



SUBSCRIBE NOW for \$2.77 per week SUBSCRIBE

search: All azcentral.com

Hi, Sally ▾ Subscriber Central e-Newspaper

News Sports Money Things to do Politics Opinion Watchdog Travel Food & Home Health Traffic Weather Subscribers

Ahwatukee | Chandler | Gilbert | Glendale | Mesa | Peoria | Phoenix | Pinal | Scottsdale | Southwest Valley | Surprise | Tempe



Community » Mesa » Article

0 Comments

# Brewer tells East Valley audience another term is possible

Governor nostalgic, triumphant at Mesa appearance



Gov. Jan Brewer

SHARE URL EMAIL

FONT: A A A

Recommend

0

Tweet

0

g+1

By Gary Nelson

The Republic | azcentral.com

Fri Jan 17, 2014 9:54 AM

It had the tone of a swan song, a valedictory of sorts for a governor whose term has included some of the hardest times and deepest tragedies in Arizona history.

Even so, Gov. Jan Brewer hinted Thursday that her breakfast appearance at the Hilton Phoenix/Mesa might not be the last of its kind.

She's pretty sure she'll be retired 10 years from now, she told a crowd of several hundred business, political and community leaders. But as she did in this week's State of the State address, she said she's still thinking about running for another term this year.

That would challenge the widely held belief that the Arizona Constitution's term-limit language precludes another four years in office.

Brewer became governor when Gov. Janet Napolitano left in early 2009 to become the secretary of homeland security in Washington, D.C. In 2010, voters elected Brewer in her own right after she signed a controversial immigration law, Senate Bill 1070, major portions of which the courts have since ruled unconstitutional.

A Brewer candidacy would immediately affect one of the more visible members of Thursday's audience, Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, who announced last week that he will seek the Republican gubernatorial nomination this year.

Exclusive selections for our subscribers

At 18-0, Wildcats could be destined for big things in March

Has Arizona GOP rift over Medicaid healed?

Maricopa County chairman in ethics flap

The must list: 50 things to do in Greater Phoenix

Ariz. emergency care scores low in report

Most Popular

Top Videos

Police: Man arrested for lurking with break-in type tools

Mesa kindergarten teacher accused of child abuse, indecent exposure

2013 Mesa police mug shots and surveillance photos

Recent Mesa restaurant reviews

Who's buried at Mesa City Cemetery?



2014 Mesa police mug shots and surveillance photos

Macy's closing sparks fear of Mesa Fiesta Mall's demise

Column: Mesa's earliest hotels are lodged in pioneer memories

Trial date set for man in Arias stalking case

Jodi Arias murder case: Timeline of events

  If Brewer runs, Smith has said he will bow out — a development that would clear the way for him to finish his mayoral term as scheduled in early 2017. The fallout also would ripple through Mesa politics, making unnecessary a special mayoral election for which former Vice Mayor John Giles declared his candidacy this week.

The breakfast meeting, sponsored by the East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance, the East Valley Partnership and Mesa Community College, is an annual tradition.

It usually follows the State of the State address by only a few days. Three years ago, however, organizers delayed it for several weeks as Arizona dealt with the aftermath of the shooting that killed six people and wounded U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords near Tucson.

Brewer did not mention that incident in Thursday's speech, but she did refer to the loss last summer of 19 Prescott firefighters near Yarnell, asking the audience to stand for a moment of silence in their memory.

Most of Brewer's speech, which won numerous rounds of applause, was a recap of her earlier address to the Legislature — so much so that at one point she asked the audience to pass a bill eliminating the sales tax that manufacturers must pay on electricity.

She devoted large portions of her talk to describing her role in Arizona's recovery from the recession that was battering the country when she and President Barack Obama took office five years ago.

"I am proud of the progress we have made in the last five years to bring about the Arizona comeback," Brewer said. She mentioned some of the big companies that have entered or expanded their presence in the Southeast Valley of late — Intel, State Farm, Apple and General Motors.

Her policies, she said, were largely responsible for Arizona adding 175,000 jobs since the recession ended.

Arizona economists, however, have said many of those jobs offer subpar wages. Lee McPheters, an Arizona State University economist, told another East Valley Partnership meeting in Mesa late last year that while Arizona ranked eighth nationally in employment growth in 2012, it was 35th in personal income growth.

Brewer said Thursday she wants to improve the quality of Arizona's jobs, saying that by 2018, 60 percent of jobs in the state will require post-secondary education. She said she has ordered the Arizona Board of Regents to craft policies aimed at stabilizing in-state tuition, making those expenses predictable for the four years it should take a student to earn a bachelor's degree.

When asked how Arizona would improve transportation funding — an issue that has vexed Southeast Valley cities since the Legislature "swept" those funds to cover state expenses during the recession — Brewer promised the budget she's releasing this week will show improvement in that area.

She also pledged that her last year in office — if indeed it is her last year — will see efforts to develop Arizona's infrastructure and protect its water.

## GET AZCENTRAL ANYWHERE

### azcentral.com mobile editions

Get azcentral.com on your phones and tablets for the latest news, sports, video, photos and much more from azcentral, The Arizona Republic and 12 News.

» [Get azcentral.com mobile!](#)  
» [Android](#) | [iPad](#) | [iPhone](#) | [iPhone Sports](#) | [AZ](#)

From our sponsor

### Banner Children's Total Kid for iPad

Download your free copy of Total Kid, an interactive digital parenting magazine filled with trending health topics, videos, tips and activities. Sponsored by Banner Health.

## MORE FROM AZCENTRAL

[Kendra Wilkinson won't reconcile with family](#)  
[Sharon Stone was furious over 'Basic Instinct' scene](#)  
[Pamela Anderson quietly gets married to Rick Salomon](#)  
[Drug tunnel found near Nogales port](#)  
[Lena Dunham's mixed feelings at Globes](#)  
[Coroner: Priest beaten to death with stake, pipe](#)  
[Ex-teacher who had student's baby released](#)  
[Trial date set for man in Arias stalking case](#)  
[Car crashes into Mesa hotel overnight](#)  
[Mesa economic director Jabjiniaki persistently pushes city's economy](#)

## FROM AROUND THE WEB

[The 6 Worst Cars at the Detroit Auto Show 2013](#) *(The Fiscal Times)*  
[Badass Mom Demands Son Get Removed from Honor Roll](#) *(Rewards for Mom)*  
[The 20 Most Obnoxious Quotes From Gwyneth Paltrow](#) *(The Savory)*  
[6 Nasty Celebrity Feuds That May Never Die](#) *(Tasty Articles)*  
[Colorado man poses for Facebook pic with daughter — just before murdering her](#) *(Daily Dot)*  
[The 8 Best Fast Food Breakfasts](#) *(SparkPeople)*  
[Six More Arrested in Breathtaking \\$45 Million ATM Theft](#) *(CIO)*  
[Fresh cranberry sauce, No added sugar](#) *(SparkRecipes)*  
[If You're Hosting Holiday Party, Try These Seasonal Drink Recipes](#) *(RedEnvelope)*  
[Man Lost in Wilderness for 3 Months Saves Himself with Gut-Wrenching Decision](#) *(Articles in the News)*

[?]

## YOU MAY LIKE

by Taboola

## FROM AROUND THE WEB

by Taboola