

COCONICO COUNTY RECORDER

In November 2024, voters in Coconino County, Arizona will elect a new Recorder, a position that holds power over voter registration and early voting. Coconino County comprises Flagstaff and Northern Arizona University--as well as Grand Canyon National and portions of the Havasupai, Navajo, and Hopi Nations. Covering nearly 20,000 square miles with a population of around 145,000, Coconino County is the second largest county geographically in the contiguous United States. Like other parts of Arizona, the area has become a breeding ground for voting conspiracies in recent years. Republican former state Rep. Bob Thorpe will face Democratic Party activist Audrey Sonderegger in the November general election.

Key Findings

Bob Thorpe is an election denier who signed a resolution calling on Congress to accept a slate of fake Arizona electors in 2020. While Thorpe now says that Arizona elections were “free and valid” in 2020 and 2022, in December 2020, he promoted false claims about voter fraud, called for a special session of the legislature to investigate “irregularities,” and signed a joint resolution from the Arizona Legislature to the United States Senate requesting that a slate of fake electors be accepted for Donald Trump or “to have all electoral votes nullified completely” for a forensic audit. Thorpe has said he would consider eliminating the use of ballot drop boxes in Coconino County, and sponsored legislation that would end Arizona’s permanent early voting list.

Thorpe was an ineffective fringe legislator. Thorpe served five terms in the Arizona House from 2012 to 2020. During that time he was known as “one of the Legislature’s extreme members,” often sponsoring failed far right legislation. Thorpe’s sponsorships included numerous bills to expropriate federal land in Arizona and legislation that would have banned “social justice” classes or activities at Arizona schools and universities. Thorpe was a Tea Party leader and a supporter of Cliven Bundy and his family in their armed standoff with BLM agents. Thorpe also posted numerous racist right wing memes to his social media accounts before making them private in 2018.

Thorpe authored numerous attacks on Arizonans’ right to vote. Throughout his tenure in the state House, Thorpe sponsored measures to restrict ballot access and the right vote. He sponsored multiple bills to ban college students from voting at the university address, as well as several resolutions that would sharply curtail the ability of Arizonans to pass ballot initiatives.

BOB THORPE (R)

BACKGROUND & PHILOSOPHY

April 2024: Thorpe launched a campaign for Coconino County Recorder. “Bob Thorpe, a former member of the Arizona House of Representatives from 2013 to 2021, is the lone Republican seeking the role of Coconino County's recorder. Aubrey Sonderegger is seeking the role as the Democratic Party candidate to replace Hansen, who is retiring from the role after winning her first election in November 2012. Thorpe initially planned to run for Arizona State Senate in 2020, but elected to drop out of a race that included a crowded Republican primary. Shifting to the District 4 seat on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Thorpe received 41.58% of the vote to Judy Begay's 58.42%.” [Arizona Daily Sun, 4/4/24]

2020: Thorpe was defeated in his bid for Coconino County Supervisor. “Lifelong Coconino County resident Democrat Judy Begay from Coal Mine Mesa surpassed Republican Thorpe, Legislative District 6's current representative by more than 2,000 votes for the District 4 seat vacated by retired Flagstaff cowboy Jim Parks. Though Thorpe has more experience in government, Begay has 45 years of experience in human health management, infrastructure, public schools and higher education, affordable housing and veteran support roles she intends to use to represent District 4, which covers the eastern part of the county from Cow Springs to Forest Lakes.” [Arizona Daily Sun, 11/3/20]

2019: Thorpe dropped out of the state Senate race and ran for County Supervisor instead. “Two elected officials made the decision this week to shake up three political races across northern Arizona ahead of busy 2020 ballot. Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe announced he would be dropping out of the race for state Senate in order to pursue a position on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors representing District 4. That spot is also being pursued by retired professor Bryan Bates and covers much of the county east of Flagstaff, including Leupp. At the same time, County Supervisor Jim Parks, who currently represents District 4, announced he would be running for a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives representing Legislative District 7. [...]Thorpe told the Arizona Daily Sun that Parks first approached him about ‘doing something bold’ a few months ago. Parks could not be reached for comment prior to publication, but according to Thorpe, as the only Republican on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Parks had been looking for another Republican to replace him as he looked at running for a higher office. After serving in the house for seven years, Thorpe has been running for the state senate seat representing Legislative District 6, which includes the City of Flagstaff and sections of Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai counties. In the district's next election, Thorpe was set to face Republican incumbent Senator Sylvia Allen, Wendy Rogers and Edward Hampton during the primary. When the new aspiring county supervisor first announced his bid for state senate, Allen, a longtime partner in the senate, had told the Daily Sun she was not planning on reelection. She later reversed that decision, frustrating some Republicans including Thorpe who at the time said the action put their shared constituents in a ‘difficult situation.’” [Arizona Daily Sun, 10/24/19]

2019: Thorpe announced a campaign for Arizona Senate. “Representative Bob Thorpe announced Monday that he will run for state senate during the next election. In a statement to the Arizona Daily Sun, Thorpe said he plans to run for the state senate seat representing Legislative District 6, which he currently represents in the state house. At the moment, that seat is held by Senator Sylvia Allen. There is no word yet as to if Allen, a Republican, will run in 2020. Since he was first elected in 2012, Thorpe has served four two-year terms representing LD 6 as a Republican. Term limits prevent him from running for a fifth term in the state House of Representatives. ‘During my four terms, I have voted for balanced budgets, low taxes and increased funding for K-12 education,’ Thorpe wrote in a statement.” [Arizona Daily Sun, 4/8/19]

2018: Thorpe was reelected to the Arizona House. “Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, beat Democrat Felicia French by 577 votes in a narrow race for the district's second House seat.” [Arizona Republic, 11/26/18]

2016: Thorpe was reelected to the Arizona House. “Republicans Reps. Bob Thorpe and Brenda Barton are narrowly holding off Democrat Alex Martinez for the two House seats in northern Arizona’s Republican-dominated Legislative District 6. Thorpe leads the pack with 34.1 percent of the vote, while Barton holds 33.2 percent. She leads Martinez, who has 32.7 percent, by less than 500 votes [...] While the race for the district’s Senate seat has been one of the most expensive in the state, scant amounts were spent in the three-way race for the two House seats. Barton spent a mere \$23,000 in her race, but was boosted by nearly \$35,000 in outside spending. Thorpe spent even less, having spent only \$1,629 as of

October 27. He too, was boosted by outside spending, to the tune of \$8,600.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 11/8/16]

2012: Thorpe was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives. [Arizona Capital Times, 11/21/12]

2012: Thorpe was chairman of the Flagstaff Tea Party. [Arizona Republic, 10/10/12]

2018: Arizona Republic columnist Laurie Roberts called Thorpe “one of the Legislature’s extreme members. If there’s a kooky idea out there, his name is likely on it.” “Thorpe is one of the Legislature's extreme members. If there's a kooky idea out there, his name is likely on it. Consider his bill designating American free-market capitalism as the state's official political-economic system (House Bill 2277). Me? I wasn't aware that Arizona was in danger of tossing aside free-market capitalism. But Thorpe wants to protect the evidently fledgling concept by banning the use of public money to promote anything that opposes free-market capitalism. This to protect us from "an alarmingly high percentage of individuals under 40 years of age who appear to not understand" the negative impacts of socialism, fascism and communism. Then there's his bill to protect himself from ... us. Thorpe has introduced a bill that would allow him to hide public records stored on his personal cellphone, computer or social media accounts.” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, 1/17/18]

2013: Thorpe described himself as a “stone hearted conservative.” “Saying the American Dream is on life support and in need of help, Republican Rep. Tom Forese of Gilbert beat back bipartisan opposition to his bill allowing a new type of corporation — a benefit corporation. Forese’s HB2276 would allow benefit corporations to form in Arizona, not for the sole purpose of maximizing profits, but also to do public good. [...] Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe said if allowing companies to operate in a new way spurs new businesses and does some public good, then he’s all for it. ‘As a stone hearted conservative, I appreciate the idea of a corporation that not only is making profit, but also reaching out to its community and helping people at the same time,’ he said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 3/8/13]

2012: Thorpe: “We’re at war with the federal government.” “She's running with Rep. Chester Crandell, R-Heber, who did, and with Bob Thorpe, of the Flagstaff Tea Party, who called for ... well, I'm not sure what, exactly, he was suggesting. ‘It's time for another shot heard 'round the world,’ Thorpe told the Payson crowd. ‘Let's make Arizona an example of how we reclaim our liberties, which we have slowly allowed to erode. Liberty-loving patriots will lose a battle or two, but what we're concerned about is whether we win the war or not - and we're at war with the federal government.’” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, 7/31/12]

2017: Thorpe threatened to call security to have a Democratic colleague removed from a hearing room. “A Republican legislator’s apology on March 15 for attempting to have a Democratic legislator thrown out of a committee underscores what Democrats and lobbyists describe as a pattern of bullying and sexism that permeate the Arizona House of Representatives. The Democrat, Rep. Isela Blanc of Tempe, said on March 14 that Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff threatened to call security to remove her from a hearing room. ‘I’m being bullied. That’s exactly how I felt in that moment,’ Blanc told the Arizona Capitol Times. Democratic Minority Leader Rebecca Rios of Phoenix suggested that sexist undertones have marked repeated attempts to silence members of her caucus during debates on the House floor and in committee hearings.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 3/16/17]

2015: Thorpe supported Ted Cruz’s presidential campaign. “Meanwhile, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has signed up several conservative state legislators, including House Majority Leader Steve

Montenegro of Litchfield Park and House Majority Whip David Livingston of Peoria. Cruz's team also includes state Sens. Sylvia Allen, Judy Burges and Steve Smith, and state Reps. Noel Campbell, Mark Finchem, Anthony Kern, Jay Lawrence, Vince Leach and Bob Thorpe.” [Arizona Republic, 11/1/15]

ELECTIONS

2024: Thorpe said that Arizona elections were “free and valid” in 2020 and 2022 but that other states violated the law and conducted invalid elections. “In response to whether the 2020 and 2022 elections were fair and valid, Sonderegger stated, ‘I absolutely believe that our elections were free and fair and accurate in 2020,’ before turning her attention to Thorpe’s answer to the question. ‘I haven’t seen any information that would show the contrary, so I would have to agree with that statement that they were free and valid,’ Thorpe said. Sonderegger then questioned why he signed a joint resolution in December 2020 from the Arizona Legislature to the Office of the President of the U.S. Senate that closed by requesting that the alternate 11 electoral votes be accepted for President Donald Trump or ‘to have all electoral votes nullified completely a full forensic audit can be conducted.’ Thorpe responded by describing how he believed officials in other states had violated state laws during the 2020 election. ‘I saw states -- and again, not Arizona -- but I saw other states where the governor and some officials up high in the state actually violated state law because of COVID in providing, for example, mail-in ballots where the legislature didn’t have any part in it,’ Thorpe said.” [Arizona Daily Sun, 8/31/24]

2024: Thorpe opposed outside grant funding for election offices. “Minutes into the debate, Thorpe highlighted a point he would later return to when asked to evaluate Hansen’s work as county recorder. Referring to an article by The Federalist that examined the Coconino County Recorder’s Office involvement with the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence and the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), Thorpe said money from “private individuals” should not be going into the office. ‘I think we’ve had some real problems in the recorder’s office,’ Thorpe said. ‘In 2020, the recorder’s office took over \$600,000 from private individuals. We cannot have private money going into a department like this, a government department, and we currently have outside individuals that are actually assisting in some of the duties of that office.’” [Arizona Daily Sun, 8/31/24]

2024: Thorpe said he would consider eliminating the use of ballot drop boxes in Coconino County. “On the other side of the conversation, Thorpe questioned the continued need for drop boxes. ‘I don’t have any evidence that we’ve had problems here in Coconino County, but there have been reports across the country of people showing up at a drop box and placing 10, 20, 30 ballots -- which should never happen,’ Thorpe said. Adding that he did not believe the state Legislature or the county supervisors had ever approved the use of drop boxes, Thorpe said he was ‘unsure where we all the sudden needed these drop boxes’ other than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moderator Hank Stephenson of the Arizona Agenda then asked Thorpe if he would advocate for getting rid of drop boxes. ‘I would need to research that and talk with voters about it,’ Thorpe said. ‘I don’t want to inconvenience voters. In other words, if that’s the only way a voter can get their ballot submitted for voting, yeah, I can see a real benefit there, but at the same time you know there’s no cost to the voter to drop it into a mailbox.’” [Arizona Daily Sun, 8/31/24]

2024: Thorpe called for greater transparency and cybersecurity for Coconino County elections. “Thorpe explained his background in both managing people as well as processes make him a strong fit for the position. Stressing the threats that electronic systems face in the present day, he said his past experience with databases would be crucial in the event of an attack. ‘If we all of a sudden got hacked right before or right after this election, that would certainly drop the confidence level of our voters,’ Thorpe said. ‘We need to do everything that we can to make voting easy, to make sure people feel that

the results are coming in quickly and in a timely manner, that they have confidence that the results are accurate, and that our voting system is honest and fair.’ During a discussion on potential policies for the future, Thorpe initially focused on a desire to offer greater transparency and an open dialogue with county voters. Seeking to make weekly radio appearances potentially and meet with the political parties themselves, he added that recommendations on possible improvements should be considered from the constituents. Thorpe added that additional cameras allowing voters to view the tabulation process and using volunteers from all parties are among his priorities should he be elected.” [Arizona Daily Sun, 8/31/24]

2020: Thorpe signed a resolution asking Congress to accept a slate of fake electors from Arizona.

“On the same day, Republican lawmakers issued what Mayes has referred to as a fake ‘Joint Resolution of the 54th Legislature.’ That document declared that the Arizona legislature is ‘required to exercise its best judgment as to which slate of electors the voters prefer.’ That document urged officials to accept Republican electors’ votes over those of certified Democratic electors in the 2020 presidential election, or to have all electoral votes nullified, pending a full forensic audit. That document was signed by Arizona Senators Kelly Townsend (R-16), Paul Boyer (R-20), David Farnsworth (R-16), Sonny Borrelli (R-5), Sylvia Allen (R-15), Nancy Barto (R-15), David Gowan (R-14) and Wendy Rogers (R-6). The "joint resolution" was also signed by representatives Leo Biasciucci (R-5), Bret Roberts (R-11), Kevin Payne (R-21), Mark Finchem (R-11), Anthony Kern (R-20), David Cook (R-8), John Fillmore (R-16), Travis Grantham (R-12), Majority Leader Warren Petersen (R-12), Walter Blackman (R-6), Steve Pierce (R-1), Shawna Bolick (R-20), Tony Rivero (R-21), Noel Campbell (R-1), Bob Thorpe (R-6), Jacqueline Parker (R-16), Brenda Barton (R-6), Beverly Pingerelli (R-21), Joseph Chaplik (R-23), Jake Hoffman (R-12), Judy Burges (R-1) and Quang Nguyen (R-1).” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 5/21/24]

2020: Thorpe promoted false claims of election fraud and called on Governor Doug Ducey to convene a special legislative session to investigate “irregularities.” “Several northern Arizona politicians have joined other state and national Republicans in casting doubt on the recent presidential election. Rep. Walt Blackman was just reelected to his seat in the state House while Senator-elect Wendy Rogers defeated Democrat Felicia French, but that hasn’t stopped either from questioning the accuracy and legitimacy of the election. The two were also joined by Rep. Bob Thorpe, who just lost out on his bid for a seat on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors. [...] Still, in the week following Nov. 3, Rogers has called the election a "dirty coup de tat," while Thorpe has accused Democrats of stealing the election. Thorpe also called on Gov. Doug Ducey to convene a special session of the Legislature to investigate ‘elections irregularities.’ Many of the accusations of impropriety have been leveled at Maricopa County, where the large majority of the state’s voters reside and Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs. Both Thorpe and Blackman have also promoted a now-debunked conspiracy that poll workers had purposely disenfranchised Republican voters.” [Arizona Daily Sun, 11/13/20]

2020: Thorpe sponsored legislation to make it a crime for out of state individuals to donate to Arizona campaigns. “The way Rep. Bob Thorpe sees it, it’s illegal for foreigners to try to use their money to influence elections in this country. So now the Flagstaff Republican wants to enact the same law here - but with a twist: His HB 2718 would make it a crime for anyone who does not live in Arizona to contribute to campaigns for or against candidates and for or against ballot measures. Put simply, Thorpe does not want out-of-staters influencing Arizona politics and policies. An attorney with expertise in state election law said the idea "makes a lot of sense. For example, you can’t vote if you are not a resident of Arizona and a citizen," said Tom Collins, executive director of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. ‘Likewise, you might think that it would follow that if you’re going to be spending money on elections, you ought to also be from Arizona.’ But Collins said Thorpe’s proposal is very likely

unconstitutional. Thorpe conceded that Collins may be right. But he told Capitol Media Services that he hopes the Legislature enacts his proposal anyway as a method of mounting a legal challenge, one that likely would have to be resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court.” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/1/20]

2019: Thorpe supported measures to make it harder to place initiatives on the ballot. “The billionaire California activist who went head to head with Arizona Public Service Co. last year over a clean-energy ballot measure has joined the fight to overturn a \$95 million rate hike by the utility. Tom Steyer is advocating for Arizona regulators to reverse the 2017 rate hike that has drawn complaints from thousands of customers and led to surging stock price for its parent company, Pinnacle West Capital Corp.[...] As recently as last week Republican lawmakers invoked Steyer and the Prop. 127 fight while moving legislation that will make it harder to place such items on the ballot. During a floor debate, Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, suggested Steyer only promoted the proposition to help enrich himself through renewable energy. ‘That individual was spending millions and millions of dollars so they could help corner the market so they could make a higher profit here in Arizona on the backs of Arizona citizens,’ Thorpe said.” [Arizona Republic, 5/14/19]

2019: Thorpe supported legislation to end Arizona’s permanent early voting list. “Republican lawmakers are moving to effectively strip the word ‘permanent’ from laws that allow voters to enroll on the permanent early-voting list. On a party-line vote, Republicans on the House Elections Committee agreed Tuesday that county officials should be prohibited from sending early ballots to those who did not use them during the past two election cycles. [...] Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said he sees the issue in more dollars-and-cents terms. He figured it costs counties anywhere from \$2.50 to \$4 to send out each early ballot. Using the estimates from the Arizona Advocacy Network of 200,000 people who haven’t used the early ballot they received in two election cycles, Thorpe figures the move would save \$500,000 or more. Anyway, he said, early voting is not a constitutional right but a privilege. And Thorpe said it’s not all that difficult to use the ballot — and remain on the list. You have 30 days to fill out that ballot, drop it in the mail,’ he said, noting that the return envelope already has postage.”[Arizona Daily Star, 3/27/19]

2018: Thorpe sponsored legislation to force voters to keep the same address on file with the DMV and Secretary of State. “A House bill that would require voters to have the same address on file with the Secretary of State and the Department of Transportation or face a civil penalty failed in committee. HB2397 would have required the person to update their address with ADOT within days or register to vote using the address on file with the department. If they failed to do so, they could face a \$25 fine and have their driver’s license suspended. The measure failed in the House Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy Committee, which sponsor Rep. Bob Thorpe chairs, by a 4-5 vote, with Republicans Noel Campbell and Travis Grantham joining their Democratic colleagues in voting to kill the bill. [...] Thorpe said in committee that the bill had nothing to do with voting or where a person registers to vote. The bill, he said, seeks to ensure that the voter database and the Motor Vehicle Department database are consistent. He added that there is already a law in statute that requires people to update their address with the MVD within days of moving or be subject to a penalty. ‘It’s not an issue of where you’re registering to vote,’ he said. ‘It’s an issue that you’re now telling a government agency that you live someplace else that doesn’t match your driver’s license so that shows that you’re in violation of statute.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, 2/14/18]

2018: Thorpe supported legislation to block cities from requiring disclosure of dark money spending on campaigns. “Arizona's leaders are one pull closer to sealing off any remaining gaps in that blackout curtain they've hung around elections, to prevent us from getting a peek at who is trying to influence our vote. This time it's House Bill 2153, a bill aimed at stopping cities from requiring dark

money campaigns to disclose the source of their funding in city elections. The House is expected to vote on the bill today. It's a clear slap at Tempe, where voters in March will consider a proposed charter amendment to turn on the lights. The Sunshine Ordinance would require non-profit groups making independent expenditures over \$1,000 to disclose their organization's name and source of their campaign funding in Tempe elections. [...] 'I'm very fearful when government starts peeking through the window when you're writing a check to save the whales.' Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said, during a recent hearing by the House Federalism, Property Rights and Public Policy Committee. The committee approved the bill on a 6-3 party line vote." [Arizona Republic, 2/12/18]

2017: Thorpe sponsored legislation to make it illegal for out of state entities to donate to ballot initiative campaigns in Arizona. "Thorpe also wants to limit who can contribute to ballot measures, like that just approved minimum wage hike. Existing law allows any individual or corporation to give money to try to get an initiative approved or rejected. The only requirement is that the campaign committees that get the cash detail from who it comes. HB 2255 would make it illegal for anyone from outside of Arizona to contribute funds for or against ballot measures. That measure, however, may have a large loophole: It specifically covers committees organized 'for the purpose of influencing a ballot measure.' And Thorpe's legislation would continue to leave the door open for out-of-state residents to continue to give to political candidates and their campaign committees." [Arizona Daily Star, 1/17/17]

- **Thorpe called it "unethical" for college students to vote where they attend school.** "Calling the practice unethical, a Flagstaff Republican lawmaker wants to bar college students from voting where they may live most of the year. But a Pinal County legislator thinks the basic premise of the proposed legislation is flawed. The proposal by Rep. Bob Thorpe would put a provision that students who want to vote would be able to do so only by signing up to get an early ballot from the voting precinct where they were living before they went to college, presumably the address of their parents. More to the point, they would not be able to use their college address. And that would apply not only to those living in a campus dormitory but even those who have off-campus apartments or houses. Thorpe, whose district includes Northern Arizona University, said the students who vote in elections — including his own — are really just part-time residents. More to the point, he contends allowing them to participate in local elections means they 'unfairly influence local elections.' 'These students do not influence the elections within their home communities, where their family and neighbors live, but instead they dilute the votes of the local full-time residents within the college communities,' Thorpe said in a prepared statement. 'This legislation will prevent unfair influence in local elections and unethical voter recruitment efforts.'" [Arizona Daily Star, 6/16/17]

2017: Thorpe sponsored legislation to block college students from registering to vote at dormitory addresses. "Saying the large population of college students waters down the vote from Flagstaff locals, Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff has introduced a bill that would declare students could not register to vote from their dormitories. HB2260 states that 'dormitories or other temporary college address cannot be used to define residency for the purposes of voter registration.' In other words, students who do not have the intent to stay permanently at their dorm addresses cannot register to vote from them. Thorpe said he came up with this idea as a result of complaints he received from his constituents in Flagstaff. Residents complained that the vast number of students who voted in local elections diluted their vote and their power to influence the outcome of local elections. Thorpe believes that students who only live in places temporarily for college are really not residents of the city and should register to vote using their primary residence. 'It reduces the local citizens' ability to vote the way they want when an outside influence, just temporarily in their community, is voting' said Thorpe, who served as the House Higher Education Committee chairman from 2015 through 2016. Despite the controversial language of this bill, Thorpe wanted to clarify that he is not discouraging students from

voting. ‘I do not want to say to any student that they should not vote. That is not the intention of this bill. The intention of this bill is that they need to be voting in the community where they live permanently. And they need to be making a difference there at that community on local issues that impact them and their friends and neighbors,’ said Thorpe.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 1/16/17]

- **2020: Thorpe again sponsored legislation to block student voting.** “A veteran lawmaker is making another bid at blocking students from voting where they go to school. The proposal by Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, would create an exception to existing law that says someone is a resident for voting purposes based on actual physical presence ‘with an intent to remain.’ HB 2461 would spell out that anyone who is living in a dormitory ‘or other temporary college or university address’ is presumed to be there only temporarily and is there ‘with intent to return to some other permanent address.’ A separate provision actually could have even more far-reaching implications. It would ban the use of any address ‘at which the individual does not intend to reside for 12 months of each year.’ And that, in turn, could create problems for people who consider Arizona their home but may spend several months a year elsewhere. Thorpe told Capitol Media Services it's not his intent to throw hurdles in the path of students who want to be politically involved. ‘I want them to vote,’ he said. But he said it's something different when a youngster from Tucson decided to attend Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. ‘So what that kid needs to do is take out his No. 2 pencil and check a little box when he registers to vote that says he wants to get a mail-in early ballot,’ he said, one from the community Thorpe believes is his true domicile .But this is more than an academic exercise. ‘I've had numerous constituents who have come to me and are as just as angry as all get-out, including businesspeople up here in Flag, when they have a student who's only living here six months out of the year who then changes the dynamics of an election,’ Thorpe said.” [Arizona Daily Sun, 1/20/20]

2016: Thorpe sponsored legislation to make it harder for voters to place referendums on the ballot. “Nearly two decades after voters blocked state lawmakers from tinkering with ballot measures, the Legislature is trying to take the power back. A measure crafted by Rep. J.D. Mesnard, R-Chandler, would allow lawmakers to update, alter and even repeal what voters enact as long as they do it by the same margin the measure was enacted. [...] Mesnard is not alone in his bid to undo some of the rights in the Voter Protection Act. Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, has a similar measure. His HCR 2023 would both repeal the ‘further the purpose’ language and allow changes or repeal with a three-fifths margin instead of three-fourths. Thorpe also proposes to put new hurdles in the path of those who want to propose their own laws. HCR 2047 would allow measures on the ballot only if at least 25 percent of the signatures came from the 13 rural counties. Thorpe said it's not right that initiative backers can get all the signatures they need to propose changes in the law from the two urban counties. And Thorpe is throwing a specific roadblock in the path of those now out gathering signatures to allow Arizonans to use marijuana for recreational purposes. HCR 2024 would say that a simple majority of those who go to the polls in November would not be good enough to make that change. Instead, drugs considered illegal by federal law would be allowed in Arizona only if the measure gets a three-fifths vote, which the 2010 medical marijuana law did not get.” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/6/16]

2016: Thorpe supported legislation to make it a felony to return another person’s absentee ballot. “Republican lawmakers approved a measure Thursday that would make felons out of people who return the early ballots of others to the polls. The 34-23 House vote, with every Democrat present opposed, was propelled by arguments that the current system is ripe for fraud. [...] Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said allowing strangers to take someone’s ballot would allow them to decide which ones to keep and which ones to throw away. In fact, he said someone might decide to throw away the ballots of all women.” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/4/16]

2015: Thorpe sponsored legislation to require marijuana legalization referendums to receive 75 percent voter approval. “A Flagstaff lawmaker is hoping to throw a new roadblock in the path of those who want to legalize marijuana in Arizona. Only thing is, his plan may a little too late. The measure by Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe would require that any voter-sponsored initiative proposing anything that conflicts with federal law could take effect only if approved by 75 percent of those who cast ballots. Right now, a simple majority is all that is needed. Thorpe said he has one particular measure in mind: a proposal by the Marijuana Policy Project to get voters here to adopt a Colorado- style law legalizing the recreational use of marijuana. He pointed out marijuana use remains illegal under federal law. Yet Arizona voters decided in 2010, by a margin of just 4,340 votes, to allow the use of the drug for medical purposes. And now there is an effort to expand that. So far, though, the Obama administration and the Department of Justice have shown little interest in pursuing either sellers or buyers of the drug. Thorpe said that does not make it right. ‘In our federal Constitution, you look at the requirements of the president,’ he said. ‘One of those requirements, his duties, is to uphold law,’ Thorpe continued. ‘In a number of cases, he’s chosen to turn his back.’ More to the point, he said if Arizona is to thumb its nose at federal law, it should require more than a simple majority vote.” [Arizona Daily Star, 1/28/15]

2013: Thorpe voted for a bill to establish a voter referendum on defunding Arizona’s Clean Elections system. “A bill that would ask voters if they want to defund Clean Elections in favor of education barely passed out of the House Thursday with a 31-27 vote. [...] Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said he voted for the bill even though he has depended on Clean Elections and hopes to do so again. Thorpe said he isn’t afraid of what voters want.” [Tucson Weekly, 3/11/13]

EXTREMISM

2020: Thorpe said he felt “absolutely horrible” about the death of George Floyd, but supported a curfew to curtail protests. “Rep. Bob Thorpe, who was among the many GOP critics of Ducey’s stay-at-home order, said he supports the governor’s curfew, though he wishes it could be more narrowly targeted. ‘What we saw, especially in Scottsdale, is extremely troubling and in that regard I’m glad they did the curfew,’ he said, adding that he thinks local law enforcement should be able to ignore the curfew if it’s unnecessary in their communities. He also suggested the curfew should apply only to 16 to 25 year olds, who he suspects are the driving force for the mayhem. Thorpe said he felt ‘absolutely horrible’ for what happened to George Floyd and the anger that has spurred from it is ‘completely acceptable.’ However, he thinks the protests are ‘being hijacked.’ ‘They’re looking at this as an opportunity to ramp it up way past a simple political protest,’ he said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 6/5/20]

2020: Thorpe sponsored legislation to establish November 7 as “Victims of Communism Memorial Day” in Arizona. “State lawmakers decided Tuesday that Arizona needs to remember the victims of Communism. But not so much others. The proposal by Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, approved by the House on a 45-15 vote, would designate every Nov. 7 as Victims of Communism Memorial Day. He told colleagues that this mirrors similar measures being pushed in other states. ‘It’s nothing more than recognizing the people that died under communism in various countries,’ he said.’ Under Stalin we had millions of people that were starved to death,’ Thorpe said, referring to the leader of the now-defunct Soviet Union.’ In Venezuela, there are people that had food shortages and just real oppression of the people.’ Anyway, he said, it would not be a paid legal holiday.” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/18/20]

2018: Thorpe had a private Twitter account with unknown contents for commenting on national political issues. “Thorpe has a private account on Twitter, though he notes in his biography on the site that he’s a legislator. He denied records requests from the Arizona Capitol Times asking him to turn

over any tweets about public business, saying his account is private. Thorpe said his Twitter account isn't an official legislative account and is instead personal. He also said he hasn't used it much in the past year and claimed he doesn't block constituents, but rather people from outside Arizona who attacked him. 'Over a year ago, I started getting a lot of people, because of one of my bills, a lot of people were very nasty and abusive, so at that time, I went ahead and closed it, and I pretty much haven't used it since,' he said. He said he mostly used the account to comment on national issues, not any state-specific topics. (The Arizona Capitol Times could not verify whether he has tweeted recently or whether his tweets relate to state business because he blocks most of the newspaper's staff.)" [Arizona Capitol Times, 3/16/18]

2017: Thorpe sponsored legislation to allow Arizona to ignore Supreme Court decisions it disagrees with. "The Arizona Legislature could ignore U.S. Supreme Court decisions it doesn't like under a bill approved by the Arizona House of Representative today. And some Democrats, who had previously argued the bill was clearly unconstitutional, were OK with that idea now that they're living under President Trump. Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff sponsored HB2097, which would prohibit state and political subdivisions from using personnel or financial resources to aid the federal government in any action that constitutes an act of 'commandeering.' The bill would allow Arizona lawmakers to ignore a U.S. Supreme Court decision, among other federal actions, that the Legislature thinks is unconstitutional. Thorpe, who frequently sponsors legislation designed to stick a thumb in the eye of the federal government, described the bill as a states' rights issue. It's the second year in a row that Thorpe has sponsored the bill, and both times, the chamber's Rules Committee attorneys warned it was likely unconstitutional." [Arizona Capitol Times, 2/1/17]

2015: Thorpe was called "the new poster child for the Republican insurrection against President Obama." "Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff is the new poster child for the Republican insurrection against President Obama, at least according to a pair of recent editorials in national newspapers. Thorpe is one of the top proponents for states' rights in the Arizona Legislature, a vocal proponent for the 'Tenther' movement. The movement gets its name from the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states that the powers not specifically delegated by the Constitution are reserved to the states or the people. It originated from the Anti-Federalist wing of the Founding Fathers. Thorpe sponsored more than a half-dozen states' rights bills this year, none of which were signed into law. One would have declared state sovereignty over all bodies of water. Arguing that control of waters within Arizona are not delegated to the federal government, Thorpe sponsored a bill to prohibit state and local governments from using any resource to enforce, administer or cooperate with any changes relating to bodies of water from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or Army Corps of Engineers. Another of his bills would have demanded that the federal government hand over to the state all U.S. Bureau of Land Management land, all national forests, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, national monuments and national historic sites. If the federal government refused to give up the lands, the bill would have directed the state to sue in 2022. Gov. Doug Ducey vetoed that measure. But it was Thorpe's HB2368 that caught the ire of the newspaper editorials. The bill would prohibit the state or its political subdivisions from using 'any personnel or financial resources to enforce, administer or cooperate with an executive order issued by the president of the U.S. that has not been affirmed by a vote of Congress and signed into law as prescribed by the U.S. Constitution.' The bill would have also applied to any policy directive issued by the U.S. Department of Justice to law enforcement agencies. Although the bill died without receiving a vote from the full Senate, the measure has become a topic of discussion in the editorial pages of some of America's largest newspapers in recent weeks – not necessarily for what's in it, but for what it symbolizes. The Washington Post and, later, The New York Times blasted Thorpe's bill as an example of the growing Republican uprising against President Obama." [Arizona Capitol Times, 4/17/15]

2014: Thorpe visited the Bundy ranch during the standoff with federal agents. “Militia members and states' rights activists rallied Monday to declare victory after a weekend standoff with federal agents who had sought to seize a rancher's cattle. But along a short stretch of desert two-lane highway where hundreds of protesters and openly armed challengers caused the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to leave without the cattle they sought, no one thinks the battle is over. The agency had come to remove several hundred head of cattle that rancher Cliven Bundy and his family had put on federal land after refusing to pay grazing fees and ignoring court orders for 20 years. [...] County supervisors from Apache and Greenlee counties also came to show their support on Monday, and U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz.; state Sen. Kelli Ward, R-Lake Havasu City; Rep. Kelly Townsend, R-Apache Junction; and Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, visited the ranch over the weekend.” [Arizona Republic, 4/15/14]

- **Thorpe tried to back away from his support for Bundy after Bundy made racist comments.** “Cattelman Cliven Bundy's laments on the effects of welfare on Blacks in North Vegas were denounced last week by Arizona lawmakers who had traveled to Nevada earlier in the month to support him. Reps. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, David Livingston, R-Peoria, and Kelly Townsend, R-Mesa, traveled with Sens. Judy Burges, R-Sun City West, and Kelli Ward, R-Lake Havasu City. [...] In an opinion piece, Thorpe wrote, in part, that Bundy ‘has made statements that I simply do not agree with, especially racially insensitive statements. We need to treat all people with respect and do everything that we can to help them succeed, which is vital for America's success.’” [Arizona Republic, 4/27/14]
- **Thorpe distanced himself from the Bundy sons' armed occupation in Oregon.** “Right cause, wrong tactic. That's what two Arizona lawmakers who have supported Cliven Bundy's fight against the federal government say about the standoff Bundy's sons have provoked in Oregon over a similar land-ownership issue. [...] Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said he is still a strong backer of states' rights, but said bringing guns to a protest is not the way to make a point. ‘From day one, I didn't think they were going to accomplish a lot,’ said Thorpe. ‘They weren't going to get the federal government to step down.’ By bringing firearms to the reserve property, they inflamed an issue that, Thorpe said, is better dealt with through civil protest and legal action. He pointed to a resolution the Arizona Legislature passed last year, which Gov. Doug Ducey vetoed, that called for the federal government to start relinquishing its hold on lands within Arizona or face a legal challenge. Thorpe's hope was that a consortium of Western states would band together to challenge federal supremacy over Western lands. ‘I think we have to win it in court; that's what Hawaii did,’ he said.” [Arizona Republic, 1/28/16]

2014: Thorpe sponsored legislation calling for an Article V Constitutional Convention. “Rep. Bob Thorpe (R-Flagstaff) may have missed out on the first Constitutional Convention, but he doesn't plan on missing a second one if it ever happens. Thorpe is the sponsor of House Resolution 2017, a resolution that calls for Congress to call an Article V convention. The resolution barely passed through the House on Tuesday. The recent Article V movement nationally centers around the clause in Article V of the U.S. Constitution saying that new amendments to the Constitution can occur if two-thirds of the state legislatures call on Congress to form a constitutional convention. [...] Many conservative supporters of the convention initiative hope to limit the power of the federal government over states, but some liberals see that a constitutional convention could be useful to them as well. In such a convention, amendments (if ratified) would not require the approval of the president or the existing Congress. But opponents of the idea worry about a runaway convention could occur, where significant and impulsive changes to the Constitution, including weakening of the Bill of Rights, could occur. Thorpe said he is aware of those concerns. ‘We've always felt the first time we meet as a convention, let's keep it very focused and

limited. That way the folks that have been concerned about a runaway convention will have fewer concerns if it's a single-subject, very focused convention.” [Tucson Weekly, 2/26/14]

2013: Thorpe locked down his Twitter account after making several racist posts. “Rep. Bob Thorpe locked down his Twitter account, barred reporters from following it and erased several comments after Democrats and civil rights activists called several of his tweets racially insensitive. The tweets were in response to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder’s announcement on Monday that the Department of Justice would no longer pursue mandatory minimum prison sentences for many low-level, nonviolent drug offenders. Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, suggested on Twitter that Holder, who is black, was changing DOJ’s sentencing policies in order to give preferential treatment to black inmates. ‘Why is Holder now Soft on Crime? Perhaps: blacks = 12%-13% US population, but make up 40.1% (2.1 million) of male inmates in jail or prison!’ Thorpe wrote on his Twitter account, @azrepbobthorpe. Thorpe on Wednesday deleted that tweet, along with another in which he defended a Missouri rodeo clown who wore an Obama mask during a recent rodeo. ‘Missouri Fair apologizes, bans crowd-pleasing rodeo clown wearing Obama Mask,’ Thorpe wrote. In another tweet from Aug. 8, Thorpe wrote, ‘Florida school bus, three 15 yr old blacks beat 13 yr old white boy, where’s the liberal press, the racial outcry now?’ Several people re-tweeted Thorpe’s comments before he erased them and locked down his account. After several Democratic politicians opened fire on Thorpe, the first-term lawmaker changed his Twitter account to private and blocked several people from following him, including reporters at the Arizona Capitol Times. His number of followers dropped from 127 to 110. Before he changed his account’s privacy settings, Thorpe’s account listed 227 tweets sent, but now lists only 218.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 8/14/23]

- **Thorpe apologized for his “poorly worded” tweets.** “A day after sparking accusations of racism, a state lawmaker on Thursday issued an apology to anyone he might have offended with tweets about Attorney General Eric Holder and President Barack Obama. It’s the latest apology to come from freshman state Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, who has a track record of writing controversial e-mails and tweets that he later retracts, saying his electronic missives are misconstrued. [...] In a statement, Thorpe said his tweets were ‘poorly worded and did not reflect what I genuinely wanted to communicate about recent national news stories.’” [Arizona Republic, 8/16/13]

ABORTION

2014: Thorpe supported legislation allowing state officials to make unannounced inspections of abortion clinics. “Ignoring a virtually certain lawsuit, the state House voted Thursday to let health officials conduct unannounced inspections at abortion clinics. [...] Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, sought to turn the issue around. Thorpe said he has heard for years by those who support legal abortion that restrictions amount to a ‘war on women’ by the Legislature. ‘It seems like there’s a war on women here,’ he said. ‘What we’re talking about is having a clean, safe environment for this particular clinic.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/28/14]

CRIME & SAFETY

2019: Thorpe sponsored legislation to allow police officers to pull over people not wearing seatbelts as a primary offense. “If Rep. Bob Thorpe gets his way police will no longer need an excuse to pull over a motorist who isn’t buckled up. Existing Arizona law already requires the front-seat occupants of any vehicle to use any seat belts or lap belts installed with the vehicle. But the only way that state lawmakers agreed to such a mandate decades ago was by spelling out that police officers may cite violators only if they actually have stopped the vehicle for some other reason. Thorpe, a Flagstaff

Republican, said he has been approached by officers of the Department of Public Safety who want to be more proactive - and not for punitive motives. 'They're not concerned about fines,' he told members of the House Committee on Public Safety on Wednesday. "They're concerned about saving lives."

So Thorpe crafted HB 2539 to remove the requirement to find some other excuse to stop a vehicle. It's also set up so that a first offense within any 12-month period merits nothing more than a warning. And even when fines kick in, existing law limits them to no more than \$10. That remains unchanged in Thorpe's legislation. What having primary enforcement also would do, he said, is allow the state to promote the fact that it wearing seat belts really is the law. Thorpe told colleagues that more than a third of the people who die in traffic accidents in Arizona are not wearing seat belts. 'So if our officers could have more tools, a better ability just to remind people that they need to have those seat belts on we could save 300 to 400 lives here in Arizona,' he said." [Arizona Daily Star, 2/21/19]

- **The state Senate rejected Thorpe's proposal.** "Calling the measure intrusive, a state Senate panel quashed efforts to expand Arizona's seat belt laws. Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, was able to get only one member of the Committee on Health and Human Services to support HB 2460 to require all occupants to be restrained. He argued that the existing law that covers only front-seat occupants is insufficient. But the bigger objection was aimed at the possibility of police pulling someone over solely because they are not buckled up. Concerns ranged from giving police more excuses to stop motorists, to improper state intrusion on matters of personal responsibility. And Sen. Rebecca Rios, D-Phoenix, said it makes no sense to mandate seat belt use for backseat passengers when other state laws actually allow children to be in the back of the open bed of pickup trucks." [Arizona Daily Star, 3/20/19]

2015: Thorpe sponsored legislation to limit civil asset forfeiture. "It isn't often that Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff finds himself agreeing with the American Civil Liberties Union. But when it comes to cracking down on law enforcement agencies' abuse of civil asset forfeiture laws, the conservative Republican finds himself squarely in line with the ACLU's thinking. And that's a little unsettling for Thorpe. The laws allow police and prosecutors to seize property of people accused of certain crimes and use the proceeds to benefit their departments. 'It's kind of scary but they and I may be on the same page on this one,' Thorpe quipped. Thorpe said comedian John Oliver first put the issue of civil forfeiture on his radar. Last October, Oliver ripped on civil forfeiture laws in a 16-minute segment on his HBO news comedy show 'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.' The segment included stories from people who had their cash or other property seized by police for suspected involvement in a crime, although they were never actually charged or convicted of any crime. After watching the segment and reading several other news investigations on the issue, Thorpe started preparing a bill to rein in the practice for the next legislative session. [...] The bill Thorpe is planning would require property seized in connection with a crime to be returned within a reasonable period of time unless a court orders property to be held longer. If a person is found guilty of a crime and their property seized permanently, the property would then be turned over to the state, instead of local law enforcement. The assets, however, would be put into a pot to be distributed equally to all law enforcement agencies in the state. 'The reason I want to do that is not because I'm looking for a windfall for the state, but I want to take away that incentive for police to see this as a piggy bank,' he said." [Arizona Capitol Times, 8/31/15]

2015: Thorpe sponsored legislation to ban automatic speed cameras. "Ongoing legislative discomfort with photo radar has again spawned a number of bills aimed at crimping the use of such automated ticket generators. Although former Gov. Jan Brewer shut down the state's speed cameras in 2010, after a two-year run, many local governments have continued to use red light and speed cameras despite legislative efforts to block or restrict them. [...] Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, wants to the practice where citations are issued pretty much automatically -- often by an outside vendor -- after a

camera catches a motorist exceeding the speed limit or running a red light. HB 2564 would allow a ticket to be issued only if the photo enforcement system 'is manned, operated and monitored by a uniformed law enforcement officer' who works for the city, town or county. Simply having a police officer review citations before they are sent out, as some governments now do, wouldn't qualify. Thorpe said it's only right that someone with expertise and discretion decides whether to cite a motorist, just as if there were a live officer at the scene." [Arizona Daily Star, 2/4/15]

2014: Thorpe opposed marijuana legalization. "Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff said he has deep concerns about what he's hearing about Colorado's legalization experiment, especially in areas of health, abuse by children, and the effect on surrounding states. And politically, he said he just doesn't think it's feasible. 'I think being a Republican and sponsoring a bill that legalizes marijuana might be a third rail. Something that you really don't want to touch as a Republican because you'll get cooked, especially by the base,' he said." [Arizona Capitol Times, 10/13/14]

- **2018: Thorpe: "I'm not a fan of medical marijuana."** "Arizona's more than 162,000 medical marijuana users are not going to get any state protection from being sold drugs that are tainted with pesticides or mold, at least not for the time being. SB 1420, which would have required the Department of Agriculture to set up a testing scheme, fell short of the necessary votes Thursday for approval. It is not expected to resurface this session. That, said Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, is disappointing. 'I'm not a fan of medical marijuana,' he said. 'However, I am a fan of making sure if somebody's going to buy a product that the product itself is safe to use, that it's not going to harm their health.'" [Arizona Daily Star, 5/5/18]

EDUCATION

2017: Thorpe sponsored legislation to restrict "ethnic studies" courses and extracurricular activities at schools and colleges. "Saying students are being taught hatred at public expenses, a Flagstaff Republican lawmaker is proposing new limits on what and how schools, colleges and universities can teach. Rep. Bob Thorpe said a 2010 law which targeted 'ethnic studies' courses at some public schools does not go far enough with its prohibition at teaching anything that promotes resentment toward another race. He wants to expand that list to include gender, religion, political affiliation and social class. And Thorpe wants a ban on not just classes but any events or activities that 'negatively target specific nationalities or countries.' 'But it does not stop there. HB 2120 would extend the new restrictions to community colleges and universities, not just in terms of what's taught in the classroom but also any event or activity. And it gives the attorney general the unilateral power to withhold up to 10 percent of state aid if he or she determines a college or university is in violation. Thorpe said Thursday his bill is aimed specifically at things like a 'privilege walk' exercise sponsored by the University of Arizona and a course entitled 'Whiteness and Race Theory' at Arizona State University." [Arizona Daily Star, 1/12/17]

- **Thorpe's bill failed after receiving negative national publicity.** "A Flagstaff lawmaker's bid to financially punish colleges and universities that teach ethnic and 'social justice' courses is apparently going nowhere, at least not this year. Rep. Paul Boyer, R-Phoenix, who chairs the House Education Committee, will not hear the measure proposed by Rep. Bob Thorpe, which was assigned to his committee. Thorpe said Wednesday he is not dissuaded by the setback -- or even the negative national publicity -- saying he believes he accomplished something by starting a conversation on the issue. 'I think I've almost started a nationwide, if not international, debate on social justice and of the things that are being taught,' he said. 'If we're talking about higher education, isn't it good?' 'Whether they're talking about it positively or negatively, that's fine if it ends up on The Daily

Show,' he added. [...] Thorpe's legislation got national attention. Quoting elements of the bill from the original Capitol Media Services story, activist Shaun King wrote a column for the New York Daily News calling the measure 'completely and utterly disgusting.'" [Arizona Daily Star, 1/19/17]

2013: Thorpe voted to end the requirement that high school students pass the state AIMS test. "A bill to scrap the requirement that high school students pass the AIMS test is heading to the governor's desk after being approved by the House on Tuesday during a heated debate. The bill, HB2425, is a bare-bones version of earlier attempts to transition the state away from the AIMS (Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards) test and toward a new test which would measure students' knowledge of the criteria outlined in Common Core educational standards. [...] Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff said he doesn't fully understand everything about Common Core, but he knows enough to see that AIMS is outdated and isn't working. 'One thing that I'm really lacking, and I think that many of you (lawmakers) are really lacking, is an in-depth understanding of Common Core. Whether you vote for this bill or not, I would like to challenge each and every one of you... to understand this thing inside and out,' he said, noting that his yes vote on the bill at hand wasn't necessarily a referendum on Common Core." [Arizona Capitol Times, 3/26/13]

2013: Thorpe sponsored a bill making a "constitutional oath" a requirement for high school graduation. "A freshman Republican lawmaker who sponsored a bill making a 'constitutional oath' a requirement for high school graduation said he'll amend the legislation so that the oath is no longer mandatory. Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said his bill was a well-intentioned attempt to get teenagers interested in the U.S. Constitution. But he said that, as he talked to lawmakers and others, including people who have served in the military, he had second thoughts and now believes that making the oath compulsory would be a bad idea. [...] As it is currently written, HB2467 states that a teacher must verify in writing that a student has recited the oath before he or she is allowed to graduate from a public high school. But Thorpe said he doesn't want students to feel 'browbeaten' into doing something they may not want to do. 'Most people felt that making it optional would probably be a better approach. I certainly don't want to create something onerous that either a student or their parents might feel is over-the-top,' he said. 'Certainly, my first approach was well-intentioned, but ... as I thought about it more and got feedback from folks, I think making it optional certainly makes more sense.' Instead, Thorpe said he'll amend the bill in committee to create an optional oath that students could take, possibly in a government class. He said his goal was to get students interested in the Constitution, to think about what means and understand why it is important. Thorpe said an optional pledge will still give students an opportunity to do that, but without the 'negative component' that a compulsory pledge would have. 'I want a student to come away with a feeling that they've done something kind of noble, something part of the American experience of what makes our nation unique,' he said. 'I have taught the Constitution and I am a student of the Constitution. And, so, I certainly would love to see students have kind of the same level of respect for the Constitution that I have.' Thorpe chalked up the original draft of HB2467 to his rush to file the bill and his newness to the job." [Arizona Capitol Times, 1/23/13]

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC LANDS

2019: Thorpe sponsored legislation to require government buildings to convert to waterless urinals. "As Arizona continues to combat drought and improve water management, one lawmaker says he has a plan to "stop flushing taxpayer money down the drain" by installing waterless urinals in government buildings. Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, has introduced a bill to require state buildings to convert their urinals to waterless urinals over the next two years. House Bill 2428 also would require public buildings in cities, towns and counties to update their urinals if they undergo a remodeling project that costs more than \$10,000, and to install them in new public buildings. The state passed a law in 2004

that told the Department of Administration to install waterless urinals in all new state buildings if it was in the state's best interest, but Thorpe said that the 2004 bill was treated more as a recommendation. He said 13 flush-able urinals still exist in the House building alone. 'National standards are that in a commercial setting these types of units can save up to roughly 40,000 gallons per year,' Thorpe said. 'It appears that the payback is approximately 18 months - as far as the cost of replacing the (flush-able) unit.'" [Arizona Republic, 2/8/19]

2015: Thorpe sponsored legislation to demand the federal government return “constitutionally nonenumerated” federal lands to Arizona. “HB 2176, heard by the House Appropriations Committee, would require the U.S. government to return all “constitutionally nonenumerated” federal lands within Arizona to the state by 2026. Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, a sponsor of the bill, defined nonenumerated lands as land the federal government holds in the state that are not specifically mentioned in the Constitution. Thorpe cited that 45 percent of Arizona is owned by the federal government — which it doesn't pay the state much for — and compared the situation to a renter dictating the terms. ‘Everything the cities and counties do is harmed because this huge amount of federal land that they're not paying anywhere close to a comparable tax when it comes to private landowners,’ Thorpe said.” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 3/2/15]

- **Republican Governor Doug Ducey vetoed Thorpe's bill.** “While the takeover of federal lands remains a priority of some Arizona lawmakers, the state's current and former governors have shown less interest, as have voters. Last year, Gov. Doug Ducey vetoed legislation by Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, that would have required the federal government to transfer certain public lands to the state by 2022. If the feds did not comply, it authorized the attorney general to sue. Thorpe's bill included holdings of the Bureau of Land Management, national forests, monuments and national historic sites. The only exemptions would have been for areas like national parks, Indian reservations and federal military reservations.” [Arizona Daily Star, 12/15/16]

2014: Thorpe: “I'm not a believer” in climate change. “It's unclear how lawmakers will proceed given their passage of HB 2442 and many members' objections to greenhouse-gas regulations. ‘I'm not a believer,’ Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said of greenhouse gasses and global warming during the hearing. ‘There are scientists who believe we probably are heading into a cooling trend and that (climate change) has to do with sun spots.’” [Arizona Republic, 6/11/14]

2014: Thorpe sponsored legislation threatening to pull Arizona out of the Endangered Species Act. “The House on Monday also approved a measure by Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff that would threaten to pull the state out of the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program and remove all Mexican Gray Wolves from state and private land, if the federal government doesn't enter into an agreement to compensate the state and private landowners for the use and devaluation of their lands as a result of the program. An earlier version of the bill would have required the state to drop out of any programs under the Endangered Species Act, and would have required all species of wildlife that were introduced under those programs and their offspring be removed from Arizona by January 1, 2015. Thorpe dramatically changed the measure with a floor amendment after the House rules attorney told him the bill was likely unconstitutional. The House approved Thorpe's bill, HB2699, on party lines.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 3/11/14]

ETHICS

2018: Thorpe sponsored legislation to triple legislative salaries. “A Flagstaff Republican is seeking to nearly double lawmakers' daily allowance and triple their salary. Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, also

wants to remove the public's say on future changes to legislators' salary. But Thorpe said constituents shouldn't take his proposals as a sign that lawmakers are just doing it for the money. Lawmakers' daily allowance rate hasn't been adjusted in nearly 30 years, and they also have not seen a pay raise in 20 years, he noted. That, he argued, has made it difficult for lawmakers who aren't retired, self-employed or independently wealthy to make ends meet. Thorpe's bill, HB2275, would tie the Legislature's per diem rate to the federal rate. In addition to their salary, lawmakers who live in Maricopa County receive a daily allowance of \$35, while lawmakers who reside in other counties get \$60. The current per diem rates, Thorpe said, aren't enough to cover a reasonable room and meals at a hotel. Under his proposal, which is co-sponsored by several Republican representatives, his colleagues from Maricopa County would get 25 percent of the federal per diem rate for Arizona, and those who live elsewhere would receive 75 percent of the federal rate. [...] Thorpe also introduced HCR2016, which seeks to amend the Arizona Constitution to increase legislative pay beginning in 2020 to equal the annual salary of a supervisor from a county with a population of 500,000 or more. That would more than triple lawmakers' salary from \$24,000 to \$76,000 a year." [Arizona Capitol Times, 1/22/18]

2018: Thorpe sponsored legislation to significantly weaken public records laws. "A veteran state lawmaker is seeking what one lawyer calls a large and "blatant" exemption to the state's public records law. The proposal by Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, would spell out that any records stored on the personal cell phone, computer or social media account of a public official or employee are not required to be disclosed. HB 2256 is worded so that exemption would apply even if the public official were actually conducting official business on the personal device. Thorpe's legislation comes after the state Court of Appeals ruled that public officials cannot hide public business by using their own cell phones for texts, emails and social messages. 'It just shows what everybody always thought,' attorney Dan Barr of the First Amendment Coalition told Capitol Media Services. 'We all knew how public officials use texting to try to circumvent the public records law.' Barr said that should have come to a halt following the appellate court ruling. Instead, he said, Thorpe wants to not only overturn that decision but enshrine into statute a method of keeping what public officials are doing out of public view. Thorpe, in a prepared statement, said there are 'conflicting and confusing court rulings' on the subject. But the three-term representative made it clear he does not think anything on a personal device should be subject to disclosure. 'I'd have no objection to the state providing legislators with mobile devices to conduct state business on,' Thorpe said. 'However, if I'm paying the monthly phone bill on my personal device, I think those records ought to belong to me.'" [Arizona Daily Star, 1/12/18]

GUNS & SECOND AMENDMENT

2018: Thorpe sponsored legislation to prevent Arizonans from being forced to sell their guns in bankruptcy. "Apparently, it's one thing to live within your means but cruel and unusual punishment to be ordered to live without an entire arsenal at your disposal. Good news for Arizonans contemplating bankruptcy. You may lose your buying power, but you won't lose your firepower. The Arizona Legislature has passed a bill decreeing that you can't be forced to sell your beloved guns in order to pay your bills. Currently, a person filing for protection from his or her creditors can keep only one gun. The rest must be sold to pay off at least a portion of what you owe. House Bill 2211 would allow a bankrupt person to keep \$2,000 worth of guns - \$4,000 for a couple. [...] The bill is the brainchild of the Arizona Citizens Defense League, which actually wanted no limit on the number of guns you could keep despite being bankrupt. It is sponsored by none other than Sen. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff. Or, as I like to call him, the Thorpedo, given the impressive number of bad ideas he launches. Thorpe recently told 12News' Brahm Resnik that no bankruptcy judge should be able to pry a gun out of your cold, bankrupt hands. 'The Second Amendment,' he said, 'is the only amendment that says the government shall not infringe upon the ownership of firearms.'" [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, 4/16/18]

2015: Thorpe sponsored legislation to block Arizona legislators or voters from mandating background checks for the private sale of guns. “State lawmakers are moving to deny future legislatures — and even future voters — the power to mandate background checks on the private sale of guns. The measure pushed by Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, would require Arizona to enter into compacts with other states that agree not to enact any law, regulation or policy on the transfer of firearms that is more restrictive than federal law. HB 2431, given preliminary House approval Monday, also would prohibit enactment or enforcement of any law, rule or policy that would impose a fee, tax, penalty or regulation on firearm transfer. [...] Thorpe defended the legislation, saying it will protect the rights of gun owners against the day when a future Legislature — or voters — might want things like background checks or other limits on what people can do with their weapons. ‘We don’t want to see legislation developed in the states that exceeds federal legislation,’ he said. Entering into a compact, Thorpe said, would have states united in a commitment against new restrictions.” [Arizona Daily Star, 3/9/15]

- **Thorpe conceded that his legislation was a way of denying Arizonans the right to pass their own gun laws.** “In 2014 voters in Washington approved Proposition 594 which would expand background checks to include gun shows and private firearms sales. Of the approximate \$11 million spent on that effort, at least \$3.5 million came through Everytown for Gun Safety, set up by Bloomberg. A similar measure, backed by the same group, is already set for the November ballot in Nevada. Bloomberg has pledged to spend \$50 million on similar measures elsewhere. Thorpe conceded his legislation could be seen as a method of denying voters in Arizona the same right. ‘I get that,’ he said. ‘And I don't know if I have a perfect answer for you.’ But Thorpe said he sees overriding the right of initiatives as protecting a greater good. ‘You look at what Bloomberg is trying to do,’ he said. ‘He's trying to reduce constitutional rights,’ Thorpe continued. ‘My bill ... is trying to uphold people's constitutional rights.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 5/9/16]
- **Republican governor Doug Ducey vetoed Thorpe’s bill.** “Gov. Doug Ducey refused Tuesday to force Arizona to join with other states to restrict what kind of gun laws each can adopt. [...] In a veto message on HB 2524, Ducey said he is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment right to bear arms. But he said what was in the proposal by Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, essentially would surrender Arizona's right to decide what laws it does and does not want about things like requiring background checks when a weapon is purchased. ‘I believe it's important that Arizona continue to chart its own course and retain its sovereignty,’ he wrote in a veto message. Thorpe's legislation would have required Arizona to enter into compacts with one or more states, with each agreeing not to enact new laws on the transfer of firearms. That would have tied the hands not only of future legislatures but also preempted the constitutional right of Arizona voters to propose their own gun laws.” [Arizona Daily Star, 5/10/16]

2013: Thorpe arranged a lunchtime event for his colleagues in the state legislature to shop for bulletproof vests. “The Legislature may not be doing anything this session to curb guns, but lawmakers apparently are interested in protecting themselves against harm. Last month, it was a tour of the Ruger gun factory. This month, it's time to shop for bulletproof vests. Freshman Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, sent an e-mail to his legislative colleagues inviting them to a lunch-hour presentation to take a look at bulletproof vests, try them on and maybe even buy one. ‘The vests are rated for a five-year life, but it is my opinion that legislators could wear them much longer because the five-year life assumes almost daily law-enforcement use,’ he wrote in an e-mail that quickly found its way into media inboxes. But a day later, he canceled the planned Wednesday event, directing interested buyers to see the vendor

themselves. Thorpe, who does not own a vest and doubts he could afford the \$600-\$800 price tag, said he has no worries about safety at the Capitol. His invite was a well-meaning gesture to give elected officials a chance to add to their wardrobes and heighten their sense of security if they are out at a town hall or a parade, he said.” [Arizona Republic, 4/7/13]

- **Thorpe cancelled the bulletproof vest event after a lawyer advised him that it was improper.** “A state lawmaker, who canceled his invitation to a bulletproof-vest retailer to demonstrate the product at the Capitol after a legislative lawyer advised him the pitch was improper, admits he made a "rookie mistake." Freshman Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, said he instead plans to provide contact information for the retailer to fellow legislators. ‘In the future, before I set something like this up, I'll certainly go out and I'll talk to some folks that have been around longer than me and just make sure that I'm not doing something that might look like it was inappropriate,’ he said. Thorpe said he wanted to provide Democratic and Republican members safety options in light of the shooting of then-U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords near Tucson in 2011 and the recent fatal shooting of a Texas prosecutor and his wife.” [Arizona Republic, 4/9/13]
- **Thorpe blamed Rueben Gallego for “leaking” his email to the press.** “You've heard of Tupperware parties? Thorpe invited the Arizona Legislature to a body-armor party. Today, a salesman from Arizona Tactical was supposed to be on hand in the House basement to offer discounts and take orders on the latest in tactical fashion. Alas, legislative lawyers put the kibosh on Thorpe's sale-a-thon. It seems you're not supposed to use the state Capitol to sell bulletproof vests. Or anything else. Now, Thorpe is apparently steamed that his ‘internal’ e-mail invite - the one sent out on his public e-mail account - wound up in the hands of the media. ‘I'd love to know who leaked my email to the press, because I want to present them with a 'Members Only' jacket, as a reminder that some things, like my internal e-mail invitation, are intended for members only,’ Thorpe, a Flagstaff Republican, wrote in an e-mail on Tuesday. Like his first e-mail, this one made it to my inbox within 15 minutes of his sending it. [...] In his Tuesday e-mail, Thorpe takes a shot at Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego - whom he suspects of ‘leaking’ his e-mail - and notes that he arranged the body-armor sales after a Democratic legislator told him she'd requested a police presence at a recent town-hall meeting.” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, 4/10/13]

2013: Thorpe: “I support people owning guns and doing that lawfully, but we've got some wackos out there.” Thorpe said he's not suggesting that lawmakers come to work armed, as some have done in recent years. He just said he believed fellow legislators might feel safer in some situations with body armor. ‘I support people owning guns and doing that lawfully, but we've got some wackos out there,’ he said.” [Arizona Republic, 4/9/13]

HEALTH CARE

2015: Thorpe sponsored legislation to allow restaurants to bar service animals in violation of the ADA. “Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff wants to ensure that the fluffy dog sitting next to you in a restaurant is really a service animal, and not just someone’s pet. And if, in the process, he thumbs his nose at the federal government and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Thorpe is OK with that. His strike-everything amendment to HB2179, which he will hear in his House Government and Higher Education Committee today, would allow restaurants to kick out service animals to comply with state and local health codes. The bill also would establish a system for the state to regulate and register service animals, and require them to wear vests that display a permit issued by the Department of Health

Services. People who put a fake vest on their pet and pretend the animal has service animal training would be subject to a fine of \$100. The bill also states that the Arizona Department of Health Services must petition the United States Department of Justice to update the rules relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act to comply with the new Arizona law. Thorpe readily acknowledges that some of the portions of his law would 'push past the limits of the ADA and federal law.' But he said that, as a states' rights advocate, he doesn't mind pushing the limits of federal law. He said the bill isn't meant to make life harder for people with disabilities, but to crack down on bad actors exploiting the federal law and breaking local health codes. 'In no way is this bill trying to harm disabled people. That's not my intention at all. My intention is to carve out the bad actors – the people who do not have a legitimate need for a service animal, but just want to bring Fifi into the restaurant with them,' he said." [Arizona Capitol Times, 2/19/15]

- **After a wave of criticism from disabled people Thorpe voted against his own bill.** "Facing a wave of criticism and legal questions, a Flagstaff Republican lawmaker gave up Thursday -- at least for now -- on his proposal to let restaurant owners keep out service animals and the people who need them. Following extensive opposition testimony, Rep. Bob Thorpe even agreed to vote against his own legislation. Thorpe said there is a problem with people who fake a disability to be able to take family pets places anywhere they go. His solution was to have state health officials issue permits, complete with photos of owners and their service animals." [Arizona Daily Star, 2/20/15]

2013: Thorpe opposed Medicaid expansion in Arizona. "A small group of conservative doctors gathered at the Capitol in opposition to Gov. Jan Brewer's Medicaid expansion proposal, arguing that it will damage health care in Arizona and cause a host of problems at the federal level. [...] The press conference was extremely small, populated mostly by a handful of doctors and reporters, as well as one lawmaker, Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff. It stood in stark contrast to recent pro-expansion events held at the Capitol by Brewer, which featured scores of health care professionals standing with the governor and hundreds of supporters in the crowd." [Arizona Capitol Times, 4/2/13]

- **Thorpe tried to pressure his fellow Republicans to oppose Medicaid expansion.** "Brophy McGee announced on the House floor today that she started receiving an increase in email and phone calls in the past two days, following an email sent out by Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff that named her and five other Republicans who he suspects will vote for Medicaid expansion. She said she doesn't know if Thorpe's email and the voicemail, which came from a California area code, are related, but even if they aren't she said it isn't fair for him to single her out. If Thorpe wants to get the grassroots ramped up over this already contentious issue, he should do it in a responsible, professional way, she said. 'He sent out an apology, but it was too little too late. It was a dumb move,' she said. Thorpe sent an email Wednesday afternoon that asked readers to forward the email to everyone they know and put pressure on the six Republican representatives he suspects will vote for Medicaid expansion. 'Please contact Governor Brewer and all of the House Republicans and leadership, but especially put the pressure on House Representatives: (Frank) Pratt, (TJ) Shope, (Heather) Carter, Brophy McGee, (Doug) Coleman and (Ethan) Orr,' he wrote. 'Call their offices and send emails voicing your polite but steadfast opposition to big government expansion and spending and the expensive Obamacare Medicaid expansion. ' House Speaker Andy Tobin chided Thorpe about the email, and Thorpe sent out an apology on Wednesday night.'" [Arizona Capitol Times, 5/23/13]

IMMIGRATION

2018: Thorpe met with and took photos with anti-immigration protestors who were harassing dark-skinned employees at the state capitol. “Supporters of President Donald Trump singled out dark-skinned lawmakers, legislative staffers and children at the Capitol on Jan. 25 as they protested congressional efforts to pass immigration reform, according to staffers of the Arizona Legislature and two Democratic legislators. Waving large flags in support of Trump while standing between the House and Senate buildings, the protesters, who were also armed, asked just about anyone who crossed their path if they support illegal immigration. They called some illegal and told them to go home, barbs they reserved for those with brown skin, according to the staffers. [...] In a video uploaded to YouTube, Republican Reps. Jay Lawrence, of Scottsdale, and Bob Thorpe, of Flagstaff, are seen speaking and taking photos with protesters.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 1/26/18]

2017: Thorpe sponsored legislation to strip funding from universities that offer in-state tuition to DACA recipients. “Taking aim largely at state universities, state Rep. Bob Thorpe is proposing to withhold state aid because they offer lower in-state tuition to ‘Dreamers.’ The proposal by the Flagstaff Republican empowers the attorney general to determine, on his or her own, that an educational institution that receives state funds “is in violation of state law or the constitution of Arizona.” If the school doesn't back down in 60 days, it loses 10 percent of its state funding. HB 2119 does not specifically mention tuition. But Thorpe told Capitol Media Services he crafted the measure following decisions by community colleges in several counties, including Maricopa and Pima, to conclude that those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program are entitled to pay in-state tuition if they meet other residency requirements.” [Arizona Daily Star, 1/13/17]

2016: Thorpe sponsored legislation to block the resettlement of refugees in Arizona. “Seven Republican lawmakers are trying to erect new roadblocks to the federal government resettling Middle East refugees in Arizona. Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, the prime sponsor of HB 2370, said his aim is to block plans by the Obama administration to locate in Arizona any of the 10,000 Syrians that will be brought into the country this year. Thorpe said he has no confidence that the federal government is properly screening refugees, a point he said was proven by the San Bernadino terrorist who, with her husband, killed 14 people in December. ‘Right now, people are being placed here without even the state’s knowledge,’ he said. Thorpe said Arizona needs information from the feds about not just who is here but how they were screened. ‘They need to show us they have fully vetted this people,’ Thorpe said. The issue, he said, goes to the question of state sovereignty. ‘I assume the federal government has the jurisdiction to have a refugee program,’ he said. ‘I don’t necessarily agree they have the right to force a state to take those refugees.’ Whether the state can do that, however, is another matter. ‘I don’t believe that’s ever been challenged in court,’ Thorpe said. ‘It’s my hope that if my bill gets passed that might open up the opportunity for our attorney general to then challenge the federal government and really determine where states’ rights begin and end.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 2/9/16]

LABOR

2019: Thorpe supported legislation to lower wages for college students. “Two years after voters approved a bill to raise the statewide minimum wage, the fight continues over just how high the minimum wage should be in Arizona. Travis Grantham, who represents Arizona's District 12 in the State House of Representatives, has introduced a bill that would in effect lower the minimum wage for college students across the state. Aimed at encouraging youth employment, House Bill 2523 would allow employers to pay the federal minimum wage to employees who are between the ages of 18 and 22, are working only part-time or on a ‘casual basis,’ and are enrolled full-time in classes. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. [...] Galli said the chamber is supportive of efforts to get the bill passed this session and hopes Legislative District 6 Representative Bob Thorpe may co-sponsor the bill. For his

part, Thorpe said he is supportive of the legislation as a way to ‘help provide more employment opportunities for our full-time university and college students.’ ‘I have listened to interviews of NAU students describing how difficult it is to find employment within Flagstaff due to its raising minimum wages,’ Thorpe said. ‘Our students need a means for both paying for their education and gaining practical real world experience from having employment opportunities.’” [Arizona Daily Sun, 1/30/19]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

As of September 12, 2024, Thorpe has not filed to file a statement of organization or any campaign finance reports. [Coconino County Elections Department, [accessed 9/12/24](#)]