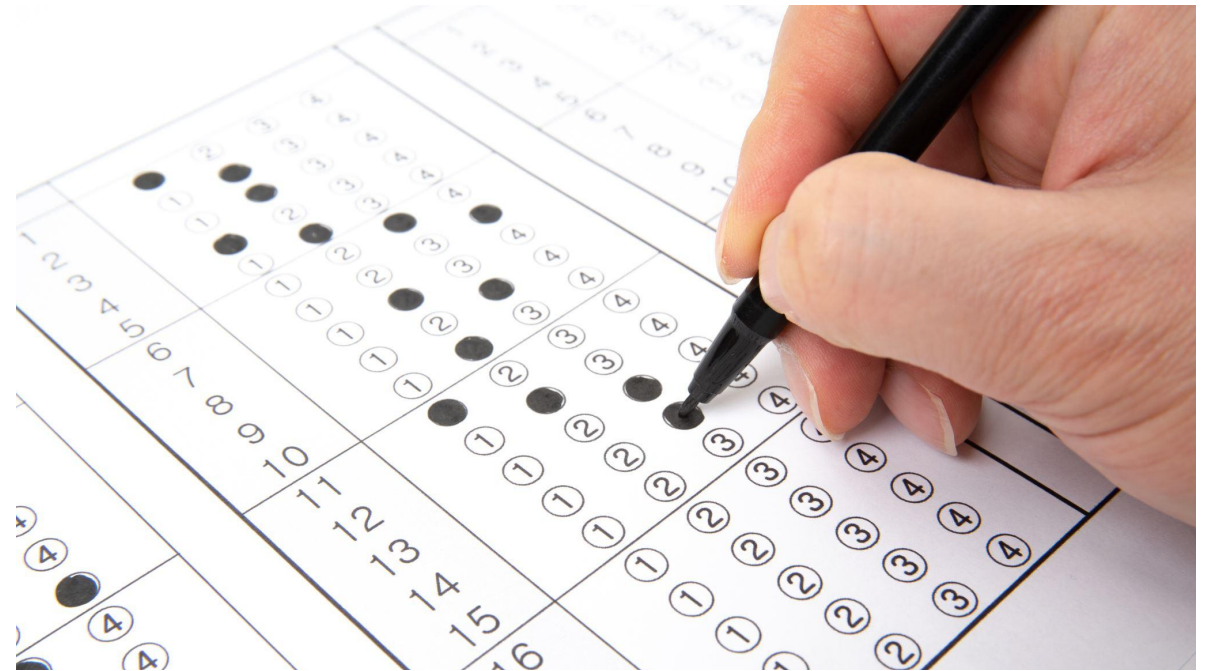


On the Ballot

Statewide Ballot Initiatives and Referrals, 2026





How does a question
end up on a ballot?

Legislative Referral

- State Legislature can refer a question, law or constitutional change to the ballot for voters to decide
- Only requires a simple majority of votes in both chambers.
- Underlying bill is sent directly to the Secretary of State.
- Does NOT require the signature of the Governor.





Citizen Initiatives

- In Arizona, the people also have a right to propose laws and amendments to the constitution as well as approve or reject any item, section or part of any act of the legislature.
 - There are three pathways for the citizens to follow to do this.
 - Initiatives
 - Referendums
 - Recalls
 - Each pathway has different requirements
-

Initiatives

The Constitution of Arizona provides voters with the ability to propose new or amend old laws or constitutional amendments through the initiative process. **Ariz. Const. Art. IV, pt. 1, § 1(2).**

The Arizona Constitution requires valid signatures from 15% of qualified electors* to place an initiative proposing a constitutional amendment on the ballot and valid signatures from 10% of qualified electors* to place an initiative proposing a statutory amendment on the ballot. **Ariz. Const. Art. IV, pt. 1, § 1(2).**



Steps for Preparing an Initiative

- Form a political committee through the Arizona Secretary of State's online system, Beacon, or be prepared to designate an existing (non-candidate) political committee to act as the petition sponsor. [A.R.S. § 19-111\(A\)](#).
 - File an Application for Serial Number with the Arizona Secretary of State's Office. [A.R.S. § 19-111\(A\)](#).
 - Acquire the appropriate initiative petition from the Arizona Secretary of State's Office
 - Ensure any paid or out-of-state circulators have registered with the Arizona Secretary of State's Office. [A.R.S. § 19-118\(A\)](#).
 - Circulate petitions and obtain signatures from eligible voters. [A.R.S. § 19-112\(A\)](#).*
 - Submit circulated petitions to the Arizona Secretary of State's Office by the deadline. [Ariz. Const. Art. IV, pt. 1, § 1\(4\)](#)
 - The Secretary of State and applicable County Recorders will process the petitions and determine whether enough signatures were gathered to place the measure on the ballot. [A.R.S. §§ 19-121.01; 19 -121.02](#).
-



Key Dates and Signature Requirements

- Initiative Date and Signature Requirements for the 2026 Election Cycle ([Ariz. Const. Art. IV, pt. 1, § 1\(2\), \(4\)](#)):
 - Initiative petitions must be filed by: July 2, 2026
 - Signature Requirements for Constitutional Amendment: 383,923
 - Signature Requirements for Statutory Initiative Measures: 255,949
-

Referendums

- The Arizona Constitution states, "the people reserve the power to . . . use at their own option, the power to approve or reject at the polls, any Act, or item, section, or part of any Act, of the Legislature". [Ariz. Const. Art. IV, pt. 1, § 1\(1\)](#).
- The person or organization putting forward the referendum must file signatures with the Arizona Secretary of State within 90 days of when the Legislature that enacted the bill in question adjourns. [Ariz. Const. Art. IV, pt. 1, § 1\(4\)](#).
- If enough valid signatures are submitted, the bill will be placed on the next general election ballot. A "yes" vote is a vote to allow the law to go into effect, while a "no" vote essentially constitutes a vote for a citizen veto preventing the referred bill from going into effect. [Ariz. Const. Art. IV, pt. 1, § 1\(10\)](#).
- Signature Requirements for Referendum Petitions: 127,975*

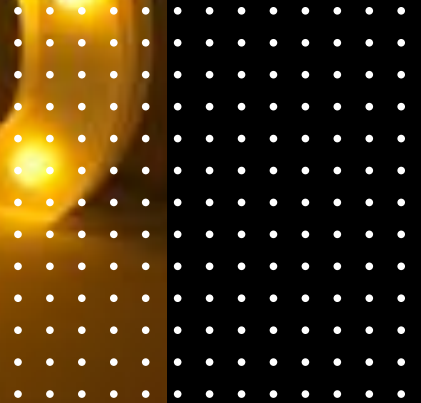
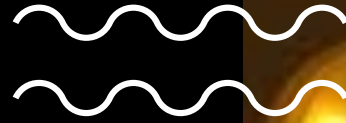
Recalls

- A Recall is a procedure that allows citizens to remove and replace a public official before the end of their term in office. [A.R.S. § 19-201](#).
- A recall may commence after an individual has been in office for six months, except for state legislators which can be filed five days after the start of their first session, and no specific grounds are required. [A.R.S. § 19-202\(A\)](#).
- A recall petition must be submitted within 120 days of the Application for Recall being approved. [A.R.S. § 19-203\(C\)](#).
- Signatures required: 25% of all votes cast at the last election for all candidates for office held by that elected official. If two or more public officials are elected from one ballot, the following equation will be used to determine signature requirements as outlined in
- $(0.25 \times \text{overall votes}) / (\text{number of offices filled})$.



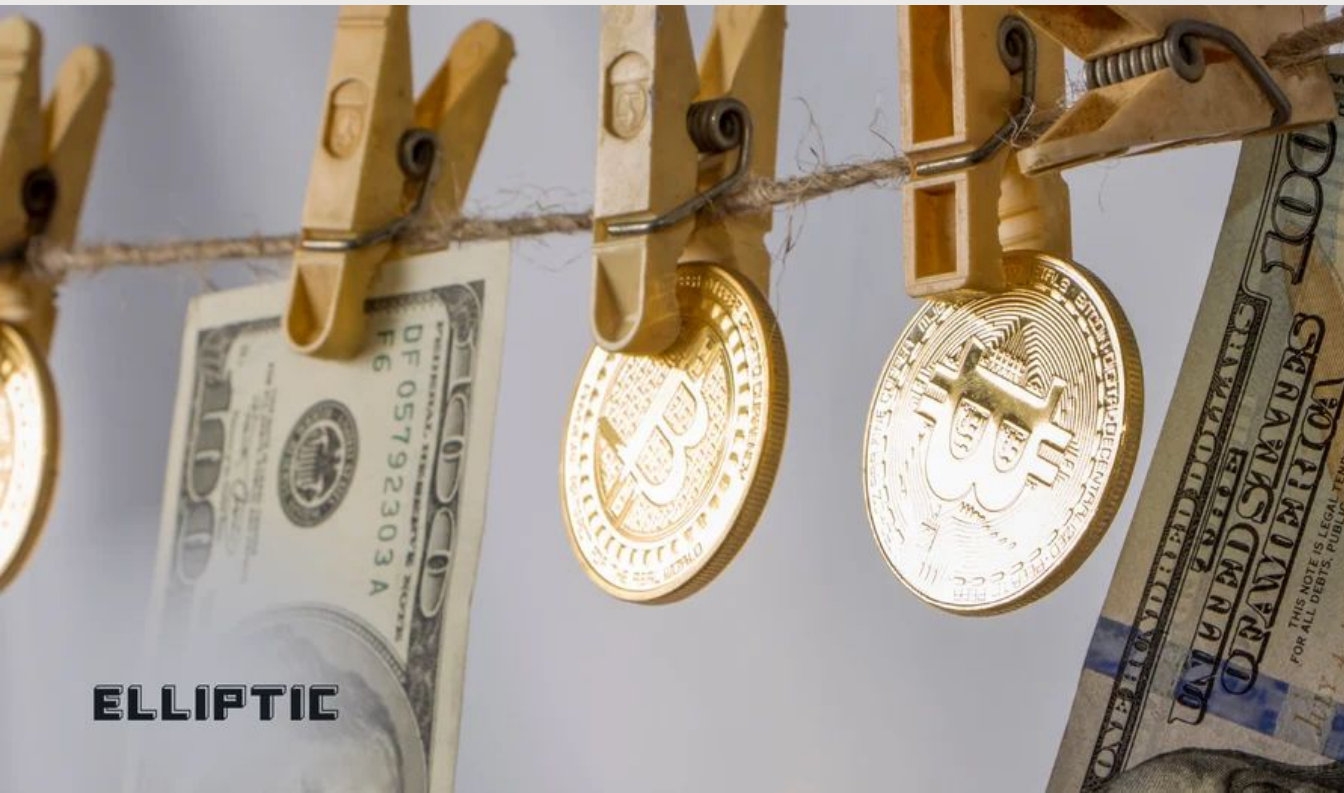
Legislative Referrals

Referred
to the
2026
Ballot in
2025



HCR 2055, Drug Cartels, Terrorist Organizations

- Sponsor: Montenegro
- Declares that Arizona “being actually invaded.”
- Names Drug Cartels “Terrorist Organizations”
- Empowers The Arizona Department of Homeland Security to do everything within its’ authority to address the threat posed by drug cartels.
- Could have impacts on charging and sentencing of drug related offenses (increasing penalties etc).
- Federal law already designates many cartels terrorist organizations.



HCR 2021, Food, Municipal Tax Exemption

- Sponsor: Biasiucci

1. A city, town or other taxing jurisdiction that has approved a TPT, sales, use, franchise or other similar tax or fee on food or beverages for home consumption on or before January 1, 2025:

- a) if the tax or fee is levied at a rate of less than 2 percent of the base, any increase must be approved by the voters and may not be more than 2 percent of the tax base;
- b) if the tax or fee is levied at a rate of 2 percent or more of the base, the city, town or other taxing jurisdiction may not increase the rate; and
- c) an increase of the tax or fee may not occur in the 24-month period preceding June 30, 2027.

2. Specifies that for a city, town or other taxing jurisdiction that has not approved a TPT, sales, use, franchise or other similar tax or fee on food or beverages for home consumption on or before January 1, 2025:

- a) the adoption and any subsequent increase of the tax or fee must be approved by the voters and may not be more than 2 percent of the tax base; and
- b) the adoption or subsequent increase of the tax or fee may not occur in the 24-month period preceding June 30, 2027.



HCR 2021, The Impact

- 70 of Arizona's 91 incorporated cities and towns taxed food for home consumption in FY 2024
- A recent forecast by S&P Global indicates that consumer spending on food and beverages for home consumption in Arizona is projected to grow by 15.9% from FY 2024 to FY 2028.
- This means that if the resolution were enacted, the total reduction in municipal TPT revenue is estimated to be \$(227.6) million, beginning in FY 2028.
- **Local TPT (Sales) taxes pay for local police, fire, emergency services, street maintenance, libraries and parks**

SCR 1004, Prohibit Tax, Monitoring, Vehicle Mileage

- Sponsor: Hoffman
- *Amends the Arizona Constitution
 1. Prohibits the state and any county, city, town, municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state (public entity) from:
 - a) imposing a tax or fee based on vehicle miles traveled by a person in a motor vehicle; or
 - b) enacting rules or laws to monitor or limit vehicle miles traveled by a person in a motor vehicle, unless the person to voluntarily consent to the monitoring or limitation.
 2. Exemptions
 - Interstate agreements established to administer the payment or reporting of fuel taxes or registration fees for commercial vehicles that operate in more than one state; and
 - b) a motor vehicle owned and operated by a public entity.



SCR 1004, The Impact

- Most states implement gasoline taxes to help pay for road construction and maintenance.
- With the increased use of electric cars, many states and municipalities are looking at alternate ways to generate revenue for this purpose.
- Some have studied or are piloting or have implemented “mileage taxes” to address the issue.
- Arizona does not currently do this.
- Proponents state they do not want the Government to track where and how far you travel.
- There is concern that tracking will lead to government limitations on where and how far you may travel.
- They also believe this is part of an attempt to eliminate internal combustion engines.
- Opponents are concerned that this pre-emptively prevents states from enacting laws that may be necessary in the future due to issues that cannot be foreseen currently.



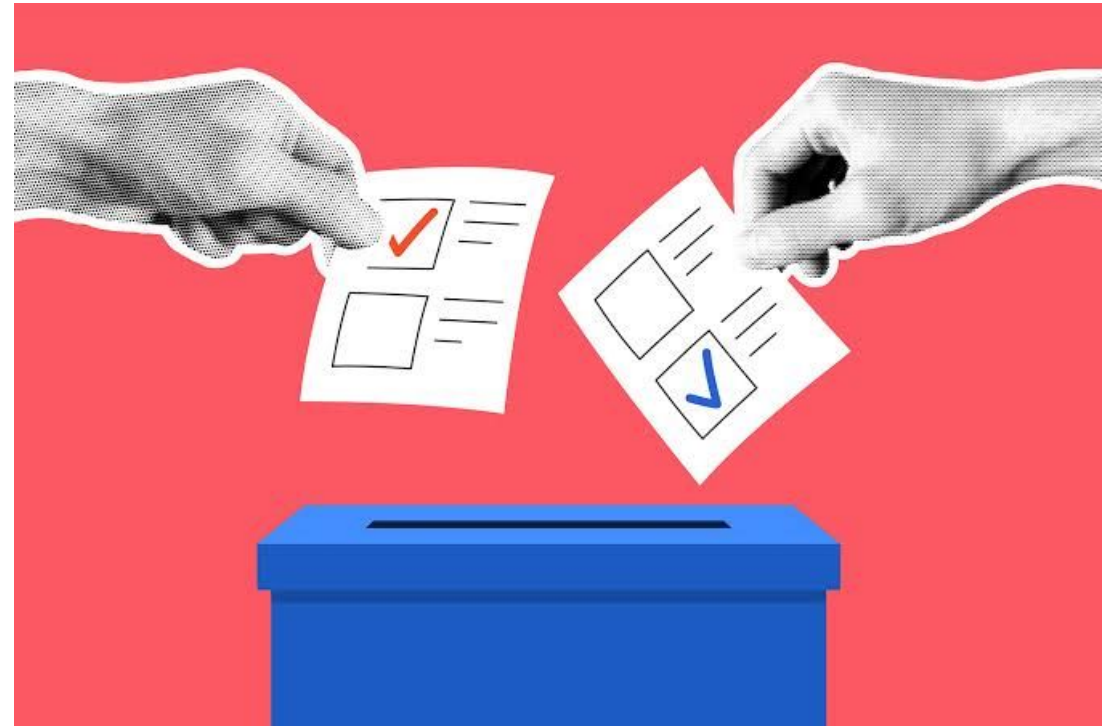
Referred to the Ballot in 2026

HCR 2001, Citizenship, Identification Contributions, Early Voting

- Sponsor: Kolodin
 - Amends the Arizona Constitution
1. States that, in addition to any other qualifications prescribed by law or the Arizona Constitution, only citizens may register and vote once in Arizona elections.
 2. Requires all voters to show valid government issued proof of identity before casting a ballot in each election, whether voting in person or by any other method.
 3. Requires all voters to be provided with the option to have their ballot tabulated at the voting location, as prescribed by law, in order to prevent administrative delays and ensure results on election day
 4. Prohibits a foreign national from contributing or expending money or anything of value to influence an election in Arizona and prohibits a person from knowingly accepting such contributions.
 5. Asserts that Arizona elections must be decided solely by the votes of eligible citizen voters.
 6. Asserts that the people and the Legislature may enact laws governing elections, including early and mail voting, provided such laws are rationally connected to a legitimate state interest, including timely and accurate election results, efficient election administration, election security and preserving public confidence in the integrity of elections.
 7. Requires the Legislature to appropriate any monies necessary to implement the provisions of this act.
 8. States that outlined requirements relating to voter eligibility, voter identification and onsite ballot tabulation requirements **are not subject to constitutional requirements relating to initiatives providing for increased revenue sources to cover the immediate and future costs of the initiative.**

HCR 2001, The Impact

- Many of these provisions are already law in Arizona (ex. only citizens can vote)
- The ID provision includes mail in ballots; the bill provides no explanation for how that will be accomplished.
 - Currently mail in voters are required to show ID to register and put a signature on file. The mail in ballot requires a signature and it is “cured” or compared to the signature on file prior to the ballot being counted.
- Fiscal impacts cannot be determined due to lack of detail and unknown impacts on voter turnout.
 - Counties have expressed concern that the logistics and costs will be a burden for them.
 - A last-minute amendment to this bill requires the state to fund the cost of the changes.



HCR 2003, Interscholastic, Intermural Athletics, Biological Sex

- Sponsor: Bliss

1. Requires that athletic associations that sponsor an interscholastic or intramural sport to designate the sport based on the sex of the athletes who participate in the sport.

2. Specifies that a school or athletic association may not open any team or sport that is designated for females, women or girls to athletes of the male sex.

3. Specifies that the requirements relating to the designation of interscholastic or intramural athletic teams or sports based on sex does not restrict an athlete from participating in a team or sport that is aligned with the athlete's sex or that is designated as coeducational, rather than designated as being for males, men or boys or designated as coed.

4. Prohibits schools or athletic associations who provide and maintain restrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms or other private spaces from authorizing any individual to use a restroom, locker room, shower room or other private space that is not designated for the individual's sex.

5. Prohibits a government entity, licensing organization, accrediting organization or athletic association from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking other adverse action against an athletic association for maintaining separate interscholastic or intramural athletic teams or sports for athletes of the female sex.

6. Grants a private cause of action to an athlete who is deprived of athletic opportunity or suffers harm as specified against an athletic association that knowingly violates the requirements relating to the designation of interscholastic or intramural athletic teams or sports based on sex.

7. Defines sex as an individual's biological status as male or female as recorded at birth on the individual's original birth certificate.

HCR 2003, The Impacts

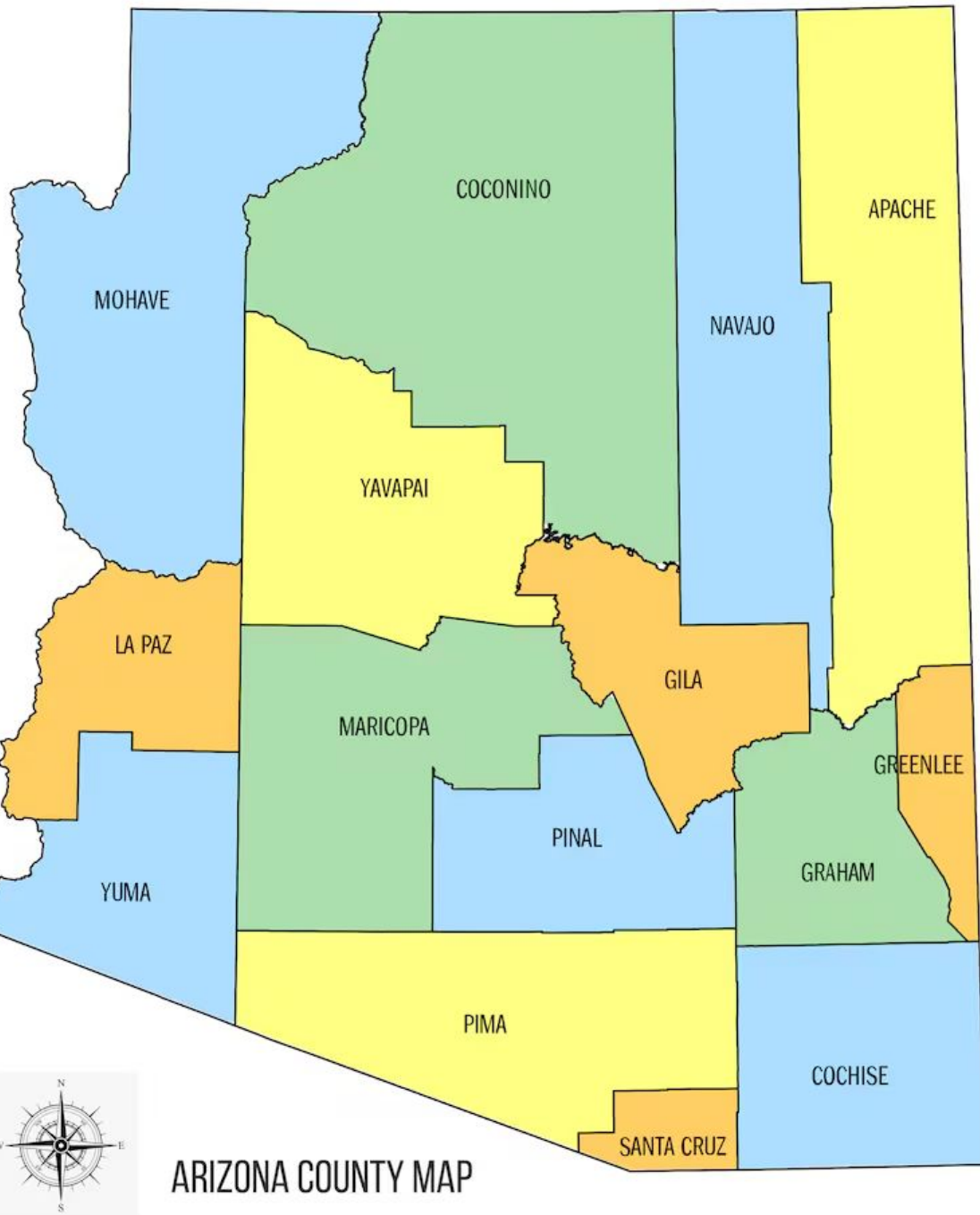
- Versions of this bill have previously passed and have been vetoed by the Governor
- Proponents say this law would protect women and girls in sports from transgender students who have an unfair competitive advantage and make locker rooms and restrooms safer for student athletes.
- Opponents state that laws like this encourage harassment and bullying of transgender students and subject students who do not fit stereotypical gender norms to “gender checks.”
- Arizona Interscholastic Association records show that out of roughly 170,000 high school athletes statewide, they received approximately 16 requests from transgender students to participate between 2017 and 2022. Meanwhile, from a national perspective, NCAA leadership has stated that out of more than 500,000 college student-athletes, fewer than 10 transgender athletes are participating in NCAA sports.
- Opponents cite several studies that show that fears of increased safety and privacy violations as a result of nondiscrimination laws are not empirically grounded.

HCR 2007, School Districts, Instructional Expenses

- Sponsor: Gress
- 1. Mandates each school district with a student count of at least 7,500 or that operates a school in a county with a population of at least 500,000 spend at least 60% of its operational spending on direct instructional expenses.
- 2. Requires, beginning in FY 2028 and until the school district is in compliance, any school district that spends less than 60% of its operational spending on direct instructional expenses to increase the portion of operational spending that is spent on direct instructional expenses each year by at least 0.5% per year.
- 3. Directs the Arizona Department of Education to reduce a school district's CSF allocation for the budget year as follows if the school district receives CSF monies and the OAG determines the school district did not comply with the direct instructional expenses spending requirement in the immediately preceding fiscal year:
 - a. 25% of the amount that would otherwise be allocated if the school district did not comply for one year
 - b. 50% of the amount that would otherwise be allocated if the school district did not comply for two years;
 - c. 75% of the amount that would otherwise be allocated if the school district did not comply for three years; and d. an amount equal to the amount that would be otherwise allocated if the school district did not comply for at least four years.



HCR 2007, The Impacts



- This law would only apply to approximately 25-30 school districts
- This law would only apply in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal Counties.
- Proponents believe this will force school districts to reduce administrative costs and put money into classroom and instructional expenses.
- Opponents say the definition of “instructional expenses” is unclear and doesn’t include key supports for students.
- Opponents are also concerned about withholding state funding and the impact that would have for local district.

HCR 2040, School Districts, Labor Unions

- Sponsor: Olson
- Amends the Arizona Constitution

1. Prohibits a school district from:

Using public monies and resources to support the operations of a labor organization;

Deducting any payment from a school district employee's paycheck for labor organization membership dues; or

Providing access to the school district's internal communications systems to distribute labor organization membership recruiting information or political materials.

2. Prohibits school district employees from distributing written, printed or digital communications in a manner that consumes public resources on a labor organization's behalf.

3. Prohibits a school district from using public monies or resources to perform labor organization activities during working hours, including using:

Accounting or payroll systems to collect dues, fees or other contributions

Facilities for meetings to recruit during working hours, including orientation

Paid leave to conduct business

Internal government communication systems to distribute labor organization membership recruiting information or political materials; or

Any other public resource for distributing written, printed or digital communications on behalf of a labor organization.

4. Specifies that a school district may not approve employee paid leave for any business related to a school district employee's labor organization activities.

5. Specifies that a school district employee has a right to negotiate the employee's own terms and conditions of employment, including wages, benefits and working conditions.

6. Prohibits the state or a political subdivision from negotiating with a labor organization for an exclusive representation agreement, collective bargaining agreement, memorandum of understanding, contract or other agreement regarding the terms and conditions of school district employment.

7. Determines that the outlined prohibitions relating to labor organizations supersedes any contract, memorandum of understanding, meet and confer agreement, policy, ordinance or other written or oral agreement.

HCR 2040, The Impacts



- **Supporters** argue that government and taxpayer resources should not be used to sustain and fund private union politics. They note the measure ensures tax dollars remain entirely focused on the public education system.
- **Opponents** argue the measure is an attack on teachers' freedom of association. They state it singles out education unions while leaving payroll deductions open to other groups, threatens to override existing protective contracts, and restricts how educators communicate about student learning conditions.
- **Union Advocates** fear the broadly worded bill could ban all public sector labor unions in Arizona, including those that represent police officers and firefighters, from negotiating employment terms.

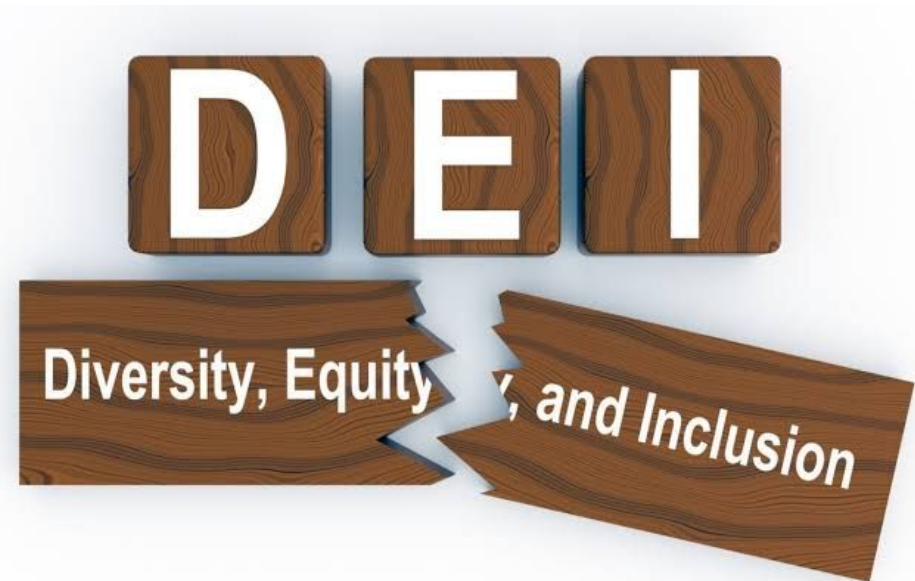
HCR 2044, Preferential Treatment, Discrimination

- Sponsor: Montenegro
- Amends the Arizona Constitution

Prohibits the state from compelling an applicant, employee, student or contractor to endorse or support giving preferential treatment to or discriminating against any individual on the basis of race or ethnicity as a condition of any admission, graduation, hiring, promotion, certification, contracting decision, other employment function or scholarship opportunity.

Prohibits the state from spending public monies to operate or contract for any office or position in an institution of public education that is responsible for promoting preferential treatment toward or discrimination against an individual or group on the basis of race or ethnicity.

Prohibits the state from implementing any disciplinary policy or practice that treats an individual student, employee, group of students or employees differently on the basis of race or ethnicity.



HCR 2044, The Impacts

- Multiple versions of this bill have been introduced previously.
- Proponents say it enshrines a ban on what they call discriminatory policies in state government.
- Opponents say it prohibits academic freedom in our colleges and universities, violating the First Amendment rights of students, teachers, and administrators. They believe it targets specific viewpoints on race, sex and discrimination for censorship, prohibiting their assignment or discussion at universities.

HCR 2048, Military Families, Scholarships OR The ESA “Poison Pill”

- Sponsor: Way
- Prohibits the state from confiscating monies from any scholarship account of any student who is a child of a military family if the following apply:
 - a) the scholarship account is established and maintained by the state pursuant to a program that designates any student who is a child of a military family and satisfies enrollment requirements as eligible to receive scholarship monies; and
 - b) the student may use monies in the scholarship account for tuition or fees at eligible postsecondary educational institutions.
- Specifies that the eligibility requirement does not limit the prohibition on confiscating monies from a scholarship account to only scholarship account programs that are established and maintained by the state for only children of military families.
- **Stipulates that, if a bill enacted into law or a measure approved by the voters on or after November 1, 2026, violates the prohibition on confiscating scholarship account monies, the entire bill or measure is void. 4. Prohibits a court from severing any portion of a bill or measure that violates the prohibition on confiscating scholarship account monies.**



SCR 1004, Photo Enforcement Systems



- Sponsor: Rodgers
- Prohibits a local authority or state agency from using a photo enforcement system to identify violators of speed restrictions, traffic signs, signals and markings or a city or town ordinance for excessive speed or failure to obey a traffic control device, unless the local authority or state agency has a signed contract to operate a photo enforcement system by December 31, 2026.
- Requires a local authority with a signed contract as outlined to seek voter approval to continue operation of the system at the general election immediately following the effective date of the newly established requirements.
- If the voters fail to approve the operation of the system, the local authority must cease operation within 90 days of the general election at which the voters failed to approve the use of photo enforcement.
- Allows a local authority to operate a photo enforcement system for 10 years once approved by the voters before seeking re-approval.



Citizen Led
Initiatives

2026 Protect Education Act

- \$150,000 Household Income Cap for ESA Eligibility
- Prohibits the purchase of “luxury items”
- Requires fingerprint clearance, background checks and adherence to fire and safety codes
- “Claws back” unused funds
- Requires private and alternative schools receiving state funds to administer the same nationally recognized assessments used by public schools.



PROTECT
EDUCATION
ACCOUNTABILITY NOW

Protect Education Act

- Proponents

- Adds Accountability
- Aligns to requirements for district and charter schools
- Increases transparency and limits fraud
- Increases safety measures
- Closes loophole that allows unrestricted rollover for higher ed expenses

- Opponents

- Accountability already exists
- Could harm students with disabilities that the program was designed to help originally
- Designed to limit school choice
- Clawing back funds punishes families

Some Final Thoughts

Depending on where you live, you may have additional local ballot questions on your ballot.

If you have at least one registered voter in your home, you will receive in the mail, a ballot arguments document with comments from those that support or oppose each of these initiatives.

If you haven't already registered to vote in the general election, the last day to do so is October 5, 2026. Click [HERE](#) to learn how.

I will update this document once I have the Proposition numbers.