

Plan Ahead: Tackle This Year's Packed Ballot with Confidence

This year's ballot is packed with important decisions – two full pages of candidates and judges up for retention as well as special taxing districts, school bonds, and ballot measures. The Secretary of State estimates it will take around 15 minutes on average to complete the ballot. Lines are expected at in-person voting locations. To ensure you have the time and resources to make informed decisions, now is the perfect time to make a voting plan.

Here are some key steps you can take:

1. Are you ballot ready?

Check voter registration at vote.gov or beballotready.org – make sure you're registered at your current address. Last day to register is October 7.

2. When will you vote?

- If you're voting by mail, set a deadline to complete and mail in your ballot. Remember, the postmark deadline is October 30.
- If you're voting in person, decide when to visit the polls. Will you vote early or on Election Day? Plan around work and other commitments to avoid rushing.

3. Where will you vote?

- If voting in person, know your polling [location or early voting center](#). Make sure to verify the address in advance and allow time to get there.

4. Do you know the ID requirements?

- Arizona requires voters to present valid identification at the polls. Make sure you [understand the types of ID accepted](#). Check ahead of time to avoid surprises.

5. Have you researched the candidates and issues?

- With such a long ballot, preparation is key. Review the candidates and measures in advance. Resources like the [Arizona Clean Elections voter guide](#) and local voter education sites provide valuable information.
- Make a list of your choices before voting, especially if voting in person, to save time and feel more confident about your decisions. You can print and complete a sample ballot to take to the polling location.

6. Remember to sign the verification on the mail-in ballot envelope!

- If you're voting by mail, remember to sign the return envelope – your signature is your voter verification. Without it, your ballot **will not be counted**. It's essential to double-check. Make sure to return both pages of the ballot.

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7. Do you know what documents are needed to vote in person?

- When you vote in person, you have to show proof of identity [A.R.S. § 16-579]. That means proving two things: that you are who you say you are and that you live at the address where you're registered to vote. Since Arizonans move around a lot and don't always update their state ID when they do, there are a few ways to meet this requirement:
 - List 1: Show a valid government-issued photo ID with your name and the address matching your voter registration.
 - List 2: If you can't do that, bring two items — such as a utility bill, bank statement, car registration, or official election mail — with your name and registered address.
 - List 3: You can also mix and match: Use a valid photo ID with an outdated address, plus one item from List 2.

You can check out the full list of accepted documents at elections.maricopa.gov/voting/id-at-the-polls.html.

Important Election Dates

- Oct. 7 – Last day to register to vote.
- Oct. 9 – Early voting begins (ballots by mail or in-person).
- Oct. 25 – Last day to request:
 - A ballot by mail.
 - Special Election Board assistance (for ongoing illness or disability).
 - Special Election Board assistance (for sudden illness or disability).
- Oct. 30 – Last day to safely mail your ballot back. [Or return it in-person at a polling location by 7 p.m. on Nov. 5].
- Nov. 1 –
 - Deadline to vote early in-person (by 7 p.m.).
 - Emergency early voting begins for emergencies between Nov. 1 and Nov. 4.
- Nov. 4 – Last day to request Special Election Board assistance (for sudden illness or disability).
- Nov. 5 – ELECTION DAY! Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. or when the last person in line at 7 p.m. has voted. If you're in line, stay in line!

Why does it take so long to count the ballots?

It's always taken this long! Election night results are projections from media organizations based on unofficial vote counts, not the final outcome. State laws vary on when different types of ballots, such as mail or early votes, are counted and reported, and close races may delay media projections. Final results aren't official until November 25, after all ballots have been canvassed and certified. Mail and provisional ballots take longer to process due to additional verification steps.

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Here are the steps that happen after election night:

1. Nov. 6 – Hand Audit of election begins.
2. Nov. 10 – Last day to verify ID for Conditional Provisional Ballots or to correct early ballot signatures.
3. Nov. 21 – County Board deadline to certify county/local election results.
4. Nov. 25 – Official canvass deadline for all federal, state, and judicial offices and ballot measures.
5. Nov. 30 – Last day to contest state election results.
6. Dec. 17 – Electoral College meets.

Numbering of Ballot Measures

State law requires that ballot measures be numbered according to four criteria:

1. 100 Series: Constitutional amendments, whether initiated by the people or referred by the Legislature.
2. 200 Series: Citizen initiatives to create new laws or amend current laws [statutes].
3. 300 Series: Legislative referrals to create new laws or amend current laws [statutes].
4. 400 Series: Local ballot measures.

With regard to ballot measures, AACHC and its Board took a public position on two. Read our ballot arguments:

- Statewide Prop 135 VOTE YES – Public Emergency Prop 135 [see appendix]
- Maricopa County Prop 479 VOTE YES – Transportation Prop 479 [see appendix]

The more prepared you are, the smoother the voting process will be. Every vote counts, and it's essential to ensure you have everything you need to participate fully in this year's election.

Resources:

<https://vote.gov/> - nonpartisan information on voter registration and voting

<https://my.arizona.vote/> - nonpartisan voter information run by Secretary of State – includes polling center locator.

<https://www.azcleanelections.gov/voter-education-guide> - leads to multilingual Voter Education Guide and publicity pamphlet on issues and judges.

What's On the Ballot: Statewide Propositions

STATE	PROPOSITION 136	PROPOSITION 139	PROPOSITION 312
PROPOSITION 133 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO PRIMARY ELECTIONS <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of amending the Arizona Constitution to require that when the Legislature enacts laws regulating direct primary elections for partisan offices, those laws shall supersede any city law, regulation, or policy to the contrary. The primaries would be conducted in a manner so that each political party represented on the ballot may nominate for each office a number of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled for that office in the ensuing general election and requires eligible candidates who are nominated at a primary election to be placed on the next general election ballot.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of keeping the current laws related to partisan primary elections.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO BALLOT MEASURES <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of amending the Arizona Constitution to allow lawsuits regarding the constitutionality of a voter-initiated ballot measure to be filed at least 100 days prior to the election, in order to stop the measure from being placed on the official ballot. If a challenged voter-initiated ballot measure were found unconstitutional, the Secretary of State or another officer in charge of elections would be prohibited from placing it on the official ballot.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of preserving the current state of the law, which typically requires challenges to the constitutionality of a voter-initiated ballot measure to be brought only after the voters have decided to approve a ballot measure.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION RELATING TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO AN ABORTION <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of creating a fundamental right to abortion under Arizona's constitution. The State will not be able to interfere with this fundamental right before fetal viability unless it has a compelling reason and does so in the least restrictive way possible. Fetal viability means the point in the pregnancy when, in the good-faith judgment of a treating health care professional, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus. Throughout the pregnancy, both before and after fetal viability, the State will not be able to interfere with the good-faith judgment of a treating health care professional that an abortion is necessary to protect the life or health of the pregnant individual. The State will not be able to penalize any person for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual in exercising the right to an abortion.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of not creating a fundamental right to have an abortion under Arizona's constitution, will leave in place current laws that restrict abortion before fetal viability, and will allow the State to further restrict or ban abortion in the future.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of establishing the right to apply for a refund from a property owner's most recent property tax payment up to an amount that matches costs incurred by the property owner to mitigate the effects of a governing authority's repeated failure to enforce laws and ordinances prohibiting illegal camping, loitering, obstructing public thoroughfares, panhandling, public urination or defecation, public consumption of alcoholic beverages, and possession or use of illegal substances. If the documented costs exceed the amount of the most recent property tax bill, the property owner would be permitted to apply for a refund from their next property tax payment(s) to cover the balance of the initial claim. Property owners would be eligible annually for refunds until the taxing entity begins enforcing the relevant public nuisance laws.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of retaining the current primary property tax payment laws and regulations.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>
PROPOSITION 134 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of amending the Arizona Constitution to require an applicant wishing to place a statewide measure on the ballot to collect a certain percentage of signatures in each of the 30 legislative districts, rather than a percentage of the total number of statewide voters. Signatures from 10% of the voters in each district would be required for a statewide initiative to appear on the ballot. Signatures from 15% of the voters in each district would be required for an amendment to the Arizona Constitution to appear on the ballot. Signatures from 5% of the voters in each district would be required for a statewide referendum to appear on the ballot. If a proposed measure does not obtain the minimum percentage of signatures in any one of the 30 legislative districts, it would fail to qualify for the ballot, and would not be presented to voters.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of keeping the current constitutional language requiring only the signatures of 10% of the total number of statewide voters for an initiative to amend a statute, 15% of statewide voters for a constitutional amendment, and 5% of statewide voters for a referendum.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSITION 137 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of amending the Arizona Constitution to eliminate judicial terms for judges of the Arizona Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, and judges of the Superior Court in counties with more than 250,000 people. Voters will no longer have the ability to decide whether to retain those judges at the end of their judicial terms. Those judges would instead be subject to a retention election only if they were convicted of a felony or a crime involving fraud or dishonesty, were a debtor in a bankruptcy proceeding, held a mortgage under foreclosure, or did not meet performance standards according to the Commission on Judicial Performance Review. The House of Representatives and the Senate will each be able to appoint one member to the Commission. If any legislator asks the Commission to investigate whether a judge has engaged in misconduct, the Commission must investigate that allegation. If approved, these amendments will apply retroactively such that votes cast in the November 2024 election about whether to retain a judge will not be given effect.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of maintaining the current system of voters deciding whether to retain a judge at the end of their judicial term.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSITION 140 PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION RELATING TO ELECTIONS <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of allowing all eligible voters to vote for any primary election candidate, regardless of party affiliation; imposing the same signature requirements on all candidates for a given office who wish to appear on the primary ballot; generally prohibiting the use of public funds for political party elections; allowing future law to determine how many candidates advance from the primary election, as well as the process by which candidates are elected at the general election; and if future law provides that three or more candidates may advance to the general election for an office to which one candidate will be elected, voter rankings shall be used.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of maintaining current requirements related to primary and general elections processes.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSITION 313 REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING SENTENCING <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of eliminating the current sentencing ranges for a Class 2 child sex trafficking conviction. The sentence for a person convicted of a Class 2 felony for child sex trafficking would be imprisonment for natural life without the possibility of release.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of maintaining the current statutory sentencing ranges for those convicted of a Class 2 felony for child sex trafficking. The current sentencing ranges are between 7 years and natural life imprisonment without the possibility of release, depending on the age of the victim, the defendant's criminal history, and other factors.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>
PROPOSITION 135 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of amending the Arizona Constitution to automatically terminate any emergency powers granted to the Governor thirty days after the date the state of emergency was proclaimed, unless the Legislature extends the emergency powers granted to the Governor or the emergency relates to war, fire, or flood. If the Legislature does not extend the emergency, the Governor may not declare a new state of emergency arising under the same conditions. Additionally, if requested by at least one-third of the members of each house of the Legislature, the Governor must promptly call a special session for the purposes of terminating or altering the emergency powers granted to the Governor during the state of emergency.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of maintaining the current emergency powers of the Governor.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSITION 138 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO WAGES <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of amending the Arizona Constitution to allow employers to pay employees up to 25% less than the minimum hourly wage if the employer can establish that the employee's wage plus tips or gratuities is at least \$2 more than the minimum wage for every hour worked.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of maintaining the current laws regarding minimum wage.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSITION 311 REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO FIRST RESPONDERS <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of requiring the State of Arizona to pay \$250,000, which would be referred to as the State Death Benefit, to the surviving spouse or children of a first responder killed in the line of duty; creating a State Supplemental Benefit Fund to pay the State Death Benefit; increasing criminal punishments for aggravated assaults against peace officers and other first responders; and require a \$20 penalty fee be imposed on every criminal conviction to fund the State Supplemental Benefit Fund. The State Death Benefit, \$20 penalty fee, and increased criminal punishments for aggravated assaults would expire on January 1, 2033.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of not requiring the State of Arizona to provide a State Death Benefit for first responders killed in the line of duty.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>	PROPOSITION 314 REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO RESPONSES TO HARMS AT THE BORDER <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of creating new crimes regarding the following conduct by any person not lawfully present in the United States: (1) applying for a public benefit by submitting a false document; (2) submitting false information to an employer regarding the person's authorization to work in the United States; (3) entering Arizona from a foreign country at any location other than a lawful port of entry; (4) refusing to comply with a court order to return to the person's country of origin or entry. Also creates a new crime of selling, renting, or causing the death of another person. Requires state courts to issue an order to return to a foreign country if a person is convicted of the illegal entry crime. The order to return must include an authorization allowing state and local law enforcement to transport the person to a port of entry or into federal custody.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of maintaining the current criminal and procedural laws.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>
			PROPOSITION 315 REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE LEGISLATURE RELATING TO RULEMAKING <p>A "YES" vote shall have the effect of requiring state agencies to submit any proposed rule that is estimated to increase regulatory costs by more than \$100,000 within five years after implementation to the Office of Economic Opportunity for review. If the Office of Economic Opportunity determines that the proposed rule is estimated to increase regulatory costs by more than \$500,000 within five years after implementation, the proposed rule shall not become effective unless the legislature enacts legislation ratifying the proposed rule. The Corporation Commission and emergency rules are exempt from this act.</p> <p>A "NO" vote shall have the effect of maintaining the current laws related to state agency rulemaking.</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>

What's On the Ballot: County Propositions

Maricopa County has two countywide ballot measures.
Due to the size of the county, the outcome of these measures will impact the state.

Pima County is not countywide.
Sahuarita Municipal bond and 5 utility franchise measures South Tucson Fire District .

Check with your county recorder for additional measures.

COUNTY
PROPOSITION 479
RELATING TO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION EXCISE (SALES) TAXES
Do you favor the continuation of a county transaction privilege (sales) tax for regional transportation purposes in Maricopa County?
A "YES" vote has the effect of continuing the transaction privilege (sales) tax in Maricopa County for twenty years to provide funding for transportation projects as contained in the regional strategic transportation infrastructure investment plan.
A "NO" vote has the effect of rejecting the transaction privilege (sales) tax for transportation purposes in Maricopa County.
YES <input type="radio"/>
NO <input type="radio"/>
PROPOSITION 486
Shall the base expenditure limit of the Maricopa County Community College District established in fiscal year 1979-80 be permanently adjusted by \$52,841,755.
A "YES" vote shall have the effect of permanently adjusting the Maricopa County Community College District's base expenditure limit established in fiscal year 1979-80 by \$52,841,755.
A "NO" vote shall have the effect of not permanently adjusting Maricopa County Community College District's base expenditure limit established in fiscal year 1979-80 by \$52,841,755.

Coconino County is countywide.

TEXT OF BALLOT

PROPOSITION 482

Proposal referred to the people by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors on the permanent adjustment to the 1979-80 expenditure base for Coconino County.

Official Title

A resolution proposing a permanent adjustment to the state-imposed 1979-80 expenditure base for Coconino County.

Descriptive Title

Pursuant to the Arizona State Constitution, Coconino County seeks voter approval to permanently adjust the expenditure base of the County as determined by the Economic Estimates Commission. The County seeks an adjustment of \$7.7 million.

A "YES" vote shall have the effect of allowing Coconino County to permanently adjust its 1979-80 expenditure base for County services and programs.	YES <input type="radio"/>
A "NO" vote shall have the effect of not allowing Coconino County to permanently adjust its 1979-80 expenditure base for County services and programs.	NO <input type="radio"/>

Appendix

Bureaucratic Delays Put Public Safety at Risk

Vote NO on Proposition 135

The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers strongly opposes Proposition 135. It undermines the governor's ability to respond effectively to emergencies, putting Arizonans at risk.

Bureaucratic Delays: Proposition 135 adds bureaucratic red tape and delays Arizona's emergency response. Requiring the governor to call a special legislative session upon the petition of one-third of each house weakens executive authority during critical times. Emergencies demand swift action, not bureaucratic delays. This requirement could slow down essential decisions, jeopardizing public safety.

Existing Legislative Control: The state legislature already has significant control over public health emergency responses. A 2022 law limits public health emergency declarations to 120 days, requiring legislative approval for extensions. Adding further restrictions is redundant and harmful.

Loss of Rapid Response: Automatically terminating the governor's emergency powers after 30 days, unless extended by the legislature, hinders ongoing response efforts. Emergencies often last longer. Requiring repeated legislative approval can prevent timely actions. When communities face emergencies, waiting for the legislature to reach a consensus is not an option.

Political Gridlock Jeopardizing Public Safety: Future public health disasters could spiral out of control due to legislative interference if Proposition 135 passes. Restricting the governor's ability to re-declare emergencies under similar conditions undermines necessary flexibility. This resolution risks politicizing emergency management, allowing political considerations to influence crucial responses rather than prioritizing public safety and expert recommendations.

Therefore, the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers urges voters to vote NO on Proposition 135.

Appendix

Vote YES on Prop 479: A Vital Investment in Maricopa County's Future

The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers urges you to vote YES on Prop 479. More than a transportation tax, Prop 479 is a lifeline for our community's health and well-being.

Transportation Is Essential for Healthcare Access

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are dedicated to providing preventive and primary care and reducing barriers like distance and transportation. A 2022 needs assessment revealed that over 80% of Arizona CHCs identified transportation as a major barrier to healthcare services. Prop 479 ensures patients can reliably get to medical appointments, whether by car, bus, or mobility van.

Promoting Healthier Lifestyles

The proposition supports bike and walking paths, promoting healthier lifestyles. Improved air quality and reduced traffic congestion will contribute to a better living environment for all Maricopa County residents.

Economic and Environmental Benefits

Prop 479 will generate \$24 billion over 20 years, with funds allocated to freeways and highways (40.5%), public transit (37%), and roads and intersections (22.5%). This investment will maintain our region's average commute time of 30 minutes, even as our population grows by 1.7 million and we add 900,000 jobs by 2050.

Economic Growth and Job Creation

Passing Prop 479 will create and support 31,600 jobs per year, with over 70% being medium to high-wage positions. It will stimulate \$2.4 billion in net new economic activity annually and save local businesses \$1.6 billion per year in reduced travel time and logistics costs.

A Vote for Prop 479 Is a Vote for Community Health

Transportation is a necessity, not a luxury. By voting YES on Prop 479, you ensure our healthcare system remains accessible, our economy continues to grow, and our environment improves. Let's keep Maricopa County moving forward—together.

Vote YES on Prop 479 for a healthier, stronger community.