

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
5/16/2011
LEGISLATIVE FORUM

APRIL 29 , 2011

1. Introduction of Legislators.....Bill Hansen

Senator Bundgaard
Senator Murphy n/r
Representative Burges
Representative Gray
Representative Harper n/r
Representative Lesko

2. Introduction of SunCities Governmental affairs Committee

Co-Chairs

Bill Hansen/Jim Stark
Merlyn Carlson
Bill Hafeman
Chuck Ullman
Larry Woods

3. Legislators Discussion of 2011 Highlights

4. Bills of Concern to Sun Cities:

SB 1170	Traffic Control Bill
SB 1174	Administrative Law Court for Homeowners' Assoc.
HB 2545	Condo Rental Bill
SB 1598	Restrictions on Quarry Operations
SB 1540	Political Signs/ Campaigning in HOA's
SB 1174	Charter Schools Restrictions
HB 2441	Changing majority quorum in HOAs'
SB 1593	Health & Accident Coverage Restrictions for Co.'s

Budget Decisions

Trade-Offs on Reduction of Medicaid #'s & Loss of Fed. \$'s

5. Announcement on Reapportionment Lobbying by Sun Cities

Our Supervisors District is the most overpopulated of the 5, with Max Wilson's district being over 170,954 or 22.4% above the average district of 763,423. However, there may be a simple solution by chopping off the area starting with Highway # 17 & pushing it west to 43rd. Avenue, the East border of Peoria.

Sen. Bundgaard's Districts is more involved, being over-populated by 81,000 (3rd. highest of the 30) or 38%-so LD 4 change will be a most complex one. In the Sun City area, Sen. Murphy is under by 34,500 or 16.2%. This means that the 4 House seats in the 2 areas will also be changed considerably.

Opinion

Legislators meet in Sun City West

The two Sun Cities hosted their final legislative wrap-up session at the PORA Office Building April 29. Legislators attending included Senator Bundgaard, Representatives Gray and Representative Lesko. Bill Hansen, Co-Chair of the Joint Governmental Affairs Committee — along with Jim Stark — commended the area legislators for a banner achievement during this session for the Sun Cities, "especially in light of the of the record number of anti-homeowners' association bills that surfaced this session. You successfully buried the Traffic bill, filed for the 5th consecutive year, that would have stripped our control over parking and traffic, passed the Administrative Law Court for airing minor grievances in homeowner associations transactions and bottled up the condo rental bill, which could have stripped from associations the right to cooperatively negotiate tenant agreement."

Rep. Lesko referred to her bills, including the one excluding Charter School in unincorporated communities such as the Sun Cities. "Its need became apparent following the incident in Sun City where a Charter School was attempting to locate until the thundering local community objections" stated Rep. Lesko. She also mentioned the special emphasis had been placed on new reading classes for grades 1-3. The Representative also mentioned a new bill which will allow political signs in homeowner community that will be restricted to 55 days prior to an election. In addition, she expressed lament over the Governor's veto of her spending limit bill.

Senator Bundgaard spoke about the massive overhaul of the public employees retirement programs. "No longer will there be any double-dipping which many media accounts had uncovered, but an employer can rehire a person if they want to pay 80

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Legislators

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percent of that employee's cost," said Sen. Bundgaard. Plus, he added, many employees will now face higher contribution rates.

Representative Gray stressed the significance of the overhaul of estate cases in which trustees had been bilking heirs of unconscionable fees during the settlement of estates. In many cases, trustees were fleecing the heirs by hiding these costs and suggesting they were mandatory. "I think we've taken some very significant steps to stop these excessive fees, which were exposed by the media where, in some cases, the trustees were abusing their fiduciary role by fleecing the heirs of an estate by skimming off huge sums. I think we've taken significant steps to stop the excessive charges," stated Rep. Gray.

Mentioned during the concluding portion of the program was the fact that the Joint Governmental Affairs Committee has retained a lobbying firm, along with other organizations, to represent them at the reapportionment hearings. The results of the latest census will heavily impact the Sun Cities area on both legislative seats and the district supervisor seat. Hansen underscored that Sun Cities each have three different legislators now which enhances our representation. Likewise, we have been most fortunate to have Max Wilson as our District 4 Supervisor. However, his district is the most overpopulated among the five districts due in large part to the unparalleled growth in the NW segment of Maricopa County. Currently his district is 170,954 over what the average size district should be of 763,423.

It would then follow that Sun City West's three legislative districts, now held by Sen. Bunagaard, Representatives Burges and Harper are likely over populated while the three Sun City seats, held by Sen. Murphy, Representatives Gray and Lesko are under populated and will have to be materially altered. It is now known that Sen. Bundgaard's seat will have to be reduced by more than 27 percent or a drop of 81,000 people whereas Sen. Murphy's district will have to be increased by more than 19 percent or an increase of 34,500 people. "For all of these reasons, it is imperative that the two Sun Cities retain a competent representative to be at all of the reapportionment hearings," Hansen concluded.