

(For) SCR1024 - Proposition 131 - lieutenant governor; joint ticket

Prior to the current administration, no Governor had completed a full eight years in office in more than three decades. That's because Arizona governors have died, resigned, or been removed from office (i.e. impeachment) before completing their second term. When a vacancy occurs, the state constitution requires the Secretary of State to become Governor because Arizona is one of just five states that lacks a Lieutenant Governor among its elected officers. Yet the Secretary, while an important office, is elected to handle administrative election duties and state records, a far cry from serving as the state's chief executive. Furthermore, the Secretary may have a very different vision from their predecessor or be from a different party altogether. Twice has the line of succession initiated a change in party, once in each direction.

Fixing this gap in Arizona's officers is a nonpartisan issue. It's about good governance. That's why Republican and Democratic legislators came together to champion Prop 131, and why it passed the legislature with broad, bipartisan support. It requires each gubernatorial nominee to select a running mate to serve as Lt. Governor, similar to how the President selects a Vice President, with both names appearing on the ballot. To ensure the new office doesn't "grow government," the law requires the Lt. Governor to occupy an existing high-level executive position within the governor's administration, such as Chief of Staff or agency director.

While not the first time the office of Lt. Governor has been before the voters, it's never been presented in this form. The "ticket" model is familiar to people and employed by most states. It would create better continuity and predictability within our government, providing voters greater confidence when selecting an administration. Please vote yes to establish a Lt. Governor for Arizona. Its time has come.

J.D. Mesnard, State Senator (R), District 17, Chandler and Sean Bowie, State Senator (D), District 18, Phoenix

The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports this amendment to strengthen the executive branch of state government, and to integrate its administration by centralizing authority and responsibility in the governor's office. The League of Women Voters of Arizona believes that a clear line of succession in the Executive Branch of the State of Arizona should be more obvious to the public than it is in the current system where the Secretary of State assumes the role of Governor in times of absence, removal, resignation, death or other such changes. To avoid mid-term changes in party, continuity problems or policy reversals, League of Women Voters of Arizona supports the creation of an Office of Lieutenant Governor with duties separate from that of the Secretary of State.

In addition, the League of Women Voters of Arizona believes that the governor and the elected office, which is next in line of succession to the governor, should run on the same party ticket.

WE URGE A YES VOTE ON THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

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

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This initiative allows each party's primary winning candidate for Governor to select an individual to run as a joint ticket for Governor and a newly created Lt. Governor position for the state of Arizona. The

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candidates for Governor are required to announce their selection for Lt. Governor at least 60 days before the general election, ensuring that the electorate has enough time to make a thoughtful decision.

Some key points are this proposition does not expand government nor does it create another agency since the governor will appoint this individual to the executive branch. Additionally, the continuity of the government is important. Arizona is one of only a few states nationwide without a Lt. Governor position. In the vacancy or absence of the governor, the Lt. Governor would fill the role and responsibilities. A clear succession line is important and should stay within the elected party of power from the previous election cycle. The Republican Party of Arizona asks you to vote Yes on this proposition.

Dr. Kelli Ward, Chairwoman, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC., Lake Havasu City and Yvonne Cahill, Secretary, Republican Party of Arizona, LLC., Scottsdale

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