

# YELLOW SHEET REPORT

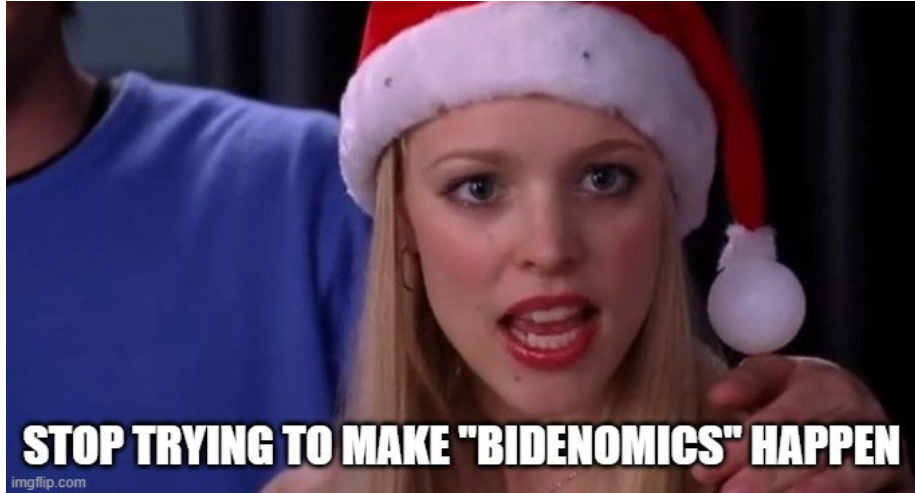
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Thursday, August 17, 2023

## News Notes & Gossip

### Perception vs reality

Democrats are leaning into President Joe Biden's economic track record amidst reports that their messaging isn't gaining traction with Arizonans. The Arizona Democratic Party hosted a press call yesterday with Tucson Mayor Regina Romero and Arizona AFL-CIO Executive Director Fred Yamashita to celebrate the



first anniversary of the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. Both speakers touted the impact of the act's investments on Arizona and Biden's role in pushing the legislation. Romero, who is a member of the Biden for President National Advisory Board, pointed to several provisions, including caps on prescription drug prices for people on Medicare; investments in improving energy efficiency of homes; and investments in creating manufacturing jobs in the state. "But none of this historic progress is thanks to the GOP. Every single one of the Republicans in Congress voted against this bill," she said. But, while Democrats are bullish on "Bidenomics," everyday Arizonans may not feel the same way. Both [NPR](#) and [NBC News](#) reported recently that Biden is having trouble convincing voters the economy is on the upswing even as inflation has fallen and the job market has remained strong. NPR's Scott Horsley said gas prices are still high but that consumer sentiment has been improving. "So all the indicators are pretty good except the president's approval rating," he said. Democratic consultant Tony Cani said the 2024 elections are still too far off to tell if this is a concerning trend that will hurt Biden and Democrats next year but acknowledged the Biden team probably wishes they were getting more credit for their accomplishments now. "He isn't getting the full credit that I think he will end up getting from voters for those accomplishments yet," Cani said.

### The ESA battle is only getting started

Hobbs hasn't ruled out taking executive action on ESAs, which she called an "unaccountable, unsustainable program." The governor talked about her desire to rein in the expanded ESA program on the campaign trail last year but was unsuccessful in pushing any measures to accomplish that goal through the legislature. "The Republican leadership made it clear that it was not on the table this session. And moving forward, I think we're armed with much better data that really shows how unsustainable this program is in the long term." Last month, [a report from the Ninth Floor](#) projected ESAs could cost the state \$940 million this fiscal year. The governor said she believes there are "bipartisan cries" to address the issue but that she's keeping her options open. "And certainly, if we can't get legislative action, we're going to look at what we can do from the executive side," she said.

## Hamadeh has amici in high places



Petersen and Toma filed an *amicus* brief in failed AG candidate Abe Hamadeh's ongoing elections contest. The duo's attorney, Thomas Basile, wrote [in the filing](#) that the legislative leaders "take no position on which candidate received the highest number of votes," but took issue with Mayes' and Fontes' "litigation tactics," which Basile described as "afflicted with a barrage of indignant fulminations and obstructive machinations." Basile agreed with

Hamadeh's argument that he had been denied proper discovery at the trial court. Basile contended the law governing ballot inspection is "supplementary not exclusive of other discovery," and wrote the Legislature's intent was "to secure a robust fact-finding process." "If left uncorrected, the trial court's misconception of these statutes would effectively disable mechanisms the Legislature established to ensure a rigorous verification and vetting of the vote count when, as here, there are genuine and good faith questions concerning the accuracy of the final tabulation," he wrote. The legislative leaders further took issue with filings by attorneys for the AG and SoS, which Basile argued "have obstructed any searching judicial examination of the election's administration." Basile wrote Fontes' "frenzied opposition to this prospect is perplexing," and said his attorney Craig Morgan's "rhetorical assault is gratuitous and abusive." Hamadeh also [filed a reply](#) to Fontes and Mayes yesterday and acknowledged two potentially sanction-worthy mistakes in his initial brief. He said two claims, including that he had requested a final order from the trial court, were "unintentional errors." He further pushed the state Supreme Court to accept his request for special action as the AG's election is of "statewide importance." He claimed "time is of the essence" and disagreed with Mayes' and Fontes' claim that Hamadeh and his legal team "sat on their hands for the past eight months." Hamadeh's attorneys wrote there was no "clear procedure to compel a more expeditious decision." The justices will now take the filings under consideration and plan to issue a ruling sans oral argument. Hamadeh, meanwhile, is joining Kari Lake and Mark Finchem at a fundraiser to help cover their respective legal fees. The trio is slated to speak, with an intro by Rogers, at a casino in Payson for the Conservative Coalition of Arizona's ["Protect the Vote Fundraiser"](#) and raffle on August 26. Tickets are \$75 per person.

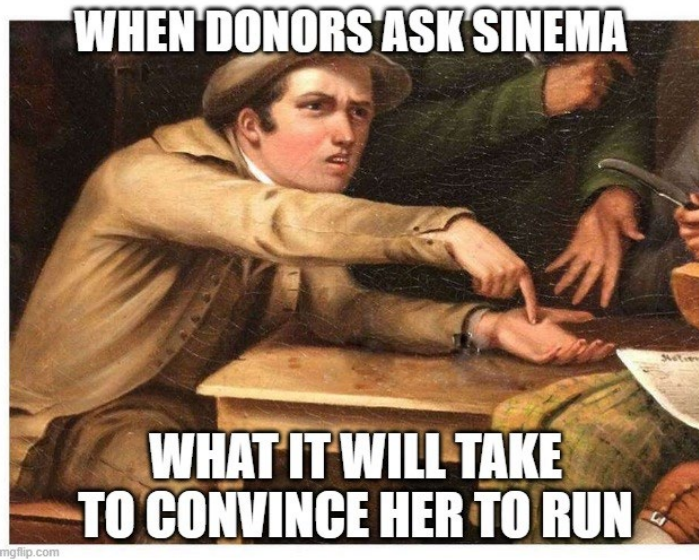
## They know longer ballots are harder to hand count, right?

This session, the legislature sent relatively few measures to the ballot, but Petersen said there should be more next year. "We'll probably see a few more next session, because it's actually go time," Petersen said. Epstein noted that HCRs and SCRs are a good way for Republicans to get around Hobbs, because they don't need her to sign them. Petersen said it's difficult to make changes to statutes created through ballot measures, so the product that's put to voters needs to be well structured. "They really need to be something that needs to be forever. And if it's not going to need to be forever, then it probably shouldn't go," he said.

## Big business loves Sinema

Some major moderate donors from the business community are lining up behind Sinema in the latest sign she could be preparing to mount a re-election campaign. *The Washington Post's* Yvonne Wingett-Sanchez [reported](#) that Mike Ingram, John Graham, Sharon Harper and Craig Krumwiede are hosting a fundraiser for Sinema on Sept. 29. Both Ingram and Graham – who has already donated thousands to Sinema’s campaign and PAC this year – are longtime Republican donors, though Ingram gave to Kelly last year and Graham has donated to Democrats, including Stanton, in the past

and served on Hobbs’ transition team. Harper and Krumwiede both have a history of giving to candidates from both parties. Harper was a McCain donor and chaired former Republican Gov. Doug Ducey’s re-election campaign in 2018 but also held a fundraiser for Kelly last year and served on Hobbs’ transition team. Over the past few cycles, Krumwiede has given to many candidates in Arizona, including Fontes, Gress, Hobbs, Karrin Taylor Robson and Marsh. The fundraiser is bad news for Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb, the only Republican to enter the race, after he put up [lackluster fundraising numbers](#) last quarter. But it could also be bad news for R Gallego as statewide Democratic candidates still need to woo independent-minded voters to win in Arizona. “It’s equally bad for Gallego,” a Republican railbird said. “It’s the business community making a statement on who they trust to get stuff done in AZ.”



## Horne joins the bathroom wars

Horne “strongly” advised schools against initiating a policy that allows transgender students to use the bathroom aligning with their gender identity in a press release today. In a statement, Horne said he had “been contacted by a number of parents who are outraged by the idea that biological boys can use restrooms, locker rooms and shower facilities meant for girls, and they are considering removing their daughters from schools that allow this.” Horne wrote that “biological boys who expose themselves to girls” could be subject to arrest under indecent exposure laws and recommended schools provide separate facilities open to either gender, which he said would “meet the needs of transgender students without compromising the dignity of others.” Horne said schools cited Title IX as legal cover for enacting transgender-inclusive bathroom policies, but he argued the law had not been settled yet. He said the issue would “ultimately be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court,” citing his challenge to the adjacent trans sports ban, which also relies on Title IX. Hobbs vetoed a Republican bill in June that would have barred trans students from using any facilities in line with their gender identity and required schools to make alternate accommodations. She called the legislation “yet another discriminatory act against LGBTQ+ youth” in her veto letter. Arizona Senate Democrats called the “fear-mongering” from Horne “unnecessary and foolish,” in a [tweet](#).



## A different kind of gun fight



The city of Phoenix didn't respond to a request from Nguyen and Bliss in July asking it to repeal an ordinance that authorized the transfer of unclaimed firearms to Ukraine. Instead, the city signed an agreement with on Aug. 4 to ship donated firearms to Ukraine. Nguyen told our reporter today he is meeting with city officials later in the afternoon to discuss the ordinance. "We could not get a hold of anyone," Nguyen said. "It took a while, but I'd rather take a meeting than not have

a meeting." The letter he sent with Bliss argued the city violated a state statute that prohibits political subdivisions from enacting any ordinance related to the "transportation, possession, carrying, sale, transfer, purchase, acquisition, gift, devise, storage, licensing, registration, discharge or use of firearms or ammunition or any firearm or ammunition components or related accessories in this state." "This is not about the Second Amendment or...about whether you support the war or not. As a legislator, I'm pretty much bound to the law that we created, so it's difficult to see someone like the city of Phoenix, and I don't know if they know it or not, but they're breaking state laws," Nguyen said. A spokesman for the city of Phoenix told our reporter last month city officials were aware of Bliss and Nguyen's letter.

## Wake Up Call

### [Hobbs' heat emergency sparks criticism, could change policy](#)

*Arizona Capitol Times*

Gov. Katie Hobbs' emergency order last week declaring a heat emergency in three Arizona Counties comes off an upward trend of heat-related deaths and hospitalizations in the most populous county of the state during recent years.

### [Court rules against neighbors who challenged billboards](#)

*Capitol Media Services*

Being offended by a new billboard in your neighborhood does not give you the legal right to challenge a decision by local officials to allow it, the Arizona Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

### [Arizona Wildcats the 1st college basketball team to play a game in United Arab Emirates](#)

*Arizona Daily Star*

There won't be Jay Bilas or Bill Walton around, and probably not a whole lot of fans, either. Maybe a couple dozen.

### [After AG's response, emoji question irrelevant, CGUHSD says](#)

*Pinal Central*

The Casa Grande Union High School District has received official clarification from Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes regarding the use of emojis to determine students' emotional state.

### [New city of San Tan Valley to be 'lean and mean,' committee suggests](#)

*Pinal Central*

If San Tan Valley forms a city, where will downtown be?

### [Clues point to identities of 'unindicted co-conspirators' in alleged Coffee County breach](#)

*The Washington Post*

The wide-ranging indictment of former president Donald Trump in Georgia accuses four of his supporters of conspiring to copy and distribute data from elections equipment in rural Coffee County, and it leaves unnamed seven "unindicted co-conspirators" who the grand jury said participated in that effort.

### [TSMC Vs. Arizona Pipe Trades 469 Union: Everyone Loses](#)

*Forbes*

TSMC is asking the US government for 500 visas to bring in specialists from Taiwan, but the Arizona Pipe Trades 469 Union is fighting it.

**[If the Arizona Legislature won't protect rural groundwater, Gov. Hobbs must step in](#)**

*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Steve Kiesel, Paul Hirt, Tricia Gerrodette and Peter Else)*

Legislation can better address rural Arizona's groundwater problems. But if lawmakers refuse to help us, Gov. Katie Hobbs must step in.

**[Kris Mayes should take a pass on prosecuting Trump \(There are plenty of local fish to fry\)](#)**

*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Laurie Roberts)*

Instead of piling on Donald Trump at this point, Attorney General Kris Mayes should go after the Arizonans who schemed to steal our vote.

**[Democrats love Rusty Bowers. Can they act like him and call out Biden?](#)**

*Arizona Republic (Opinion, Phil Boas)*

Democrats love Rusty Bowers. Now, will they follow his example and police their own?

## Press Releases

### Sen. Kelly in Taiwan with Greater Phoenix Economic Council for Signing of Economic Agreement

*The agreement, signed by the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and Startup Island TAIWAN, will bolster mutually beneficial investments in Arizona*

Arizona Senator Mark Kelly was in Taiwan with the [Greater Phoenix Economic Council](#) (GPEC) to support the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GPEC and Startup Island TAIWAN, with the support of the National Development Council (NDC) of Taiwan. The agreement, signed Thursday in Taipei, recognizes the organizations' commitment to fostering future collaboration and investment opportunities for Taiwan's startup community in Greater Phoenix.

The historic signing marks a new chapter of collaboration between Arizona and Taiwan by forging a relationship with the startup community and bolstering targeted emerging industries. This initiative underpins the shared strategy of strengthening innovative ties between Arizona and Taiwan. The mutually beneficial nature of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship was reinforced by the presence of Sen. Kelly, GPEC President & CEO Chris Camacho, NDC Minister Ming-Hsin Kung, and Startup Island TAIWAN Managing Director Amanda Liu.

Establishing this framework will help Taiwanese startups internationalize and further technological collaboration in key emerging sectors, including cybersecurity, green energy technology, 5G, information and communications technology (ICT), semiconductors, life science and healthcare, space, and e-mobility.

“The United States and Taiwan have many shared values and a deep, mutually beneficial economic relationship,” **said Sen. Kelly**. “This agreement builds on that by creating a pathway to foster even more collaboration and drive investment into critical industries in both Arizona and Taiwan. As Arizona’s Senator, I’ll continue working to find more opportunities to support shared investment and innovation between the United States and Taiwan.”

“This partnership will open new doors for Taiwanese and American entrepreneurs and existing companies seeking expansion,” **said GPEC President & CEO Chris Camacho**. “A stronger relationship means a strengthened Taiwan and Arizona as we welcome the exchange of innovation, creativity and diversity.”

Objectives of the MOU include the exchange of information on industry and investment projects, to encourage the organization of joint business missions and other activities, to facilitate soft landing opportunities for Taiwanese startups in Greater Phoenix programs, including the Global Growth Accelerator and other regional assets, and to mutually promote joint initiatives.

Taiwan is globally recognized as a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship, ranking first in the Asia Pacific Region and fourth in the world in innovation capability. Its growing relationship with Arizona is bolstered by the \$40 billion commitment of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), the largest semiconductor company in the world. In 2022, there was more than \$3 billion in trade between the two, a three-fold growth since 2018, elevating Arizona to a top-10 state in both imports and exports with Taiwan.

###

## Following Senators' Urging, Sinema & Kelly Announce Over \$23 Million to Build Regional Air Capture Hub at Arizona State University from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

*Sinema and Kelly urged the Department of Energy to support Arizona State University's application to program enacted by the Sinema-led and Kelly-shaped bipartisan infrastructure law*

**WASHINGTON** – Arizona Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly announced \$23,172,737 for the Southwest Regional Direct Air Capture Hub led by Arizona State University (ASU). The initiative was selected as part of the Regional Direct Air Capture Hubs program, which was enacted under the bipartisan infrastructure law led by Sinema and shaped by Kelly.

The announcement follows a letter Sinema and Kelly sent to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm urging the Administration to award the project with the investments needed to build a regional direct air capture hub – reducing harmful emissions, advancing the production and use of clean, renewable energy, and creating strong careers.

**“When I wrote the bipartisan infrastructure law, I made sure it would deliver real results for Arizona. Today’s investment – made possible from our infrastructure law – advances clean energy technologies and creates strong careers so Arizona can continue to lead the way in innovation and economic competitiveness for years to come,”** said Sinema.

**“Direct air capture is one of many tools needed to tackle climate change, and ASU is an ideal partner for developing this critical technology. Arizona is on the frontlines of climate change and this investment from our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will ensure the Southwest Regional Direct Air Capture Hub keeps Arizona on the cutting edge of climate solutions,”** said Kelly.

In their letter of support, the Arizona Senators noted how Arizonans are on the frontlines of the changing climate. From record drought to extreme heat and wildfires, Arizonans experience the impacts of a changing climate year-round.

The [Regional Direct Air Capture Hubs program](#), which was enacted under Sinema and Kelly’s bipartisan infrastructure law, provides funding for eligible projects that contribute to the development of four regional direct air capture hubs.

Under ASU’s leadership, the Southwest Regional Direct Air Capture Hub will accelerate the direct air capture industry and maximize its environmental and economic benefits. With an unparalleled understanding of the industry’s technology, business leaders, and key regional stakeholders, ASU will serve as an effective partner to help bring carbon capture objectives to fruition.

###

## Attorney General Mayes Issues Statement on Mifepristone Opinion

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mayes issued the following statement in response to yesterday's opinion (<https://azag.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cc1fad182b6d6f8b1e352e206&id=0b6ccfdb19&e=94ea02bc08>) issued by Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in the ongoing legal proceedings related to the drug mifepristone, one of two drugs typically used in medication abortions:

"In light of yesterday’s decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in a case challenging the FDA’s approval of mifepristone, I want to again reassure Arizonans that abortion remains legal and accessible in our state.

As my office previously explained back in April (<https://azag.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cc1fad182b6d6f8b1e352e206&id=11e2697e83&e=94ea02bc08>), this litigation out of Texas does not currently affect the legality and accessibility of mifepristone in Arizona thanks to Arizona’s participation in a different federal case out of the Eastern District of Washington. Because of that Washington litigation, the FDA must preserve the status quo regarding the legality and availability of mifepristone in Arizona.

My office and I are unwavering in our commitment to protecting the rights of Arizonans to make their own private medical decisions without interference. Bottom line: Arizona health care providers can continue to prescribe mifepristone to patients for abortion and miscarriage care just as they did before these cases started. And I will do everything in my power to keep it that way."

###

## **ADVISORY: Sen. Kelly to Visit Prescott**

*Kelly will address students at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and visit Meals on Wheels at the Adult Center of Prescott*

On Monday, August 21, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly will address students at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) and meet with seniors and Meals on Wheels staff at the Adult Center of Prescott. At ERAU, Kelly will welcome students back to campus, speak about his career, and encourage them to pursue military service. At the Adult Center of Prescott, Kelly will speak to local seniors about the benefits of prescription drug [reforms](#) he passed in the *Inflation Reduction Act* a year ago, meet with Prescott Meals on Wheels staff and volunteers, and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program's service to Prescott and the surrounding community.

**RSVP by emailing [press@kelly.senate.gov](mailto:press@kelly.senate.gov)**

### **Visit to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

**About:** Sen. Kelly to address ERAU students, encourage them to pursue careers in military service

**Who:** Sen. Mark Kelly

**When:** Monday, August 21. Press check-in at 10:30 am MST

**Where:** Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Davis Learning Center Auditorium, 3700 Willow Creek Road Prescott, AZ 86301

*Sen. Kelly will deliver remarks and take questions from students. A media availability will follow.*

### **Meals on Wheels Luncheon at the Adult Center of Prescott:**

**About:** Sen. Kelly to meet with seniors and staff at Meals on Wheels, discuss his work to lower prescription drug costs

**Who:** Sen. Mark Kelly

**When:** Monday, August 21. Press check-in at 12:30 pm MST

**Where:** Adult Center of Prescott, 1280 E Rosser, Prescott, AZ 86301

*Sen. Kelly will meet with seniors and recognize Prescott Meals on Wheels for their 50 years of service. A media availability will follow.*

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## **Abe Hamadeh Files Reply in Support of Special Action**

**August 17, 2023 — Phoenix, AZ.** Abe Hamadeh and his legal team filed a [Reply in Support](#) of his Special Action to the Supreme Court. With this new filing, the case is fully briefed and in the hands of the Supreme Court.

In the reply, Abe's legal team argues that "Petitioners simply seek to expeditiously count all valid votes and determine the constitutionally elected Attorney General with finality... every day Contestee remains in office is another day that the will of Arizona voters is subverted, and democracy is denied."

*"I want to thank America First Legal and the Arizona Legislature with the leadership of House Speaker Ben Toma and Senate President Warren Petersen for filing amicus briefs in support of our efforts to ensure the will of the people is honored. I made a promise to the people of Arizona to ensure that every legal vote is counted - I intend to keep it", said Hamadeh.*

America First Legal Foundation's Amicus Curiae Brief can be found [here](#).

Arizona Legislature Amicus Brief can be found [here](#).

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## **AHCCCS Improves Community Assistor Search Features to Help Arizonans Apply for Medicaid, SNAP, and Cash Assistance**



PHOENIX – The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) have upgraded search features on Health-e-Arizona Plus, the enrollment and eligibility website ([www.healtharizonaplus.gov](http://www.healtharizonaplus.gov)) for Medicaid, SNAP, and Cash Assistance applicants and enrollees.

Now users can search for [Community Assistors](#), organizations and individuals who help Arizonans enroll in benefit programs, by zip code or full or partial address. The new “Locate Me” feature returns geolocated results without the user having to input anything.

The upgrade also allows users to search by radius and proximity to find assistors up to 50 miles away. Each returned result provides information about the assistor organization, the full address, a link to a Google map, the assistor agency’s contact information, hours of operation and other services they may provide.

In addition to the Community Assistor search upgrade, the AHCCCS added other enhancements to [www.healtharizonaplus.gov](http://www.healtharizonaplus.gov) this spring, including Sam, a chatbot who can now process address changes directly in chat in English and Spanish with no need for the member to log into their Health-e-Arizona Plus account. Sam can also answer more than 40 common questions about the renewal process. If Sam cannot answer member’s questions automatically, a user can transfer to a live chat agent during business hours to get answers to questions about Medicaid enrollment and renewal.

###

## BBB Pacific Southwest Announces Keynote and Special Guest for Industrious Women’s Summit

*Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and Greenwood Brewing Founder set to speak*

(Phoenix, August 10, 2023) [Better Business Bureau Serving the Pacific Southwest](#) (BBB) is proud to announce special guests confirmed to be in attendance for their [6th Annual Industrious Women’s Summit](#) on August 25. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego will provide welcoming remarks, followed by founder and owner of [Greenwood Brewing Company](#), Megan Greenwood as keynote speaker. Sponsored by [Salt River Project](#) (SRP), the event unites women and their allies from diverse leadership levels with the theme of "Bridging the Gap," where speakers will share experiences and success stories, while promoting workplace inclusivity for women.

Megan is an engineer and worked in manufacturing engineering for over a decade before launching Greenwood Brewing in Phoenix, AZ. After receiving a home-brew kit for her birthday in 2014, Megan started brewing regularly and built a microbrewery in her garage where she had eight beers on tap! She began renting space from a local brewery, launching her flagship beers while she began construction of Greenwood Brewery. She opened her self-funded Downtown Phoenix microbrewery and beer garden in July 2020 and her beer is now in over 200+ restaurants, grocery and retail stores throughout Arizona.

“Being an AZ woman-owned brewery, I hope to share my story to empower other women to bridge the gap in their industries,” shared Megan Greenwood, Owner and Founder of Greenwood Brewing.

Megan is very active in the community and strives to live by the brand pillars she’s created with Greenwood Brewing: Empowerment, Confidence and Inclusivity. Megan holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree, Spanish Minor, and International Business Certificate from the University of Iowa and sits on the boards of Fresh Start Women’s Foundation and Arizona Talks.

“SRP is excited to be a part of this special event where we can acknowledge the accomplishments and continued efforts of women in the workplace and in business,” said Jacque Keenan, SRP Director of IT Business Engagement Services. “SRP is not only committed to hiring talented women in a traditionally male dominated field, but also to the community where we strive to work with an empowered local, small minority and women-owned businesses and hope to engage with during this event.”

Additional sessions at the Industrious Women’s Summit include:

- Industrious Goal Setting, [Abby Wilkymacky](#) from Mindflower Studio
- Advocacy and Resilience: Disrupting the Energy Industry, [Joy Seitz](#) from American Solar and Roofing



- Assertive Communication and Killer Presentation Skills, [Deborah Ostreicher](#) from Distinguished Communications.

Attendees can join the one-day event in-person at BBB's Phoenix campus or virtually. Visit [iws.bbbcommunity.org](https://www.bbbcommunity.org) to purchase in-person tickets starting at \$40 for BBB Accredited Businesses and \$50 for all others. In-person tickets include breakfast, lunch, happy hour, swag and a link to the summit recording. A virtual option is available at \$15.

For additional information or event sponsorship opportunities contact [iws@bbbcommunity.org](mailto:iws@bbbcommunity.org).

#### Value

BBB encourages businesses to operate with integrity, and helps consumers make wise marketplace decisions. Our [innovative approach to business growth](#) provides the tools that companies and entrepreneurs need to build better businesses. [Become BBB Accredited](#) and join our mission to create a community of trust. Published with permission from Better Business Bureau.

###

## Congressman Greg Stanton and HHS Regional Director Headline “Lower Costs, Better Care” Bus Tour Stop in Tempe

*Health Care Leaders and advocates Join Protect Our Care on a Four-Week, 16 State, 8,000+ Mile, Nationwide Bus Tour to Celebrate How Recent Victories By President Biden and Congress Are Already “Driving Down Health Care Costs” For Arizonans*

Watch the event in Tempe [here](#).

**TEMPE, AZ** — This morning, Protect Our Care's Care Force One arrived in Tempe to spotlight how recent legislative victories by President Biden and Congress are “driving down” health costs for the American people. The Inflation Reduction Act and other measures are already saving people thousands of dollars a year — with even more savings on the way. August marks the first anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act and the savings it continues to deliver to Arizonans. During today's event, Congressman Greg Stanton and Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso, Southwest Regional Director for the United States Health and Human Services, explained the key health provisions included in the bill that passed last year. Arizona advocates also described how they are already seeing these provisions benefit Arizonans.

“After decades of politicians talking about lowering health care and prescription drug costs, we got it done with the Inflation Reduction Act. One year later, it's already made a huge difference for Arizona seniors,” **said Rep. Stanton**. “Now I'm not going to let extreme House Republicans or Big Pharma undo the progress we've made.”

“Now even more Americans stand to save on their healthcare,” **said Dr. Reynoso**. “For years, some of us in this space have heard of the perilous 'donut hole' in Medicare coverage; and how it forced seniors to pay more for prescription drugs before they hit their maximum out of pocket expenditure. Thanks to the IRA, that will soon be no more.”

“The change in the insulin pricing will make it so that we won't have to take the trip down to the border,” **said Marcos Castillo, Arizona patient and disability advocate**. “And feel the shame of having to go somewhere else to meet our healthcare needs.”

“As a senior here I am living this,” **said Sandra Cole, President of the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans**. “All of these wonderful things in the IRA. And I have a lot of friends that are now able to eat three meals a day, because of the copay of 35 dollars when they have Diabetes. They no longer have to choose whether to eat and take their medicine or not eat and save their medicine for later.”

“Six years ago I walked into the doctor's office with a nagging cough and walked out with a stage four cancer diagnosis,” **said Laura Packard, cancer survivor and health care advocate**. “Luckily, I had good insurance that paid for the chemotherapy and radiation that I needed. The Inflation Reduction Act lowers health care costs for millions of people like me so they can afford the treatment they need to survive. President Biden and Democrats in Congress, like Congressman Stanton, continue to deliver on their promise to lower health care costs as hardworking people begin to see even more savings.”

“Protect Our Care is working to make sure everyone understands how President Biden and Congress are driving down health care costs,” said **Morgan Finkelstein, State Director for Arizona Protect Our Care**. “The Inflation Reduction Act touches nearly every household in America, whether you’re a senior or individual with a disability struggling to afford prescription drugs, a family purchasing your own coverage, or a taxpayer who is sick and tired of lining the pockets of Big Pharma. This progress is monumental, but instead of celebrating, Republicans are continuing to wage a war on health care by protecting the profits of big drug companies over savings for Americans.”

Tomorrow, the “Lower Costs, Better Care” tour will continue in Arizona, where Protect Our Care will be joined by leaders and advocates. Over four weeks, Care Force One will travel to more than 16 states, make more than 30 stops, and travel nearly 8,000 miles. For more information, click [here](#).

**Protect Our Care’s Care Force One will make stops in:**

**Manchester, New Hampshire** on Monday, July 31, 2023

**Portsmouth, New Hampshire** on Monday, July 31, 2023

**Syracuse, New York** on Tuesday, August 1, 2023

**Kingston, New York** on Tuesday, August 1, 2023

**Westchester, New York** on Wednesday, August 2, 2023

**New York City, New York** on Wednesday, August 2, 2023

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** on Thursday, August 3, 2023

**Uniontown, Pennsylvania** on Friday, August 4, 2023

**Youngstown, Ohio** on Monday, August 7, 2023

**Toledo, Ohio** on Monday, August 7, 2023

**Detroit, Michigan** on Tuesday, August 8, 2023

**Lansing, Michigan** on Tuesday, August 8, 2023

**La Crosse, Wisconsin** on Wednesday, August 9, 2023

**Green Bay, Wisconsin** on Thursday, August 10, 2023

**St. Paul, Minnesota** on Friday, August 11, 2023

**Las Vegas, Nevada** on Monday, August 14, 2023

**Bakersfield, California** on Tuesday, August 15, 2023

**Los Angeles, California** on Tuesday, August 15, 2023

**Orange County, California** on Wednesday, August 16, 2023

**Palm Springs, California** on Wednesday, August 16, 2023

**Phoenix, Arizona** on Thursday, August 17, 2023

**Tucson, Arizona** on Thursday, August 17, 2023

**Albuquerque, New Mexico** on Friday, August 18, 2023

**Atlanta, Georgia** on Monday, August 21, 2023

**Macon, Georgia** on Monday, August 21, 2023

**Charlotte, North Carolina** on Tuesday, August 22, 2023

**Greensboro, North Carolina** on Tuesday, August 22, 2023

**Raleigh, North Carolina** on Wednesday, August 23, 2023

**Norfolk, Virginia** on Wednesday, August 23, 2023

**Richmond, Virginia** on Thursday, August 24, 2023

**Wilmington, Delaware** on Thursday, August 24, 2023

**Allentown, Pennsylvania** on Friday, August 25, 2023

For more information on Protect Our Care’s “Lower Cost, Better Care” tour, click [here](#).

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## Rep. David Schweikert Pushes Cuts to Social Security and Medicare

ARIZONA - With August marking the anniversaries of Social Security and Medicare, Representative David Schweikert (AZ-01) has continuously pushed cutting the life saving programs. Just last month, Rep.

Schweikert took to the House floor to rail against the programs, [threatening](#) that, if the benefits that provide healthcare and income to millions of Arizonans are not gutted, this could spell “the end of your republic”. “Arizonans see Representative Schweikert’s dog whistles and unpopular attacks on Medicare and Social Security,” **said Executive Director of the Arizona Democratic Party, Morgan Dick**. “They understand that gutting these programs only help large corporations and billionaires while hurting our seniors. Arizona Democrats will always fight for the needs of the working class and Arizona voters will reject Representative Schweikert’s attempts to hurt working families in 2024.”

#### FACT SHEET:

Schweikert, who represents a district that President Biden won in 2020, sits on the committee that oversees Medicare and Social Security. He has long fought to cut Medicare and Social Security benefits to seniors despite the [program's nationwide popularity](#).

- Schweikert refuses to tell his voters the specific changes he would make to Medicare and Social Security. On the House floor, he [said](#): “we have lost our minds around here with **our unwillingness to do the things that are difficult because we have to explain it to a reporter** or it will be an attack ad in one of our campaigns.”
- Schweikert is on the Republican Study Committee (RSC), which [proposed](#) raising the retirement age to 69 in June. This would **force seniors to wait an additional two years to collect the full benefits** they have paid into for their whole working lives.
- Schweikert and the RSC proposed turning Medicare into a voucher system, which would **raise health insurance premiums** for seniors, according to the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).
- While Schweikert and other extreme MAGA Republicans attack Medicare and Social Security, **Democrats have delivered on protecting the programs**. The budget agreement negotiated by President Biden in May [preserves](#) these essential benefits for seniors.

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## “QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“It’s the business community making a statement on who they trust to get stuff done in AZ.”

- *A Republican railbird on business donors getting behind Sinema*