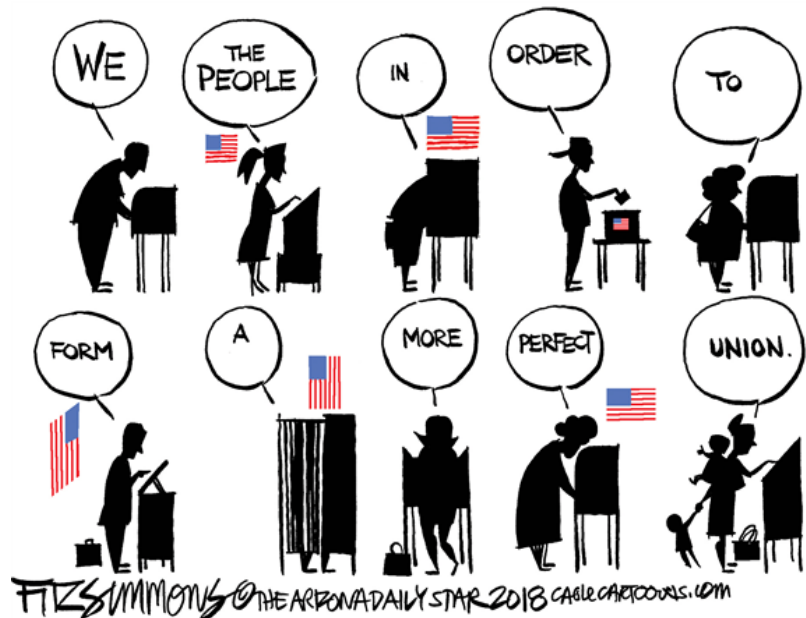


CEBV 2022 Ballot Guide



The 2022 election is coming! You've probably already chosen your candidates, but what about judges, school board candidates, state and county propositions, and the rest? Voters who go looking often find conflicting information — or no information at all.

CEBV is here to help! We've spent months compiling data and writing recommendations, in order to help you make a more informed decision and vote with confidence.



Judge Retention: Gavel Watch 2022



Note: Judges file to confirm that they will run for retention in the first week of September. This information is preliminary, and will be changed when retention filings are final.

Judges should be impartial, of course, but finding the facts can be tricky. We reviewed judges' backgrounds, work history and professional affiliations, looking at the [Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review](#), [DM Cantor](#) and [Robing Room](#); public financial statements; membership or activity in [The Federalist Society](#); and the judges' own opinions on high-profile cases. Our focus was less on how litigants (who may have won or lost) rated the

judges, and more on whether the judges brought ideological bias into their work. One of the most troubling threats to our nation's system of justice is judges who, through bias or corruption, prevent citizens from getting a fair hearing in court.

To keep this document more readable, we've listed only NO recommendations here. Our [Gavel Watch document](#) has the complete rundown, listing every judge and citing multiple sources of information for those who didn't earn our highest recommendation.

Pima, Pinal and Coconino Counties are also voting on whether to retain judges, but will not appear here, as Gavel Watch recommends Retain All.

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

William G. Montgomery - **NO**

COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION 1

Cynthia J. Bailey - **NO**

MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Bradley Astrowsky - **NO**

Rusty D. Crandell - **NO**

Stephen M. Hopkins - **NO**

Howard D. Sukenic - **NO**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
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2022 BALLOT GUIDE



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JUDGES	PROPOSITIONS
ARIZONA SUPREME COURT	PROP 128 
WILLIAM G. MONTGOMERY 	PROP 129 
COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION 1	PROP 130 
CYNTHIA J. BAILEY 	PROP 131 
MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	PROP 132 
BRADLEY ASTROWSKY 	PROP 209 
RUSTY D. CRANDELL 	PROP 211 
STEPHEN M. HOPKINS 	PROP 308 
HOWARD D. SUKENIC 	PROP 309 
RETAIN	PROP 310 
All judges not listed, including all judges in Coconino, Pima, & Pinal Counties.	

Learn More: www.cebv.us/2022-ballot

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School Board Candidates

School boards are the new front line for attacks on our social norms. Well-funded neoliberal think tanks and seasoned GOP rabble-rousers like [Steve Bannon](#) and [Chris Rufo](#) are [financing national attacks on public schools](#) and coordinating them via social media. Small but noisy groups of disrupters are swarming school board meetings, turning them into unproductive shouting matches. They inundate

districts with time-consuming and costly [public records requests](#), and file lawsuits alleging “[discrimination](#)” against white students, in an attempt to [mobilize MAGA voters](#). They’ve vaulted culture wars and censorship at the local school level to an [all-time high](#).

So far this year, GOP candidates running on scorched-earth education platforms have [fared quite poorly](#) in school board elections nationwide. It turns out even Trump-aligned Republicans happen to like their community public schools and support their local teachers. Even so, the threat to our entire system of free community public education cannot be ignored — our school boards are more important now than ever.



It can be very hard to find information about this part of your ballot. Fortunately, any candidate sporting SOSAZ’s [Public School Proud seal](#) is worth an enthusiastic vote. These candidates have pledged to publicly acknowledge their role as advocates for public education, to oppose privatization schemes that drain funding away from community schools to private pockets every single year, and to act as community leaders who uphold public health and support the diverse needs of their students.

Find a statewide list of #PublicSchoolProud school board candidates [here](#).

Prop 128 (voter protection act; court determinations): NO



It’s an open secret that some lawmakers hate the Voter Protection Act and would do nearly anything to be rid of it. They’ve long complained it’s “too restrictive” and “[hogties](#)” them. These same lawmakers are now asking you to let them amend voter-approved measures with a simple majority if a court says they’re illegal or unconstitutional. Totally trustworthy, right?

Prop 128 would allow a simple majority of lawmakers to rewrite or repeal an entire voter-enacted law if any court (including the courts who invalidated the [Invest in Arizona](#) and [Free & Fair Elections](#) ballot measures) finds even the tiniest part of it illegal. If a

voter-approved measure raises money, lawmakers would be free to plunder it and send it elsewhere.

They can't do this now because the Voter Protection Act stands in their way — as it's intended to — and bars the legislature from monkeying with ballot initiatives once they're approved by voters. The only reason we even have the Voter Protection Act is because lawmakers [behaved badly](#). In 1996, voters passed medical marijuana at the ballot, but the following year, the legislature repealed it. In response, furious voters restricted lawmakers' power to amend initiatives only if it "further the purpose" of the initiative, and then only with a three-fourths vote in both chambers.

This perfectly illustrates why Arizona's founders felt it necessary to allow the people to bypass the Legislature through initiative in the first place. Early Arizonans were deeply suspicious of government and didn't trust politicians to remain true to their constituents over the day's powerful industries, such as mining, ranching and farming. The industries may have changed, but the rest remains the same.

- A "simple majority" of this legislature is no protection: the vast majority of harmful laws last session alone passed via a simple majority of lawmakers
- The state Supreme Court is no friend of the public either: Ducey [expanded the court in 2016](#) with anti-citizen judges who invalidated voter-approved [funding for public schools](#) and [sweeping election protections](#) on tenuous technicalities
- Republican lawmakers have been gunning for the Voter Protection Act [for decades](#) and would long ago have done away with it on their own, but our state Constitution bars them from doing so without voter approval



Prop 128 Recommendation: This legislature wants us to let them monkey with voter-approved laws on the grounds that we should trust them and this state Supreme Court to respect our wishes? The same legislature and court we've spent election cycle after election cycle fighting? Yeah, sure. Don't be fooled into voting your own rights away. **Vote NO.**

Prop 129 (initiatives; single subject; title): NO

Here's another ballot measure the legislature has chosen to refer to voters, this time to ask us to limit our future initiatives to what a court determines is a "single subject." This would have voided Arizona's

2016 voter-approved minimum wage increase initiative and would make it [all but impossible](#) for citizens to get most initiatives onto the ballot.

Here's the background: Voters passed a 2016 initiative to raise the state minimum wage, and also require most companies to give workers sick and personal leave. This upset some lawmakers (and the wealthy business interests who buy them). They then [orchestrated a lawsuit](#) to try to get the initiative tossed out in court. When that [failed](#), they moved on to pass a series of laws designed to make it harder for voters to pass their own laws via initiative. The goal, of course, is to make it as tough as possible for voters to go around corrupt lawmakers by creating policies they and their pals don't like.



There's just one thing standing in the way of these corrupt lawmakers: the state Constitution. Arizona's founders had a healthy distrust of government, and wrote themselves some pretty robust rights. As with Prop 128, Republican lawmakers would have done away with this restriction on their own long ago, if they could, but our state Constitution bars them from doing so without voter approval. So they're asking us — and we'd be fools to say yes.

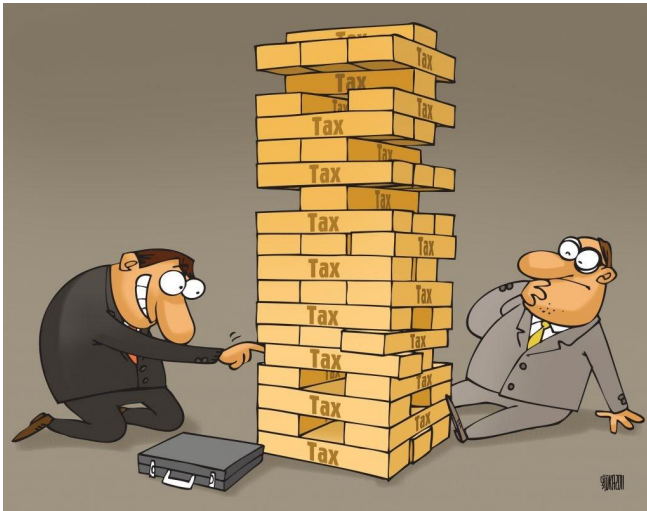


Prop 129 Recommendation: This legislature wants us to let them restrict our rights to direct democracy? The same legislature we have to go around in order to get anything decent through? Don't be fooled into voting your own rights away. **Vote NO.**

Prop 130 (constitutional property tax exemptions): NO

Prop 130 gives the legislature more power to decide who gets property tax exemptions. If this gives you a visceral icky feeling, you're not alone.

The Arizona Constitution already outlines exemptions and caps on property taxes for many groups, from widows to business equipment. Prop 130 would restore a property tax exemption for Arizona's 110,345 disabled veterans, which has been inactive since a 1985 Supreme Court case that invalidated it, and apply it to all disabled veterans who become Arizona residents.



The legislature has tried to carve out similar tax exemptions before, but they've met bipartisan opposition. Two years ago, lawmakers [rejected](#) Gov. Ducey's attempt to carve out an income tax exemption for military pensions. As former lawmaker David Farnsworth then explained, "When we make (tax) policies they need to be broad and affect everybody. Any time we carve out any segment, it shifts the load to everyone else." (Even a broken clock is right twice a day.) The same is true here: Prop 130 would [force local governments](#)

to respond to the reduction in their tax base by either raising taxes or cutting spending. It's not a tax cut, it's a tax *shift*, and we've got enough of that already.

In Arizona, we give away far more in tax cuts and credits than ever enters the general fund. These giveaways, known as tax expenditures, easily [dwarf the state budget](#). Arizona lawmakers have been [carving holes in the state tax code](#) for special interests for decades, resulting in a current whopping [\\$22 billion \(and growing\) in exemptions](#) that negatively impacts everything from [roads](#) to [public education](#). Prop 130 would expand the Legislature's power to do that. Why is this a good idea? Notorious crony lawmakers [JD Mesnard](#), [Shawna Bolick](#) and [David Livingston](#) shepherded this measure onto the ballot, so they certainly think it is — just one more reason to doubt that Prop 130 will be any good for the ordinary Arizonan.



Prop 130 Recommendation: This legislature has done its best to run our government into the ground. There's no good reason to give them new powers to start chipping away at state tax law. **Vote NO.**

Prop 131 (lieutenant governor; joint ticket): NO

This is another measure placed on the ballot by lawmakers, who want to sucker Arizonans into creating [a lieutenant governor position](#) (who would run on a single-party slate with the governor). If Prop 131

passes, the new lieutenant governor would be first in line to become governor, starting in 2027, instead of the Secretary of State.



Republican lawmakers first proposed creating a lieutenant governor position for Arizona in 1990. They finally got the idea to the ballot in 1994, where it failed epically, flaming out with 65% voter disapproval. [Undeterred](#), they put it on the ballot again in 2010, where it once again failed with 59% voter disapproval. [Still not getting the hint](#), they introduced it yet again in 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 — succeeding this year in getting their idea on the ballot a third time.

Voters clearly [aren't clamoring for a lieutenant governor](#). So why do some lawmakers want to see it happen so badly? For starters, Prop 131 would ensure any replacement governor belongs to the same political party as their predecessor — meaning the same party would still retain power. It's notable that this bill, championed by Republicans who have long held control of both the legislature and the governor's office, has been advanced to the ballot only now that Arizona has a Democratic Secretary of State. By contrast, our current system ensures a sort of political house cleaning if a governor is removed from office, which [happens fairly often in Arizona](#). That's not a bad thing.

And what would a lieutenant governor even do? Part of the reason this failed so many times is that some Republicans consider it an epic waste of money which "bloats government" for no reason. To address these concerns, Prop 131 would allow the governor to appoint the lieutenant governor into any position within their authority, from the director of the Arizona Department of Administration to the governor's chief of staff. That's truly alarming. A chief of staff is an unelected appointee, not a politician. That person wields an immense amount of power behind the scenes and is ultimately accountable to no one but the governor. This setup could permit an appalling amount of cronyism and shady dealing. I've never met a chief of staff who would make a good governor, or vice versa.



Prop 131 Recommendation: Spends taxpayer money on something voters don't want. Enables cronyism and corruption. We're doing just fine without a lieutenant governor; there's no reason to change our current setup. **Vote NO.**

Prop 132 (initiatives; supermajority vote; requirement): NO

Hey, another legislative referral! These politicians must think we Arizona voters are really dumb.

Prop 132 asks voters to [restrict our own direct democracy powers](#) by requiring any ballot measure that includes a tax element to get supermajority voter approval in order to pass. That means 60% of voters will have to vote yes, rather than the simple majority that's currently required.

Once again, this is motivated by majority lawmakers' [increasing frustration](#) at being unable to stop ballot measures they don't like. The only reason they haven't changed this already is that our rights are spelled out in the Arizona Constitution — they can't take them away without asking us first.

Arizona has passed many ballot measures with less than 60% approval. In 1982, we passed a now-widely-used "motor voter" law that allows people to register to vote at the DMV when they get a driver's license. In 2006, we [banned smoking indoors](#). More recently, we [increased the minimum wage](#) and [approved more funding for public schools](#). We attempted nearly all of these at the legislature first, but lawmakers refused. Voters are [more frustrated than ever with lawmakers who don't listen](#) — why would we hand them even more power?

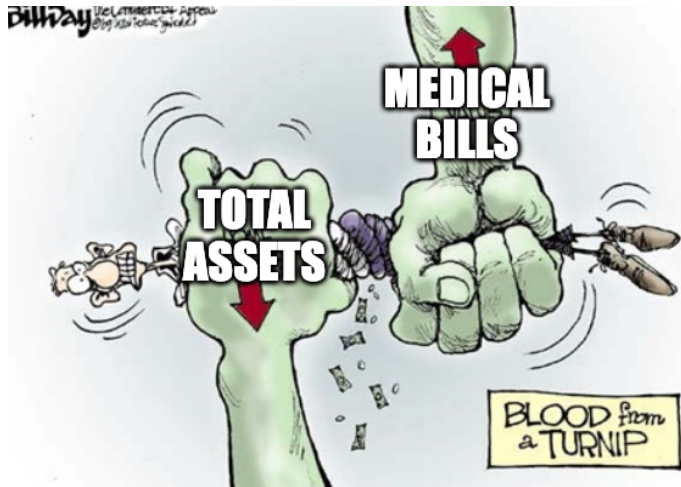


Prop 132 Recommendation: Arizona's founders created the direct democracy process for a reason. Now a handful of crooked lawmakers wants us to limit our own rights? Do they think we were born yesterday? **Vote NO.**

Prop 209 (Predatory Debt Collection Protection Act): YES

Put aside for a moment the argument over whether health care should be considered a basic right. Everyone's heard the saying "you can't squeeze blood from a turnip." And yet, our current system permits creditors to take nearly everything a person owns to repay medical debt — even when it isn't enough.

Prop 209 would change this. The ballot measure would protect \$400,000 in home equity, \$15,000 each in vehicles and household goods (such as furniture, electronics and appliances), and \$5,000 in bank accounts from being seized by medical debt collectors. These values would be indexed to inflation. It would also cap the interest rate on medical debt at 3%.



This measure would help a lot of ordinary people. Forty percent of US adults carry health care debt. Two-thirds of US personal bankruptcies are [driven by medical bills](#). It should go without saying that, if debt collectors take everything people have and it isn't enough, or if they charge spiraling and exorbitant interest, those people won't be able to pay back the rest of their debts.

This author believes that health care *is* a basic right. No one should have to declare bankruptcy, be harassed by debt collectors, or lose their home just because they needed medical treatment. That makes Prop 209 the right thing to do. But if you don't happen to agree, look at it this way: allowing people [retain adequate resources](#) to keep them from spiraling into poverty is the only way you're going to get them to pay their debts back.



Prop 209 Recommendation: It makes no sense to bankrupt someone to try to force them to pay their debt back. Prop 209 will allow people to retain enough assets to get back on their feet. **Vote YES.**

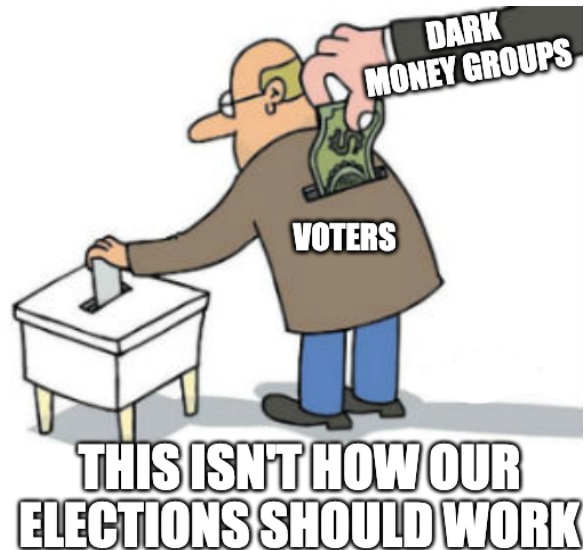
Prop 211 (Voters' Right to Know Act / Stop Dark Money): YES

If you're tired of being subjected to endless opaque and misleading political ads every election cycle (who isn't?), you can thank "dark money." This is the popular term for unlimited secret spending in our elections, which tips the political playing field toward wealthy donors and corporations.

Dark money has become [a major factor](#) in Arizona politics. Corrupt special interest groups can spend hundreds of millions of dollars trying to influence voters without disclosing their sources of funding. The ensuing lack of financial transparency fuels a glut of noise every election cycle and makes it harder for voters to make informed decisions.

Enter the Voters' Right to Know Act, also known as Outlaw Dirty Money or Stop Dark Money. The act would require public disclosure of the true source of all donations of \$5,000 or more that fund campaign media spending (for or against any candidate or ballot measure). The initiative, [backed by former Attorney General Terry Goddard](#), is worded to cut through any effort to hide the identity of the actual original donor by "laundering" the cash through a series of front groups.

Getting this in front of voters has been a long time coming. In 2018, hundreds of thousands of Arizona voters signed petitions for Outlaw Dirty Money, only to see [Gov. Ducey's stacked Arizona Supreme Court](#) toss it off the ballot. In 2020, the initiative tried again, but COVID-19 proved an insurmountable hurdle. Now, in 2022, we'll finally have the chance to decide whether we should get to know who is secretly spending big money to try to influence our vote.



Voters have shown they support "dark money" disclosure by [huge margins](#). The few opponents of such disclosure are, predictably, organizations that spend lots of dark money. They know it will affect voters' perception of an argument — justifiably — if voters are able to see that the Kochs or Betsy DeVos are the true mouthpieces. If these dark-money groups aren't willing to be held accountable for their statements, they probably shouldn't be making them.

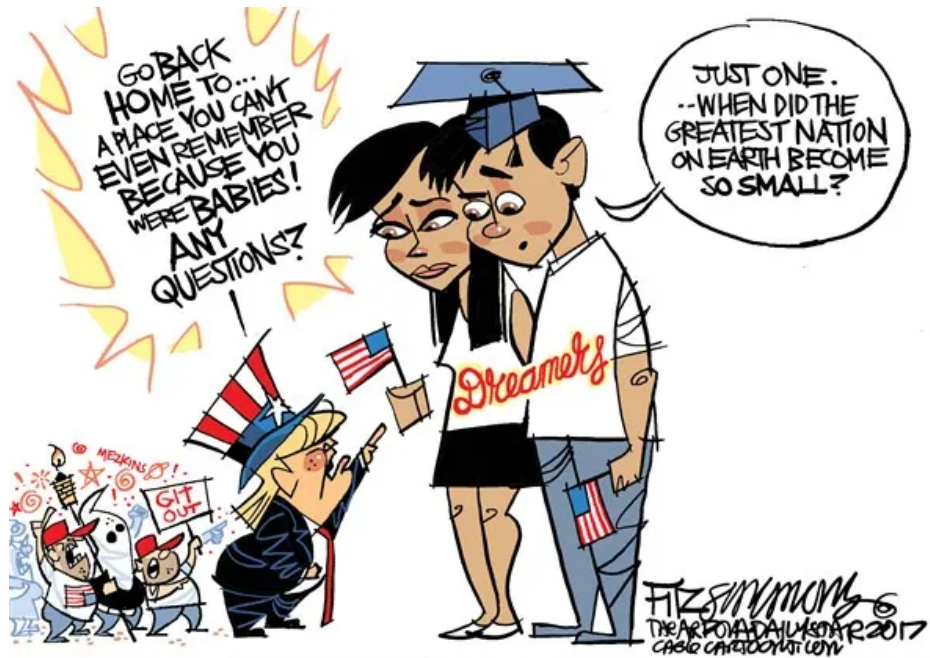


Prop 211 Recommendation: A no-brainer. We should have the right to know who funds political campaigns in Arizona. **Vote YES.**

Prop 308 (tuition; postsecondary education): YES

The term “Dreamer” describes young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, who have lived and gone to school here, who consider themselves Americans. In many cases, they speak no language other than English and know no home other than the USA.

In 2006, at a high point for anti-immigrant sentiment, voters passed Proposition 300, banning “Dreamers” from paying in-state tuition at state universities and prohibiting them from getting any scholarship funded by local or state government. Prop 308 would undo a portion of this law, allowing kids who attended high school for 2+ years in Arizona before graduating to [access in-state college tuition](#) regardless of their immigration status.



Since Prop 300 forces Dreamers to pay a 150% tuition rate without scholarships, many opt to leave Arizona in favor of schools like Yale, Harvard and MIT, which actually [end up being more affordable](#) than an in-state option like ASU. Prop 308 would level the playing field, allowing Dreamers to pay in-state tuition and earn scholarships like any other student. And it's about time. These “Dreamers” are as American as anyone who was born here. Their families pay taxes. They graduated from Arizona high schools. They deserve to be able to pay in-state tuition like every other Arizona kid.

This isn't just the right thing to do morally: it also makes economic sense. Most students who graduate from Arizona universities [stay in Arizona](#), find jobs, and contribute to the state's workforce, creating an overall net positive economic effect. Why are we forcing Dreamers into other states when we've already paid for their K-12 education, and just when they're about to become productive members of society?



Prop 308 Recommendation: Strip away the [nativist, white supremacist rhetoric](#) and it's easy to see this is a win for everyone. **Vote YES.**

Prop 309 (voter identification; affidavit; procedure): NO

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO TAKE AWAY YOUR OWN VOTING RIGHTS



Furthering the trend of “would you please take away your own rights?” is yet another legislative referral from our Republican lawmakers. This time, they’re asking us to [agree to adopt new ID restrictions](#) for early ballots and in-person voting. In addition to signing those yellow envelopes, voters would have to write their birthdates, as well as either their driver’s license number, state ID number, or the last four digits of their Social Security numbers. Voters’ signatures would still have to match, as would the date of birth and ID number. Voters who choose to vote in person would be required to show a photo ID with no exceptions, as the current two-document alternative would be eliminated.

This would affect the overwhelming majority of voters in this state; Arizona is [a national leader in voting by mail](#); we pioneered the program more than 30 years ago. More than 80% of Arizona voters now choose to vote by mail. Requiring more data points that have to match before a ballot can be counted only means [more ways for that ballot to be rejected](#).

This measure is similar to a new law in Texas which was rolled out for the first time in this year’s March primary election. The results are a cautionary example for Arizona. In 2020, Texas rejected about 1% of all absentee ballots. (This was acceptable; election experts like that number to stay under 2%.) But in March of 2022, after the new ID requirements for absentee ballots kicked in, that number skyrocketed to 13%. [Nearly 23,000 ballots went uncounted](#). More than 90% of rejections were because voters simply wrote down the wrong information. If 13% of Arizona early ballots got rejected, that would mean the disenfranchisement of nearly 396,000 Arizona voters.

This horrid idea is the brainchild of MAGA Republicans, who are arguing with zero evidence that Democrats sent out millions of mail-in ballots to somehow rig the 2020 election — an idea so outlandish that Politifact rated it [“Pants on Fire.”](#) Their full-scale assault on American elections includes a multi-pronged national strategy of gerrymandering, voter suppression, and the takeover of election

positions by ideologues who allege that the 2020 election was stolen. As “voter suppression,” Prop 309 fits nicely into that hellscape.



Prop 309 Recommendation: Voting is the most basic right in our democracy. It should be free, fair, and easy. Bad ideas like this one only create unnecessary hurdles that keep people from the polls. **Vote NO.**

Prop 310 (fire districts; funding; TPT increment): YES

Residents of Arizona cities and towns enjoy well-performing emergency medical systems with up-to-date equipment, staff, and training. Meanwhile, rural areas simply don't have the resources to provide the same level of service. Fire districts throughout the state [saw devastating revenue cuts](#), in some cases as much as 50%, due to the drop in property tax collections after the Great Recession.

They responded by freezing pay and making cuts, including to trucks and personnel.



This leaves rural Arizona (especially unincorporated areas) without the same level of emergency medical services. This includes not just residents, but anyone who happens to be in their district at the time, such as tourists, who currently don't pay any share of local emergency services.

Prop 310 would supplement these rural fire districts with a 0.1% statewide sales tax — an extra dime on a \$100 purchase — for 20 years. This is projected to raise about \$150 million each year, spread out across

the state so that no district gets more than 3% of the total. Most funding would still come from local property taxes.

Unincorporated areas don't have a city council to go to for funding. This leaves their fire districts limited in what they can raise in local property taxes. But they still must provide the first response for

everything from heart attacks to traffic accidents. Supporting them statewide in the interest of public health is the right thing to do.



Prop 310 Recommendation: Just one-tenth of a penny will ensure our fire district firefighters and paramedics have the staffing, equipment, and training necessary to protect public safety statewide. That one-tenth of a penny could end up saving your life someday. **Vote YES.**

This document is a statewide resource. As of 9/2/22, we are not aware of any other county-wide propositions that will appear on your ballot. Please contact info@cebv.us with any omissions.

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