



Stay Healthy, Return Smarter, Return Stronger

Stay at Home Order Ended

Governor Ducey announced that his Stay At Home order ends on May 15th and replaced by new guidance for the next stage of economic recovery. The new order takes effect on May 16th and aims to continue to protect public health by ramping up testing availability and frequency; implementing tracking of key health metrics such as reported symptomatic cases and emergency room usage; standing up surge hospital capacity ; expanding statewide contact tracing; bolstering supply chains for personal protective equipment for frontline medical workers and emergency responders; implementing enhanced safety protocols to protect those living and working in high-risk facilities such as nursing homes; and providing public health guidance for businesses and individuals to ensure continued physical distancing. The executive order can be found [here](#).

ADHS also released additional guidance on businesses including:

- Pools, with physical distancing and enhanced sanitation. Click [here](#) to view guidance on pools.
- Gyms & Fitness Providers, with physical distancing and enhanced sanitation. Click [here](#) to view guidance on gyms.
- Spas, with physical distancing and enhanced sanitation. Click [here](#) to view guidance on spas.

The Legislature Debates Whether to Reconvene or Shut-Down this Session
The Senate in a 24-6 vote agreed to notify the House that they have completed its labors and are ready to adjourn sine die. Convening for the first time since March 23rd, the bi-partisan group agreed to set aside remaining legislative business that does not involve the health of Arizonans, the state's economic recovery, legal liability protections for small businesses and other issues directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the August primary, President Fann wants the Senate to reconvene in task force committees to address issues that have emerged as a result of the pandemic. These special committees will identify solutions to accelerate economic recovery and ensure that constitutional liberties for Arizonans are recognized.

In order to officially end the 2020 legislative session, the House must also adjourn. Members of the Arizona House remain divided. Some legislators in the majority caucus have been vocal about their interest to return to the Legislature to pass at least some remaining bills. In a press release, Speaker Bowers indicated that his caucus is committed to continue finishing up work on bills despite the Senate's decision to adjourn. With the Senate shutting down, the

House must now decide if bills should be heard in committee hearings and for floor votes, and if so, which bills are the most critical. Determining which bills, if not all of them, move forward, has caused a delay in a decision for next steps.

Special Session in June Promised for Immediate Covid-19 Related Legislation
Governor Ducey has committed to call for a special session in June to address only COVID-19 and related budget related bills. As per the Arizona Constitution, the Governor will call the session into order with a set agenda on the items and scope of work to address.

Supreme Court Issues Ruling on Ballot Measures

The Arizona Supreme Court ruled that initiative campaigns cannot collect signatures online to qualify for the ballot in November. In a 6-1 decision, the Justices struck down the request by four ballot measure campaigns to use the same website, known as E-Qual that candidates for state offices use to get signatures for their nominating petitions. Soon after the decision was released, Save Our Schools Arizona announced that they would stop collecting signatures for their referendum which sought to ask voters to limit the number of vouchers of state tax dollars that parents can use to send their children to private and parochial schools. If passed, the measure would have prohibited the state from issuing vouchers to more than 1 percent of total children enrolled in public schools.

In order to qualify for the general election, referendums need at least 237,645 signatures by July 2nd. To date, Invest in ED has collected 85,000 signatures and Second Chances has collected 66,000. Only Smart and Safe Arizona which legalizes marijuana has crossed the minimum threshold to appear on the November ballot.

Arizona Unemployment Claims Surge and Old Computer System Falters

DES continues to struggle to process a wave of unemployment claims since businesses suspended operations following the Orders by the Governor to Stay-at-Home. DES has processed nearly 514,000 claims in the past seven weeks. Despite that, as of last week, only 283,000 people have been able to obtain their benefits. More than 230,000 residents are either stuck in a backlog, have been denied or have fallen into a new category of people that Congress said in March could receive benefits but the computer system has been unable to process. The state expects to begin processing those claims next week, more than six weeks late for many Arizonans.

Information on how to apply for unemployment can be found [here](#)

Feds Helps States Meet the Demands of Spike in Families in Need

Feds Help States Meet the Demands of Spike in Families Turning to Medicaid
To help states address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides Arizona with a temporary and retroactive 6.2 percentage point increase in Medicaid's federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) — which determines the federal government's proportion of cost of Medicaid expenditures. In total, the state could receive up to an estimated \$700 million in additional federal Medicaid spending. This will off-set the state's increased costs resulting from so many families filing for Medicaid healthcare benefits while unemployed.



Arizona Update on Issues



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
Senator J.D. Mesnard (R)
Friday, May 15th

Representing LD17, Senator Mesnard is serving his first term in the Senate. Prior to his current position, he was first elected to the House in 2011 and was Speaker of the House in 2017. Before his tenure as a politician began, he spent eight years working at the Arizona Senate where he served as a policy advisor on issues ranging from education, transportation and retirement, to family services and government administration. At the Legislature, he is chairman of Senate Finance and is vice chairman of the Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development committee. This session his top legislative priority is SB1398 which makes various changes to statutes relating to taxes. To wish Senator Mesnard happy birthday: jmesnard@azleg.gov



Happy Birthday
Rep. David Cook (R)
Friday, May 15th

Representing LD8, Representative Cook was first elected to the Arizona House in 2015. Born in Oklahoma, Cook moved to Arizona in 1985 and is a graduate of Miami High School. A known rancher, he operates DC Cattle Company with his wife. At the Legislature, Cook is a member of the House Land, Natural Resources and Transportation committees. His top legislative priority this session is HB2056 which appropriates \$15 million from the general fund to the Department of Transportation to construct a bridge in the Tonto Basin at the Bar X crossing in Gila County. To wish Representative Cook happy birthday: dcook@azleg.gov

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