

Arguments Submitted “For” Prop. 306

The Clean Elections system has enabled some fine people who are not beholden to political parties or special interests to be elected to the legislature – candidates who may not have been able to run without this taxpayer funding. The law is subject to abuse, however, by candidates who get the taxpayer money and then turn around and transfer some or most of it to the very political parties and special-interests the law was intended to circumvent. This measure closes that loophole. Vote yes to keep the CLEAN in Clean Elections.

Sydney Hay, Scottsdale

I am voting for Proposition 306 because I believe the government must behave transparently when it does business. A year ago, a government agency called the Arizona Clean Elections Commission approved a rule that gave candidates the ability to give government money (such as your tax dollars) to political parties and dark money groups.

The only people who showed up to this hearing were the political party officers and the operatives they hire to work for them. The media did not cover this hearing and so people around the state know virtually nothing about it, but it has huge ramifications for all us.

I support Proposition 306 because it will stop the government from giving money to political parties and partisan party politics. Parties will no longer be able to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in public money to pay for their consultants. But Proposition 306 will also send a message. It will send a message that the government should not try to pass laws and rules when nobody is looking. It will let the government know there are consequences when they try to go secretly behind the backs of the public.

In November send the government a message. Send a message for transparency. Vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Wesley Harris, Phoenix

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I support Proposition XXX because we have a lot of pressing problems in Arizona. Whether it is low performance in our schools or the terrible state of our roads and highways, we have important problems that need to be addressed. Often it feels like the citizens who are demanding answers are ignored. But of all the problems I have heard people complain about in Arizona, I have ever once heard someone say the political parties need more money.

That is why it is strange that the Arizona Clean Elections Commission voted to give government money—your money—to political parties so they could afford to send you campaign

advertisements and robo-calls. No citizen who wasn't running for office or being paid by a political party ever asked for this. Ever.

The political parties in Arizona are not victims. If they need money they can raise it from private citizens. They certainly do not need the State of Arizona giving them a direct handout, but that is what is happening since last year.

I'm voting for Proposition 306 because it will stop the government from giving my money/YOUR money to political parties. No government fees, fines or taxpayer dollars will be spent on the political parties in Arizona. That's the way it used to be, that's the way it should be and if you vote yes on Proposition 306 in November that is the way it finally will be."

Henry Ritter, Scottsdale

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I support Proposition 306 because I think the government needs to focus its priorities. How do you think government money should be spent? Should it go to pay for schools? How about fixing Arizona's roads? Or even keeping our neighborhoods safe? Or maybe you take the view that government spends too much, and the money should go back to taxpayers. Whatever point of view you have, I am willing to bet you do not think the government should be giving away free money to political parties. But that is exactly what is happening in the State of Arizona.

I support Proposition 306 because the political parties have figured out how to exploit a crazy loophole in the law. They have figured out a way to take government money—money that could be going to schools or roads or even back to the taxpayers—and give that money to political parties.

If you are a Republican, imagine your tax dollars are going to fund the Democrat party. If you are a Democrat, imagine your tax dollars are going to fund the Republican party. Can you believe it?

I support Proposition 306 because it will permanently end the practice of the government giving away free money to the political parties. These parties can still raise money. They can still get donations, but they will not be able to get money from the government or you the taxpayer. It will permanently end the practice of the State of Arizona subsidizing political parties at the expense of the taxpayers. The only way to stop this is to vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Steven Julian, Avondale

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In 1998 the voters of Arizona voted to create the Clean Elections Commission. The purpose was to put a stop to the scandals—like AZ Scam—that were corrupting state government. The idea was that this commission would clean up Arizona politics from all the dirty money influencing the politicians and political parties.

Unfortunately, this past year the Commission took a major step backwards and voted not to limit the power and cash of the political parties, but instead voted to give the parties government money. This is antithetical to why the Commission was created in the first place. Giving government money to political parties will make them more powerful, make them even dirtier and will encourage them to create even more nasty ads to smear one another.

I support Proposition 306 because I do not want my tax dollars used to fund the forces of corruption. I do not want my government to fund some of those corrupt institutions in the state—the political parties and the dark money groups.

Eileen Danko, Fountain Hills

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I urge everyone to support Proposition 306, which will stop our tax dollars going to political parties and special interest groups to influence elections. The initiative will also reign in the Clean Election Commission, a politically appointed body that is heavily invested in pushing their partisan agenda. For years this radical commission has ignored the law and have invented their own secretive rule-making process that avoids transparency and stomps out legitimate public input. Following the same rule making process as every other federal and state government agency is good for citizens and will make sure that the commission no longer allows our tax dollars to be laundered to political parties. Please vote YES on Proposition 306.

Nancy Cottle, Mesa

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

I am voting for Proposition 306 because I believe in transparency in how government does its business. Last year the Arizona Clean Elections Commission passed a rule that would allow government money to be given over to political parties and dark money groups.

It was a hearing in which virtually no one showed up. The newspapers did not cover it. The television stations did not cover it. Virtually no one even knew it was happening, but what they did will have huge ramifications for Arizona for years to come.

Proposition 306 will reverse what this unelected commission did. It will prevent the political parties from receiving government money in the future. It will also make sure no group of unelected bureaucrats can just pass a huge rule like this without an extensive oversight process. The Citizens of Arizona deserve to know what their government is doing. They deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

If you care about the rule of law or preventing the political parties from taking over our democracy, please vote for Proposition 306.

Steve Hestler, Mesa

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Republicans and Democrats. Supposedly, they are different. That is what they claim, but the more and more I observe them, it has become obvious that these two parties are just two sides of the same coin. Their party leaders don't care about America. They don't care about Arizona. They only care about getting their fat cat politician friends elected than they do about solving problems in America. And now they want us to pay for their party salaries too???

I support Proposition 306 because I don't want one dime of taxpayer dollars going to political parties for any reason. The government has absolutely no business giving public money from hardworking taxpayers to pay for political operatives to continue to ruin America.

But unfortunately that is not the way it works. The political parties have figured out a way to take money that should be going to fix roads, educate our kids and police our neighborhoods and give it away to political parties. These parties spend the money on sleazy advertisements, annoying robo-calls and ugly signs littering our streets. They are using our tax dollars to pay for sketchy political consultants and operatives to lie and tear Americans apart.

Proposition 306 is really, really simple: it says that absolutely no public, government or taxpayer money can go to a registered political party in Arizona. They can still raise money through contributions, but they cannot take money from taxpayers or the government. You would not think we need a law to do to that, but because of corrupt party leaders, we do. Vote Yes on Proposition 306!

Susan Lopotko, Peoria

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Vote Yes on Proposition 306! Last year, there was a meeting you probably never even heard about. It is not surprising because hardly anyone attended. The only attendees were bureaucrats and political operatives. The political operatives apparently believed the biggest problem was that the political parties did not have enough money to pay consultants and political hacks to work in politics. I wish I was making this up. I wish this was not true, but unfortunately, it is true.

Incredibly, the bureaucrats voted to give government money—your money, taxpayer money—to pay political operatives to work on campaigns. You read that correctly. The government will now use your tax dollars to pay political operatives to smear their opponents, litter Arizona with campaign signs and annoy you with robo-calls.

I support Proposition 306 because it will tell the political operatives and the bureaucrats and the politicians and the party bosses, that you do not want public money—your money—to go to subsidize Arizona's political parties.

I support Proposition 306 because we need to clean up dirty money in Arizona politics. The political parties and their lobbyists and their consultants have a corrupting influence on Arizona State Government. Proposition 306 will stop them. Vote Yes on Proposition 306!

Shane Levinson, Chandler

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I am voting for Proposition 306 because it is simple and straightforward. It says that the government of the state of Arizona cannot spend public money (i.e. taxpayer money) on political parties. It does not stop you or me from contributing to political parties. We are still allowed to donate to them as a private citizen, but it prevents the government from taking money from you or me and giving it to political parties or causes we do not agree with.

I am voting for Proposition 306 because this is a free country. If I agree with a political party's platform, I should be allowed to support causes and candidates that I like, but I should not have the right to force you to give to those causes or parties, any more than you should have the right to force me to give to support your political side. Unfortunately, this past year the government changed the law. It said that from now on the government was going to get involved in party politics. It was going to give the parties government money—your money—whether you agreed with them or not.

Vote Yes on Proposition 306 because this is not how government should work. Government should not get involved in giving your money to the causes and parties you oppose. Keep government money out of party politics. Vote Yes on Proposition XXX.

Neland Nobel, Phoenix

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Have you ever thought about what political parties do? They create a party platform of issues. Those issues include all kinds of things—abortion, taxes, education, you name it. Then the parties get people elected to implement their agenda. This is a free country and you should have the right to support a party and its nominees when you agree with them. But should you be forced to support a party and its nominees when you do not agree with them?

I support Proposition 306 because last year, unelected bureaucrats decided that you do have to support parties that you disagree with. The government was going to take taxpayer money—your money—and spend it on political parties, whether you agree with those parties or not.

What is your position on abortion? Do you call yourself pro-life or pro-choice? What about education? Do you think the government should give more money to public schools? Or do you think there should be less money? Whatever your position is, the government doesn't care. The government ordered that public money should go to parties and their candidates who do not share your values, regardless whether you are conservative or liberal.

I support Proposition 306 because it will stop the government from giving money political parties. Period.

Robert Jamison, Phoenix

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

I support Proposition 306 because I believe in the rule of law. This past year a complaint was filed at the Clean Elections Commission against a group of political candidates, who used government money to help fund their political party. They spent over one hundred thousand dollars of public money on political activities for their party.

Ignoring state law and the ballot measure passed by the voters to clean up politics in Arizona, the Commission not only allowed the candidates to contribute over one hundred thousand dollars of your money to a political party, they passed a law so that all candidates could do this in the future. None of your elected officials ever voted on this rule, it was never subject to any public oversight. Essentially, a group of unelected bureaucrats decided it would be state policy to have public funding of political parties. In this particular case it was money given to the Democrat Party, but the principle applies to the Republican, Libertarian and all other parties as well.

I support Proposition 306 because we elect people for a reason. Our lawmakers and the governor are supposed to pass laws—not unelected bureaucrats. Proposition XXX is your opportunity to tell those bureaucrats they cannot just pass laws outside of the legislative process. Vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Dave Kuenzi, Mesa

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

One of the biggest complaints from opponents to Proposition, is that it forces every executive agency—including the Clean Elections Commission—to obey the same rules.

The bulk of Proposition 306 is stopping government agencies from giving government money to political parties and political committees. The reason why it requires every commission to follow the same rules, is that the Commission created a loophole in order to be able to fund their friends in the political parties.

Everyone in the state should follow the same rules. Appointed bureaucrats should not follow their own rules. They should not get special treatment. They should follow the law.

I support Proposition 306 because it requires government agencies and commissions to follow the same rules and will prohibit them from getting in to the campaign business by contributing government funds to political parties.

Sandy Kuenzi, Mesa

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

If you read the newspapers or watch the nightly news, you will see story after story about how the political parties are corrupt. You will see the stories about how politicians do not vote their conscience but instead they vote the way their party tells them to vote. It happens to both major political parties. But what if the political parties have even more power than they have now? What if in addition to the contributions they receive from powerful donors, they also were able to take your tax dollars as well?

I am voting for Proposition 306 because that has become a reality in Arizona. Recently, the state ruled that the major political parties can receive government money and there is practically a gold rush to see which party can get more of your tax dollars.

A vote for Proposition 306 will stop the practice in its tracks. The State of Arizona will be prohibited from giving any of your money to the political parties. You can still contribute to them on your own, but the government cannot use any money it receives for that purpose.

Vote Yes on Proposition 306.

John Lopotko, Phoenix

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The language of Proposition 306 is pretty simple. It states basically three things: first government money cannot be given directly or indirectly to a political party. Second, it states that government money cannot be given either directly or indirectly to a political committee (like one of those sketchy dark money groups, labor unions or corporate political action committees or PACs). Finally, it states that all executive state agencies have to abide by the same rules, so we do not have this kind of political tomfoolery any more.

What I like about Proposition 306 is that is very straightforward and your decision about it is clear. If you oppose your tax dollars being spent on political parties and secretive political committees, vote for Proposition 306.

Olivier Mirza, Chandler

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Are you tired of all the negativity in politics? Do you hate those negative ads on TV that pits Americans against one another? Did you know that the Arizona Clean Elections Commission just voted to makes things even worse? It's true, the commission charged with cleaning up dirty politics just voted to give government money to the political parties and political committees. That's on top of the money they already receive in contributions. This government money will give them the ability to produce even more ads that tear America and Arizona apart.

If you vote for Proposition 306, you will send a message to the Commission and the political parties that you do not want to see public money being used to divide the public even more. You

do not want public money funding nasty advertisements and unscrupulous campaign consultants who try to smear candidates in both parties.

If you vote Proposition 306, you will send a message that Arizona wants its leaders to work together and not fight with one another. Vote Yes on Proposition 306!

Kimber Hattendorf, Tempe

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When the founders of America created this country, they warned future generations to beware of factionalism. The factionalism they warned about was really about political parties. They worried that political parties would divide America more than it would unite America.

Over two hundred years later, Americans only know too well how right our Founders were. We see it in the lack of civility politicians and pundits treat each other with. We see it in a divided Congress that cannot seem to get anything done.

Our Founders would be horrified to know that Arizona now gives out money to political parties from the public coffers. The State itself is underwriting the very factionalism our Founders warned us about.

It is a free country. You can belong to a party and contribute to a party, but the government should not be able to fund a party itself.

I'm voting for Proposition 306 because I do not want my tax dollars to pay political parties to split my country and my state apart. Vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Leslie White, Phoenix

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

From time to time the government of Arizona does something stupid. It's times like these that requires the people to step up and act. That is why I support Proposition 306. About a year ago the Arizona Clean Elections Commission heard a case that candidates were using money that the state had given them to fund their own political party. To most people this is a gross misuse of public funds. The Commission, however, thought it was fine. They allowed the transfer of hundreds of thousands of dollars of state money to go to the Democratic Party.

But even Democrats do not support giving public money to a party, because this money could have just as easily gone to the Republican Party.

This action was taken by the Commission with no regard to how people across Arizona feel about it. There was not an extensive process of public comment. They simply voted to allow this to happen.

If you feel that our government is often out of control and does not listen to the people, then you should vote for Proposition 306. It simply forbids the State of Arizona giving money to a political party—regardless whether it is the Republican or Democratic Party. It also says that in the future, state agencies, like the Commission, have to follow the same rules as everybody else when they created new regulations.

Vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Neal Andres, Gilbert

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What is more important to you—people or political parties? It has become more obvious to many Americans that the problem in this country is not individuals but the major political parties who do not listen to their own members.

I support Proposition 306 because it prohibits the State of Arizona from giving money to the Republican, Democrat or any other political parties or political committees.

Both major parties are completely out of touch. The establishment of both parties do not listen to the people who are most affected by their policies. Why should we then reward the Democrat and Republican Parties with government money? Will that somehow make them more accountable? Make them more in tune with the people they claim to represent? I believe it will make them even more out of touch and oblivious to the problems of ordinary Americans.

Proposition 306 is a response to a local group of bureaucrats who are trying to inject new life into the political parties, by giving handouts to them. Proposition 306 would outlaw giving government money to the leadership of these political parties. When it comes time to vote in November, vote for People over Political Parties. Vote for Proposition 306.

Asma Isack, Phoenix

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I support Proposition 306 because I want candidates for the Arizona State Legislature, Governor and all other state offices to think for themselves and not for what the parties want them to think.

Recently, the State of Arizona allowed the political parties to receive government money. That money can be used to influence candidates for the legislature and other offices. When the parties are able to control money then they are able to control candidates too.

Proposition 306 will stop this practice. It will prohibit all state government money from ever being used to support a political party. This will prevent the parties from using government money to get the candidates to vote and act the way they want, instead of the interest of the citizens of Arizona.

If you believe the political parties in Arizona have too much power already, then I would urge you to vote in favor of Proposition XXX. It will prevent your tax dollars from being used to support political party hacks and using that money to corrupt politicians. Vote yes on Proposition XXX.

Colette Pikosz, Gilbert

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

I support Proposition 306 because we have a lot of needs in Arizona. Our schools have some of the lowest scores in national rankings. Our jails are crowded. Our streets are falling apart. Citizens in Arizona feel more and more disconnected to those in government who control their lives. But one problem we don't have is political parties not having enough money.

Recently, the Arizona Clean Elections Commission voted to give government money—taxpayer dollars—to political parties so they could afford to send you campaign mail, start calling you with telemarketers and put up ugly campaign signs on every corner. Does anyone believe that is a real problem in Arizona?

Nobody in this State sees political parties as victims in need of a hand out, so why would we allow the government to give them anything?

Proposition 306 prohibits government funding of political parties and political committees and puts a stop to government bureaucrats from finding a loophole to give their friends in the political parties your money to run their operations.

Whether you vote by mail or in person at the polls in November, be sure to vote for Proposition 306.

Josh Stockton, Mesa

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

The opponents of Proposition 306 have two complaints. First, they say that political parties should receive money from the government. In addition, they say that some government agencies should be able to pass rules without any government oversight. I completely disagree. Government money has no business being used to buy junk mail and yard signs for political parties. It should not be used to pay for political consultants and it certainly should not be used as leverage of political parties controlling politicians. In addition, a government agency should not be able to pass rules about letting political parties receive government money without any oversight.

I support Proposition 306 because I want the State of Arizona out of the political campaigns business. People on both sides of the aisle can agree to disagree on what we should do with taxpayer dollars, but we can agree on one thing: they have no place in funding political parties and no agency should be able to give that kind of power to the parties without going through the legislative process or – even better – going to us, the Voters of Arizona.

Vote Yes on Proposition 306!

Mark Towns, Phoenix

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

When the State of Arizona recently allowed government money to be given to political parties, it unwittingly gave political parties a huge hammer in controlling the candidates in their party. I support Proposition 306 because it will outlaw all government money being given to political parties or other dark money groups.

We all want our politicians to be independent and to think for themselves. We do not want political parties to be able to have undo influence over them, but by allowing the government to give money to political parties, Arizona is giving the parties a huge amount of power. Parties can control the spigot of money to candidates. It can direct other resources (personnel, etc.) to flow to candidates it likes and away from candidates it does not like.

That is not how our political system should work. Proposition 306 would prevent that from happening again. It will take government out of how political parties are funded for good. In November vote yes on Proposition 306.

Steven Julian, Avondale

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

Last year the Arizona Clean Election Commission voted to allow political parties, like the Republican and Democrat Parties, to receive government money. What are the parties likely to do with that money?

Political parties typically spend money on salaries for staffers. They also pay campaign consultants. These are the people who design all of those negative political ads you see on television, for example. Parties pay for rent, but the bulk of their money goes to producing content. That content could be television ads, campaign signs, mailers and even those annoying robo-calls you receive during campaign season.

I am voting for Proposition 306 because it will prohibit all government dollars from going to political parties to pay for these kinds of things. The critics of Proposition 306 may argue that the money the parties will receive will not all go to all of these expenses. Technically, they may be correct, but the money the parties receive in any one category will offset costs in another category.

I do not think it is in the public interest for the government to give money for parties to spend in this way. I support Proposition because it will outlaw all government money in party political.

Justin Yentes, Gilbert

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Support Ending Taxpayer Money Going to Political Parties

One of the most corrupt practices in American history was the infamous Tammany Hall, where party bosses were able to have absolute control over politicians in New York City. Boss Tweed used money to bribe politicians and hold power until he was finally arrested.

But what if Boss Tweed had access to government money that he could use to pay off politicians? And what if that was all legal? Unfortunately, that is the new law in Arizona. It was passed this last year at the urging of party insiders. It creates a virtually unlimited supply of cash to the political parties with absolutely no oversight and it is all perfectly legal.

I support Proposition 306 because it will outlaw this practice and prevent the government from ever doing it again. Stand up for a clean government and not the corruption of the past. Vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Nate Porter, Gilbert

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Stop Dirty Money in Politics, Vote Yes on Prop 306

When America was founded, politics consisted of pamphlets and speeches, but in the course of a few hundred years it has become a huge business. We have set records in Arizona in spending for congressional, senate and state legislative races. The winners in these contests are not the voters, they are the politicians, the political parties and the campaign consultants they hire.

Some bright campaign consultant realized that it was difficult to raise money the old fashioned way and came up with a plan to get more money, more quickly and more efficiently. All they had to do was force you the taxpayer to subsidize their political business. That's right, under Arizona law political parties and political parties actually receive hundreds of thousands of government dollars to run their operations.

I support Proposition 306 because it makes this practice illegal. It prohibits government agencies from giving government money to fund political parties and makes sure they never pull another stunt like this by making all government agencies subject to the same rules.

In November vote Yes on Proposition 306!

Jayson Clausen, Gilbert

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It is hard not to pick up the newspaper these days and see things that divide us as a country and as a state. People disagree on immigration, social issues, how to spend our money. It is hard to find a government policy where people actually agree on something. I am voting for Proposition 306 because it is something that brings people together. We might not be able to agree on much, but we can all agree that the government has no business getting involved in—let alone funding—partisan politics.

Proposition 306 says that government money cannot be spent on funding the Democratic or Republican Parties. Whether the money comes from taxpayers, traffic fines or fees, if it is government money, it would not be able to make its way into a political party's hands. Hard core conservatives and liberals agree they do not want to see the government getting involved with funding political parties, because most people recognize the parties are a big part of the problem in our society.

Help bring Arizona together this November by voting for Proposition 306.

Kirsten Mussi, Gilbert

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I support Proposition 306 because I believe the government needs to get its priorities straight. Of all the things the government spends money on—schools, roads, police, fire—giving money to political parties should not be one of them! Proposition 306 bans government money from being spent on political parties.

This is not a conservative versus progressive issue. I happen to believe the government is too big and spends too much money. You might think that the role of government should be bigger and that it does not spend enough. While we may disagree on that, I do not think there is much argument as to whether the government should get involve in political campaigns and take the extra step of giving political parties government resources. Spend the money on roads, law enforcement, education or give it back to the people, but whatever we do, we should not be giving it to the political parties who pull the strings of our politicians. That is why I am asking you to vote yes on Proposition 306 and get the government out of partisan politics.

We need to prioritize our tax dollars and makes sure the government is spending its money wisely. Giving money to corrupt political parties is not wise management of taxpayer dollars.

In November Vote Yes on Proposition 306!

Justin Walsh, Phoenix

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

Please Vote Yes on Proposition 306! Voters passed the Clean Elections law in 1998 to clean up the influence of dirty money in political campaigns. One of the biggest sources of that corruption comes from the political parties themselves. They have tremendous power over the candidates.

Recently, the parties have figured out a loophole in the law to retain the influence they have lost in Arizona. They now can get government money to pay for their operations! Voters NEVER intended that to happen, but it is happening right now in our state.

On election day please vote Yes on Proposition 306. It does two things: first it outlaws state money from being used to fund political parties and second, it says that all agencies (including the one that allowed state money to go to political parties) are subjected to the same rules and oversight. A Yes Vote on Proposition 306 will mean that none of your Arizona State dollars will ever go to fund a political consultant or operative for a political party again. It will mean that an unelected state agency cannot quietly pass these kinds of rules in the future without any oversight. Please Vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Rich Rutkowski, Fountain Hills

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

I support Prop 306 because public tax dollars should not be used to support the private interests of political parties. The Arizona Republic reported in November 2017 that 34.6 percent of Arizonans are registered as Republicans and 30.2 percent are registered as Democrats. That leaves 35.2 percent of the population, the majority of which are registered as independents who don't wish to support a political party. Yet under the current system, the tax dollars of these independents are funneled to political parties. While perhaps some measure public support for candidates is necessary, this public support should be as narrowly tailored as possible so as to prevent public tax dollars going toward the general interests of the political parties. Prop 306 effectively does this while still allowing for the public support of certain candidates, not parties.

Stephen Richer, Phoenix

Sponsored by Stop Taxpayer Money For Political Parties

I support Proposition 306 because I support the Administrative Procedures Act. This act requires all Arizona State agencies to follow the same procedures when they change a rule or make a new rule. Why is this necessary? It is necessary because for most citizens there is really no difference between a rule and a law.

When Arizona passes a law it has to go through the legislative process—meaning it is introduced in the House or Senate, heard by a series of committees, is debated on the floor, voted on and then goes to the other chamber to repeat the this whole process. Finally, it must be signed by the Governor. It is an exhaustive process, but it is a good one because the public gets several chances to be heard by lawmakers. Ideas get to be properly vetted. This is important because changes in the law and new laws can have a huge impact on Arizona citizens.

But rules are different. When an agency makes a rule there is no legislative process. There is a lot less citizen input. There are no public votes, normally. The people making the decisions are bureaucrats—and not elected officials—so they are not held accountable for bad decisions. Because of this Arizona follows the Administrative Procedures Act. It creates a process with

some accountability—maybe not as much as the legislative process—but better than nothing. Recently, however, some agencies, like the Clean Elections Commission, have tried to go around this process altogether. They hold a vote when no one is there and the rules they adopt essentially become law.

It is important for our government to be open, transparent and accountable to the people. That's why I support Proposition 306.

John Wittrock, Scottsdale

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I am supporting Proposition 306 because of the polarization recently. It is hard to watch the nightly news these days. Whether you watch Fox or MSNBC you see people yelling at each other. This election season promises to be one of the worst in recent memory. Whether you are a Republican, Democrat or Independent, you are probably dreading seeing all the negative ads and watching candidates make outrageous claims against each other. Incredibly, our state government has recently voted to makes things even worse by giving government money to the political parties who are creating most of the ads and vitriol.

If you want people to be more civil to one another, please vote for Proposition 306. It would outlaw any government money from being given to a political party—whether to the Democrat, Republican or any other party.

Proposition 306 also outlaws government money from being spent on so-called “dark money” groups that create ads as well.

In November please vote Yes on Proposition 306.

Marcus Huey, Phoenix

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I'm voting yes on Proposition 306 because the people should run the government, not bureaucrats. This past year a group of bureaucrats decided to allow political parties in Arizona to receive government money to run their operations. I do not want the money that the government collected on behalf of all of us to be used to support a party than many of us do not agree with. I think that is morally wrong.

Proposition 306 would forbid the government from giving money to any political party—Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, etc. If those parties want money they can raise it the old-fashioned way from private individuals, but not from my tax dollars.

By giving my money to a political party, the State of Arizona is basically compelling me to support something I don't believe in. The parties have the right to free speech, they have the right to assemble and they have the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances,

but they don't have the right to take money away from me against my will to run their campaigns.

If you think our state government is out of control and that Arizona should stay out of partisan politics, then join me in voting yes on Proposition 306.

Roy Miller, Phoenix

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Please Vote YES on Prop 306

I am sincerely asking for your support for Proposition 306, which would prohibit publicly funded Clean Election candidates from giving money to political parties or to non-profit organizations that can engage in candidate elections.

In 2016, it was discovered that several clean election candidates had contributed over \$100,000 to the State Democrat Party. This was an obvious abuse of the system and opens up the possibility that both state parties could look to place candidates on the ballot for the sole purpose of providing clean election funds to the party. This is not an imagined threat to the intent of the voters, it was evident in the 2016 LD-11 House election when a faux candidate wrote checks for thousands of dollars to the Democrat Party, instead of fully prosecuting the race she was in.

In response, Rep. Coleman last year sponsored legislation to end the practice, which ultimately failed when it did not receive the 3/4 vote required for voter protected measures. Additionally, Clean Elections promised to correct the issue over the interim to address the concerns brought up by lawmakers. Unfortunately, instead of ending this abuse of the system Clean Elections passed a rule codifying the practice.

Even more interesting, Clean elections included language in the rule to permit participating candidates to contribute to 501(C) organizations. The practical effect of this change is that a candidate is now allowed to give money to a non-profit (for example, a labor union) that could use the money to support and oppose candidates for office. This activity is far afield from the intentions of the voters to fund individual candidates, not political machines.

Mark Finchem, Representative LD11, Oro Valley

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NO MORE TAXPAYER MONEY FOR POLITICAL PARTIES!

Proposition 306 is a common-sense measure that would prevent your taxpayer dollars from being funneled to political parties.

Prop 306 would do the following:

Prop. 306: Clean Elections; Unlawful Contributions; Rulemaking

- 1) prohibit participating candidates from contributing their Clean Election funds to political parties;
- 2) prohibit participating candidates from contributing their Clean Election funds to non-profit organizations, such as social welfare groups and labor unions; and,
- 3) require the Clean Elections commission to follow the rule-making requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, a standard that applies to other federal and state government agencies.

Under Arizona's so-called Clean Elections system, politicians are given taxpayer money to run for office. By collecting a small number of \$5 contributions from individual voters, Clean Elections candidates can qualify for much larger amounts of taxpayer money for their campaigns. Unfortunately, the Clean Elections commission has allowed politicians to turn around and give that taxpayer money to their political parties.

In 2016, over \$100,000 in taxpayer money was given to political parties through the Clean Elections system. In some cases, candidates ran in districts in which they had no real opposition, and once they qualified for taxpayer money, they turned that money over to their political machines to create slush funds for use in other districts.

The Clean Elections commission has also allowed citizens to give taxpayer money to non-profit organizations such as the NRA, the Sierra Club and labor unions!

Independents should be especially appalled by these abuses. But the same is true for people of any party who don't trust political party machines. It is time to end this corrupt and unethical use of taxpayer money. Please join the Arizona chapter of Americans for Prosperity (www.afpaz.com) in voting YES on Prop 306.

Andrew Clark, State Director, Americans for Prosperity, Phoenix
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