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efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.*



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Gov. Ducey Declares Emergency in Graham County Due to Flooding and Hailstorm

On the evening of October 8 Graham County was hit by a severe storm that dumped more than two inches of rain and large hailstones across the county. The hail damaged property, including structures and farmland, and resulted in the loss of 80% of the crops on the affected farmland.

The Graham County Board of Supervisors and Governor Ducey issued [emergency proclamations](#) in response to the storm and the Governor granted \$200,000 from the general fund to assist with repairing the damage.

To read the proclamations, please [click here](#).

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GRRC Sunset Review Meeting

The Committee of Reference for the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) met on Wednesday, to discuss the Council's sunset review.

During the hearing GRRC Chair Nicole Ong (*pictured*) discussed the history of the agency, its staffing and its scope of action.

Senator Sylvia Allen commented that her constituents have made her aware of new regulations, and asked how new rules could be promulgated if there is a rule-making moratorium in place in Arizona. Ong responded that GRRC reviews amendments to regulations and also reviews regulations on a five-year basis, and accepts public comments.

Ong also testified that the Secretary of State's office was "a few quarters behind" in updating their website with new rules. Representative Chris Ackerley asked what would happen if someone was operating under an old rule, unaware that a new rule had been made. Ong responded that regardless of the rule's posting date on the Secretary of State's website, the effective date would remain unchanged. She also said that state agencies are generally good at doing stakeholder notification and GRRC has received no complaints about anyone suffering due to an unpublished rule. The committee members acknowledged the good work of the GRRC but requested more transparency and information from the agency, particularly the voluminous materials the GRRC uses to assess regulations.

The committee voted to recommend an eight year continuation for GRRC.

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Mandatory Auto Liability Insurance



The House Ad Hoc Committee on Mandatory Auto Liability Insurance met on Wednesday, to discuss changes to Arizona's minimum financial responsibility requirements and hear testimony from stakeholders.

According to testimony, there are 20 million uninsured motorists nationally, 482,000 uninsured motorists in Arizona, and \$60 million in uninsured motorist claims in the state. As of 2012, Arizona was below the national average for uninsured motorists, but the former Director of the Department of Insurance, David Childers, testified a change could occur quickly. Childers further testified that if minimum financial responsibility

requirements were raised, insurance premiums would increase somewhat, and more people would choose not to buy auto insurance. Thus resulting in more uninsured motorists on the roads.

Committee member Kenneth Silverman pointed out that an increase in insurance premiums would not be a problem for most people, including those on the margins. Committee Chair Bob Robson (pictured) noted that by having low insurance minimums, financial responsibility for accidents that exceeded those low minimums was being passed down to other motorists, property owners and the government.

Chairman Robson submitted a recommendation that minimum financial responsibility rates be raised to 20/50/25 (Bodily injury per person/Bodily injury per accident/Property damage per accident) from the current requirement of 15/30/10. The Committee passed the recommendation.

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Child Safety Oversight Committee

On Thursday, the joint legislative Child Safety Oversight Committee met to hear reports from the Department of Child Safety (DCS) and discuss the current status of children and families being served by DCS. DCS Chief Quality Improvement Officer, Katherine Guffey, testified that the number of reports DCS receives has declined by four percent, due to improvements to the DCS hotline, the efforts of staff and statutory changes. There has also been a decline in the number of children in out-of-home care, with 41% of the children in out-of-home care being 0-5 years of age. The 0-5 population constitutes the bulk of out-of-home care residents.



Co-Chair Senator Nancy Barto questioned why data regarding the same time periods seemed to change from report to report, and requested monthly updates to the DCS "dashboard" of statistical trackers. Guffey replied that data is sometimes "cleaned" and updated after being received, which can lead to changes in subsequent reports. She also agreed to provide more frequent updates to the dashboard and highlight areas of significant change in future reports.

DCS Director Greg McKay (*pictured*) acknowledged that the agency's ongoing relationship management with stakeholders, including schools, needed to improve. He also addressed concerns about DCS's use of contractors to facilitate supervised visitations with parents and pointed out that by many metrics, DCS is improving in terms of reduced case backlog, number of children in foster care and responsiveness to the child safety hotline. Committee members, though concerned about specific data points, agreed that DCS has made substantial improvements in their process and procedures.

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Arizona 3rd in U.S. for Number of Women Serving in State Legislatures

Last month the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) analyzed the number of women serving in state legislatures across the country. There are currently 1,805 women serving in the 50 state legislatures across the country. Total, women make up 24.4 percent of all state legislators nationwide.

Arizona has the third largest number of women serving in state legislatures in the country, with 32 female members of the 90 total available seats.

In the U.S., sixty-one women serve as speaker of the House, president of the Senate, speaker pro tem, Senate president pro tem, majority leader or minority leader during 2016. Two Arizona legislators hold those distinctions, Senator Sylvia Allen serves at the Senate President Pro Tem and Senator Katie Hobbs serves at the Senate Minority Leader.

For more information on the number of women serving in legislatures across the country, please [click here](#).

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This Week in Arizona History...

On October 20, 1977, Arizona Governor Raul Castro resigned from office after being named ambassador to Argentina by President Jimmy Carter. The Mexican-born Castro lived in Arizona since he was 10 years old, working his way through school and later serving as a teacher, boxer, lawyer, and judge. Prior to his election as governor, Castro had served as ambassador to two other South American countries: El Salvador and Bolivia.



Castro was succeeded by Wesley Bolin. Under the Arizona Constitution, the secretary of state, is first in line to fill a vacancy in the governorship. Bolin was the second secretary of state to succeed to the Arizona governorship, after Dan Edward Garvey in 1948. His five months in office mark the shortest term in office for any Arizona governor.

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Interim Committee Agendas

- The [Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Prosperity Districts](#) will meet on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.
- The [Surface Transportation Funding Task Force](#) will meet on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.

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