



Vice President Pence Visits Arizona

Department of Homeland Security to send medical personnel

Vice President Pence announced that he is instructing the Department of Homeland Security to send 500 additional medical professionals to Arizona as the state combats the most recent COVID-19 outbreak. Health care workers will include ICU nurses, nurse practitioners, respiratory health and behavioral health technicians, and medical lab technicians. Since the end of June, Arizona has experienced a 147% increase in new COVID-19 cases and reached a record daily high of 4,878, bringing the total number of cases to 100,000.

The exponential rise in positive COVID-19 cases has created a crisis for Arizona Department of Health (AZDHS) officials, who activated a guidance plan last week for health care professionals facing difficult decisions on how to ration dwindling resources. As a result of increased cases, hospitals are nearing maximum capacity of intensive care unit beds at 89%, with 1,495 of roughly 1,679 beds filled. The number of ventilators being used at hospitals also reached a record high of 857. AZDHS Director Christ emphasized that implementing the crisis standards of care is a necessary precaution to address shortages in space, staffing, supplies and care. Governor Ducey and AZDHS Director Christ remain hopeful that hospitals statewide have access to adequate capacity for increased demand and have not yet required a statewide halt to elective surgeries.

AZDHS Crisis Standards of Care will be:

- Activating tactics to address space, staff and resource constraints as necessary for each hospital's current situation.
- Preparing for surge and anticipating full staffing.
- Reviewing the cessation of non-emergent, essential surgeries and procedures that do not impair the care of other patients.
- Activating Hospital Incident Command and more frequent meetings.
- Establishing regular communication with applicable local health jurisdictions.

As more information becomes available, we will update you.

To review the AZDHS plan, click [here](#).

Invest in Education qualifies for ballot

Invest in Education filed signatures; 237,465 required to the Secretary of State's Office on a measure seeking to qualify for the November ballot. Its intent is to raise \$940 million each year for K-12 schools. The measure would create a 3.5% tax surcharge for single individuals making more than \$250,000 or married couples making more than \$500,000. The current income tax rate in Arizona for someone making \$159,001 or more is 4.5%. Arizona's average income tax rate is one of the lowest in the nation.

If the measure passes, the funds are allocated as follows:

- 50% to K-12 public school teacher and classroom support staff salaries.
- 25% to schools for student support services staff.
- 10% to teacher mentoring and retention programs at the school level to keep teachers from leaving the state.
- 12% to career and technical education programs.
- 3% to the Arizona Teachers Academy, an initiative to stem Arizona's teacher shortage by waiving college tuition and fees for future teachers who agree to work in Arizona schools.

In 2018, a similar measure was filed but then barred by the Arizona Supreme Court for language flaws. To read the referendum click [here](#).

Smart and Safe Arizona qualifies for ballot

Smart and Safe Arizona filed signatures; 237,465 required to the Secretary of State's Office on a measure seeking to qualify for the November ballot. An initiative which aims to legalize cannabis for adult use, filed 420,000 signatures with the Arizona Secretary of State's Office. If passed, this measure is expected to generate \$300 million in new revenue by imposing a 16% excise tax on recreational marijuana products. Money from the excise tax would fund various state agencies and be dispersed between community college districts, police and fire departments and the Highway User fund. Additionally, \$20 million would be allocated annually for addiction prevention, substance abuse treatment, teen suicide prevention, mental health programs and other justice projects to Arizona's Department of Health Services.

If it passes, the measure would:

- Legalize the sale, possession and consumption of one ounce of marijuana for adults 21 years old and older.
- Ban smoking marijuana in public places like restaurants and open spaces like parks.
- Require packaging to be childproof and labeled.
- Increase penalties for driving under the influence of marijuana.
- Provide an option for people previously convicted of low-level marijuana crimes to have their records expunged.
- Limit the amount of THC to 10 milligrams per serving of edible products.

A similar initiative was voted on at the 2016 general election and lost narrowly, by 67,000 votes. To read the initiative, click [here](#).

Second Chances, Rehabilitation and Public Safety qualifies

Second Chances, Rehabilitation and Public Safety filed signatures; 237,465 required to the Secretary of State's Office on a measure seeking to qualify for the November ballot. Launched by criminal justice reform advocates, this initiative involves "earned release credits," which offenders can use to reduce their prison sentences. Offenders currently have to serve at least 85% of their sentences under Arizona's "truth in sentencing" law, with a chance to spend the remainder under community supervision. The measure proposes to cut nonviolent offenders' sentences by up to 50%, with participants earning a one-day reduction for every day served.

If passes, this measure would:

- Expand earned release credits from 1 day for every 6 served (roughly 15 percent of one's sentence) to **1 day for each day served** (50 percent) for people convicted of "non-dangerous" offenses.
- Restore judicial discretion in cases involving non-dangerous convictions.
- End the practice of unjustly sentencing people for so-called "Hannah" priors.
- Allow re-sentencing for eligible petitioners.
- Create a support services fund to reduce unaddressed trauma for first responders who suffer violent harm as part of their jobs.

To review Second Chances, Rehabilitation and Public Safety, click [here](#).

Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients qualifies

Launched by Arizona Healthcare Rising, a group backed by the California SEIU (Service Employees Union), the Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act filed signatures; 237,465 required to the Secretary of State's Office on a measure seeking to qualify for the November ballot. The initiative would require hospitals to increase the wages of practically all non-managerial hospital employees by five percent upon implementation of this initiative. It would require an additional five percent increase every year thereafter for an additional three years. When compounded over the four years, this would result in a 22% pay increase for hospital staff, ranging from nurses to food service workers. Proponents say the measure also would stop surprise billing from out-of-network providers, require refunds for patients who are overcharged, and require private hospitals to meet national safety standards on hospital-acquired infections. Healthcare associations and business groups have come out in opposition to the measure. The groups say that if passed, this initiative would dramatically increase healthcare costs and many aspects of it have already been addressed by existing statutes.

To review Stop Surprise Billing and Protect Patients Act, click [here](#).

Safe elections plan announced

In preparation for the November general election, Governor Ducey and Secretary of State Katie Hobbs announced the investment of \$9 million in CARES act funding to support safe and secure voting. A priority for Secretary Hobbs, approximately \$5 million will go directly to county recorders and election departments for COVID-19 response efforts -- including hiring temporary staff and poll workers; increasing the number of secure ballot drop-off locations; and expanding curbside voting at polling locations. Additional monies will be allocated to increase early voting opportunities, particularly in rural and tribal communities, and to inform voters of their options, including

voting by mail, early voting, and steps to vote safely on Election Day. The balance of the funding will be used to purchase personal protective equipment, sanitation supplies for voting locations, and hand washing stations in some areas.

In the agreement, County recorders and election departments across the state will receive:

- 19,000 reusable face masks for election workers.
- 160,000 disposable face masks for voters.
- 10,000 face shields for election workers.
- 175,000 pairs of gloves.
- 3,200 gallons of hand sanitizer.
- 2,400 bottles of disinfectant spray.
- 10,000 disposable pens.

To review the Secretary of State's 2020 AZVoteSafe Guide click [here](#).

USMCA goes into effect

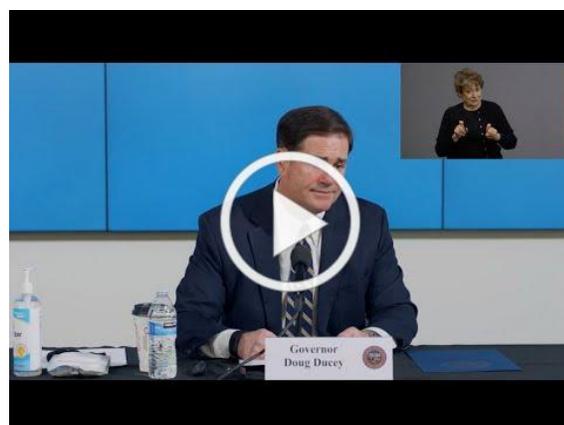
The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) went into effect last week after being signed in 2019. Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the USMCA will further strengthen relations with Arizona's two largest trade partners – Mexico and Canada. According to officials, Arizona is poised to benefit substantially from the trilateral agreement. Between 2015-2017, Arizona exported \$10.5 billion annually to Canada and Mexico, and more than 228,000 jobs in Arizona are dependent on the annual trade and investment relationship with U.S. border neighbors. In that same time frame, Arizona land ports of entry (POEs) processed an average of 400,000 northbound trucks coming in from Mexico and nearly \$28 billion in trade. Studies anticipate that the agreement will add \$68.2 billion to the U.S. economy and create 176,000 new jobs nationwide.

To read the United States Trade Representative's USMCA state fact sheet, click [here](#).

To read the USMCA and its impact on Arizona, click [here](#).



Governor Ducey Provides COVID-19 Update





Click here to find COVID-19 resources and volunteer opportunities

Click here to find out how to donate a mobile hotspot

Upcoming Legislators' Birthdays



Happy Birthday
Rep. Jennifer Pawlik (D)
Thursday, July 9th

Representing LD17, Representative Pawlik is serving her first term at the Legislature. The first woman and first Democrat elected to the House of Representatives in District 17, Pawlik is a former Chandler Unified School District teacher. An Arizona native, she earned her both B.S. and M.A. from Northern Arizona University. At the Legislature, she is a member of the House Education, Judiciary and Joint Legislative Audit committees. This session her top legislative priority was HB2185 which would have made a supplemental appropriation of \$75 million from the general fund to the Department of Education for the School Safety Program. To wish Representative Pawlik happy birthday: jpawlik@azleg.gov



Happy Birthday Sen.
David Farnsworth (R)
Thursday, July 16th

Representing LD16, Senator Farnsworth is serving his final term and is not running for re-election. Appointed to the Senate in 2013, Farnsworth served non-consecutively at the Arizona House from 1995 to 1997. Born in Mexico City, Farnsworth is the owner of Farnsworth and Associates – a real estate investing and rental management firm. At the Legislature, he is Chairman of Senate Government and is a member of the Commerce, Finance and Joint Legislative Audit committees. This session his top legislative priority was SB1013 which would have required the Department of Child Safety to make semi-annual reports concerning runaway and abducted children. To wish Senator Farnsworth happy birthday: dfarnsworth@azleg.gov

Arizona Governmental Affairs

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

E-mail AZ
Governmental