

As of Thursday, the Fourth Special Session was floundering. Senate President Bob Burns said it was all Thayer Vershooor's fault. Vershooor says he told Burns that he would not vote for SB 1001 before the Session started. Senator Leff was out of town, and she was needed to bring the vote to 16.

Senator Chuck Gray voted Nay, and the bill will be brought back up Monday, November 23. Leff will be there by then. New problem: Senator Carolyn Allen (from Scottsdale not Snowflake) went to the Senate floor last week via wheelchair, and the speculation is she will not be able to return.

Republican strategy: Try once again to induce a Democrat to cross over and vote with the majority. There is apparently no hope in moving Gould or Gorman to vote with the caucus.

The vote on the bill was:

SB 1001 (general appropriations; 2009-2010)

Paula Aboud N	Amanda Aguirre N	Carolyn S. Allen Y
Sylvia Allen Y	Manuel V. "Manny" Alvarez N	Meg Burton Cahill N
Ken Chevront N	Jorge Luis Garcia N	Pamela Gorman Y
Ron Gould N	Chuck Gray N	Linda Gray Y
Albert Hale NV	Jack W. Harper Y	John Huppenthal Y
Leah Landrum Taylor N	Barbara Leff NV	Linda Lopez N
Debbie McCune Davis N	Al Melvin Y	Richard Miranda N
John Nelson Y	Jonathan Paton Y	Russell Pearce Y
Steve Pierce Y	Rebecca Rios N	Jay Tibshraeny Y
Thayer Verschoor NV	Jim Waring Y	Robert "Bob" Burns Y

The Governor who was at a GOP Governor's convention during the Special Session, returned and issued a press release. It said, in part, "Unfortunately, every single Democrat and a couple of Republican extremists have, once again, thwarted this effort to slow government spending. It is time to put self-interests and personal agendas aside and do what is in the best interest of the state."

The Senate did not vote on SB1002 ( K-12; budget reconciliation). It may be used to sweeten the pot to attract Democrats.

On SB 1003 (general revenues; 2009-2010) there were ten Democratic members voting in favor of the bill. Nine Democrats voted for SB 1004 (antideficiency statutes; property; amendments). I guess they were just not cooperating.

We just need someone to blame for not doing the ground work before the Session started.

## **Politics**

A new Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of likely 2010 Republican Primary voters in Arizona finds the longtime incumbent in a virtual tie with potential challenger, J.D. Hayworth. McCain earns 45% of the vote, while Hayworth picks up 43%.

Down Tucson way some Republicans are looking to Jonathon Paton as the only viable candidate against incumbent Democrat Gabrielle Giffords.

And, Tempe Republican Councilman Ben Arredondo has moved to the Democratic party in hopes of winning a seat in the State House of Representatives. He sees an opportunity in Senator Meg Burton Cahill's decision not to seek re-election. Her replacement will probably be one of the Democratic members from the House, and that leaves a vacancy.

Mr. Arredondo has served 16 years as a councilman. He has been an important Republican Hispanic leader.