for operating at the public airport. When the legislature re-adjourns in the coming weeks, HB2817 potentially could be revived.

## **Initiative Campaigns File Lawsuits**

Initiative Campaigns filed lawsuits last Thursday petitioning the Arizona Supreme Court and the United States District Court to allow initiatives to gather signatures online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Coalitions representing Smart and Safe, Invest in Ed, Arizonans for Second Chances and Save Our Schools argued that the ban on collecting initiative signatures online violates both the First and Fourteenth Amendment. Additionally, the lawsuit argues that Governor Ducey's "stay-at-home" order makes it nearly impossible to cross the minimum threshold in order to qualify for the November election. Although, according to the Governor's executive order there is no prohibition on people going door-to-door to seek signatures or standing outside of public or commercial buildings. In fact, the Governor issued specific exemption for those exercising their First Amendment rights, which would include circulating petitions. Lawyers representing the groups emphasized that this does not represent the reality of the situation. They argued in the suit that "exclusion exists within the broader mandate and strong urging of public health officials to stay at home and limit contact with others." Each initiative needs 237,645 valid signatures by the July 2nd deadline.



## Arizona Update on Issues



**Governor announces launch of Arizona Together initiative. Click here for more.**

**Click here for the latest COVID-19 data**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:mfinchem@azleg.gov)

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