



The [UUJAZ](#) / [VUU](#) **Arizona Legislative Alert**

## Snapshots: Week 1

*Shining a bright light for socially-just public policy in Arizona*

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A Project of Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona and the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

(If you would like to receive AZLA via e-mail, contact [legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org))



There's no big "alert" yet from the 2016 AZ legislature, but many interesting (and worrisome) bills have already been introduced and more will be filed over the next few weeks.

**The Governor's budget was unveiled Friday and early reports are that it**

- includes no new tax cuts (corporate income tax already being reduced from 6.5 to 6% and then to 4.9 % by 2018).
- does not restore the cuts from last year to education or social services but does provide some increase to the K-12 funding, a small amount to universities , and some to the Department of Child Protective Services.
- His budget leaves more than \$600 million unspent at the end of 2017, so clearly there is much negotiating to be done!

**Here's just a few of the bills introduced so far:**

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## SNAPSHOTS

**Making Voting Easier / Harder – [SB1007](#) and [HB2097](#)**  
would automatically register to vote everyone who gets an AZ driver's license unless they ask not to be enrolled (Sherwood, LD 26, Tempe for the Senate and Clark, LD 24 for the House).

On the other hand, [HB2010](#) would make it illegal for a person to collect more than two already-signed and sealed early voting ballots to take to the polls (Kern, LD 20) and [HB2023](#) would make it illegal to collect any such ballots (except for postal workers) (Ugenti-Rita, LD 23) . HB 2053 (Friese, LD 9) provides instructions that provisional ballots even though cast in the wrong precinct should be counted for those contests for which the person was entitled to vote.

**Legalizing Recreational Marijuana** – [HB2006](#) (Cardenes LD... ) would legalize recreational marijuana and [HB2007](#) would greatly reduce the penalty for marijuana use, in the event it is still illegal. The penalty would be reduced to a \$100 civil penalty for possession of less than an ounce.

**Taxes** - [HB2018](#) would permit persons with income less than \$25,000 per year to pay a flat tax of 1 percent. No deductions or credits would be permitted. (Stevens, LD14). Currently, the tax rate for the first \$10,000 is 2.56% and between \$10,000 and \$25,000 is 2.89%. There also are a few other tax-related bills such as prohibiting cities and counties from collecting a tax on businesses that rent property [HB2026](#); and [HB2002](#) that speeds up the already-passed reduction in taxes on insurance premiums.



**Nullification / State's Rights** – It appears that the Arizona legislature will again be tilting at windmills, as [HB2024](#) (Finchem, (LD 11)) would prohibit any state agency or unit of local government from enforcing, administering, or cooperating with any executive order of the President, or directive / rule from any federal agency, or any rulings of the Supreme Court, unless passed by the Congress.

**The AZ Capitol Times has an excellent summary of bills introduced so far. Find it [here!](#)**

**Human Trafficking** - Rep. Coleman (LD 16) has introduced legislation that would require a sign with a phone number for victims of human trafficking to be installed at every roadside park or rest area. ( [HB2036](#))

**Limiting Tax Credits for Education** – Rep. Coleman (LD 16) is attempting to reign in one of the “out of control” increases in tax credits that go to student tuition organizations. The current legislation permits the aggregate amount to increase by 20% each year. [HB2063](#)

would cap this at 2% and would increase to 95% (from 90%) the amount that has to be used for scholarships. Another attempt to limit STO aggregate amounts is found in HB ... that would cap the amount at no more than one percent of the amount appropriated by the Legislature for all purposes ([HB2208](#), Rep. Friese (LD 9))

**Guns in Public Places** – Rep. Borelli (LD 5) has introduced [HB2072](#) with 18 co-sponsors, that will prohibit Universities and Community Colleges from banning guns on campus.

**Gun Background Checks - [HB2091](#)** (Friese LD 9) has proposed that all gun sales have to go through a registered dealer, therefore all would have to have background checks. Perhaps this would close the loophole through which individuals can buy guns from other individuals and at gun shows.

**Police Immunity from Prosecution** – Borelli (LD 5) also has introduced [HB2074](#) that would protect police from prosecution if someone is injured while in their custody. Apparently, this is to prevent charges being brought similar to those in Baltimore where a prisoner being transported died from a broken neck while being bounced around in the back of a police van.

**More Protection for Police** – Sen. Kavanaugh (LD 23) has proposed legislation that would make it a felony for a person to video tape police arrests or other actions (within 20 feet) unless they have received permission from the law enforcement officer to take the video ([SB1054](#)).

**Campaign Finance Reform** – Bills have been filed in both the house and senate to require more disclosure in elections. Rep. Clark (LD 24) has introduced several bills intended to require large campaign donors to be named ([HB2092](#), [HB2093](#), [HB2094](#), [HB2096](#)) that would require foreign corporations to be licensed by the corporation commission before they can spend money on an election; require the largest 3 contributors to a political committee to be named (regardless of whether the political committee is a 501 c 4, which currently is protected); require all independent expenditures to name the 4 largest contributors, and would authorize the Clean elections commission to conduct random audits of all independent expenditures after the general election. In addition, Clark has filed [HB2098](#) that requires any corporation, limited liability company or labor organization must disclose contributions above certain rather small limits within a day of making the contribution. This covers state wide races, legislative races, and local races. Similar bills have been filed in the senate [SB1068](#), [SB1069](#), [SB1071](#), and [SB1072](#) by Sen. Quezada ([LD 29](#)) and others. Chances of these bills being considered are not good, however, as the prime sponsors are all Democrats and Michele Reagan, Secretary of State, is leading a task force

that probably will introduce an omnibus bill at some point later.

**Protecting GLBTQ rights - [HB2413](#)** (Mach LD 10) would provide anti discrimination protection based on gender, gender identity or expression, and sexual orientation. He also has introduced [HB2414 and HB2415](#) that extends anti discrimination protection to housing and public accommodations.

**Teacher's Tax Credit - [HB2151](#)** would permit school teachers to take a \$400 tax credit for personal expenditures on school supplies (Weninger LD 17).

**Private Prisons - [HB2173](#)** (AndradeLD 29) would establish an appointed task force to study private prisons in Arizona, including their costs and effectiveness.

**Anti-Immigrant -** Most commentators view [SB1017](#) as another anti-immigrant bill as this would prohibit cities and towns from issuing an identification card unless the card met the same standards as an AZ driver's license. Phoenix and other cities have considered issuing these cards to insure that undocumented persons are eligible to receive services for which they are eligible including police and fire protection. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Kavanaugh (LD 23) and already passed the Governance committee on a 4-3 vote. Kavanaugh has also introduced [SB1044](#) that prohibits cities and counties from counting undocumented persons in the midyear census that is used for allocating state money, even those undocumented persons are eligible for a variety of public services including police and fire protection and public education.

Click here to find what district you are in <http://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/>

Click here for a list of Arizona legislators <http://azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp>

**VERY SPECIAL: BLACK LIVES MATTER Film Series Resumes Feb. 7. Join us at VUU (12 to 3, no charge).**

<b>Feb. 7 – To Kill a Mockingbird</b>
<b>March 6 - Rosewood</b>
<b>April 10 – Do the Right thing</b>

## **ACTION OPPORTUNITIES!**

**Sunday, Jan. 24 – Sign up now to come to the training & orientation for the UU Day at the Legislature! This is for everyone in the metro area – UU and guests. Scheduled from 1 to 3:30, this session will enable UUs and co-participants to**



- Meet with others from your own legislative district.
- Get some tips on “building a relationship with your legislator,” from Prof. Anne Schneider (retired pol sci professor) and Rep. Celeste Plumlee (VUU member and newly appointed member of the House.)
- Hear from Joe Rubio, Valley Interfaith Project, on the crisis facing education in Arizona and other topics, too.
- Craft a message, get organized, select a “captain” for your LD and get ready for the UU Day at the Legislature. Let’s try to cover ALL of the LDs in the metro area, from Laveen to Gold Canyon!
- Enjoy some really good homemade snacks!!
- Signups will be appreciated . Sign up at [legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org) Name, e-mail, address, legislative district (if you know it, otherwise, no problem). Or sign up on line at

**February 15, Monday** – President’s day! UU Day at the Legislature 9:30 to 3:30 at the State Capitol. Let’s send a powerful, state-wide message about UU values and our vision for socially just public policy in Arizona!

**February 27. Saturday** – Half-day workshop at VUU on “Race and Poverty.” More information later. Open to all who are concerned about racism and poverty.



Executive Director Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings; Justice Coordinator Katy Resendiz; Policy Coordinator, Anne L. Schneider. Board Members, UUJAZ: Sharon Travis, Liz Swan (Chair), Bruce Celiz-Hagen, Rev. Matthew Crary, [www.uujaz.org](http://www.uujaz.org).