

(Against) HCR2001-Proposition 129 - initiatives; single subject

The League of Women Voters of Arizona strongly opposes this amendment to the Arizona Constitution. The League is dedicated to protecting the constitutional right of citizens to enact laws by preventing legislative action from diminishing or interfering with the will of the people.

This proposed Constitutional amendment will make it harder for citizens to enact laws through ballot measures by limiting the initiative to one subject only. The provisions of any matter not included in the title will be void.

A vote for this measure will further limit citizens' ability to enact laws that address issues and problems that the Legislature has failed to address and open the door to legal challenges regarding what qualifies as a single subject. Citizens could be forced to propose multiple, piecemeal initiatives to provide effective solutions. Legislators are funded by taxpayer money to enact legislation. Citizens must individually bear the high cost in both money and expenditure of time to get a measure on the ballot. The additional barriers in this proposed amendment will only diminish the people's constitutional right to make laws.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARIZONA URGES YOU TO VOTE NO.

Pinny Sheoran, President, League of Women Voters of Arizona, Phoenix

Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Arizona

No matter who we are, we all want the freedom to make decisions that impact our lives. Ballot initiatives are the people's power to exercise that right.

For 110 years, Arizonans from all walks of life have used ballot initiatives to propose and enact laws that help our communities. Through the ballot initiative process, our legislators have a moral and constitutional responsibility to follow the will of the people.

But some politicians and wealthy corporations don't like the decisions we've made, so they are trying to rewrite the rules to get their way – no matter what the majority wants.

Proposition 129 is just another way to undermine the will of the people. It would impose a new requirement on ballot initiatives that would allow the will of hundreds of thousands of Arizonans to be overridden by a single judge.

This measure would open the door to unnecessary and expensive lawsuits for measures that have qualified for the ballot, preventing voters from being able to vote and make decisions on these issues.

Arizonans won't be tricked into giving politicians more power. It's up to us to defend the will of the people against politicians who want to rewrite the rules to get their way.

We must come together to protect our right to make decisions through the ballot.

Vote NO on Proposition 129.

Montserrat Arredondo, Executive Director, One Arizona, Phoenix

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As an organization focused on addressing the problems facing Arizona's rural communities, we know rural Arizonans often feel forgotten and left behind. Decisions made in Phoenix affect us and our lives, and yet it can be hard for us to make our voices heard and force those in power to pay attention. We hear this every day where we live in Casa Grande and San Tan Valley and in our work across Pinal, Yuma, and Coconino Counties.

That's why we are committed to using and protecting the ballot initiative process. For more than 100 years, Arizonans have used ballot initiatives to voice the will of the public. From expanding paid sick leave and other benefits for workers to investing in public education, ballot initiatives have allowed people to be the conduits for change.

Under Arizona's constitution, our legislators are required to follow what voters decide when we make our voices heard through the ballot initiative process. This matches their moral responsibility as elected leaders to follow the will of the people.

Proposition 129 would impose a new requirement on ballot initiatives that would allow the will of hundreds of thousands of Arizonans to be overridden by a single judge.

This measure would open the door to unnecessary and expensive lawsuits for measures that have qualified for the ballot, preventing voters from being able to vote and make decisions on these issues.

Join us in voting NO on Proposition 129.

Natali Fierros Bock, Co-Executive Director, Rural Arizona Engagement, San Tan Valley and Pablo Correa, Co-Executive Director, Rural Arizona Engagement, Casa Grande

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Common Defense is the country's largest veteran-led grassroots organization committed to engaging, organizing, training and mobilizing veterans to elect accountable leaders.

As veterans, as Arizonans, and as members of Common Defense, we urge you to vote NO on Proposition 129.

Under the Arizona constitution, our legislators are required to follow the will of the people as expressed through ballot initiatives.

Unfortunately, some politicians don't like that they are required to follow the will of the people. Through efforts like Proposition 129, they're trying to change the rules to block voters from using our power.

Under Proposition 129, a single judge would be able to block an initiative from appearing on the ballot – even if hundreds of thousands of people had already signed a petition in support.

The expensive and time-consuming lawsuits created by Proposition 129 will block many ballot initiatives from ever launching in the first place, undercutting voters' ability to use the ballot initiative process.

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Respecting the will of the people is a key value that Arizonans share, one that forms a bedrock principle of our democracy. Join us in protecting our power as Arizonans by voting NO on Proposition 129.

Joanna Sweatt, Organizing Director, Common Defense, Chandler; Chad Flannery, Member, Common Defense, Chandler; Christopher Emmons, Member, Common Defense, Mesa; Jason Moon, Member, Common Defense, Phoenix; Frank Thompson, Member, Common Defense, Tucson; Sylvia Andersh, Member, Common Defense, Tucson; and Bridget Bellavigna, Member, Common Defense, Phoenix

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Proposition 129 is a direct attack on our ability to make change through the ballot initiative process. Under Proposition 129, it will be much more difficult for voters to pass policy through ballot initiatives.

Arizonans have used ballot initiatives for more than 100 years. Under our constitution, politicians are required to follow the will of the people as expressed through this initiative process.

But if Proposition 129 passes, a single judge will be able to remove an initiative from the ballot, even if hundreds of thousands of people have already submitted signatures in support. Under Proposition 129, expensive lawsuits could block Arizonans from weighing in on key initiatives, even if those initiatives would otherwise qualify for the ballot.

As a faith leader, I place tremendous importance on our ability as voters to come together and make change. The values that underlie our democracy – including the principle of one person, one vote and the idea that voters should determine our own fate – are connected to the inherent dignity and worth of each individual person. We have an obligation and a duty to protect our democracy, and it starts by standing up to these politicians and preserving our power.

Vote NO on Proposition 129.

Katie Sexton-Wood, Reverend, Glendale

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With a population of more than 7 million, Arizona faces complex issues that politicians refuse to address in a meaningful way. In the absence of their leadership, Arizona voters have taken it upon themselves to go to the ballot and pass comprehensive policies that improve the lives of all Arizonans. Because voters have shown continued support in approving ballot measures to fund public education, politicians have looked for ways to subvert the ability for Arizonans to go to the ballot and seek change.

Proposition 129 is one of these efforts by politicians to silence the will of Arizona voters. If enacted, it will place additional hurdles in the way of Arizonans who look to the ballot to pass policies addressing the real issues Arizonans face. Unlike the Arizona Legislature, ordinary Arizonans cannot simply propose a policy or law change with a simple bill. Instead, Arizonans who want to address the pressing, complex problems of today must go through a demanding signature-collection process to put a measure before fellow voters. The many requirements that currently exist are already difficult to surmount and already provide fertile ground for legal challenges aimed at preventing voters from being able to weigh in on

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important measures. Proposition 129 will make it only harder for voter initiatives to make it through the process.

The policy issues we face in Arizona are complex and require solutions that go beyond what a single subject limitation allows. To address the systemic issues Arizonans face, we must protect the integrity and flexibility of our constitutional right to an initiative process.

On behalf of our teachers and education support professionals, the Arizona Education Association requests that you vote NO on Proposition 129.

Marisol Garcia, President, Arizona Education Association, Phoenix

Vote NO on Proposition 129 to protect citizen-initiated ballot measures.

Proposition 129 is yet another attempt to make it more difficult for citizen initiatives to get on the ballot. By creating more barriers for citizens to voice their concerns and put forward solutions, Proposition 129 is actively seeking to prevent everyday Arizonans from having any power in the legislative process.

Less power for us means more power and influence for lobbyists and special interest in our government. Activate 48 proudly supports citizen-initiated ballot measures and is asking you to vote NO on Proposition 129.

Activate 48 is a coalition led by LUCHA, Mi Familia Vota, Our Voice Our Vote Arizona, and Chispa Arizona. We are four of Arizona's leading movement organizations working to engage young people, Latinos, and communities of color in the political process.

We are bringing together Arizonans across backgrounds, regions, and issue movements to shape the state's future around the needs of communities, not corporations. As a people-powered movement, we are protecting the ability of everyday Arizonans to participate in our democracy while tearing down obstacles meant to make it more difficult.

Join us and protect the voices of everyday Arizonans. Vote NO on Proposition 129.

Alejandra Gomez, Co-Executive Director, Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA), Phoenix; Vianey Olivarría, State Co-Director, Chispa Arizona, Phoenix; Sena Mohammed, Chief of Staff, Our Voice Our Vote Arizona, Phoenix; and Carolina Rodríguez-Greer, Arizona State Director, Mi Familia Vota, Phoenix