



## 55th Legislature to Start January 11

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The 55th Legislature will convene on January 11th. Governor Ducey is exploring options for presenting his State of the State Address outdoors so that a large number of elected officials and the public can attend with less fear of spreading COVID-19.

Speaker Bowers and President Fann are considering a number of safety protocols for conducting business during the next legislative session. Discussions relating to a building-wide mask mandate are on-going. Per Article 4, Part 2, Section 9, of the [Arizona Constitution](#) (click for link), a majority of the members of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business. Both the Senate President and Speaker of the House have the ability to suspend [Rule 14c](#) in House Rules (click for link), which would allow votes to be cast by technological means. Members in both chambers and the public are expected to be permitted to participate in committee hearings remotely. Staff is exploring the opening of satellite legislative offices outside of Maricopa County.

President Fann has committed to early passage of bills that last year, passed with bipartisan support but did not make it through the entire process because the legislative session was closed prematurely due to Covid-19. No word yet on whether House leadership will be doing the same.

The House (*31-29 Republican*) will have 12 regular meeting committees. The Senate (*16-14 Republican*), will have 9 regular meeting committees.

To review the 55th Legislature House Committees, click [here](#).  
To review the 55th Legislature Senate Committees, click [here](#).

### COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Arrive in Arizona

Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) has received the first shipment of 58,000 Pfizer vaccine doses. Maricopa County is to receive 47,000 doses and Pima County, 11,000 doses. More vaccine doses will be sent the following week to all 15 counties, at least four tribes, and skilled nursing facilities, through a partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Arizona will receive a total of 380,000 vaccine doses by the end of this month.

The vaccine doses once received will go directly to health providers who will deliver the doses, bypassing state and local health departments. AZDHS will receive, each week from the CDC, an allotment based on the percentage of each county's priority group's residents.

With three priority groups, distribution will be conducted in phases before the general population has access.

Phase 1A: Health care personnel, frontline workers, and long-term care facility residents and staff.

Phase 1B: Essential workers such as teachers, police, and emergency response staff; utility, and public transport workers; and state and local government employees.

Phase 1C: People at high risk of contracting a severe case of COVID-19, including those 65 and older and adults in congregate settings, such as prisons.

Phase 2: General population.

There are 359 approved providers to administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Arizona, with applications pending from more than 1,000. As more vaccine providers are approved they will be listed on the CDC's Vaccine Finder.

To review the CDC vaccine finder, click [here](#).

AZDHS Director Christ is anticipating hundreds of millions of doses will be available by March of 2021. The vaccine will be administered free of charge and vaccination is not mandatory.

### COVID-19 Arizona Update

Arizona hospitals statewide continue to experience an increase in new COVID-19 patients, and ICU units are at 91% of capacity with half of all ICU patients positive for COVID-19 according to the ADHS dashboard.

Governor Ducey announced the allocation of \$60 million in new funding to hospitals for staffing purposes, funded by the CARES Act. AZDHS will assist with the hiring of 500 nurses through the end of the month. The funding for this staffing increase is intended to last through January.

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

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



### Governor Ducey Gives Hanukkah Message



## 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. Tim Dunn (R)                      Sunday,  
December 13th

Representing LD13, Representative Dunn was appointed to the Legislature in February 2018 and won election for his seat in the 2020 election. A Yuma Native, Dunn operates a family-run business, Dunn Grain Co Inc, which specializes in selling grains and exporting crops like garbanzo beans, black-eyed peas, Sudan grass, and wheat. He was named 2017 Arizona Farm Bureau "Farmer of the Year."

Last session, Dunn was Chairman of the Land Agriculture Committee and was Vice Chairman of the Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee. A top legislative priority for Dunn was HB2415 which would have appropriated \$1.1 million from the general fund to the Department of Public Safety to distribute to the Cochise, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Yuma county sheriffs to procure cameras and related equipment, software, and services for southern Arizona border region enforcement.

Next session, Dunn will serve as Chairman of the Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee and will be a member of the Natural Resources, Energy & Water, and Ways & Means Committees.

To wish Representative Dunn happy birthday: [tdunn@azleg.gov](mailto:tdunn@azleg.gov)

### Arizona Governmental Affairs

Address:

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

[E-mail AZ Governmental](#)