

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
January 22, 2026
1:00 P.M., HHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videooplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2026011055>

Members Present:

Senator Mark Finchem, Chair 2025
Senator Eva Diaz
Senator Timothy "Tim" Dunn
Senator David C. Farnsworth
Senator Catherine Miranda

Representative Matt Gress, Chair 2026
Representative Michael Carbone
Representative Michele Peña
Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton

Members Excused:

Senator Warren Petersen, Ex-officio

Representative Steve Montenegro, Ex-officio
Representative Betty J. Villegas

Staff:

Anna Nguyen, Senate Research Analyst
Montse Lavender, House Research Analyst

Chairman Gress called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and attendance was noted.

The Arizona Auditor General's Office distributed a booklet entitled "Joint Legislative Audit Committee, January 22, 2026—1:00 p.m." (Attachment A).

Representative Gress and Senator Finchem offered opening comments.

Lindsey Perry, Arizona Auditor General, offered comments.

Representative Gress offered comments.

Melanie Chesney, Deputy Arizona Auditor General, offered comments.

Representative Gress offered additional comments.

PRESENTATION BY OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL REGARDING JLAC-DIRECTED ARIZONA SCHOOL SAFETY SPECIAL AUDIT – INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, DECEMBER 2025 REPORT

Scott Swagerty, Director, Division of School Audits, Arizona Auditor General's Office, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "School Safety Special Audit—Report 2, Interoperability Fund and Communication Systems" (Attachment B) and referenced the booklet entitled "Joint Legislative Audit Committee, January 22, 2026—1:00 p.m." (Attachment A). Mr. Swagerty answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Swagerty answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Mr. Swagerty continued his presentation and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Mr. Swagerty answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Finchem offered comments.

Mr. Swagerty offered comments.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Mr. Swagerty continued his presentation and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Gress offered comments.

Mr. Swagerty answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Mr. Swagerty answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Gress offered additional comments.

Responses by County Sheriffs

David Clouse, Navajo County Sheriff and Arizona Sheriffs' Association President, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Alden Whipple, Support Service Lieutenant, Navajo County Sheriff's Office, answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Sheriff Clouse answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Lieutenant Whipple answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Sheriff Clouse answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Sheriff Clouse offered additional comments.

Representative Gress offered comments and announced that the agenda item "Arizona State Board of Chiropractic Examiners Special Audit, January 2025 2026 Follow-Up of Report 24-115" and the associated presentations would be deferred to the next meeting of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Ken Foster, Lieutenant, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, offered comments.

Dr. Jacqui Clay, School Superintendent, Cochise County, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Cynthia Meyers, Outreach Manager, Cochise County School Superintendent's Office, answered questions posed by the Committee.

Dr. Clay offered additional comments.

Ms. Meyers answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Ms. Meyers answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Joseph Dedman, Sheriff, Apache County, offered comments.

Roscoe Herrera, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Apache County, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Gress offered comments.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Herrera answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Amber Price, Lead Dispatcher, Apache County, answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Swagerty answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Herrera answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Gress offered comments.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Herrera answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Ms. Price answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Herrera answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Eric Ellison, Sheriff, Greenlee County, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Sheriff Ellison answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Jason Barton, School Safety and Special Programs Manager, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Barton answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Samantha Russell, Director, Administrative Services, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Christy Awtrey-Tieman, Director, Division Administrator, Business Services Division, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, answered questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Gress offered comments.

Sarah White, representing Gila County Sheriff Adam Shepherd, offered comments.

William Ponce, Sheriff, Lapaz County, offered comments.

Ms. White answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Finchem offered comments.

Ms. White answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Sheriff Ponce offered additional comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Finchem offered comments.

Micaela Carlson, Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor, Mohave County Sheriff's Office, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Jacob Ainsworth, Undersheriff, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

George Arredondo, Pinal County Sheriff's Office, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Lieutenant Whipple answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Arredondo answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Arredondo offered additional comments and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Responses by Interoperability Vendors

No testimony took place.

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS SPECIAL AUDIT, JANUARY 2025 2026 FOLLOW-UP OF REPORT 24-115

Presentation by Office of the Auditor General

Presentation by Arizona State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

No presentations occurred pursuant to the Chairman's announcement (see page 3) that the agenda item would be deferred to the next meeting of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Representative Gress offered comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Christophersen
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)