



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative David Livingston (R-28)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Friday, February 14, 2025
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House Appropriations Chairman Livingston Thanks Treasurer Yee for Her Leadership, Calls Out Governor Hobbs' Fiscal Mismanagement

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Appropriations Chairman David Livingston today issued a statement thanking Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee for her [informative letter](#) addressing Governor Katie Hobbs' reckless budget mismanagement. Chairman Livingston highlighted Treasurer Yee's steadfast commitment to transparency and accountability as the state grapples with a \$350 million budget shortfall, driven by the Hobbs administration's irresponsible and careless overspending.

"I appreciate Treasurer Yee's clarity in addressing the financial mess Governor Hobbs has created. The issue isn't 'missing money'—it's blatant mismanagement," Chairman Livingston said. **"Under the Governor's feckless leadership, state agencies are making massive spending decisions with zero legislative oversight, ballooning costs, and expecting taxpayers to foot the bill. This kind of incompetence cannot stand."**

Chairman Livingston previously raised alarm over the state's Developmental Disabilities Program, which is facing insolvency this spring due to decisions made unilaterally by Hobbs' administration—without consulting the Legislature, or even the agencies directly managing the program. Despite a rapidly growing funding shortfall, the Governor's latest budget proposal seeks an additional \$328 million for these programs, doubling costs in just four years.

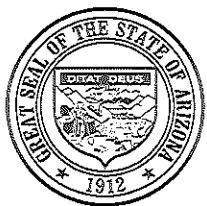
"This Governor is running Arizona's budget into the ground," Livingston continued. **"She's refusing to control spending, and instead of making responsible choices, she's leaving families on the hook for her failures. The Republican Majority Legislature won't stand by while she bankrupts the state."**

Chairman Livingston pledged continued scrutiny of state agency budgets and reaffirmed that the Joint Legislative Budget Committee will hold the Hobbs administration accountable for its financial mismanagement.

A copy of Treasurer Yee's letter is attached.

David Livingston is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 28 in Peoria. He also serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Follow him on X at @Livingston4AZ.

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OFFICE OF THE
ARIZONA STATE TREASURER

KIMBERLY YEE
TREASURER



February 12, 2025

The Honorable David Livingston
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Rep. Livingston:

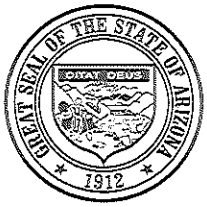
Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the ongoing budget negotiations between the Legislature and Governor's Office.

As we discussed, some members of the public have misinterpreted the current budget discussions as though there is "missing money" or that the Governor "misplaced" a substantial amount of money. Some of this misinterpretation stems from comments made in recent meetings of the House Appropriations Committee, which you serve as chairman. In response to these allegations of missing money, members of the public have called on my office to investigate the "missing" funds.

As you know, the Arizona State Treasurer's Office has no constitutional or statutory authority to investigate state agency spending. Our role is to distribute the funds under the enacted budget. However, because we take allegations of "missing money" seriously, if we ever suspected that state money was "missing," we would immediately alert the Office of the Auditor General, the Attorney General, or other law enforcement, as appropriate, to investigate.

I appreciate your recent letter to Governor Hobbs clarifying these comments and that there is no "missing money." Instead, the "missing money" comments describe what appears to be unfortunate gross financial mismanagement by the Hobbs Administration.

For example, it is concerning that one agency would request such a large supplemental appropriation to reimburse itself for expenditures that the Legislature did not approve in the last budget cycle. A simple principle that I share as I travel across the State is: "Never spend more than you make." This applies to our state budget as well. The Arizona taxpayers deserve nothing less and this principle is already engrained in the Arizona Constitution and statutory guidance from the Legislature.



OFFICE OF THE
ARIZONA STATE TREASURER



KIMBERLY YEE
TREASURER

Arizona taxpayers deserve to know what the State is doing with their hard-earned dollars. As the State's Chief Banking and Investment Officer, I appreciate your diligence in addressing the gross mismanagement of state agency funds under the Governor's leadership. I also appreciate that the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, which has jurisdiction to investigate the propriety of agency spending, has taken the appropriate actions to hold the Hobbs Administration accountable. My office will direct taxpayers to your Joint Legislative Budget Committee staff for further clarification and inquiries.

If my office can be of service or provide additional information on this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Yee".

Hon. Kimberly Yee
Treasurer of Arizona