



Legislators Cry Foul over Brewer Vetoes

Legislative representatives expressed dismay over the one of Governor Brewer's veto message.

"I am deeply disappointed to report to the people of Arizona that the Legislature has been unable to send me a responsible budget plan."



Legislators are seriously miffed by her charge and point out that House and Senate Staff spent hundreds of hours negotiating with the Governor's staff and had line-by-line agreement on the spending portion of the budget.

Several legislators pointed out that she essentially "vetoed her own budget." One Staffer added that her veto of the K-12 budget was "erratic, irresponsible and reckless."

When asked about the controversy, Brewer's spokesman Paul Sememan pointed out that: "Many countless hours of negotiations took place, and compromises made -- typical of any budget process. I am sure all involved would agree that the compromise reached was an integrated package. As you point out, the package was not successfully approved."

Legislators point out that whatever reserve of good will that the governor once enjoyed is gone.

What About Her Part of the Bargain?

In the second sentence of Brewer's veto press release she is quick to praise Burns and Adams and make it clear that she doesn't blame them for the failure of her tax proposal.

"While Senate President Bob Burns and House Speaker Kirk Adams have worked with tremendous effort and diligence to reach a reasonable compromise with my proposal, regrettably, those efforts have fallen short."

Legislators for their part are less sanguine and are asking about Brewer's efforts "Where were the promised Democrats"? They maintain that Burns managed to get 13 Republicans while Adams corralled 29 members of his caucus and Brewer didn't manage to deliver any Democrats and was unable to flip even one recalcitrant Republican.

Quote of the Week:

"Will you please change the name to 'Patterson's Morning Shot' – PMS – it's a more appropriate acronym for the subject matter."



Sincerely,

David M. Martin

Greener Pastures

Governor Brewer has appointed former Senate President John Greene to head the State Board of Equalization.



"John brings to the Board years of relevant experience in both the public and private sectors and possesses an impressive and broad base of knowledge in numerous key areas including taxation, real estate, legislation, regulation and government relations."

Greene is an attorney and also the former Director of the AZ Dept. of Insurance.



Treasure Trove

The full text of the Governor's Press Release is [available here](#) in case you want to parse it yourself.

Can you Find the Missing Word?

Governor Brewer has called the Legislators in for a Special Session on Monday July 6th. There's an interesting policy concession in in the call. Here's the key line, can you find the missing word?

The purpose of the session is for the "Imposition of a temporary tax for the purpose of raising state revenues for primary and secondary education..."

Catch it? No mention of "sales" tax. The Gov clearly realizes that no Democrats and only a handful of Republicans will support a sales tax increase. So she moves to Plan B. No word on what Plan B entails.

Irony Alert

While the Legislature was unable to place a tax increase for education on the ballot, they did manage to place a tax increase for baseball on the ballot. The [Star has the full story](#).

After dodging more than a year's worth of curveballs, a bill that would require a Pima County election to raise taxes for baseball stadiums won Senate approval Wednesday morning.

With approval already in the House, the bill now goes to the governor.

If signed by Gov. Jan Brewer, HB 2572 would form a sports-authority district and require Pima County to hold an election at which voters would be asked to raise taxes to pay for stadium construction and improvements. What year would be up to the authority.

Of course, the bill was passed primarily by Democrats and Tucson Republicans—a different cast of characters than those who were working on the sale tax increase. Several votes are intriguing, Conservative Republicans Gowen, Antenori and Melvin showed that regional loyalty can occasionally trump fiscal philosophy.

Tucson Democrats Phil Lopes and Daniel Patterson voted no. Lopes' case is especially interesting since he will be running for the Senate against seatmate Cajero-Bedford and she voted yes. Cajero-Bedford has defeated Lopes in every head-to-head contest between the two, so maybe he's decided to cater to the fiscal conservative wing of the District 27 Democratic Party—they meet every Tuesday evening in a booth at the Eegees on south 12th ave.



Actually, the passage of the stadium bill is due almost exclusively to the efforts of Tucson car dealer and political icon Jim Click. Who pulled out all the stops, used some of his extensive political capital and personally Hectored members until he had enough votes to get the bill passed.

The passage of the bill is also a demonstration of goodwill from Republican leadership, all of whom voted against it, but put it on the Calendar anyway. So much for the theory that without Tim Bee, Tucson will be left in a lurch.



More Vanity Fair Fall Out

If you are looking for 10,000 words of political red meat, you will want to check out the [Vanity Fair takedown](#) of Sarah Palin.

I don't provide much coverage of federal issues at the Morning Shot (in fact, the unofficial TMS motto is "No Federal, No Railbirds and No DeMenna Quotes,") but the Vanity Fair piece is interesting because of the backlash against the anonymous McCain staffers who provided the grist for the story. Since many McCain staffers have a local connection, I thought this angle was interesting. Here's an [example of the backlash](#) from Red State.org

*Since everybody else is piling on, let me add my own comment to the fray. If you were one of the people who participated in that Vanity Fair hit piece, and we find out your name, you will be a net drag on any national campaign for the rest of your professional career. Not because you helped the Left go after Governor Palin, but because you are an untrustworthy sneak who is dedicated to propping up the elitist system in DC, not fixing it. Any candidate that hires you will have to overcome the base's natural reluctance to work with a campaign that would hire someone like you. This can be done; but it's much easier to hire people with your skill set **and** a name for basic party loyalty.*

*If you are a McCain staffer who did not talk to VF, I suggest that you find some way to demonstrate that you aren't one of the people in the first paragraph. Because until we know who talked, the default assumption is going to be that you may have talked. This will not wreck your career, but it **will** blight it if the base has anything to say about it. On the bright side, a simple and declarative denial will do; of course, if your denial is a lie and we catch you at it, brush up on your typing skills.*

Ouch. Dude, I mean seriously, Ouch.

Important Meetings (Well, they are important to somebody.)

State Government Agencies conduct a lot of meetings and all of them are important, but they aren't always easy to track. One of my goals at The Morning Shot is to keep you informed about important but sometimes obscure meetings that you might otherwise miss. Here's a good example.

ACC Universal Service Fund Meeting

DATE: Monday, July 27, 2009 TIME: 9:30 a.m.

WORKSHOP ON THE REVIEW AND POSSIBLE REVISION OF ARIZONA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND RULES AND INVESTIGATION OF THE COST OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS

Agenda

The focus of this workshop is to investigate possible Arizona Universal Service Fund reform.

1. Introduction and Welcome – Commission Staff
2. Overview – Commission Staff
3. Presentations by Parties
4. Question & Answer Session
5. Wrap-up and discussion of next steps