

## **(Against) SCR1012 - Proposition 309 - voter identification; affidavit; procedure**

Proposition 309 is not about voter identification. It's about eliminating votes and exposing our personal information for all the world to see. If passed, this law would require that all mail-in ballots include an affidavit where you fill in your personal information, like your date of birth and last 4 digits of your SS#. The worst part of this measure is that if you do not mail back the completed affidavit with your ballot, your vote will never be counted. Period. There is no cure period in this proposed law if the completed affidavit is not mailed back with your ballot. There is only a cure period if the affidavit is returned with your ballot. Make no mistake, if this measure passes, you will have zero chance of having your vote counted if for any reason the completed affidavit is not mailed back with your ballot.

This ballot measure is a complete invasion of privacy and provides absolutely no guarantee that your information will be kept private and secure. The sponsors of this measure want to require you to again provide personal information. Information that the Secretary of State and County Recorder's already have. What happens in future audits conducted by inexperienced groups that hire inexperienced people who will be able see your personal information? Do you feel comfortable with that? I don't.

Arizona voters have been safely voting by mail for almost thirty years. How many people who are used to just filling out their ballot are going to forget to include the completed affidavit and thus their vote will never be counted and with no recourse. I'm guessing a lot. People do what they are used to doing and the sponsors of this measure are banking on that so that they can eliminate as many votes as possible.

### **Diane McQueen, Dewey**

Voting in the United States is a right and a responsibility. As a civil right, there should be nothing, NOTHING, that impedes our ability to cast a ballot. Arizona's "Free Enterprise Club" (a Dark Money group) supports, and funds Proposition 309, which would require already vetted and registered voters to submit an additional affidavit of identity with their mail-in ballot for their vote to count. Voters that do not mail the completed affidavit back with their mail-in ballot will have their votes negated without a chance to cure their ballot. That's right, your vote could go directly into the trash.

Our county recorders in AZ are experts at voter registration, voter rolls, vote certification, matching signatures, and election procedures. This measure would add an entirely unnecessary burden to the already difficult job they do. It would mean that election workers would not only have to count ballots, but they would also have to make sure that each and every ballot was returned with an affidavit of identity.

However, Arizonans, when registering to vote, must prove their identity. After doing so, they are provided with a Voter Identification card. To also require an affidavit is to add yet another barrier to voting. A true democracy does not seek to silence the voice of the people. A true democratic republic would do all it could to make sure that all citizens have easy access to the ballot box.

A cornerstone of the United States Constitution is the right to vote by secret ballot. We go into the voting booth or seal our mail-in ballot with the certainty that our vote will be secret and that it will count. Proposition 309 is an invasion of privacy because we would have to reveal personal information on the affidavit and mail it with the ballot.

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**Rosemary Dixon, Chair, Prescott Indivisible, Prescott**

*Sponsored by Prescott Indivisible*

The League of Women Voters of Arizona strongly opposes this initiative, which will impose unnecessary burdens on qualified voters and add confusion to the mail ballot process. The League believes registration and voting options should be accessible to all and that all election systems should be easy to administer and have appropriate security measures to prevent fraud.

Using mail ballots in Arizona is a well-established, secure, and popular voting method. If this initiative passes, mail ballot voters will have to complete an additional affidavit providing an ID number and date of birth. Election officials must verify this information before counting the vote. This process opens the possibility of linking ballots to individuals and how they vote, violating their privacy. These extra ID requirements for mail ballots increase opportunities for identity theft and chances for ballots to be discarded for inadvertent errors and additional costs and burden on election administration.

A vote for this measure will also make it harder to vote in person. Currently, voters must show a photo ID or two other proofs of identity, such as a tax bill or recorder's certificate. If this measure is approved, a voter will need a valid, unexpired photo ID to receive a ballot. No other proof of identity will be allowed. These changes could turn potential voters away at the polls, including elderly voters with expired licenses and younger voters without a driver's license or non-operating license.

Arizona already has strict voter ID laws and proof of citizenship requirements to register to vote, with felony consequences for falsifying forms. This measure intends to reduce further citizens' access to the fundamental right to vote.

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*

Throughout my life, I have seen that there is nothing greater that our country can offer Americans than the freedom of self-determination and voting. This freedom is under threat from Prop 309 so please VOTE NO. I have seen this throughout my life. As a service member and as a veteran, I have fought tyranny and authoritarianism across 5 countries, 4 tours and 3 wars.

When I was an armed, civilian security person in the Iraq War, I fought with determination to offer freedom from tyranny abroad. It was during the war where I helped safely transport Iraqi civilians to and from the polls while under fire, just so they could participate in our fundamental, American, democratic principles for their own country. Terrorist groups did everything they could to limit people from voting in Iraq, going as far as setting up ambushes and IEDs, and I did everything in my power to help freedom prevail.

Nowadays, I am seeing a similar attack on our democracy at home, but instead of terrorists with IEDs, there are politicians using onerous laws founded on lies to try to stop our citizens from voting. We all

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want free and fair elections where every eligible vote is counted. Proposition 309 will disqualify hundreds of thousands of valid votes because of the onerous requirements it creates. The same law in Texas caused over 20% of ballots cast to be discarded, nearly all of them valid and eligible votes. That is an astonishing number. This proposition stands against the American values that I fought for in Iraq, and that is why you should VOTE NO on Proposition 309.

**David Lucier, Tempe**

No matter our color, background, or origin, we all want the freedom to make decisions that impact our lives, from the roads we use to the jobs we have to the education our kids receive. Turning out to cast our ballot every election is one way that we exercise that freedom.

But after voters turned out in record numbers during the last election, some politicians want to silence our voices so they can keep more power for themselves and their wealthy corporate donors.

Proposition 309 adds new barriers to vote by mail that infringe on our privacy as Arizonans. It would require voters to include sensitive personal information when we return our mail ballot, like our Social Security or drivers' license numbers. Having Arizona voters' private personal identifying information floating around in the mail is risky and an invitation for identity theft.

Nearly 80% of Arizona voters currently cast their ballots by mail. This measure is an attempt by some politicians to discourage Arizonans from speaking up and using our voice in our elections, so they can continue to block progress on issues we all care about, from quality jobs to affordable healthcare.

We must come together to protect our freedom to vote safely from our homes. Vote NO on Proposition 309.

**Montserrat Arredondo, Executive Director, One Arizona, Phoenix**

NO ON PROP 309

Prop 309 is another voter suppression idea from the Arizona Legislature that, if passed, will create chaos in the integrity of elections by promoting frivolous lawsuits and disenfranchising hundreds of thousands of voters in upcoming elections. Prop 309 gives any voter the right to sue election officials if the voter feels like the officials are not adhering to the new law. Imagine the number of lawsuits that will result from this one provision.

But there is more. The proposed law goes beyond any sensible voter identification legislation. It adds multiple new steps designed not to support the integrity of the process, but to provide confusion and mind-numbing bureaucracy to deny persons who have already voted. If the voter gets one step wrong (like getting a voter identification number or a partial social security number on a mail-in ballot, wrong by one digit) the ballot can be rejected. And, in many cases, the voter is not allowed sufficient time to fix the error. Voters will think they have voted when, in fact, their ballot was rejected by some anonymous public employee without their knowledge.

By one estimate, if this measure is approved by the voters, 396,000 voters may have their ballots thrown

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out. We are all for integrity and security in voting. We need the public to have confidence in the voting system. The danger of Prop 309 is it goes the other way – it creates so many traps and gimmicks that voting becomes a minefield. Make it simple. Keep it secured. VOTE NO ON PROP 309.

Tom Ryan,  
Chair, Defend Arizona Rights  
Chandler, Arizona  
tom@defendazrights.com

**Thomas Ryan, Chair, Defend Arizona Rights, Gilbert**

In Arizona, there is nothing more important to uphold than our constitutional right to participate in our fair, free, and secure democratic elections in ways that are accessible for every voter. This is best exemplified through our state's mail-in voting system, which is one of the most robust in the nation on top of being one of the most secure, and was used by 89% of voters in the last election. With that said, however, there are some politicians in our Arizona State Legislature that want to limit our access to the ballot box through Proposition 309. Proposition 309 would make it so that additional steps are necessary to fill out and complete your mail-in ballot on top of the state's already stringent signature verification process. It would also greatly restrict the forms of identification one could use for in-person voting. This proposition would not make our elections any more secure than they already are, but rather allow for politicians who don't agree with how the majority of voters have voted in recent elections to rewrite the rules in their favor and limit access to the ballot box for some of our most marginalized communities. In order for our democracy to be at its best, we need all of our citizens to participate in ways that are accessible for all of us. This proposition would allow our politicians to limit that accessibility to the ballot box for voters while doing nothing in return to help maintain the integrity of our elections in Arizona. VOTE NO on Proposition 309.

**Blake Lister, Phoenix**

For our democracy to be at its best, voting needs to be accessible for all people who are eligible to vote. Proposition 309 will limit access to the ballot box for many people, particularly those in marginalized communities, and that is why we must VOTE NO on Prop 309. This is an important cause for me personally because I am a disabled man living in Chandler, and I am bound to a wheelchair for the rest of my life. As a result of my condition, accessibility for almost everything has been a constant struggle in my life— from transportation to going to certain venues or restaurants to finding a place to live. Now, my ability to do my democratic duty of voting is being placed under attack as well. Proposition 309 would put extra barriers in front of people like me to vote by requiring even more to vote by mail, despite already being able to verify me through signature verification. Access to this additional identification is difficult to obtain for myself or anyone else who suffers from a disability, and will prevent people like me from having their votes counted. Our democracy won't work without the voices of all of us, and this proposition would limit people from being able to vote, which is why you should VOTE NO on Prop 309.

**Cody Newcomb, Chandler**

*Sponsored by Opportunity Arizona*

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Arizona has a very good set of election laws, systems and people. This results in fair, safe and accurate elections. This proposal is not necessary and will not reduce (the virtually non-existent) fraud. In fact, if it is passed, it will DELAY the election results from being finalized. Who will complain about that? The same people proposing this, and they will try to convince their supporters that the delay is \*evidence\* of fraud. Don't fall for it, Arizonans! Vote NO!

Also, people voting in person currently have the ability to present a utility bill IN ADDITION to a photo ID, if their address is not current on the license. This would take away that common sense option, and is just another way that the current legislative majority wants to make it harder to vote for no valid reason. (There is zero evidence that fraudulent votes are being cast in this way.) Don't fall for it, Arizonans! Vote NO!

**Paul Weich, Candidate, AZ House, LD12 (Tempe/Chandler/Ahwatukee), Phoenix**

Arizona has proven time and again our state has a safe, secure, and fair election process. Proposition 309 is an attempt to make participating in our elections more difficult by putting additional unnecessary roadblocks in the way for voters who are simply exercising their constitutional right to vote. It is yet another blatant attack on our election process and another attempt to disenfranchise voters. Proposition 309 eliminates existing forms of identification from being used to vote, which will disproportionately impact our communities of color, young people, and people with disabilities. We should be ensuring Arizonans have their voices heard, not putting additional obstacles in the way, especially when it comes to voting.

On behalf of educators across this state, the Arizona Education Association requests that you vote NO on Proposition 309.

**Marisol Garcia, President, Arizona Education Association, Phoenix**

Would you put the last four digits of your social security number on your ballot? That's what Proposition 309 might require to vote by mail.

This proposition will add burdensome requirements for Arizonans casting a mail-in ballot and change voter ID requirements for in-person voters. Vote NO on Proposition 309. The only goal of this initiative is to make it harder for you to vote.

More than three-quarters of Arizonans surveyed support reforms that would make voting more accessible and convenient. More than three-quarters of Arizonans currently utilize vote by mail, regardless of party affiliation. Join with the majority of everyday Arizonans that support equal and fair access to the ballot, and convenient voting from home. Vote NO on Proposition 309. Let's make sure democracy works for all Arizonans.

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

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protecting the ability of everyday Arizonans to participate in our democracy and defending our shared freedom to vote.

As a people-powered movement, we are asking you to join us as we work to strengthen our democracy. Vote NO on Proposition 309, an initiative that seeks to make it harder to vote in Arizona.

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