

HOME COMING 2024

BRIAN MICKELSEN HOUSING HERO AWARD

ARTHUR CROZIER PARTNER IN HOUSING

LELA Alston ARIZONA STATE SENATOR

The Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing Award recognizes and celebrates Arizona State Senator Lela Alston. Throughout Senator Alston's distinguished career as an elected official, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of families and the health of communities by recognizing that decent, affordable housing is the cornerstone of a strong social fabric.

During her illustrious career, Senator Alston has been a champion of hard-working Arizonans and their families, not only on behalf of what is now Legislative District 5 (which she has represented non-consecutively since 1977) but also on behalf of all Arizonans.

Serving on the Appropriations committee for 18 years, Senator Alston has been a legislative champion for the State Housing Trust Fund. She was the leading voice at the State Legislature for the \$15 million allocation received in 2020; the \$60 million received in 2022; the historic \$150 million investment in 2024; and most recently, the \$15 million allocation secured in this last budget negotiation.



It's through her advocacy at the state Legislature that the Homeless Shelter and Services Fund was created and received \$60 million in state funding to address Arizona's unhoused population. To date, through those funds, over 9,500 individuals experiencing homelessness are being assisted, over 470 new shelter beds were created, and 400 people are being supported in temporary safe spaces.

Senator Alston's dedication to ensuring decent, affordable housing for all has had a profound and lasting impact on countless families and communities. For her tireless efforts to provide safe and secure housing and foster vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, she is most deserving of the prestigious Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing award. Her leadership and vision serve as an inspiration to all who strive to create a more just and equitable society.



Senator Alston has a reputation at the Legislature for bringing bipartisan lawmakers together along with stakeholders to strategize on how to tackle affordable housing and homelessness, understanding the importance of allowing a variety of voices to be heard.

Senator Alston's Legislative District 5, includes historic Phoenix neighborhoods like Coronado, Encanto, and the Willo districts. After a Willo neighbor was stabbed in 2018, by a person experiencing homelessness and suffering from mental illness, neighborhood outcry demanded change. It was political leaders like Senator Alston who rallied stakeholders to look at common sense solutions that recognizes the complex problem of homelessness.

Senator Alston met with the victim's family and helped encourage them to advocate at the state level so their loss would lead to systemic change. Senator Alston has committed herself to understanding the solutions and complex barriers in accessing behavioral health, substance abuse, and emergency shelter, to help combat myths and be an advocate for long-term, sustainable housing solutions.

