

## **(For) HCR2015 - Proposition 132 - initiatives; supermajority vote; requirement**

Arizonans all have tighter family budgets these days, and the last thing we need to add to our cost of living is a higher tax bill to fund special interests pet projects. That's why I drafted Prop 132: to ensure that voters have a larger say in any proposed tax hike.

Prop 132 would require a 60% majority vote of the people on any ballot measure that wants to raise your taxes. Requiring broader support puts a check on out-of-state special interests who want to increase our Arizona taxes to fund their schemes.

At the legislature, we have to have a supermajority vote on any tax increase. It's only fair that voters have the same safeguard at the ballot box. If we are asking Arizonans to part with more of their paycheck, it needs to be for something that has broad agreement from every part of the state.

If you agree that Arizonans deserve more of a say when it comes to taxes, then please join me in voting YES on Prop 132.

**Tim Dunn, Representative, Arizona State House, Yuma**

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Proposition 132 puts in place important taxpayer protections. Under current law, a ballot proposition whether it be an initiative or referral, requires only a simple majority of the votes to raise taxes or create an entirely new tax.

This means that just over 50% of voters could raise YOUR taxes. This could potentially affect you if your home has increased in value since you purchased it, if your income is deemed to be "too high" or your business "too successful." It could occur if you choose to engage in lawful activities that are deemed to be "bad" or "undesirable."

The State Senators and Representatives who we elect to represent us at the Arizona State Capitol do not even hold this much power. In fact, for the legislature to increase taxes, both the House of Representatives and the State Senate must approve the tax by a two-thirds vote; that's about 67% of all legislators!

Proposition 132 would reduce the risk of voters raising your taxes by requiring that ballot propositions that raise taxes be passed by at least 60% of voters, rather than just one vote over 50%. This may not sound like a big difference, but many tax raising propositions in recent elections have passed by barely meeting the simple majority threshold, at times singling out certain groups of taxpayers for higher taxation than others.

Measures that truly meet with broad approval from Arizona voters will meet and even exceed the 60% threshold that will be applied under Proposition 132. With this protection in place, Arizonans can rest easy that taxes will only go up if and when they enjoy truly broad support and fund government programs and activities valued by a strong majority of voters.

Vote YES to protect taxpayers!

**Suzanne Kinney, President & CEO, Arizona Chapter of NAIOP, Phoenix**

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Arizona voters already passed a measure that requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to pass any tax increase. That was done to ensure that politicians consider all alternatives for raising revenue before they simply pass additional tax burdens on to Arizona residents and small businesses. Prop 132 applies this same reasoning to ballot questions by requiring 60% of the voters to approve tax increases placed on the ballot. Not only does this protect our wallets during times of skyrocketing inflation and gas prices, it also limits the ability of out-of-state special interests to raise our taxes for their own pet projects.

Prop 132 is sorely needed to protect Arizona's economy from out-of-state special interests who have tried to dominate Arizona's elections for purposes that don't benefit our state. Please vote "YES" on Prop 132.

**Victor Riches, President & CEO, The Goldwater Institute, Phoenix**

With Joe Biden's inflation driving up the cost of living, family budgets are stressed. Arizona voters deserve a larger say if our taxes are going to be raised, so we aren't blindsided by special interest tax hikes.

Years ago, Arizonans wisely passed Prop 108 that requires a supermajority vote of the legislature to pass any tax increase. It's only fair that at the ballot, we have the same protections: a 60% threshold to pass any tax hike on hardworking Arizonans. Requiring input from a broad majority of communities across the state would make ballot measures fairer and more balanced, and that's something Arizonans deserve if we are being asked to part with more of our hard-earned money.

Requiring a 60% vote for a tax hike also means putting a check on out-of-state special interest groups. In recent years, we've seen groups from San Francisco and Portland spend tens of millions of dollars pushing initiatives to raise our taxes for their pet causes. That's not right.

Please join me in voting "YES" on Proposition 132 to prevent out-of-state groups from taking advantage of Arizona families to fund their own narrow interests at the ballot box.

**Doug Ducey, Governor, State of Arizona, Paradise Valley**

*Sponsored by Arizonans for Strong Leadership*

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry strongly encourages you to vote YES on Proposition 132.

Arizona enjoys a pro-growth tax environment that allows our citizens to keep more of their hard-earned money. But out-of-state special interests want to change that by using our ballot box to raise your taxes.

Proposition 132 will ask voters whether ballot measures calling for the approval of a tax should be approved by at least 60% of votes cast, rather than a simple majority. This will align the threshold for passing a tax via citizen initiative with the state Legislature, where a tax increase requires a 2/3 vote to pass.

Simply put: the imposition of new taxes on the people should be done cautiously and with broad agreement, whether the taxes are coming from the Legislature or the ballot box.

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Arizona's current system is highly attractive to special interests seeking to game the system to push through tax hikes that they would not be able to pass through traditional legislative means. Moreover, Arizona law makes it virtually impossible to fix the often-unintended consequences of laws passed at the ballot.

Prop. 132 offers a commonsense and necessary solution. Increasing the threshold of votes needed to amend the state Constitution to implement a tax increase will protect and enhance the credibility of Arizona's citizen initiative system by making it more difficult for outside interests to pursue policies detrimental to Arizona's economy and our taxpayers.

An attractive tax environment is a cornerstone of Arizona's continued job creation and economic growth. If we are to remain among the most competitive and pro-growth states for business, we must do more to limit out-of-state special interests from exploiting our system to adopt policies that are not in the best interest of Arizona.

Vote YES on Proposition 132.

**Danny Seiden, President & CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Phoenix**

Proposition 132 will amend the Arizona Constitution to require that 60 percent of voters approve an initiative or referendum that requires a tax. A yes vote will make it more difficult to raise taxes or grow government in Arizona.

Sweeping policy changes that will tax families, seniors, and small businesses should require approval of 60 percent of voters. When an initiative or referendum will require a new tax, ensuring widespread voter support is critical. Arizona has a tradition of fiscal responsibility that has led to high job growth and opportunities for all its citizens to prosper. Proposition 132 will protect Arizonans from outside tax-and-spend groups who want to use the ballot process to bypass the legislature and make Arizona more like California or Washington, D.C.

**Bryan Sunderland, Director, Foundation for Government Accountability, Louisville**

The Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) supports the passage of Proposition 132.

ATRA is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide taxpayer association that advocates for sound fiscal policies on behalf of Arizona taxpayers.

Proposition 132 would increase the threshold for voter approved initiatives and referendums to approve a tax to sixty percent. Arizona has a rich history of establishing important public policy through voter approved initiatives and referendums. Proposition 132 will provide an added degree of protection for Arizona taxpayers regarding future efforts to increase taxes in statewide elections.

In 1992, through the Proposition 108 initiative, Arizona citizens voted overwhelmingly to impose a 2/3's vote requirement on tax increases imposed by the Arizona State Legislature. That law has served taxpayers well over the last 30 years.

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Adjusted for inflation, Arizona's per capita taxes grew 53% between 1980 and 2020. Our tax system clearly generates ample revenue for state and local governments and efforts to change our tax system at the ballot box run the risk of doing significant long-term damage. Ensuring that future tax increases garner broad public support is good policy and creates needed stability in Arizona's tax code.

Vote YES on Proposition 132

Kevin McCarthy  
President  
Arizona Tax Research Association

**Kevin McCarthy, President, Arizona Tax Research Association, Gilbert**

Ballot initiatives in Arizona are voter protected, meaning once passed, the state Legislature cannot make changes or corrections except to further the intent of the measure. It is vitally important to get ballot initiatives right the first time.

That is one reason why adjusting the threshold from 51% to 60% approval for ballot measures that increase taxes makes sense. It allows citizens to continue to offer proposed tax laws but requires a greater majority of voters to cement the measure into law.

Not every citizen casting a vote on tax increases will necessarily be paying the higher price. Because it's easy to spend someone else's money, we should ensure a larger majority of voters are in agreement on the tax cost and benefit.

In addition, tax measures lock in requirements that might make sense now but could have unintended negative consequences later due to an unforeseen economic downturn or other developments.

Considering Arizona's Voter Protection Act, we should be overly cautious about locking in voter-approved tax law. Requiring a 60% majority is a reasonable way of doing just that.

Please vote YES.

**Cathi Herrod, President, Center for Arizona Policy Action, Phoenix**

Vote YES On Proposition 132 And Protect Yourself From More Taxes!

Prop 132 would require any ballot measure that proposes a tax increase, receive 60 percent of the vote in order to take effect.

This is an important reform. Taxing measures are generally proposed by special interest groups that craft punitive tax policies that affect a minority population of taxpayers and require only a simple majority to pass.

As has been wisely stated, "democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch."

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Today's tax increase may not affect you, but tomorrow's most certainly will. Allowing 51% of the population (who probably don't have to pay the tax increase) to vote to tax the other 49% that do have to pay it, is wrong. And eventually, you will be in the minority.

Crafting tax policy at the ballot box in this manner creates class warfare and a tax code of winners and losers.

These policies harm Arizona's economy too.

Arizona does not want to model ourselves off high-tax states like California, New York, and New Jersey. These states continue to see net negative migration and droves of people fleeing from the overwhelming tax burdens. Many of these individuals escaping are small business owners and employers, taking with them investments and jobs.

Protect your wallet, and protect Arizona's economy, VOTE YES on Proposition 132.

**Scot Mussi, President, Arizona Free Enterprise Club, Gilbert**

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