



Making Our Voices Count! How initiatives and referenda empower citizens

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First, some background. Arizona is one of 27 states that have some form of direct democracy such as initiatives, referenda, and recall.

- Initiatives – Proposals initiated by citizens (not by the Legislature).
- Referenda – Proposals referred to the people by the Legislature, or “citizen vetoes” of legislation passed by the Legislature.

What’s On the Ballot, November, 2018?

- **Vote ___ Proposition 125 - Corrections Officer Retirement Plans.** A YES vote will change the “permanent benefit increase” (PBI) from one contingent on the market capped at 4% to one based on cost of living capped at 2%.
- **Vote ___ Proposition 126. Protect Arizona’s Taxpayers Act.** A YES vote will amend the constitution to prevent any unit of government from increasing taxes on services or adding new taxes on services.
- **Vote ___ Proposition 127. Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona.** A YES vote will amend the constitution to require AZ utilities to reach 15% clean energy by 2025 and 50% by 2030.
- **Vote ___ Proposition 305. Expansion of Empowerment Scholarships.** A YES vote will AFFIRM SB1431 that expands vouchers to all K-12 students and caps enrollment at 30,000. A NO vote will VETO SB1431 and the current ESA legislation (for select groups, with a cap of will continue.
- **Vote ___ Proposition 306. Arizona Unlawful Contributions from Clean Election Accounts and Commission Rulemaking Requirements.** A YES vote will curtail the rule making and enforcement authority of CCEC and bring it under the control of a Governor-appointed committee. A NO vote will leave it with its current authority to keep money out of elections.

What's NOT on the ballot?

- **Invest in Education** – 270,000+ signatures, pulled by the Court over the description.
- **Outlaw Dirty Money** – 280,000+ signatures, two hurdles, one insurmountable due to legal challenge.

Other Resources with Pro / Con discussion of Ballot Proposals

- Arizona Secretary of State pro and con <https://azsos.gov/> then click on elections, initiatives/referendum/recall.
- League of Women Voters and Arizona Advocacy Network Voter's Guide (with discussion of pro/con and other information). <http://lwwvaz.org/> or <http://azballotguide.com/>
- Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (Melinda Merkel Iyer) Voter Guide (discussion of pro/con and other information) <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eYhjDR5zbaOBwEk3YcSKQRTrrZOf3mWP6vheyQOPWDO/edit>
- AZ Legislative Alert (Anne L. Schneider) "Initiatives: Pro & Con" <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2018/alert-091018.pdf>