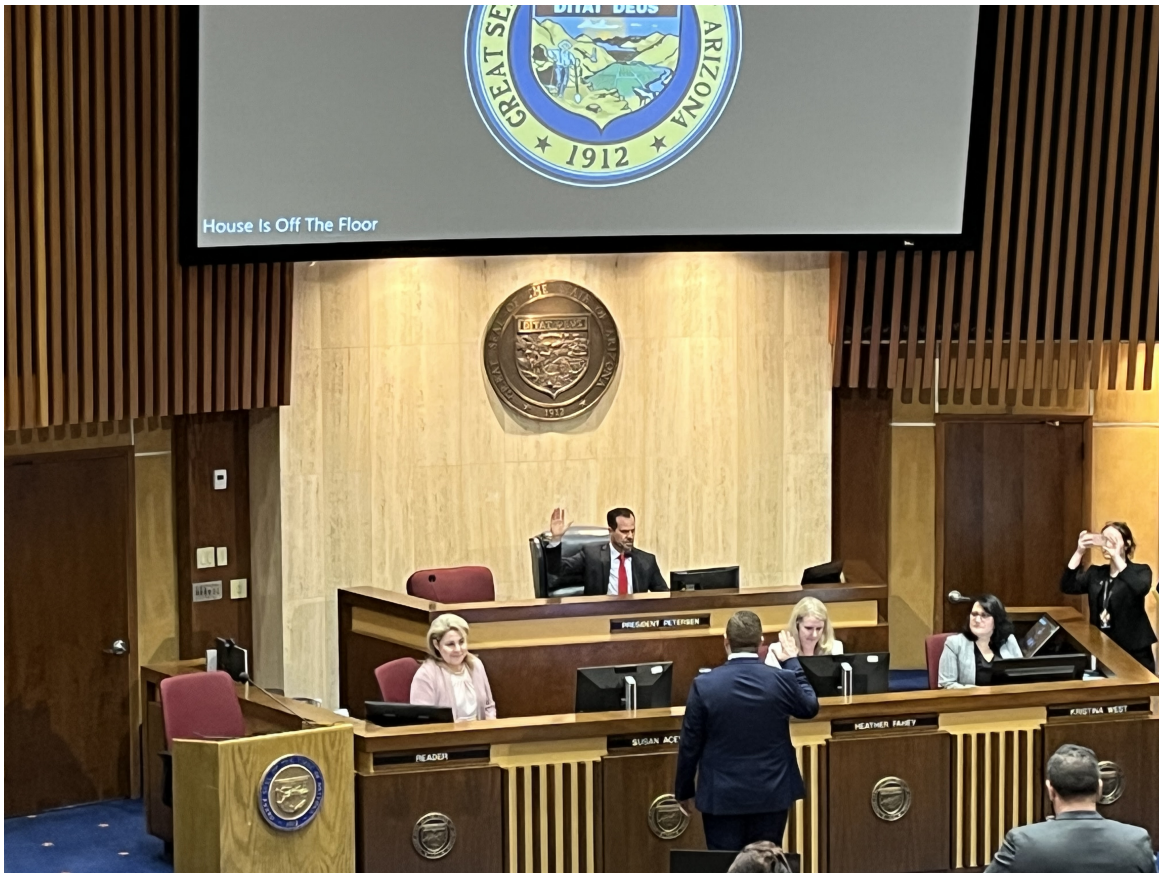




## Arizona has a Budget, but the Legislative Session Continues



Flavio Bravo being sworn in as an Arizona Senator.

May 12, 2023

Hi all!

This week, the Arizona Legislature finally passed a budget. Usually, once they pass a budget, they keep going and finish up the outstanding bills and go home, but not this time. The Legislature adjourned after the budget passed on Wednesday and they will be back again on

Monday. The House has a Third Read calendar with nearly 80 bills on it. The bills include a lot of the anti-democracy measures, the bills to prohibit preferred pronoun use, and bills to limit drag shows. There are also a number of the bills we have been fighting, including on transportation and environmental, social, and governance opposition.

Regarding the budget, it was not a bad budget for environmental protection, but it also could have been much better. Unfortunately, it also did not include limits on vouchers which will eat up a big part of the budget going forward. Positive provisions in the budget were the following,

- Economic Transition Resources for capital projects, economic sustainability developments, renewable energy projects and broadband projects located within twenty miles of the Kayenta Coal Mine - \$9 million
- Electric Charging/Adv. Fuel Infrastructure Administration and Transportation - \$12.5 million
- Solar Sunshade Structures Parks appropriation to State Parks for solar sunshade structures to provide shade and electricity to parks. \$2.2 million
- State Parks Heritage Fund - \$6 million
- Upper Verde State Park - \$7 million
- Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund - \$15 million
- Water Quality Fee Fund Deposit - \$9.5 million
- Arizona Trail Fund Deposit - \$500,000
- PFAS (Forever Chemicals) Mitigation (Non-Lapsing) - \$5 million
- Glassford Dells Regional Park Development - \$3.5 million
- Statewide Water Resources Planning Program - \$5 million
- Passenger Rail Service Planning (Phoenix to Tucson) \$3.5 million

So there are a fair number of positive items included, but also a lot is missing, including any comprehensive funding to address the water issues we have. The water augmentation dollars were reprogrammed for various water projects and for K-12 education. Those are better uses than a desalination plant and pipeline, but we still really need to do more to address water, including mandatory conservation.

**It's not on the Third Read or Committee of the Whole agenda for Monday, but please keep up the pressure on SB1278. It would limit cities' and towns' ability to protect their residents via local building code provisions related to affordability, energy, and public health. Please use the button below to take action.**

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Take Action!

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**Bills that would impede efforts to reduce traffic and promote transit and biking are on the House Third Read Calendar for Monday. They include SB1313 and SB1314.**

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Take Action!

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Also on Monday's House Third Read Agenda are SB1130 and SB1500. These bills that prohibit consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors when deciding on state investments will hinder efforts to move away from fossil fuels.

**Use the button below to ask your representatives to vote NO on SB1139 and SB1500!**

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Take Action

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The Arizona Legislature is seeking to make early voting much more difficult and has introduced many bills to do so. On the Third Read Calendar for Monday is **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. Ask your legislators to vote no on SB1141!

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Take Action!

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Also on the Third Read Calendar for Monday is the bill to limit the use of kids' preferred pronouns and anti-drag show bills, They are also considering a bill to allow heavier all-terrain vehicles. Call your legislators and ask them to vote no on SB1100 (all-terrain vehicles; definition).

There is one bill that we think will provide some benefits to the aquifer, SB1660 (NOW: water; storage; effluent; credits). It requires that 25% of the effluent water recharged stay in the aquifer, among other things. Ask your representatives to support it.

HB2618 (decommissioning; solar and wind; standards) is on the Senate Committee of the Whole calendar for Monday. It establishes special decommissioning standards for solar and wind. We are waiting to see if they fix it, but we're hoping we can go neutral. Right now, we are opposed.

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

**For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).**

Thanks so much for continuing to take action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

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## Coming Up This Week!





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## Monday, May 15th

House Third Read Calendar with nearly 80 bills. See the list [here](#).

Senate Committee of the Whole calendar #1 is [here](#).

Senate Committee of the Whole calendar #2 is [here](#).

## Tuesday, May 16th

Joint Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committee on Water Security at 3:00 P.M. in HHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- Overview of Committee Purpose
- Presentations:
  - Water Supply Update - Charlie Ester, Director of Water Supply, Salt River Project
  - WIFA Funding Opportunities - Chelsea McGuire, Assistant Director, Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority



Red-Spotted-Toad by NPS Robb Hannawacker

