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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 20, 2023

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lasher   
County Administrator

Re: **Quarterly Update from Racy & Associates Regarding State Legislative Affairs**

Attached please find a Legislative Report provided by Michael Racy, which highlights activities of the opening days of the 2023 Arizona State Legislative Session. In addition, Mr. Racy provides a brief update on Pima County's related priorities including the introduction of bills related to psychiatrist evaluations in accredited jails, public procurement publication requirements, continuation of Good Samaritan laws, repeal of the cost shift for the department of juvenile corrections, and funding the outstanding liability in the elected officials retirement system.

Please feel free to contact me or Mr. Racy directly should you have questions or require additional information.

JKL/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Michael Racy, Racy Associates, Inc.



**Racy Associates. Inc.**

**To: Pima County Board/County Administration**

**From: Michael M. Racy**

**Date: January 19, 2023**

**Re: Legislative Report**

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On January 3rd newly elected Governor Katie Hobbs and other state officials were sworn in at a private ceremony at the state capitol. Holding the ceremony in private was somewhat unusual but avoided potential election protests that had been predicted, and allowed the administration to start work immediately in the New Year. A public ceremony was held later in the week, on Thursday morning, including the governor and other statewide office holders.

On January 9th, the 56th Legislature's first regular session was convened with routine opening ceremonies and the governor's State of the State address. Although the governor tried to strike a bipartisan tone the address was met with significant objections and with some members of the legislature walking out of the ceremony when the governor addressed a number of her policy objectives that would overturn recently approved measures from last year's legislative session.

The second week of the session has now been completed. This session's start was unusually slow, likely due to approximately half of the members being freshman and the significant changes in legislative leadership and staff. To date approximately 600 bills have been introduced, with a great many of those being filed in the last couple days—fewer than usual.

The governor released her budget on Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> and it was presented to a joint meeting of the House and Senate appropriations committee on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Based on the frosty reception it is clear that it will be a VERY challenging year to arrive at a budget compromise. Other issues of significance this year will include the education aggregate expenditure limit and the ESA program, water policy, elections and regulatory reform, housing, and infrastructure spending. The general consensus among most experienced observers at the capital is that this will be a challenging year to advance any significant legislative issues.

The comparatively slow pace of bill introductions has provided the opportunity to make progress on a number of County related priorities including the introduction of bills on psychiatric evaluations in

accredited jails, public procurement publication requirements, continuation of Good Samaritan laws, repeal of the cost shift for the department of juvenile corrections, and funding the outstanding liability in the elected officials retirement system. Other issues with significant activity include proposals to reinstate defined benefit provisions within the public safety retirement system, potentially reversing a number of reforms that have taken place over the last few years, constable's salaries and reform, sheriff's stipend, and elections. There are also ongoing discussions on homelessness and housing affordability with some of these proposals including significant intrusions into local control. This area will require a significant amount of attention over the course of the session. Also, as expected a bill has once again been introduced to divide Maricopa County into a number of smaller counties.

HB 2018, to repeal the department of juvenile corrections cost shift, has been single-assigned to the appropriations committee and was passed this week with bipartisan support on a vote of 12 to 3. The bill will be moving forward to the rules committee and then the full House of Representatives. Extensive discussions are also being held with the governor's office on this and many other issues of concern to the county.

Following is a list of bills actively being followed now. This list will expand significantly due to the recent large number of bills being introduced prior to Thursday's House bill introduction deadline.

## Ongoing Conversations

- Transportation Funding
- Broadband Infrastructure Funding
- Pensions
  - Livingston EORP (Folder 1066)
  - Sheriff's CORP DB Plan
- Probation
- Sheriff Funding/Stipend
- Constables – Salary Structure & Pay Increase
- ADJC - HB 2018 counties; committee youth contributions; repeal  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2018P.pdf>> (Livingston)

## Other bills

- HB 2430 EORP; appropriations; repayment  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2430P.pdf>> (Livingston)
- HB 2019 licensing; permitting; criteria; clarity  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2019P.pdf>> (Grantham)

- HB 2168 Good Samaritan; medical assistance  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2168P.pdf>> (Nguyen)
- SB 1004 court security officers; duties; jurisdiction  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/SB1004P.pdf>> (Kavanagh)
- SB 1008 court fees; costs; deferral; waiver  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/SB1008P.pdf>> (Kavanagh)
- HB 2015 retirement plans; plan election; rehire  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2015P.pdf>> (Livingston)
- HB 2016 food handler certificates; training; exemption  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2016P.pdf>> (Cook)
- HCR 2018 Maricopa County; division; new counties  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HCR2018P.pdf>> (Kolodin)
- HB 2195: criminal justice data collection; system  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2195P.pdf>> (Nguyen)
- HB 2447 TPT; exemption; motor vehicle manufacturers  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2447P.pdf>> (Martinez)
- HB 2315 primary residence; property tax; exemption  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2315P.pdf>> (Jones)
- HB 2446: smart and safe fund; distribution  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/HB2446P.pdf>> (Martinez)
- SB 1020 open meetings; capacity; posting  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/SB1020P.pdf>> (Kavanagh)
- SB 1031 public employees; employment; termination  
<<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/1R/bills/SB1031P.pdf>> (Kern)