

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19

TOWN HALL MINUTES

September 19, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.
Eastern Arizona College - Lee Little Theater

Call to Order

With the Chairman and Secretary present, Chairman Jo Ann Gasper called the Legislative District 19 Town Hall to order at 10:06 a.m.

Mike McEuen gave the opening prayer.

Representative Gail Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gasper welcomed those in attendance and introduced the guests.

Legislative Update - Representative Gail Griffin

Representative Gail Griffin provided a legislative update highlighting actions of the 2026 Arizona Legislature and measures taking effect following the conclusion of the legislative session.

Representative Griffin reported that more than 2,000 bills had been introduced during the legislative session, with 415 reaching the Governor. Of those, 264 were signed and 151 vetoed. She reviewed legislation reflecting the House Majority's 2026 priorities of Preserving the American Dream, Promoting Public Safety, and Protecting Individual Rights and Liberties.

Among the measures discussed were tax relief included in the FY26 budget, additional funding for Arizona's Colorado River litigation efforts, property-tax relief for disabled veterans, protections relating to data-center development and ratepayers, increased penalties for fentanyl trafficking and sexual extortion of children, protections for domestic-violence victims and children in family court, and changes to Arizona's primary election calendar, ballot-curing procedures, and election-observer access.

Representative Griffin also discussed Arizona water conservation and infrastructure, including the state's efforts to accommodate population and economic growth while reducing overall water consumption. The presentation addressed Colorado River conservation, groundwater regulation, municipal conservation programs, effluent reuse, long-term water augmentation projects, rural water-supply development, irrigation efficiency, and watershed-health investments.

Representative Griffin concluded her legislative update with a review of the 2026 ballot referrals, including Propositions 141, 142, 144, 316, 317, 318, 319, and 320.

Guest Speaker - Representative Quang H. Nguyen

Chairman Gasper introduced Representative Quang H. Nguyen of Legislative District 1 as the Town Hall's guest speaker.

Representative Nguyen shared his personal journey from Vietnam to the United States, describing his experiences as a child during the Vietnam War and his family's journey to America. He spoke about freedom, opportunity, citizenship, and his appreciation for the United States and the principles upon which the nation was founded.

Drawing upon his personal experience with communism, Representative Nguyen discussed the importance of preserving individual liberty and understanding the consequences of socialist and communist systems.

"What is the difference between socialism and communism? One has an AK-47 at the back of your head; the other one is looking for one."

Single Audit Hearing

At the close of the Town Hall, Representative Griffin again took the microphone to advise attendees of the Single Audit Hearing scheduled for September 21, 2026. She encouraged those present to watch the hearing and briefly discussed the State of Arizona's Single Audit reporting requirements. Representative Griffin stated that Governor Katie Hobbs' administration had not been in compliance with the Single Audit requirements for the past four years.

Adjournment

The Town Hall concluded at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Kais

Secretary

Legislative District 19