

# Arizona House restricts journalists who reject check

Media groups object to rigorous screening

By BOB CHRISTIE  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Arizona House of Representatives has imposed new security policies that restrict access for journalists who refuse to submit to extensive background checks, drawing objections from news organizations that they are being stifled in trying to do their jobs.

The Associated Press and other media organizations objected to the sudden imposition of background checks for reporters well-known to the lawmakers at the state Capitol. As a result, they were denied access to the House floor on Thursday and covered the day's debate from the public gallery area.

Lawmakers argued over the new changes for the first hour of the session as Democrats blasted the policy and Republicans stood by their decision to require more rigorous security screening, putting journalists in the unusual position of becoming part of the legislative debate. The new rules were imposed by House Speaker David Gowan, a Republican.

The new security rules for journalists were announced Monday morning. They initially required all journalists routinely covering the chamber to immediately allow the House staff to search for any criminal or civil cases, plus employer or any other records. The employer records provision was removed, but the form journalists are being asked to sign still requires a blanket waiver of rights to search for criminal, civil or other public records along with information about where journalists live.

Reporters who routinely cover the House receive credentials and get access to the chamber's floor through an electronic key card, where for decades there have been desks for them to do their work. When the House isn't in session, reporters can talk to lawmakers and ask questions about important legislation and other matters. It's a key method for journalists who cover the House to



Arizona Republic photographer Nick Oza interviews Capitol Media Services reporter Howie Fischer about the Arizona House of Representatives denying reporters access to the floor pending criminal and civil background checks, in Phoenix, Thursday.



Arizona Republic photographer Nick Oza interviews Capitol Media Services reporter Howie Fischer about the Arizona House of Representatives denying reporters access to the floor pending criminal and civil background checks, in Phoenix, Thursday.



Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, speaks about the need for increased security measures after reporters were denied access to the floor pending criminal and civil background checks, in Phoenix on Thursday.

**'This new protocol would have an adverse effect on a member of our reporting team that has written several stories that are critical of the Speaker's leadership.'**

**Ginger Lamb**  
vice president and publisher of Arizona News Service and the Arizona Capitol Times

makers have no obligation to disclose personal financial information that could reveal conflicts of interest.

The Arizona Legislature has been somewhat of a bright spot, with open caucuses, floor access for photographers, and requirements for conflict disclosures.

Gowan also invoked the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in arguing that conducting background checks on reporters was a necessary tool to prevent unforeseen violence.

"There are a lot of things that are occurring in this world that are crazy anymore," he said. "Lots of things happen to a lot of people, and we want to make sure that our members are secure. I don't understand the problem with that."

The publisher of the Capitol Times suggested the changes had to do with its investigative journalism that has exposed Gowan to heightened scrutiny as he runs for Congress.

"The timing on this is peculiar," said Ginger Lamb, vice president and publisher of Arizona News Service and the Arizona Capitol Times. "This new protocol would have an adverse effect on a member of our reporting team that has written several stories that are critical of the Speaker's leadership. I would hope this is coincidence, but past experience leads me to believe otherwise."

The policy bars anyone convicted of a felony in the past 10 years or misdemeanors within five years.

get to know and understand the positions of lawmakers in both major parties.

The Senate allows floor access for reporters, and it plans no changes to its policies, President Andy Biggs said Wednesday.

"We find this targeted request for information inappropriate," said Brian Carovillano, AP vice president, U.S. News. "These reporters are known to lawmakers."

"The Associated Press, which pushes for government access nationwide, also questions the timing of this request, following an investigation into state lawmaker activities. We call on lawmakers to call off this hunt to ensure

full and open access to state government."

Gowan changed the rules after the Arizona Capitol Times reported two months ago that the lawmaker was using a state vehicle and collecting per diems while traveling the state to campaign for Congress. Gowan repaid the state more than \$12,000 after the report and took the unusual step of asking the Arizona attorney general to investigate whether he broke the law.

The House speaker denied his decision had anything to do with negative stories reporters have written. He said he wasn't denying access.

Gowan said the changes were made because of secu-

arity concerns after a man was arrested in the gallery last week for shouting during raucous protests over the long lines in the Arizona presidential primary. He contends the new security measures don't specifically target the press.

"I have not restricted your access to come in. We need to be able to know who comes on our floor," Gowan said Wednesday. "My policy is for non-employees. You saw what happened up in the gallery. It has everything to do with the security of my members here. In fact, my members are asking for more security."

Democrats lashed out at Gowan for imposing new security for reporters while at

the same time easing restrictions to let lawmakers carry guns on the House floor.

The security protocols go beyond what many other statehouses use in allowing access to the capitols, but they come at a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult for journalists to do their jobs in covering state government.

An Associated Press review of open-government policies last month found that many state legislatures allow closed-door caucus meetings in which a majority of lawmakers discuss policy positions before public debates. Others have restrictions on taking photos and videos of legislative proceedings. In some places, law-

## TV LISTINGS

Evening listings  
MONDAY

MONDAY EVENING												APRIL 11	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars (N)				Castle "Death Wish" (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dancing With the Stars (N)				Castle "Death Wish" (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	The Voice "The Live Playoffs, Night One" (N)				Blindspot (N)		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Supergirl "Myriad" (N)		Scorpion "Hard Knox" (N)		NCIS: LA "Head of the Snake" (N)		KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S.Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Supergirl "Myriad" (N)		Scorpion "Hard Knox" (N)		NCIS: LA "Head of the Snake" (N)		KIRO News	(35) S.Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	The Voice "The Live Playoffs, Night One" (N)				Blindspot (N)		KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Modern Family	Modern Family	ExGirl "Why Is Josh in a Bad Mood?" (N)	JaneVirgin "Chapter Thirty-Nine" (N)			KGW News at 10	(35) Two and Half	Two and Half Men	King of the Hill
10	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Antiques Rd. "Tucson (Hour Three)" (N)	Jackie Robinson Robinson rises from humble origins to integrate MLB. (N)			Oregon Art Beat		Oregon Art Beat	Yours, Willa
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Gotham "Into the Woods" (N)	Lucifer "St. Lucifer" (N)			10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	Loves Ray
13	KPDZ	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV			Law & Order: S.V.U. "Parasites"		Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Manhunt"
13	KCPQ	(13) Name Game	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham "Into the Woods" (N)	Lucifer "St. Lucifer" (N)			Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	Modern Family
20	TBS	(20) American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Detour (N)	The Detour (N)			Family Guy	Full Frontal (N)	Conan (N)	
22	KZJL	(22) Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family			Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) MLB Baseball (L)		Baseball Tonight (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter			SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
30	ESPN2	(30) (5:00) NBA Coast to Coast		SEC Storied "Shaq & Dale"		30 for 30 "Jordan Rides the Bus"	Baseball Tonight	NBA Tonight		Jalen & Jacoby (N)	NFL Live		NBA Tonight
31	NICK	(31) NickyRickyDicky	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	Paradise Run	Full House	Full House		Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Stuck in Middle	Austin & Ally	Friends Whenever	Girl Meets World	Stuck in Middle	Bunk'd	Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	Friends Whenever	Girl Meets World	Liv and Maddie	Stuck in Middle
34	FAM	(34) (5:30) ★★ The Hunger Games (2012, Action)	Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence.	★★★ X-Men: First Class (2011, Action)	Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, James McAvoy.	★★★ The Proposal (2009, Comedy)	Ryan Reynolds, Betty White, Sandra Bullock.			★★★ Kick-Ass 2 (13) Chloe Moretz, Aaron Taylor-Johnson.	(55) FXM Presents		
35	FAM	(35) Movie	(40) FXM Presents	★★★ X-Men: First Class (2011, Action)	Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, James McAvoy.	(40) FXM Presents				★★★ Kick-Ass 2 (13) Chloe Moretz, Aaron Taylor-Johnson.	(55) FXM Presents		
36	LIFE	(36) With This Ring (2015, Romance)	Deion Sanders, Stephen Bishop, Brooklyn Sudano.	★★★ Diary of a Mad Black Woman (05) Steve Harris, Kimberly Elise.		★★★ Why Did I Get Married? (07) Sharon Leal, Janet Jackson, Tyler Perry.				Post-game	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners		
38	RST	(38) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners	Mariners Site: Safeco Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)					Post-game	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners		
39	FOOT	(39) (5:00) UFC Fight Night				Fox Sports Live	Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Best I Heard (N)			Fox Sports Live	Fox Sports Live
43	SPIKE	(43) Cops	Jail: Las Vegas	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Jail: Las Vegas
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N)	Nightly Show (N)
45	HIST	(45) Swamp People "Lightning Strikes"	Swamp People "Gamblin' Man"	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48 "The Passenger/Death Call"	Bates Motel "Refraction" (N)	Swamp Motel "Cannibal Country" (N)	600 Life: Supersized "Lupe's Story"	To Be Announced		Street Outlaws: New Orleans	Street Outlaws: New Orleans
46	A&E	(46) The First 48		Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	To Be Announced	Street Outlaws: Full Throttle (N)	Street Outlaws: New Orleans (N)	Wicked Tuna "Doubling Down" (N)	The Great Human Race "Pioneer" (N)		Shadows (11) Robert Downey Jr.	(15) ★★ Sherlock Holmes: A Game of
47	TLC	(47) Dateline NBC "Bad Blood"		Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	To Be Announced	Street Outlaws: Full Throttle (N)	Street Outlaws: New Orleans (N)	Wicked Tuna "Doubling Down" (N)	The Great Human Race "Pioneer" (N)		Shadows (11) Robert Downey Jr.	(15) ★★ Sherlock Holmes: A Game of
48	DISC	(48) Street Outlaws "The Shocker Shakeup"	Street Outlaws "AlaBAM!"	Great Human Race "First Americans"	Wicked Tuna "Take It to the Bank"	★★★ Olympus Has Fallen (13) Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart, Gerard Butler.	Better Call Saul "Fif"			Better Call Saul "Nailed" (N)		(05) Better Call Saul "Nailed"	(05) Chrisley
49	NICK	(49) Wicked Tuna "Take It to the Bank"		Great Human Race "First Americans"	Wicked Tuna "Take It to the Bank"	★★★ Olympus Has Fallen (13) Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart, Gerard Butler.	Better Call Saul "Fif"			Better Call Saul "Nailed" (N)		(05) Better Call Saul "Nailed"	(05) Chrisley
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) ★★ A Time to Kill (96) Samuel L. Jackson, Matthew McConaughey.		Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw				Chopped "Leftovers Rescue Mission"		Chopped "Leftovers Extravaganza!"	
51	AMC	(51) Movie	(25) ★★ Twister (1996, Action)	Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.		Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Newsroom	Cake "Skylanders Portal Cake" (N)		Chopped "Leftovers Rescue Mission"		Chopped "Leftovers Extravaganza!"	
52	USA	(52) NCIS "Driven"		Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw				Chopped "Leftovers Rescue Mission"		Chopped "Leftovers Extravaganza!"	
53	FOOD	(53) Game "Redemption Tournament: Part 2"		Cake Wars "Shrek"		Cupcake "Celebrity: Atari Cupcakes" (N)	Cake "Skylanders Portal Cake" (N)			Chopped "Leftovers Rescue Mission"		Chopped "Leftovers Extravaganza!"	
54	HGTV	(54) Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Listed Sisters	HouseHunters (N)	HouseHunters (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters
55	FX	(55) Rise of the Guardians (12, Ani)	Voices of Alec Baldwin, Isla Fisher, Hugh Jackman.	★★★ Despicable Me 2 (2013, Animated)	Kristen Wiig, Benjamin Bratt, Steve Carell.					★★★ Despicable Me 2 (2013, Animated)	Kristen Wiig, Benjamin Bratt, Steve Carell.		
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Newsroom			CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom	Amanpour
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor	The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly			Hannity		On the Record	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Billion Dollar Buyer	Lives-Super Rich	Lives-Super Rich		Lives-Super Rich	Lives-Super Rich	Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRAV	(63) Southern Charm "Election Day"		Southern Charm "Dysfunction Junction"		Southern Charm "NewCraig"	South/Charm "Miss Domesticated" (N)			Dallas "Everything's Bigger in Dallas" (N)		WatchWhat (N)	Real Wives Dallas
64	TCM	(64) Movie	(15) ★★ Treasure Island (34, Adv)	Jackie Cooper, Nigel Bruce, Wallace Beery.	★★★ The Young Dr. Kildare (38) Lew Ayres.					★★★ Key Largo (48, Drama)	Lauren Bacal.	Edward G. Robinson, Humphrey Bogart.	
65	SYFY	(65) The Magicians "Homecoming"		The Magicians "Remedial Battle Magic"		The Magicians "Thirty-Nine Graves"	The Magicians (N)			Hunters (N)		12 Monkeys "Arms of Mine"	
162	RFD	(162) American Rancher	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Inside Reining	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live" "Total Feeds"		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	

**No reservations, please**

**14 OUNCE USDA CHOICE NEW YORK STEAK & BAKED POTATO \$9.95**

All You Can Eat Chicken & Dumplings- Thursdays 4-8 pm \$6.95  
Prime Rib Fridays- 3-6pm \$9.95 • BBQ Baby Back Ribs- Saturdays

Just 15 min. from the Lewis & Clark Bridge on Hwy. 30

Hump's Restaurant- 50 W. Columbia River Highway Clatskanie, OR. 503.728.2626

Must present coupon to server. Not valid with other offers.

**Guess what day it is!**

**It's Hump's Day!!!**

**AT HUMP'S RESTAURANT EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**4-8PM**

**NOW OPEN**  
Friday & Saturday  
6am-10pm

Video  
OREGON LOTTERY