



2024 ELECTION EXPLAINER

Here at GLSEN Arizona, we've got your election back and we want you to feel confident once you receive your ballot! We'll demystify the process by defining election jargon, and clarifying what the measures mean.

This year's Arizona ballot will be full of ballot initiatives, legislative referrals, judicial retentions, presidential candidates; federal and state legislative candidates; school board candidates, and local municipal questions. In Arizona, we're expecting a 2-page ballot – so we're going to have to be mindful that **every page** is returned to the recorder to be counted.

UPCOMING DEADLINES: The voter registration deadline is **October 7** and **early voting starts October 9, 2024**. To request a mail-in ballot before Oct. 25, contact your [county recorder](#). The last day to mail in ballots is **Oct. 29** - after that, they must be dropped off at a vote center or polling location. [Polling locations in Maricopa County can be found [here](#) and Pima County locations can be found [here](#). Supporters in the remaining counties are encouraged to contact their [county recorder](#) for polling locations and election information.]

Elections matter. And they have consequences. From the presidential race to the school board seats, elected leaders of our world (national, state, and local) impact queer lives every day:

- Will Title IX be fully implemented to protect queer youth against discrimination on the basis of sex – or not?
- Will the state legislature continue to censor education by banning books?
- How can my local school board align their policies with the updated Title IX rules? (Hint: Utilize the [GLSEN Title IX Checklist](#))

In 2024 alone, over 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced, and 82 of those passed into law. Luckily, in Arizona, we worked to defeat the anti-LGBTQ+ bills, but as a community, we still have to fight multiple hateful bills each session. Now more than ever, it's critical to elect candidates who won't play politics with young queer lives.

DEFINING ELECTION JARGON

QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT

- Arizona is one of nineteen states that allows citizens to petition to change state laws or the state constitution through **citizen ballot initiatives**. Once a ballot initiative obtains the minimum number of valid signatures from registered voters, it will be placed on the ballot for you to vote on it. This direct democracy gives each of us a tremendous amount of power to create statewide legal changes.
- Legislative referrals** are legal changes proposed by the Arizona state legislature that appear on the ballot for you to vote on. Given the folks in power for the last four decades, these referrals tend to be far-right and serve only a select group of people.
- Local municipal questions** are put to voters in order to direct local capital for local public projects such as building roads or expanding broadband, or for public institutions like libraries or schools. Prior to Election Day, email your local [county recorder](#) to obtain updated information about local municipal questions on your ballot.

CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT

- And, of course, the **candidates!** Most of us know the candidates at the top of the ballot, such as presidential and congressional candidates, but it's so important to vote "the whole ballot" – including state legislative seats, boards of supervisors, sheriffs, judges, justices of the peace, city council, and school board candidates. We encourage you to research candidates, and if you're able, provide grassroots energy to their campaigns.
 - ★ **Do your research about the candidates on your ballot.** This could be as easy as a Google search, checking out [GLSEN Arizona's Legislative Report Card](#), or visiting the candidate's website or social media accounts.
 - ★ In nonpartisan races like [judges](#) and school board seats, finding out information can be a challenge since candidates don't (generally) have a political party machine helping them get their message out. Arizona does not elect judges - they are appointed by the Governor. However, every six years through **judicial retention elections** you are able to say yes or no as to whether each judge should stay in their seat.
 - ★ **Find out who is endorsing each candidate** . When anti-LGBTQ+ candidates are defeated in elections, it shows young people that they have allies who will advocate for them — let them know they matter with your vote and your voice.
 - ★ **Share what you learn!** There's a lot you can do: **Talk to your parents.** Call your aunt. **Talk to your people.** Tell them that when LGBTQ+ supportive candidates are elected, we can hold them accountable to vote our values.

CLARIFYING BALLOT INITIATIVES & REFERRALS

TL:DR: Yes on Prop 139 and No on everything else.

There are also **eleven** legislative referrals. These are written by one-vote-majority legislators. It's clear the far-right bent these referrals have from allowing food service workers to be paid less to allowing local police to arrest and detain so-called "illegal" residents and individuals who "illegally" cross the border.

There are two citizen initiatives that qualified for the ballot: Prop 139, the Arizona Access for Abortion Act and Prop 140, the Open Primaries initiative.

Initiatives seeking to change the Arizona Constitution need roughly 390,000 valid signatures from Arizona voters. The [Arizona for Abortion Access](#) campaign submitted more than 800,000 signatures (which works out to **1 in 5 voters** who learned about Prop 139 and signed the petition to put it on the ballot). Because bodily autonomy is a key foundation of queer advocacy and the same people who work to eliminate gender affirming care, we're encouraging a **Yes vote on Prop. 139.**

Beyond Prop 139 that enshrines personal freedom into the Arizona constitution, the questions posed to voters ask them to abdicate their power to politicians and those already in power.

CITIZEN BALLOT INITIATIVES

PROP #	DESCRIPTION	ANALYSIS	VOTE
Prop 139	Establish a state constitutional right to abortion.	By amending the Arizona constitution, generations will be protected from extremists in the legislature. Patient and bodily autonomy are key to one's foundation for freedom. Patient autonomy is vital to freedom and healthcare. A large body of evidence shows that restricting reproductive health care results in harmful health outcomes , from a rise in infant deaths to women left on the brink of death because doctors are uncertain about the politically motivated ramifications of needed medical care. More from Arizona Abortion Access for All .	YES!
Prop 140	Prop 140 would amend the Arizona Constitution to open primaries to all voters, regardless of party affiliation. All candidates would appear on the same ballot, which would be sent to all registered voters.	Prop 140 is the "open primary" citizen initiative which would eliminate partisan primaries and require every candidate to run against every other candidate in a primary. Backers of the proposition, Make Elections Fair , say they're hoping to make it harder for extreme candidates to get into office simply by winning a primary where only the most hardcore voters tend	NO

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		to show up. But Prop 140 has a fatal flaw: instead of setting a firm number for how many candidates to advance from the primary to the general election, it says our politicians must pass laws deciding how many candidates to advance. Also! Lawmakers are also asking voters to weigh in on an opposing measure, Prop 133, that would essentially ban what Prop 140 is trying to do. This one was written by GOP lawmakers as the popularity of “ranked choice voting” started to catch on.	

LEGISLATIVE REFERRALS

PROP #	DESCRIPTION	ANALYSIS	VOTE
Prop 133	Prop 133 asks voters to enshrine Arizona's current partisan primary system into the state Constitution.	Prop 133 would cement into the Constitution a system that's designed to ensure that only the most extreme candidates can survive. Prop 133 is essentially the opposite of Prop 140.	NO
Prop 134	Prop 134 asks voters to amend the state Constitution to restrict Arizona's initiative and referendum process by requiring ballot measures to collect signatures from a percentage of voters in each of Arizona's 30 legislative districts: 10% for initiatives and 15% for a constitutional amendment.	Anti-democratic and dangerous. The Brennan Center for Justice puts it best: “State officials’ efforts to thwart citizen initiatives do not take shape in isolation. They are part of a larger anti-democracy blueprint — yet another example of state officials trying to manipulate the rules of elections and obstruct the will of voters.” Backers of a citizen initiative would have to spread out to every part of the state, instead of focusing on the big cities. But it also would mean voters in a tiny district would have outsized power and could block the initiative for the entire state.	NO
Prop 135	Prop 135 asks voters to amend the Arizona Constitution to automatically end the governor's special powers related to an emergency declaration after 30 days unless the Legislature votes to extend them. It would require lawmakers to come back to work, including when out of session,	Limits the powers of the governor in times of crisis and disaster. The process of addressing a disaster can take decades: assessing damages, signing contracts for repairs, completing the work, a required audit, and closing the books. The governor would need legislators’ approval to extend a state of emergency	NO

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	to do this (drops the threshold from $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of lawmakers to call a special session).	(fire and floods not included). Lawmakers already limited the length of health emergencies during the coronavirus pandemic. Opponents say it would be a problem for the long-term response to an emergency. And what happens when the Legislature is not in session?	
Prop 136	Prop 136 asks voters to amend the Arizona Constitution to allow anyone to sue to invalidate a citizen initiative, even before it's been placed on the ballot, on grounds that it is not constitutional. If the plaintiffs can get a judge to agree with them, the initiative would be thrown off the ballot, even if enough voters signed to qualify it.	This allows *any* individual to knock initiatives off the ballot. That is what the courts are for. Lawmakers would have the chance to preemptively stop citizen initiatives from getting on the ballot. They could ask a court to rule on the constitutionality of the initiative beforehand, rather than after voters approve it, which is the case now. If this were the law right now, lawmakers could have sued to stop the abortion rights measure from getting on the ballot.	NO
Prop 137	Prop 137 asks voters to amend the Constitution to eliminate the current retention process for judges in Arizona's 4 most populous counties, along with all appellate and Supreme Court judges. Lawmakers want us to allow these judges to serve until the mandatory retirement age of 70, instead of facing public retention elections every 4-6 years. Retention questions would go to voters only in the most limited cases, such as if a judge is convicted of a felony. This ends a critical part of the process that former US Supreme Court justice <u>Sandra Day O'Connor</u> championed during her service in the Arizona Senate in the 1970s and actively promoted throughout her life. Bottom line, voters cannot remove judges.	This is retroactive and would essentially save two judges up for retention on the Arizona Supreme Court. Prop 137 shields judges from public accountability. This measure seeks to insulate judges from meaningful public oversight and shields them from potential consequences for their legal interpretations.	NO
Prop 138	Prop 138 asks voters to amend the Arizona Constitution to create a sub-minimum hourly wage for tipped	This is an effort <u>sponsored by the restaurant association</u> to allow them to pay their workers less. Backed by	NO

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	employees that is up to 25% lower than the current minimum wage, as long as they make at least \$2/hr over minimum wage once tips are included.	restaurant industry lobbyists. Prop 138 was pushed through the legislature by lobbyists for the restaurant industry , who also oppose minimum wage and sick leave protections for restaurant staff. Opponents of Prop 138 filed a lawsuit claiming that the title of the ballot measure is misleading, as it does nothing to protect tipped workers, making it unconstitutional. A Superior Court judge rejected the suit; an appeal is pending. The Arizona Supreme Court gave the green light to a competing measure written by majority lawmakers, the Tipped Workers Protection Act (which will actually slightly lower those workers' wages), after opponents said the name was deceptive.	
Prop 311	Prop 311 would add a \$20 fee to every criminal conviction to give to spouses or children of police officers and first responders (firefighters, fire marshals or inspectors, EMTs, paramedics, tribal police officers) who are killed in the line of duty. If approved, the family of a killed first responder or officer would receive \$250,000.	Prop 311 would add to the considerable sums the families of fallen officers already receive from the federal government, state pension plan, individual agencies that provide life insurance to their members, and private entities like the 100 Club. A federal program already gives \$422,035 to the families of police officers who died while working.	NO
Prop 312	Under Prop 312, property owners would get a refund of their property taxes if officials don't enforce certain public nuisance laws regarding (homelessness) illegal camping, loitering, obstructing public thoroughfares, panhandling, public urination or defecation, public consumption of alcoholic beverages, and possession or use of illegal substances.	The Libertarian Goldwater Institute designed Prop 312 to penalize cities financially. This tactic will not fix homelessness or make encampments go away.	NO
Prop 313	Prop 313 would require those convicted of sex trafficking of minors to spend life in prison with no chance of ever being released.	Prop 313 was inspired by the conspiracy-based "Sound of Freedom" movie, the <i>Arizona Mirror's</i> Jerod MacDonald Evoy reported. Current law already allows courts to impose very	NO

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		<p>harsh sentences for sex trafficking. A single conviction under the state's sex trafficking law carries a presumptive 20-year sentence.</p> <p>Opponents argue the law could penalize the victims of sex trafficking who often get used by their abusers to attract more victims.</p>	
Prop 314	<p>Prop 314 is a sweeping ballot measure that asks voters to make it a state crime to cross a federal border without documentation and give local police immunity to arrest those they simply suspect of crossing the border illegally, enabling racial profiling without consequences. The measure makes it a class 6 felony to use false documentation to apply for employment or public benefits, and also makes it a class 2 felony to knowingly sell fentanyl that leads to the death of another person.</p>	<p>Besides being overtly racist, there are many reasons to vote against Prop 314: Does nothing to address fentanyl, immigration or "the border." The harsh measure, modeled after a Texas law that is currently tied up in the courts, would criminalize crossing Arizona's southern border anywhere except at a port of entry. Costly and ineffective. Enforcing Prop 314 could cost Arizona taxpayers at least \$325 million a year. Opposed by county attorneys, business, and is likely unconstitutional.</p>	NO
Prop 315	<p>Prop 315 would ask voters to block Arizona agencies from creating rules that would increase regulatory costs by more than \$500,000 over 5 years. The Legislature would instead be required to enact legislation to ratify the proposed rule into law.</p>	<p>Prop 315 ties regulators' hands and would kneecap our state government's ability to regulate spending, from the unaccountable and wasteful (like Arizona's universal ESA voucher program) to needed line items for public health and safety. This shortsighted measure would force lengthy delays for updating regulations — it takes months, sometimes years, for our fractured legislature to pass laws. Harms vulnerable Arizonans. A detailed Arizona Republic investigation found many senior living facilities in Arizona are plagued with alarming levels of elder abuse, neglect and inadequate care.</p>	NO
<p>Sources: Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, ACLU Arizona, Arizona Republic, Arizona Mirror, Arizona Agenda, Ballotpedia, CNN,</p>			