

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Day and Maybe a Budget is Coming



May 5, 2023

Hi all!

Today is a day to raise awareness about the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2 Spirit, Trans, Queer people and other Relatives. There are many events going on this weekend to learn, listen and be in solidarity with Indigenous communities.

Last year, Sergio Avila wrote a compelling piece about raising awareness and taking action to address injustices that contribute to the murders of so many in Indigenous communities.

Please take the time to read it. As Sergio says,

“Social justice is environmental justice. It is not enough to protect endangered species, charismatic wildlife or promote 'sustainable practices' to mitigate climate change without addressing the needs and impacts of historically disenfranchised, marginalized and at-risk people, especially when they are the original administrators of the lands, waters, fauna, medicinal plants, canyons, and rivers. We must also protect people.”

Read the full article here [Social Justice Is Environmental Justice: the case of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.](#)

There was very little action at the Arizona Legislature this past week as the Republicans in the House were still one member down and did not have a majority. They will be back on Monday, however, as the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors appointed a replacement for Liz Harris in Legislative District 13. Her name is Julie Willoughby and she appears to be similar to Liz Harris in her belief that the elections were rigged, so there will not be much of a change. The Board of Supervisors will be appointing to fill the vacancy in the Senate on Monday.

It appears that there will be some kind of action on the budget next week as there is a House Rules Committee Meeting scheduled to allow for late introduction of bills for the budget. Stay tuned.

There continues to be much ado about one of the members, Representative Stahl-Hamilton, caught on tape hiding the bibles in the House members' lounge. She is a pastor and a strong supporter of the separation of church and state. You might wonder why there are bibles in the members' lounge. You might also wonder why they have a hidden camera filming people. Both are great questions. Rep. Stahl-Hamilton apologized for her method of starting a conversation on separation of church and state, but not about the need for it. This week, some Republican lawmakers filed an ethics complaint against her. Please continue showing support for Representative Stahl-Hamilton as she becomes more of a target of the right.

Don't forget to ask your representatives to oppose SB1278, a bill to limit cities' and towns' ability to protect their residents via local building code provisions related to affordability, energy, and public health.

Take Action!

Keep up the pressure against bills that would impede efforts to reduce traffic and promote transit and biking. Use the button below to take action to oppose SB1312, SB1313, SB1314, and SCR1018.

Take Action!

Ask your representatives in the Arizona House to oppose bills that prohibit consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors when deciding on state investments.

Use the button below to ask them to vote NO on SB1139 and SB1500!

Take Action

Most people in Arizona use early voting by mail as a safe and secure method of voting. Unfortunately, the Arizona Legislature is seeking to make that method of voting much more difficult and has introduced many bills to do so.

Ask your representatives to oppose SB1141 (early ballot drop off; identification).

It requires additional voter ID to drop off an early ballot. This is unnecessary as they already have the signature for verification. In the last election, people waited in lines for more than two hours to vote. This bill will make them longer.

Take Action!

To review bills we are tracking, [go to this link](#).

For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

See below for some upcoming webinars on utility resource planning.

Thanks so much for continuing to take action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

Coming Up This Week!



Historic Capitol courtesy of Sandy Bahr

Monday, May 8th

House Rules Committee at 1:00 PM in HHR4

- Permission for late introduction of measures sponsored by Speaker Toma relating to the budget.

Tuesday, May 9th

Ever wonder what goes into utility planning? And how utilities decide what their projected energy needs will be or how much clean renewable energy and energy efficiency they will include in their energy portfolios? Check out these upcoming webinars on resource planning. These first two webinars will focus on Salt River Project (SRP), our state's second largest utility and one that is not regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. We will be scheduling webinars on Tucson Electric Power and Arizona Public Service in the near future, but even if you are not an SRP ratepayer, the SRP-focused webinar will provide you with a lot of important information to help you with your advocacy.

Note that this is the same webinar, but we are repeating it to accommodate more schedules.

- [May 9th @ 10:00 am](#)
- [May 9th @ 6:00 pm](#)

Questions? Contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

