

Together We're Making a Difference

While it's easy to become frustrated as an education advocate in Arizona, it's also vitally important to celebrate our victories. Your engagement is working! SCR1023 - which would make citizen initiatives by local, grassroots groups like us virtually impossible - has stalled. We will keep you posted when and if your calls, emails and visits are needed again to help protect our Constitutional rights. Due to your calls, emails, RTS and Capitol visits, multiple ESA voucher bills have stalled with no expectation of reviving.

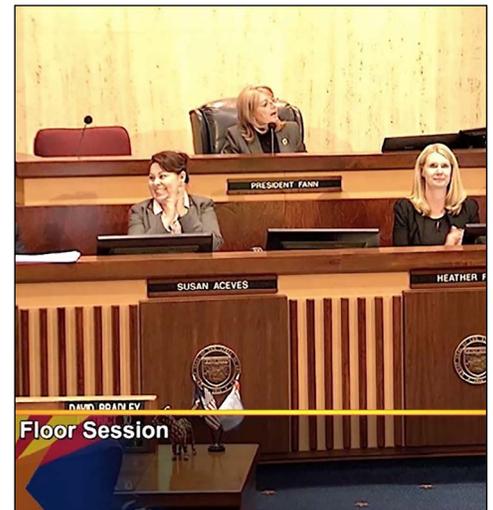
What does it mean when a bill stalls? A few things could be happening: it's not a priority, it doesn't have the votes, or it's being negotiated behind the scenes. That's what happened back in 2017 with the bill that became Prop. 305 - it was stalled and then it resurfaced. That's why we ask you to STAY TUNED!

Last week, we asked you to call and email in opposition to SB1161 (the charter co-location bill). Your efforts resulted in amendments that allowed us to move our position to "neutral," which represents huge progress. Trusted allies are continuing to improve this bill; we'll keep you posted. Finally, the .4 cent Prop. 301 funding proposal is also slated for Senate this week, but our stance remains neutral. We'll keep you posted if it passes.

This week, House and Senate committee hearings are starting up again. The next deadline is March 29th, so these committees have the next 4 weeks to consider bills that survived the first cut.

Calls to Action!

- ✘ **Oppose SB1395**
 Continue to email and call YOUR senator to oppose SB1395.
 - Voters oppose all ESA voucher expansions
 - Allow the bipartisan ESA Task Force to do its job
 - Taxpayers expect more oversight and accountability, not less
- ✔ **Support HB2187**
 Call and email Appropriations Chairman Sen. Gowan to hear HB2187 at dgowan@azleg.gov and (602) 926-5154
- ✘ **Oppose SB1451**
 Call and email your senator to oppose SB1451
- ✘ **Oppose SB1460**
 Call and email your senator to oppose SB1460
- ✔ **Support SB1485**
 Call and email your senator to support SB1485
- ✘ **Oppose SCR1023**
 Call and email your senator to oppose SCR1023



This is a great week to watch your lawmakers debate bills on the floor! The action starts on Monday at 1:15 PM in the House and 1:30 PM in the Senate. [Here's a handy map](#) of how to get there and where to park. If you can't make it downtown, [watch live proceedings online here](#).

HB 2187



Support

Appropriation; K-12 Rollover Pays Off Debt Owed to Schools Rep. Michelle Udall

Would pay off the [nearly \\$1 billion “rollover” debt](#) the state owes to schools over a 3-year period. For a decade the state has rolled over its final K-12 education payment to the next fiscal year, an accounting gimmick that delays an expense on paper so it doesn't count toward the current year's budget.

The treasurer's office says Arizona must pay off the rollover before a recession, or [daily operations of all state government will be at risk](#). Paying this debt won't increase what schools can spend, but it will make their cash management easier.

Passed the House; assigned to Senate Appropriations, but not yet on an agenda.

SB 1460



Oppose

TPT; Digital Goods and Services Excludes Digital Products from Taxes at Expense to the State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita

Would create a new sales tax exemption for many digital goods, including “software as a service” (Office 365, QuickBooks, TurboTax).

These are products, not services, and are the largest and fastest-growing sector of the digital economy. The JLBC's fiscal analysis from last year [estimated](#) the loss at \$120 million every year — and with 42% of our General Fund going to K-12 education, this is a HUGE cut.

As digital goods continue to grow in use and popularity, [the cost of Ugenti-Rita's exemption is likely to rise](#). Waiting for Senate Caucus.

SB 1451



Oppose

Statewide Ballot Measures; Circulators; Procedures Creates Higher Hurdles for Statewide Ballot Measures Sen. Vince Leach

Would require all petitions for statewide initiatives and referenda to be organized and grouped by circulator. This is an extra burden on campaigns, especially grassroots campaigns.

It also makes it easier for opponents to disqualify entire signature sheets. This would mean campaigns need even more signatures as a cushion, further raising the already high cost of putting measures on the ballot. This is a direct attack on citizen efforts like our No on Prop. 305!

Scheduled for Senate Committee of the Whole (or COW, meaning the entire Senate), Monday.

SB 1485



Support

Technical Correction; Tax Correction Striker Capping STO Growth Sen. JD Mesnard

SB1485 now contains a striker that would end the 20% annual automatic growth of corporate private school tax credits (STOs) by gradually decreasing the cap to 2% or inflation over the next 5 years.

Over the next 5 years the bill [would keep up to \\$263 million](#) in the general fund that would otherwise be diverted to private schools. Slowing the growth of this tax credit is critical, as it is on pace to [double every four years](#) unless state lawmakers take action.

Ready for Senate COW.



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SCR 1023



**Initiative; Referendum;
Signatures; Legislative Districts
Undermines Arizona's Citizen
Initiative Process**
Sen. Sine Kerr

Would essentially doom the citizen initiative process in Arizona, especially for grassroots groups like SOS AZ.

It [restricts Arizona's initiative process](#) by requiring ballot measures to collect signatures from a percentage of voters in each of Arizona's 30 legislative districts: 10% for initiatives and 15% for a constitutional amendment.

This would effectively give any single legislative district veto powers over the rest, allowing a small minority (the most conservative or liberal area in the state) to veto measures that have broad support.

A [nearly identical measure](#) was proposed two years ago but did not pass. See mirror bill [HCR2005](#), sponsored by Rep. John Kavanagh.

Passed Senate Caucus, ready for Senate COW.



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Strong State
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Save Our Schools Arizona 2019 Education Roadshow



Learn about Arizona's classroom crisis, connect the dots about exactly how we got here, and learn more about what you can do to get involved.

If you'd like to schedule an informative, fact-based, non-partisan presentation to learn SO much more, get answers to questions about school funding and privatization, and meet fellow education advocates who want to Save Our Schools in 2019 and beyond, [then click here!](#)

We will arrange a presenter to come to you wherever you'd like to gather friends and concerned citizens, around your kitchen table or at a local community center.

Help Support Our Work:

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Save Our Schools
Arizona**



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to read last week's SOSAZ
Legislative Report.



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