



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Livingston (R-28)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Livingston Seeks Additional Records from Governor Hobbs After Inaugural Funds Disclosure Prompt New Concerns

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Livingston has sent a supplemental request to Governor Katie Hobbs after documents that she recently disclosed prompted new concerns and questions regarding her administration’s solicitation of inaugural funds.

The letter is attached below.

Chairman Livingston is still reviewing records produced in response to his [February 13 letters](#) to Governor Hobbs and her campaign manager, Nicole DeMont. Using state resources, Governor Hobbs solicited money for her inauguration events and directed donors to contact a member of her campaign team. Livingston has sought a complete and accurate accounting of all funds, as well as any documents and other records associated with their solicitation, for the House’s potential consideration of [SB 1299](#) and related legislation.

Governor Hobbs has refused to transfer money leftover in her “Katie Hobbs Inaugural Fund” to the State’s Protocol Fund (as past governors have done), despite requests from [Speaker Toma and President Petersen](#), and [Chairman Livingston](#). And Governor Hobbs’ recent disclosure reveals that, two weeks ago, the State Inaugural Fund lacked insufficient funds to pay outstanding invoices. As Representative Livingston states in his letter, **“it is unfortunate the Legislature must consider codifying basic principles of integrity and accountability to regulate inaugural funds”** because of Governor Hobbs’ unprecedented actions.

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 Twitter at @Livingston4AZ.

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February 22, 2023

Via email

Hon. Katie Hobbs
Governor of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St., 9th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Supplemental Request for Information Relevant to S.B. 1299 and Related Legislation

Dear Governor Hobbs,

Thank you for your disclosures in response to my February 13, 2023, letter regarding the finances of the State Inaugural Fund. Those records have not alleviated my concerns regarding your administration's solicitation of inaugural funds. Instead, they have prompted new concerns and this supplemental request for more information.

Your inaugural events were advertised to the public on a state-sponsored website, inauguration.az.gov. This website promotes your official title and displays the official state seal. One tab appearing at the top on the website lists a general heading—"Inaugural Fund"—but the website does not provide any information about the State Inaugural Fund or the Katie Hobbs Inaugural Fund. The website simply directs all interested sponsors & donors to one person, stating: "If you are interested in sponsoring or donating to the 2023 inauguration, please contact Rose Huerta at Rose@KatieHobbs.org."

The state website also advertised tickets "available for \$150 each" to attend the "Inaugural Ball" that was held on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at Talking Stick Resort. But the records you disclosed do not show that any ticket-sale proceeds were deposited in the State Inaugural Fund.

The emails produced in your initial disclosure have revealed the following:

1. Ms. Huerta communicated with state employees to facilitate transactions for donors and was responsible for "managing a lot of the fundraising" associated with the inaugural events.
2. As of February 6, 2023, the State Inaugural Fund was "\$903.73 short," leaving insufficient funds to pay an outstanding invoice from Pro Production.
3. On February 7, 2023, a state employee received a check from United Healthcare in the amount of \$50,000 and "reached out to Rose" requesting "the Donor Intent Form so we can deposit the check."

4. On February 8, 2023, the state employee wrote that she “was informed that the check from United Healthcare was not supposed to be sent to [the state] fund”, and this meant that the State Inaugural Fund was “short \$1,189.62,” leaving insufficient funds to pay the Pro Production invoice.

In light of this new information, I am requesting the following:

1. The current balance of the State Inaugural Fund.
2. Information and relevant financial records regarding the account where proceeds from ticket sales for the Inaugural Ball were deposited.
3. Copies of all outstanding invoices for inaugural events that are awaiting payment.
4. All emails, documents, and other records or correspondence regarding any deposits to or withdrawals from the State Inaugural Fund that have occurred since February 8, 2023.
5. Copies of all emails sent and received by Rose@KatieHobbs.org, between November 1, 2022, and February 20, 2023, which contain the following keywords: finances, financial, sponsor, sponsorship, donate, donation, contribute, contribution, inauguration, inaugural, “inaugural ball”, ceremony, ceremonial, “donor intent”, “intent form”, tax-deductible, charitable, “fund tracking”, invoice.

As Speaker Toma and President Petersen have already explained in a previous letter, state law prohibits you from using public resources, including “web pages, “personnel,” and “any other thing of value” to influence an election. See A.R.S. § 16-192. I find it alarming that you have already committed to spend \$500,000 for political purposes, yet you refuse to commit to the people of Arizona any intention to give leftover inaugural funds back to the State where those funds belong.

It is unfortunate that the Legislature must consider codifying basic principles of integrity and accountability to regulate inaugural funds because of your unprecedented actions. Please produce the information requested above no later than **Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.**¹

Sincerely,



David Livingston
Representative, Arizona House of Representatives
Chairman, Appropriations Committee

¹ For additional information regarding the House’s standard investigative protocols, please visit: <https://www.azhouse.gov/alispdfs/AZHouseInvestigativeProtocols.pdf>.