


# YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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## ·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

### Contractors going ‘full bore’ to court to if Phoenix, Tucson pass prevailing wage ordinance



Arizona’s Chapter of the Associate General Contractors of America vowed to sue any city that adopts a prevailing wage ordinance, a provision requiring contractors working on city projects to ensure worker pay is on par with the prevailing rate in the area. Phoenix and Tucson city councils could be in the crosshairs as the two are

slated to take up ordinances at meetings today. Phoenix adopted and then repealed a prevailing wage ordinance over legality concerns. Mayes weighed in with [an opinion](#) last year finding Arizona’s minimum wage law allows cities and counties to adopt prevailing wage ordinances. But the issue has yet to go to court and a handful of groups were already skeptical of Mayes’ opinion given [an Arizona law](#) expressly prohibiting any agency or political subdivision of the state to require pay be on par with the prevailing wage rate. David Martin, president of AZAGC told our reporter, “We are, full bore, going to sue, period. It’s not even going to be negotiable. Minute one on the effective date of those ordinances, there will be a lawsuit.” The Goldwater Institute previously weighed in in letters to cities countering Mayes’ opinion but have yet to launch any litigation. Jon Riches, Goldwater’s Vice President for Litigation, called the AG’s legal justification, “a policy preference of the Attorney General and city councilmembers masquerading as a legal opinion. Conspicuously absent from the AG’s legal analysis is any serious legal reasoning.” He added, “a city that adopts an unlawful prevailing wage ordinance is subjecting itself to litigation.” The city of Phoenix is slated to take up a revised version of the ordinance today at a 2:30 p.m. policy meeting. The prior ordinance applied the rule to city construction projects exceeding \$250,000 but since upped the minimum cost to \$4 million. Tucson’s ordinance put the minimum cost at \$2 million. Both Phoenix and Tucson ordinances rely on Mayes’s opinion. A spokesperson for Mayes declined to comment on whether the AG’s office would step into any lawsuits against cities that adopt the ordinance.

### Legislature wants its power back that 211 took

Petersen and Toma claim the effort to block Prop. 211 is not about whether the dark money donor disclosure measure is “good policy,” but rather about “restoring the constitutional balance of power

upset by Prop. 211 and returning Arizona's policymaking authority to the People and the Legislature." In the legislative leaders' opening brief at the Arizona Court of Appeals, they ask the court to reverse the superior court's finding in favor of the law and void Prop. 211 and rules already made by the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Timothy Ryan rejected the bid to block the law at the superior court as he found the legislature failed to establish any true harm. Brett Johnson, attorney for Petersen and Toma, again raises the issue of Clean Elections "unfettered discretion" granted by the act, due in part to a provision ensuring the Commission rulemaking and enforcement actions are "not subject to the approval of or any prohibition or limit imposed by any other executive or legislative governmental body or official." And Johnson adds severing the provisions deemed unconstitutional would make the measure unworkable, necessitating an injunction on Prop. 211 in its entirety. Petersen and Toma asked the appellate court to expedite the briefing schedule and oral argument.

### **Nope, don't want Judge Hannah**

Petersen and Toma's lawsuit challenging Hobbs' director nomination committee workaround changed judicial hands for a second time. The case was initially assigned to Judge Joseph Mikitish and was then volleyed to Judge John Hannah. Petersen and Toma then filed a motion to change judges after Hannah was assigned to the case. According to a [minute entry](#) entered by the civil presiding judge, the case landed on Judge Scott Blaney's docket this morning.

### **Clarification: We used the word 'right' too liberally**

Horne set the record straight on a Jan. 8 [Yellow Sheet Report item](#). He clarified he never claimed he had the right to an advisory jury in the trans sports ban case as there is no "right" to an advisory jury. The decision is left to the judge's discretion. District judge Jennifer Zipps granted a motion to strike Horne's request for a jury and denied Horne's request for an advisory jury last week. She wrote in her ruling, "(f)or obvious reasons, the Court is not persuaded by Defendant's argument that most of its factual findings have been erroneous." Horne told the Yellow Sheet, "We never claimed there was a right to an advisory jury. It is a matter of discretion with the judge, and she chose to exercise her discretion not to have one." He added, "Judges rule on motions all the time, and when they do rule, they are not 'slapping' the lawyer that does not succeed on that particular motion."

## **·WAKE UP CALL·**

### **Hobbs ready with veto stamp again if necessary**

*Arizona Capitol Times*

Katie Hobbs says she is "optimistic" about working with the Republican-controlled Legislature as she gives her second State of the State speech Monday.

### **2024 Arizona legislative session begins: Will year bring more collaboration or partisan fighting?**

*AZ Mirror*

Arizona lawmakers are returning to the Capitol today to begin their annual session, but whether this year will be dominated by more of the same intransigence that marked last year's session, as the slim GOP

majority passed 143 bills that Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs rejected with a record number of vetoes remains to be seen.

[Arizona faces a \\$1 billion deficit as the state Legislature opens the 2024 session](#)

*Associated Press*

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs has vowed to bring accountability to a school voucher program that's expected to top \$900 million this year and update laws that allow for the nearly unfettered use of groundwater in rural areas of the drought-stricken state.

[Waymo to begin testing self-driving cars on Valley freeways](#)

*Phoenix Business Journal*

Waymo will soon begin testing its autonomous cars on Valley freeways, the company announced on Monday.

[Hobbs wants Arizona to give down-payment help, mortgage-rate relief](#)

*Arizona Daily Star*

Gov. Katie Hobbs asked lawmakers Monday to approve a new program she said will make home ownership more affordable for middle-income and rural homebuyers.

[5k rounds of ammo found in home of Arizona man accused of threatening to kill FBI agents](#)

*NBC News*

An Arizona man charged in connection with threatening to kill FBI agents had 5,000 rounds of ammunition, an AR-15-style rifle and six loaded magazines when the FBI showed up to arrest him at his home, according to recently unsealed court documents.

[Klee Benally, Navajo Activist and Artist, Dies at 48](#)

*The New York Times*

Klee Benally, a dynamic Navajo activist, artist and punk-rock musician who championed Native American and environmental causes, died on Dec. 30 in Phoenix.

[Gov. Katie Hobbs gets serious about flipping the Arizona Legislature](#)

*The Arizona Republic*

Gov. Katie Hobbs on Monday kicked off what will be a nine-month audition to voters, as both Republicans and Democrats begin to make the case that they should control the Arizona Legislature.

[That thing Hunter Biden, Rep. Andy Biggs and 4 other GOP congressmen have in common](#)

*The Arizona Republic*

It is as if the Republicans who control the House of Representatives decided to provide the entire nation with a congressional example of the pot calling the kettle black, confident that we are too stupid to notice it.

[Which Trump Toady Would the MAGA King Pick as His No. 2?](#)

*The New York Times*

With presidential primaries, it ain't over till it's over. Still, given the Republicans' enduring devotion to their MAGA king, it's best to mentally prepare oneself for the likelihood that the guy who has long been the prohibitive front-runner will, in fact, win the nomination.

## ·PRESS RELEASES·

### **Maricopa County, El Mirage, and Surprise Join Forces to Address Homelessness in the Northwest Valley**

**Phoenix, Ariz. (Jan. 9, 2024)** – At its Dec. 6, 2023 meeting, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement that provides \$67,500 in funding for support services that will benefit people experiencing homelessness in the Northwest Valley. The decision is the latest action in a broader initiative the County has undertaken in collaboration with the cities of El Mirage and Surprise to address homelessness.

Supervisor Clint Hickman, representing District 4, shared, "By working together with El Mirage and Surprise, we are strategically pooling resources to create a tangible impact. Our collective goal is to ensure that those in need have access to vital services and pathways to stability."

Part of this regional collaboration is Maricopa County's established street outreach program known as [Hand in Hand](#). The program searches for and makes contact with people experiencing homelessness in designated county areas. Trained outreach staff work with these individuals to get them connected to homeless services coordinators for each city.

The coordinators serve as a conduit to help people in need seamlessly access city services and county resources including employment and housing options as well as community programs to address mental health and substance use.

Under the agreement, Maricopa County will provide \$17,500 to the City of El Mirage and \$50,000 to the City of Surprise. The funding is part of Maricopa County's allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

Since March 2023, Maricopa County has invested more than \$5.2 million in the West Valley for services designed to assist individuals and families as they make a plan to exit homelessness. Key investments include:

- \$4.2 million for [bridge housing](#)
- \$850,000 for [resource navigation and emergency shelter services](#)
- \$155,000 for [emergency shelter services](#)

For a comprehensive overview of Maricopa County's investments in homelessness solutions across the County, visit [Maricopa.gov/HS](https://maricopa.gov/HS).

###

## REPORT: Inflation Returns as Top Business Problem on Main Street

**PHOENIX** (Jan. 9, 2024) – The **NFIB Small Business Optimism Index** increased 1.3 points in December to 91.9, marking the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive month below the 50-year average of 98. Twenty-three percent of small business owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business, up one point from last month, and replacing labor quality as the top concern.

"Small business owners remain very pessimistic about economic prospects this year," said **NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg**. "Inflation and labor quality have consistently been a tough complication for small business owners, and they are not convinced that it will get better in 2024."

Although state-specific data is unavailable, **NFIB State Director Chad Heinrich** said this report underscores the importance of opposing legislation that increases the cost of doing business.

"Entering 2024, our job creators remain unconvinced that economic conditions will improve. Escalating prices continue to put enormous pressure on Main Street, all while they struggle to fill open positions. Our state lawmakers can help address these challenges by holding firm and opposing legislation that would increase the cost of doing business and hamstring economic opportunity for Arizonans."

Key findings include:

- Small business owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months increased six points from November to a net negative 36% (seasonally adjusted), and 25 percentage points better than last June's reading of a net negative 61%.
- Seasonally adjusted, a net 29% of owners plan to raise compensation in the next three months, down one point from November.
- The net percent of owners raising average selling prices was unchanged from November at a net 25% (seasonally adjusted).
- The net percent of owners who expect real sales to be higher increased four points from November to a net negative 4% (seasonally adjusted), the highest reading since January 2022.

As reported in [NFIB's monthly jobs report](#), 40% (seasonally adjusted) of all owners reported job openings they could not fill in the current period. Owners' plans to fill open positions remain elevated, with a seasonally adjusted net 16% planning to create new jobs in the next three months.

Fifty-eight percent of owners reported capital outlays in the next six months, down three points from November. Of those making expenditures, 40% reported spending on new equipment, 22% acquired vehicles, and 19% improved or expanded facilities. Eleven percent spent money on new fixtures and furniture and 5% acquired new buildings or land for expansion. Twenty-four percent (seasonally adjusted) plan capital outlays in the next few months, up one point from November.

A net negative 11% of all owners (seasonally adjusted) reported higher nominal sales in the past three months, a six-point improvement from November. The net percent of owners expecting higher real sales volumes improved four points to a net negative 4%.

The net percent of owners reporting inventory gains increased one point to a net negative 2%. Not seasonally adjusted, 12% reported increases in stocks and 15% reported reductions. A net negative 5% of owners viewed current inventory stocks as "too low" in December, down five points from November. By industry, shortages are reported most frequently in the finance (16%), retail (12%), and manufacturing (11%) sectors. A net negative 5% of owners plan inventory investment in the coming months.

The net percent of owners raising average selling prices was unchanged from November at a net 25% seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted, a net 32% plan price hikes in the next three months.

Price hikes were the most frequent in finance (52% higher, 12% lower), retail (49% higher, 8% lower), construction (41% higher, 12% lower), services (36% higher, 5% lower), and professional services (33% higher, 4% lower).

Twenty-three percent of owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business, up one point from last month and surpassing labor quality as the top problem.

Seasonally adjusted, a net 36% reported raising compensation, unchanged from November. A seasonally adjusted net 29% plan to raise compensation in the next three months. Nine percent of owners cited labor costs as their top business problem, up one point from November. Twenty percent said that labor quality was their top business problem.

The frequency of reports of positive profit trends was a net negative 25%, seven points better than November. Among the owners reporting lower profits, 31% blamed weaker sales, 17% blamed the rise in the cost of materials, 16% cited lower prices, and 9% cited labor costs. For owners reporting higher profits, 48% credited sales volumes, 19% cited usual seasonal change, and 14% cited higher selling prices.

Three percent of owners reported that all their borrowing needs were not satisfied. Twenty-five percent reported all credit needs met and 61% said they were not interested in a loan. A net 8% reported their last loan was harder to get than in previous attempts.

The **NFIB Research Center** has collected Small Business Economic Trends data with quarterly surveys since the fourth quarter of 1973 and monthly surveys since 1986. Survey respondents are randomly drawn from NFIB's membership. The report is released on the second Tuesday of each month. This survey was conducted in December 2023.

###

## Statement from ABOR Chair on 2024 State of the State address

Below is a [statement](#) from Arizona Board of Regents Chair Fred DuVal following Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs' State of the State address.

*"The Arizona Board of Regents thanks the Governor for her strong endorsement of the board's AZ Healthy Tomorrow initiative and its objective to train the thousands of additional doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals our state needs. We will work with the Governor and legislators to support the public and*



*private investments necessary to educate, train and deploy these healthcare workers to communities across Arizona."*

###

## **SOSAZ Applauds Gov. Hobbs' Defense of Public Schools**

In today's State of the State, Governor Hobbs made it crystal clear she will continue to defend Arizona's public schools and work to implement urgently needed reform for the runaway universal ESA voucher program. We are proud to support her commonsense proposals to add accountability and financial transparency to the snowballing universal ESA voucher program; find a permanent solution to the AEL school spending cap; send a new, strengthened Prop 123 to voters that includes investments in school safety as well as raises for teachers and support staff; and enact proposals to increase student safety.

We must acknowledge that the Governor is operating under a scarcity model created by her predecessor. Because of former Gov. Ducey's failed policies, Arizona is facing serious economic anguish. Years of shortsighted tax giveaways and plummeting tax revenue caused by Ducey-era tax cuts for the wealthy have led to an estimated \$400 million budget shortfall only 5 months into the fiscal year. On top of that, the rapidly rising costs of universal ESA vouchers are projected to reach nearly \$1 billion by the end of the fiscal year.

This is a critical moment for the future of Arizona's 1 million students. While we know voucher lobbyists will continue to back proposals that aim to discredit, defund, and dismantle public schools, Governor Hobbs has proven we can count on her to veto these deeply unpopular efforts.

We are proud to stand behind the Governor as she fights to protect public education in our great state for the 92% of families choosing their neighborhood public schools.

###

## **Governor Katie Hobbs Makes Rural Groundwater and Statewide Water Security a Top Priority in her 2024 State of the State Speech**

(PHOENIX - January 8, 2024) Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs today recommitted her administration's promise to address the state's water security challenges. Governor Hobbs' State of the State address to the Arizona Legislature outlined an effective, bipartisan approach to stabilize Arizona's water supplies and build a resilient future for all communities.

Residents, businesses, and rural Arizona's agricultural economy are experiencing deepening challenges with fundamental water supply needs – and that is why we must take action. Groundwater is the primary and often only water supply available to many rural communities and is the source of year-round flow in most Arizona rivers. Every Arizonan, no matter where they live, deserves an assurance that they will have access to the water they need to thrive and survive. It's time to get to work and pass meaningful water policy reforms in 2024.

**Chris Kuzdas, co-lead of the Water for Arizona Coalition and Arizona Water Program Lead for the Environmental Defense Action Fund and Haley Paul, co-lead of the Water for Arizona Coalition and Arizona Policy Director for the National Audubon Society**, issued the following statement about Governor Hobbs' State of the State speech:

*January 9, 2024*

“It’s clear from her State of the State address that Governor Hobbs remains committed to tackling Arizona’s water challenges, and we are grateful for her strong water leadership and willingness to take bold action. We applaud the Governor’s move to pull the state land leases of an out-of-state entity that has been pumping local groundwater supplies in western Arizona. Now is the time to face these issues head on by passing policies that deal with the root cause of rural community water insecurity - unfettered pumping of finite groundwater supplies.

The Governor highlighted four key actions to improve Arizona’s water security: 1) working with the State Legislature to empower rural communities to manage their groundwater; 2) initiating the rulemaking process to provide another pathway for development in the Phoenix area to achieve an assured water supply designation; 3) closing water policy loopholes; and 4) reducing water use from the imperiled Colorado River. These steps demonstrate the importance of managing Arizona’s water supplies to improve our water future.

Governor Hobbs stated that for decades, rural Arizonans begging to protect their groundwater have gone unheard. She said that after forty years of waiting, it’s time we update our groundwater management laws.

We are grateful for Governor Hobbs’ willingness to stand up for rural communities who have long been ignored by the Legislature and support their efforts in seeking new, locally-driven groundwater management tools. Arizona cannot afford to allow unlimited groundwater pumping at the expense of our rivers and rural communities.

Major actions outlined by Governor Hobbs today are needed to ensure all Arizona communities have access to clean and reliable water supplies. Arizona’s State Legislature has an opportunity – and an obligation – to advance overdue state actions and policies to protect our water supplies.

The Water for Arizona Coalition looks forward to working with the Governor, her staff, and the Legislature on passing policies to ensure all Arizonans, including our rural communities, have reliable water supplies for generations to come.”

###

## **yes. every kid. responds to Gov. Hobbs’ State of the State address**

(PHOENIX, Ariz.) – In response to Gov. Katie Hobbs’ State of the State address, yes. every kid. released the following statement:

"The governor’s proposal for ESAs would kill the program through unnecessary regulations, kicking thousands of Arizona students, including those with disabilities, out of the school that works best for them," said **Shannon Pahls, public affairs director, yes. every kid.** "This is another attempt to put control back into the hands of government and bureaucratic officials instead of families. No one knows children better than their families, and that’s why they should be the ones making decisions about their kids’ education, not the governor."

An August 2023 [poll](#) conducted by yes. every kid. foundation. found that over three-quarters of Arizona parents (78%) and almost two-thirds of non-parents (62%) support ESAs.

About the Empowerment Scholarship Account program:

- **The ESA program is in high demand with families throughout the state.**
  - Over 73,000 students are currently enrolled in the ESA program, allowing them to receive an education that meets their individual needs.
- **The ESA program includes multiple levels of transparency.**
  - Families using ESAs are required to make purchases through an approved online marketplace or upload receipts for every purchase, while no public school is scrutinized per receipt. ESA families

are required to use funds for approved educational purposes according to their legal contract with ADE.

- **The ESA program is saving taxpayer dollars.**
- According to a Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), the total funding for K-12 public education in Arizona is projected to reach \$14,673 per student for fiscal year 2024. However, ESA students receive only 90% of state funds, which is typically between \$6,000- \$9,000.
- **The ESA program is achieving its intended purpose.**
- The ESA program empowers families with the opportunity to access the education setting or resources that work for them, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

### **About yes. every kid.**

yes. every kid. supports policies that respect the dignity of every student, welcome innovative ideas and foster a diversity of approaches to learning. yes. every kid. will support and build coalitions to advance new conversations and bold visions by bringing together differing voices and perspectives to revolutionize the K-12 education experience.

###

## **Statement on resolution of legal claims**

TUCSON, Ariz. — The family of Professor Thomas Meixner and the Arizona Board of Regents and University of Arizona have agreed to a resolution of the legal claims arising from Professor Meixner's death. The agreement includes a monetary settlement for the family, and non-monetary commitments that affirm the university's continuing support for the well-being of those most affected by these events, and that provide the family with a voice in the university's planning and implementation of measures designed to improve the safety and security of the university community.

###

## **Gallego Introduces Package of Bills to Lower Drug Prices for Hardworking Arizonans**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, **Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ-03)** introduced three pieces of legislation to hold pharmacy benefit managers, otherwise known as PBMs, accountable for their role in historically inflating drug prices for Arizona consumers.

“For too long, PBMs have price gouged hardworking Arizona families and seniors by rigging the system to line their pockets,” **said Rep. Gallego**. “These bills will crack down on unfair pricing gimmicks, help lower prescription drug prices for patients at the pharmacy counter, and keep essential pharmacies open across Arizona.”

PBMs are the middlemen who negotiate drug prices for insurers. They are incentivized to steer health plans towards more expensive drugs because their profits are linked to the drug's list price. The higher the sticker price, the more compensation PBMs receive, and patients are left in the dark about those decisions until they visit their local pharmacy and see how much they're paying at checkout.

The provisions introduced today will also hold Medicare Part D plan sponsors accountable for pressuring neighborhood pharmacies into accepting new, unfavorable contract and reimbursement terms that could force them to close their doors, and for refusing to work with independent pharmacies.

The three bills introduced today address PBMs through the following measures:



1. **Require** PBMs to annually report drug prices and other information to Part D plan sponsors and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). PBMs would be required to include information from several categories, such as information related to covered Part D drugs, drug dispensing, drug costs and pricing, generic and biosimilar drugs, PBM affiliates, financial arrangements with consultants, and potential PBM conflicts of interest.
2. **Require** HHS to establish a process enabling a pharmacy to submit an allegation that a Medicare drug plan sponsor was in violation of contract terms and conditions or in violation of protections for essential retail pharmacies that are independent pharmacies.
3. **Require** HHS to gather critical information on industry trends in the financial relationships between prescription drug plans and pharmacies, after which HHS will codify regulatory requirements that Part D plan sponsors must contract with any pharmacy that meets their standard contract terms and conditions.

These three bills build on Rep. Gallego's efforts to lower drug costs for all Arizonans. Rep. Gallego **recently cosponsored** the bipartisan *Promoting Access to Treatments and Increasing Extremely Needed Transparency* (PATIENT) Act. The bill would increase price transparency requirements, including for PBMs, hospitals, and insurers.

He also introduced the ***Lower Drug Costs for Families Act***. The bill seeks to hold Big Pharma accountable for price gouging by requiring drug companies to pay a penalty if they raise prices faster than inflation.

**Read More: ['Despair and extreme anger': At roundtable, Rep. Ruben Gallego hears impact of high drug costs \(Arizona Republic\)](#)**

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- \$4.2 million for ***bridge housing***

- \$850,000 for [resource navigation and emergency shelter services](#)

###

## **Kelly Visits Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia as Part of Bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee Delegation**

Today, Arizona Senator and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Member Mark Kelly returned from a bipartisan trip to Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia to meet with U.S. security officials, foreign leaders, and families of victims taken hostage during the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack.

This was Kelly's [second](#) trip to Israel since the attack. The trip focused on the ongoing war in Gaza, as well as long-term U.S. interests and challenges in the region, including strengthening bonds with partners and the threats posed by Iran and proxy groups.

“Hearing the pain of families with loved ones still being held hostage by Hamas is a vivid reminder of the brutality of this terrorist group and the threat they continue to pose to Israel and others for as long as they hold power in Gaza. This trip was an important opportunity to assess the progress towards defeating Hamas and freeing the remaining hostages, while also preventing further escalation across the region,” **Kelly said.**

**Kelly continued,** “Equally important was to communicate to Israeli leaders—just as I did when I was there in October—that they must make every effort to protect innocent Palestinians. I specifically raised with Israeli officials the reported use of unguided munitions, an issue I have spoken about [publicly](#) as well. As an ally, we have a responsibility to stand with Israel and also to state clearly both in public and in private that they must do more to keep innocent Palestinian civilians safe.”

In Israel, Kelly and the delegation met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. In Jordan and Saudi Arabia, Kelly and the delegation were briefed by U.S. diplomatic and security officials. They also met with HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, where Kelly spoke about his time in Operation Desert Storm and opportunities to strengthen their countries' long military relationship to tackle shared threats like Iran.

###

## **Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry responds to State of the State address**

PHOENIX (January 8, 2024) — Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry President and CEO Danny Seiden released the following statement:

“Arizona job creators agree with Gov. Hobbs that the strong working relationship between the public and private sectors has produced a robust, resilient economy that is attracting new investment from across the country and around the world. We look forward to working with her and lawmakers from both parties to ensure that the Arizona Commerce Authority – the nation's leading state economic development agency – is renewed so that it can continue its excellent work.

“We are skeptical, however, of her plan to cap prices on prescription drugs. Just as the Chamber has opposed efforts in Washington to impose risky pricing schemes that discourage lifesaving innovation, we will oppose similar efforts at a state level.

“While job creators and the governor won’t agree on everything this session, she’ll get no argument from us that Arizona is on the ascent and that we should strive to ensure that everyone who calls Arizona home should have the opportunity to succeed. Here’s to a productive session on behalf of the people of Arizona.”

###

## Sinema Protecting Postal Workers from Rising Crime

WASHINGTON – Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema helped introduce the bipartisan *Postal Police Reform Act* alongside Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) to enhance postal worker safety amid [rising crime against them](#).

The bipartisan legislation grants Postal Police Officers the authority to protect letter carriers on the streets to crack down on crimes against postal workers, reduce mail theft, and restore safety and confidence in the U.S. Postal Service.

**“We’re cracking down on rising crimes against postal workers to ensure they can do their jobs safely and continue delivering for Arizona families,” said Sinema.**

In 2020, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) restricted the domain of Postal Police Officers to only physical USPS locations – revoking their ability to protect letter carriers on their delivery routes. In the three years since, assaults against postal employees delivering mail have increased by an alarming 231% according to the Postal Police Officers Association. Additionally, mail theft increased by 161% from 2021 to 2022.

The Sinema-backed *Postal Police Reform Act* would let Postal Police Officers be assigned to duty off USPS property – allowing them to better protect letter carriers against robberies and assault, reduce mail theft, and ensure mail and packages are delivered to the Arizonans that rely on the postal service for their health, businesses, education, and more.

###

“QUOTE  
OF THE DAY”

“We are, full bore, going to sue, period.” — *Arizona’s Chapter of the Associate General Contractors of America President David Martin on what will happen if Phoenix and Tucson pass prevailing wage ordinances.*