

## Legislative Recap from Senator Rosanna Gabaldón

The Second Regular session of the 55th Legislature adjourned sine die on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at 12:25 am. The 2022 session tied for the fifth lengthiest session in Arizona's history. As is usually the case, sine die was preceded by a rapid floor activity and movement on critical legislative items. Those key items included the passage of a state budget, bipartisan agreement on historic water legislation, and a universal expansion of school vouchers.

With approximately 22 current lawmakers choosing not to return next year, some took the opportunity to reflect on their time at the Legislature and expressed gratitude to their constituents for letting them serve and their peers for working with them.

After months of deadlock on a budget agreement, Republican and Democratic lawmakers struck a deal late Wednesday night, paving the way for a rarely seen bipartisan budget. The agreement included increased funding for K-12 education, specifically \$526 million in permanent base level funding, \$100 million for special education, and phased in funding for low-income students starting at \$50 million and gradually increasing to \$100 million over the next three years.

The \$15.8 billion spending plan is effective on July 1, 2022. The Budget is comprised of 17 separate budget bills and includes funding for significant investments, including:

- \$1 billion for water over three years (\$334 million in the first installment);
- \$1 billion for infrastructure;
- \$425 million to the state's rainy-day fund;
- \$60 million for the Housing Trust Fund;
- \$1 billion for K-12 education;
- \$1.25 billion to pay down state debt and pension obligations.

For the full details on this year's budget, see JLBC's analysis linked here.

<https://www.azjlb.gov/budget/h-splanasengrossed062322.pdf>