



Conservative Reform Agenda

“Reform Government and Stop Politics as Usual”

Background

On multiple occasions Janet Napolitano has vetoed meaningful legislation that would have made the way taxpayer money is spent more open and transparent. These bills would have required federal grant money to go through the legislative appropriation process for a full and public debate. (See attached veto letters).

Annually, approximately \$8 billion dollars comes to Arizona from the federal grant system. To date, this money is under the sole discretion of the Governor’s office.

In addition, an Auditor General’s report on Homeland Security this week says that millions, if not tens of millions of dollars were dispensed without proper accountability. If that is true of a \$175 million program, how many hundreds of millions were not accounted for properly out of the \$8 billion total federal grant system?

Additionally, the Auditors noted:

1. The documentation maintained for individual projects was often incomplete. (Page 33)
2. The ADEM (Arizona Division of Emergency Management) did not verify reimbursement requests received to the approved project files prior to payment. (Page 33)
3. The discrepancies between the expenditures recorded in the State’s accounting system and the expenditures recorded in the ADEM’s internal records. (Page 33)

Proposal

Today Len Munsil committed that in the first 100 days of his administration he will push his “Open Books Initiative” that requires accountability, transparency and legislative oversight for federal monies that are provided to the state of Arizona.

“The people of Arizona deserve a government that is open and transparent. Hidden budgets and lack of legislative accountability are no way to spend the people’s money. Unlike Janet Napolitano, I fail to see how opening up the books is ‘inappropriate,’” said Munsil.