



A PROTECTED ARIZONA

**SAFEGUARDING ARIZONA CONSUMERS
FROM PRICE GOUGING AND FRAUD**

From the Desk of Katie Hobbs

Dear Arizonans,

I believe that our state should be the best place to live, work, and raise a family. But right now, too many families are seeing the costs of everything – from gas, groceries, and lifesaving prescription drugs – go up. On top of that, inflation has risen to its [highest](#) level in 40 years, with Arizona being [hit the hardest](#).

Arizonans are hurting, and our leaders are not taking action to help reduce costs. Republicans, who control the governorship as well as the legislature, have fallen down on the job when Arizonans need them to work to reduce the price of everyday essentials and combat the rising costs of everyday necessities for families.

That's why, earlier this year, I released my [Affordable Arizona](#) plan to put more money back in the pockets of working families without raising taxes, which will go right back into our economy and create growth. That's the kind of relief Arizonans should expect from their leaders.

But we also know that's only one part of the solution. In order to fully tackle rising costs, we must also meaningfully take on price gouging. That's why I'm unveiling a three-pronged roadmap to lower costs, protect consumers, and improve the health and well-being of all Arizonans. As governor, I will:

- ***Implement the first law in Arizona's history that addresses price gouging***
- ***Ensure that the costs of prescriptions drugs are affordable for Arizonans***
- ***Go after anyone who tries to perpetrate fraud on Arizona consumers***

Simply put, we need to do more to help working families make ends meet. Arizonans deserve a governor who will not only fix the problem that's in front of them, but will address the systemic issues that will prevent these problems from arising in the future.

That's why I'm in this race, and that's why I'm releasing this plan today.

– Secretary Katie Hobbs

LOWERING COSTS BY HOLDING PRICE GOUGERS ACCOUNTABLE

Arizona is among a [few states](#) that still do not have a specific law on the books to combat and tackle price gouging. At the beginning of the covid pandemic, basic necessities like toilet paper and medical equipment were being sold for prices [far beyond](#) their marked sale prices on empty grocery store shelves. And when the Attorney General was called upon to prosecute price gouging, [he refused to do so, citing a lack of support in the law](#).

This problem didn't start with the pandemic, it continues today, and unless we act will continue into the future. Arizona was [among one of the states](#) hardest hit by the baby formula shortage, which [exceeded 50% out of stock rates](#), and the [shortage continues unabated](#). And with reports of price gouging from [across](#) the [country](#), Arizona has been unprepared to combat exorbitant prices by unscrupulous retailers. Adding to the pinch that Arizona families are already feeling, gas prices recently hit [record highs](#) in June and [high prices may be on the horizon again](#), even as [the top 5 oil companies](#) reported raking in \$35 billion in record profits.

Every day, Arizonans are waking up wondering if they will be able to afford basic necessities. Our leaders need to take action to make sure that bad-faith actors don't take advantage of hardworking families in these tough times.

That's why Katie will:

- **Fight to pass Arizona's first law directly holding price gougers accountable.**

MAKING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE

The evidence is clear: Arizonans are feeling the burden of exorbitantly high drug prices. Nearly 1 in 3 Arizonans, and 1 in 2 Hispanics, have [skipped filling a prescription](#). And [1 in 4 Americans](#) report that it is "difficult" to afford the cost of their prescription medicine.

Access to affordable prescription drugs is essential for the health and wellbeing of everyone in our state. But as long as [drug prices](#) continue to rise [faster than inflation](#) – without clear explanations and as the [drug industry reports blockbuster profits](#) – Arizonans will bear the brunt of unfair drug price increases that make life saving drugs less accessible. Arizonans deserve transparency and fairness in drug pricing. Additionally, by ensuring access to affordable generic and off-patent drugs, common medicines that improve people's livelihoods will be more accessible to Arizonans.

That's why Katie will:

- **Champion legislation to end the price gouging of essential prescription drugs and to prohibit drug makers from raising prices to exorbitant levels.**
- **Start state-level Medicaid drug price negotiations.**
- **Import cheaper prescription drugs from countries with high safety standards.**

PROTECTING ARIZONA CONSUMERS FROM FRAUD AND SCAMS

Arizonans deserve more from the elected officials designated to protect them from fraud and scams. Recent reports regarding Attorney General Mark Brnovich's [inappropriate diversion of taxpayer funds](#) for his political fights, rather than using these funds for their dedicated purpose of consumer fraud investigations, are disturbing and remain unanswered. Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that Arizona is [near the top](#) in the nation for elder fraud victims per capita. And, the number of victims is trending upwards. The few protections that Arizonans currently have against consumer scams and rip-offs need to be top of mind for all elected officials across the state and adequately enforced.

That's why Katie will:

- **Work with the legislature to ensure taxpayer funds are properly used by the Attorney General to protect consumers from fraud.**
- **Boost funding to ensure vigorous prosecution of anyone who perpetrates fraud against Arizonans.**