



2024 Legislative Wrap-Up

This year's legislative session has resulted in Arizona receiving national attention as we have seen ongoing battles for reproductive healthcare, housing, economic mobility, and immigration constantly taking place in the capitol. Due to the narrow margins in the legislature, lawmakers often must work together in a bipartisan fashion to achieve success. However, given our political environment, legislators often avoid the opportunity to work jointly across the aisle. While this session has had a handful of successes, it has also created several immediate concerns that may need to be addressed at the ballot box this November and after that.

The 2024 legislative session officially adjourned late Saturday, June 15th, just about two weeks before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st. To address this year's budget shortfall, the budget was balanced through budget cuts from several state agencies, removals of previous legislature appropriations, and several other methods. There were minimal guardrails added to the state's ESA vouchers program and no significant tax reforms included in the FY25 budget. The budget can be located [here](#) as it will be referenced throughout this document.

Reproductive Healthcare

In April, the Arizona State Supreme Court voted to uphold that the 1864 Abortion Ban would be the prevailing law in Arizona. As a reminder, this law entirely outlawed abortion with no exceptions for rape or incest, only in scenarios where it is necessary to save the life of the mother. Our state legislators quickly worked with some bipartisan effort across the aisle to force a bill that led to repealing that ban! From there, things can get confusing. That bill does not take effect until 90 days after the session is over (**09/14**). So, there would still be some time when the Supreme Court ruling would still be in effect. Due to multiple inquiries and efforts by Attorney General Kris Mayes, the Supreme Court issued a stay that aligns with the intent of the legislature's repeal and thereby prevents the 1864 law from going into place before the 9/14 date. The Governor and AG's offices have worked together on a [website](#), to provide ongoing clarity on services and the status of reproductive healthcare in Arizona.

Additional Healthcare Investments

\$500,000 were invested in a one-time appropriation for low income/underserved women and their families to access preventative health care services.



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Childcare

For the first time since 2008, Arizona has invested in childcare using general fund dollars. The Governor's Office and legislative staff had decided to invest \$12M from the state's general fund into the Child Care Assistance Program. This extra money will help the Department of Economic Security (DES) maintain the quality enhancement rates they are paying and eliminate registration fees for the following year. Unfortunately, this will not be enough to avoid a wait list for future services and the appropriated funds are one time. WFSA and AZECA partners advocated heavily for \$100M in state funding and will be revisiting that ask along with at a larger dollar amount to continue the proper funding of childcare moving forward.

Housing & Homelessness

This year, the Arizona State Legislature actively worked to put forward solutions to address our ongoing housing and homelessness situation. Arizona has an ongoing housing deficit of an estimated 129,000 homes. The price of houses has increased nearly 60% since the beginning of the pandemic, and evictions continue to be an ongoing concern¹. This year, we saw small strides in addressing this housing shortage, like those mentioned below. Lawmakers this year have been able to successfully maintain the \$150 million allocated to the Housing Trust Fund while providing it with an additional \$15 million. The following investments into housing were² made as well:

A \$500,000 one-time appropriation for Navajo Nation Women's Shelter Services.

A \$500,000 one-time appropriation for nutrition, housing, and rental assistance programs in Pinal County.

[HB 2146: Mobile Homes; cooling prohibition](#) - requires a mobile home park owner or operator to allow tenants to install commercial cooling methods on their mobile home.

[HB 2720: Accessory dwelling units; requirements](#) - allows the development of ADUS and defines standards for their development.

[HB 2721: Municipal zoning; middle housing](#) - requires certain municipalities to allow the development of duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and townhomes.



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Ongoing Concerns

This year, to circumvent the Governor's inevitable veto on several topics, The state legislature has elected to push several issues to the voters in the form of ballot measures. While Arizona voters can expect an exceptionally long ballot this year, we've linked both the Legislature's summary, along with our concerns from a handful of those measures below.

SCR 1021: would put victims of sex trafficking at risk of facing lifetime sentences and is over-regulating something that is already well written in our criminal code.

HCR2060 (Now Prop 314):an aggressive & discriminatory immigration reform that would, amongst many things, lead to a deepening mistrust of institutional support systems, including by those seeking healthcare, education, nonprofit services, and criminal justice services. And would limit family access to government financial support.

SCR1044: removes judicial retention and diminishes Arizona voters' ability to hold judges accountable.

SCR1041: This would allow opponents of a citizen's initiative to sue to remove it before it appears on the ballot or signature gathering can begin.

Below are bills that failed to make progress this past session:

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HB 2262: Wage History; Disclosure - a WFSA Priority, would have implemented a Salary History Ban

HB 2266: Childcare Appropriation - would have added \$100 M to the state budget for childcare funding.

HB2808: Child care; assistance; eligibility—A WFSA Priority, would have opened childcare eligibility to all full-time students.

HB 2570: Planning; home design; restrictions; prohibition A future concern is that a previous WFSA Priority, ongoing funding for [Healthy Families Arizona](#), has been moved from ongoing funding to one time funding, WFSA is happy that no funding was taken away from the program for the following year but it means that WFSA will also be renewing our advocacy to ensure that funding for this program continue to be ongoing and un-cut in the next state budget.



Conclusion

While making some progressive strides, this legislative session has set Arizonans up for an ongoing fight in many areas to maintain and improve rights for women, girls, and gender-inclusive people in our state across the areas of democracy, housing, and healthcare. We encourage folks to get involved with WFSA Advocacy work by signing up for our [Gender Equity Network](#) newsletter and joining us for our in-person meetings!

¹ [Arizona Housing Competitiveness Index | Common Sense Institute Arizona \(commonsenseinstituteaz.org\)](#)