



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker Steve Montenegro (R-29)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Montenegro Announces New House Committees on AI & Innovation and Rural Economic Development

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona House Speaker Steve Montenegro today announced the creation of two new House committees for the 57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session, aimed at advancing responsible technology policy and strengthening Arizona’s rural economy.

The new House Committee on Artificial Intelligence & Innovation, chaired by Representative Justin Wilmeth, and the House Committee on Rural Economic Development, chaired by Representative Teresa Martinez, will meet Thursdays at 9:00 a.m., beginning with the opening of the session on January 12.

“Arizona lawmakers cannot afford to be passive while technology reshapes our economy and government,” Speaker Montenegro said. **“At the same time, rural communities deserve policies that recognize their role in feeding, powering, and supporting this state. Representatives Wilmeth and Martinez are well suited to lead that effort.”**

“Artificial intelligence has become a powerful engine for our nation’s economy, and it’s here to stay,” Chairman Wilmeth said. **“With the creation of the AI and Innovation Committee, the legislature is signaling that policymakers are evaluating their role in the future of Arizona: creating high-skill jobs, attracting new investment, and strengthening existing industries from semiconductors to healthcare. As Chairman, I hope to create a forum where experts, industry leaders, and members of the public can share their perspectives, knowledge, and concerns so we can create informed and effective legislation. Our state’s future competitiveness depends on embracing AI and supporting the innovators who choose to build and grow here.”**

“Too often, policies are written without considering how they affect rural Arizona,” said Chairwoman Martinez. **“I intend for the Rural Economic Development Committee to closely examine how state decisions impact jobs, infrastructure, water access, and local investment—and to advance policies that help rural communities grow, compete, and keep opportunity close to home.”**

The 57th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session convenes January 12, 2026.

Steve Montenegro is the Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives and serves Legislative District 29 in the West Valley, Goodyear, and Surprise. Follow him on X at @SteveMontenegro.

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