

Arguments “For” Proposition 140

Today’s partisan divisions threaten the very fabric of our democracy. Forces built into the system make this so.

Our primaries marginalize independent and unaffiliated voters, Arizona’s largest and fastest growing voting bloc. Over 1.4 million registered voters are treated like second class citizens while their tax dollars help pay for elections that discriminate against them.

Democrats & Republicans running for office must get 6,000-7,000 signatures, but an independent or unaffiliated candidate needs a daunting 42,000+ signatures and cannot be listed on a primary ballot. Unaffiliated voters pay for presidential primaries yet are denied participation. And unaffiliated voters who choose to vote by mail are not automatically provided with primary ballots. They must go through the extra step of requesting either a Democratic or Republican ballot, which few choose to do.

The Make Elections Fair Initiative ends discrimination against voters and candidates based on party affiliation. It reduces the pernicious effects of gerrymandering, which currently enable politicians to run unopposed or have such a significant partisan advantage that they are virtually guaranteed a seat after winning only the primary, which reduces voters choices and promotes divisiveness. It creates an open, nonpartisan primary election, where all candidates can compete regardless of party ties, every voter has the right to choose whomever they like, and candidates must secure a majority vote in the general election to win.

A fair election system will create a change in perspective. Rather than representing a few polarized, primary voters, our elected officials will have to represent us all. This will be better for all Arizonans.

Democracy works best when it treats all voices equally. Democrat and Republican voters are important. But so are unaffiliated and independent voters. Bridging the political divides takes all of us.

Sarah Smallhouse, Chairman, Make Elections Fair Arizona, Tucson; Beau Lane, Co-Chair, Make Elections Fair Arizona, Phoenix; Paul Johnson, Co-Chair, Make Elections Fair Arizona, Scottsdale; and Patrick DeConcini, Co-Chair, Make Elections Fair Arizona, Tucson

Navigating family duties, financial obligations, and maintaining well-being can be demanding. Whether you are employed, retired, a student, or an educator, political involvement at the local, state or national level often seems like a useless drain of energy—until a compelling reason arises to participate.

Arizona's current system favors partisanship since more than 80% of all legislative races are determined in primaries from which independents and unaffiliated voters are excluded. If you are

a member of either of the two big parties (like I am), you can take this opportunity to ensure that ALL voters and candidates will be treated fairly.

Because of gerrymandered legislative districts, most elections in Arizona are determined in the primary. You win in the primary and you're almost sure to win in the general. That would be fine if our primaries were fair, but are they?

IS IT FAIR that to run for statewide office, Independent and unaffiliated candidates must collect nearly 6 times the signatures compared to R or D candidates?

IS IT FAIR that even if an Independent candidate overcomes these hurdles, their name will not appear on primary ballots, like R and D candidates, but only on the general election ballot?

IS IT FAIR that 34% of registered voters not affiliated with the two big parties must request a partisan R or D ballot to vote in a Primary election?

This amendment will:

Eliminate partisan primaries, replacing them with a system where individuals may vote for the candidate of their choice, regardless of the voter's or candidate's party affiliation.

Create the same signature requirements for those wishing to run for a particular office, without regard to political party affiliation or lack thereof.

The current system is unfair. Let's level the playing field.

Vote YES

Clive "Bob" Sommer, Co-Owner, Changing Hands Bookstores, Phoenix & Tempe, Tempe and Gayle Shanks, Co-Owner, Changing Hands Bookstores, Phoenix & Tempe, Tempe

Empowering Arizona's Moderate and Independent Voters

Vote YES on Prop 140

Right now, our primary election system favors extreme voices within the parties and creates added hurdles for independent voters and their voices. This structure discourages moderate points of view leaving voters to decide between extreme candidates and agendas. This incentivizes candidates to only listen to the narrow interests of highly partisan primary voters. Proposition 140 would require:

- ALL candidates to appear on the same ballot and compete under the same rules in a single primary, regardless of party.
- All registered voters would use that same ballot to cast their vote.
- Prohibit using taxpayer funds to pay for private political party primaries.

This is a common-sense solution that will moderate the partisanship that's been stifling progress on policy issues like school funding, voucher accountability, abortion care, affordable housing, water and environmental policy, and other important issues.

You finally have a chance to change that by creating an even playing field for independent voters and giving moderate candidates a fair chance to compete.

Proposition 140 will make general election races more competitive by giving independent and moderate voters more of a voice. It will also make candidates more accountable to more voters and lead to better choices and better results and a stronger Arizona.

Ready for a fresh start? Vote YES on Prop 140!

Will Humble, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association, Phoenix

Proposition 140

Argument "For" Make Elections Fair Arizona

The "Make Elections Fair Arizona" ballot initiative is exactly what it says it is; it will change our partisan election system so that voters have more choice, and candidates will have equal qualifying requirements regardless of party affiliation. Even though all taxpayers foot the bill to run our elections, the current system doesn't allow voters to select from the full slate of qualified candidates in a primary election. The outcome of most elections is decided in the primary, usually by a very small percentage of registered voters.

Even within the traditional parties, primary voters must select from among a slate of either all Democratic or all Republican candidates. An Independent voter can't participate in an Arizona primary unless they select either a Democratic or Republican ballot. This partisan structure alienates voters of all stripes and often results in the election of people representing the political extremes rather than the majority of taxpaying citizens within their districts.

Independent/unaffiliated voters make up roughly one-third of all voter registrations in Arizona, but Independent candidates do not appear on any primary ballot. An Independent candidate for office must collect roughly six times the number of signatures to qualify for the ballot when compared with a Democratic or Republican candidate. These unfair requirements would become a thing of the past, if Make Elections Fair becomes law.

Make Elections Fair gives Arizona voters more choice than the current, partisan system. If you are tired of voting for the least offensive candidate, then vote Yes! For Make Elections Fair.

Arizona Independent Voters Network

Perri Benemelis, Editor, Arizona Independent Voter's Network, Mesa

The Make Elections Fair initiative will ensure every voter in every community can vote for any candidate. This will increase the opportunities for independent and third-party candidates to win. The initiative lets voters pick the candidates they like best and makes politicians more accountable. More people will vote because they feel their voice matters. It will make elections better for everyone, encouraging higher participation and making the voting process fair and just for all. Vote YES on Prop 140.

Blake Sacha, Gilbert

More than four in ten voters today don't want to be in a political party. Why? Because the legacy parties have become special interests — now the biggest special interests of all.

Independents become independents for many reasons. What we have in common is that we are repelled by the current political system—by its elites and its “party above country” mentality. The 43% of the country who identify as “independent”, “no party preference”, “non-aligned”, or “decline to state” are making a statement of non-compliance with that system.

Arizona is not just a battleground state, as defined by the Republicans and Democrats. It's also a battleground state to establish a new “voter-based” system, rather than one based in the power of parties. This November, voters — ALL voters — have the chance to enact the most forward-looking election reform package in the country. Arizona deserves nonpartisan primaries, a ban on using taxpayer money to fund exclusionary closed primaries, and fair ballot-access requirements for all candidates for public office, regardless of party allegiance.

Independents care deeply about our identity, about our state and our country. Arizonans have a long tradition of being a freedom-loving people. Voters must be free of the corruption and control that the legacy parties insist upon.

It's time for a change. Proposition 140 will be that change.

Please join me in voting YES on Prop 140 and together we can Make Elections Fair.

Jacqueline Salit, President, Independent Voting, Clarkdale

I will vote NO on the Partisan Primary Elections Amendment and I encourage other Arizonans to do the same. This Amendment would lock in a system that is already systematically failing Arizonans. Partisan primaries incentivize candidates to appeal to the extreme ends of their party, mobilizing individuals who do not represent the majority of rank-and-file party members. They also systematically disenfranchise independent voters, who are now the single largest voting bloc in Arizona. Over half of Arizona elections are already de facto decided in the primaries; why would we seek to further reinforce that disparity? Vote NO on this naked power grab by the parties, and instead support the Make Elections Fair ballot initiative.

Raymond Kimball, Volunteer, Veterans for All Voters, Gilbert

Accountability is important to me and having elected officials who are accountable to all citizens is very important to me. That is why I strongly support the Make Elections Fair Open Primary Initiative. It will allow everyone to vote in every election and thus require office seekers to be responsive to all constituents. And I believe this will lead to elected officials who are willing to work together and reach a consensus on the pressing problems we have in Arizona. So please consider voting for this powerful initiative.

Kirk Anderson, Phoenix

On behalf of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC), a nonpartisan policy-focused organization of business and community leaders who work to enhance the economic climate and quality of life in our region and state, I urge you to vote YES on Proposition 140, the Make Elections Fair Act. Prop 140 will improve Arizona's elections to give all voters equal footing in deciding who is elected and will give all candidates a level playing field.

Arizona's primary system currently disenfranchises citizens of all political affiliations. With 80% of Arizona's legislative districts being "safe" for one party, the primary is the only election that matters. Due to the system, only about 10% of the 1,369,644 Independents or 'Party Not Declared' (PND) registered voters participate in the primary. Voters belonging to the minority party and Independents/PNDs are essentially shut out and have no impact in selecting the candidate in a "safe" district. In Arizona's 2022 general election, 19 of 90 legislative seats (21%) were uncontested and those candidates ran unopposed. They were effectively elected in the primary which is closed to voters from the minority party and presents significant hurdles for Independents/PNDs. In these "safe" districts throughout the state, the majority of voters are not allowed to vote for their district representatives. This is undemocratic.

Independent/PND candidates face prohibitive barriers to run for office. They must collect up to six times as many signatures as major party candidates. This is unfair and further marginalizes more than one third of Arizona's registered voters.

Prop 140 will give all Arizonans a fair chance to participate in our democratic process. If it passes, all candidates will be listed on a single ballot regardless of their party affiliation and all voters will be able to vote for the candidate of their choice. Vote "Yes" on Prop 140.

Ted Maxwell, President & CEO, Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Tucson

Today, unaffiliated voters make up about 34% of the electorate, more than Democrats and nearly as large as Republicans. From a purely philosophical perspective, our democracy should represent all voters and candidates equally, regardless of their political affiliation.

It is fundamentally wrong to ask unaffiliated voters to pay for an election they are not permitted to run in. It is equally wrong to force them, once you have denied them the right to run, to pick a ballot from the two remaining parties.

The Make Elections Fair Act will right this wrong by requiring everyone, regardless of party, to run on the same ballot and to permit the voters to choose their favorite candidates across the full political spectrum. As a business organization, we endorse fair competition and the free market economic principles that underlie our great democracy.

It is time we put them to work to reform our democratic system.

Please join the Arizona Bankers Association in supporting the Make Elections Fair Act. It is good for democracy and good for business.

Paul Hickman, President and CEO, Arizona Bankers Association, Phoenix

All eligible Arizonans should have an opportunity to participate in primary elections. Proposition 140 provides such an opportunity and will be an important basis for a healthier democracy, healthier Arizonans, and better health policy.

Health and civic engagement are interconnected, and as such, Vitalyst Health Foundation supports Proposition 140 because it will enhance the ability of all Arizonans to constructively engage in our primary elections.

Civic engagement contributes to a community's overall health. Proposition 140 will establish fairer ways for all Arizonans to let their voice be heard and elect decision-makers that reflect their values. A broader representation also tends to improve health policies and helps to ensure that more people have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare.

Fair and inclusive voting means policies are in place to assure that everyone who is eligible can register and vote. By participating in open primaries, individuals can be informed of different political views. This encourages a healthy democracy and removes existing barriers that prevent everyone from easily voting in the primaries.

As an independent, nonpartisan organization, Vitalyst supports efforts that advance civic health in Arizona, and supports Proposition 140.

Suzanne Pfister, President and CEO, Vitalyst Health Foundation, Phoenix

I was a loyal, conservative Republican until I found that parties were more interested in pointing fingers than finding solutions. This dysfunction drove me to change my registration to independent and run in 2022, aiming to become Arizona's first independent elected to Congress. Unfortunately, running in a "safe" district proved challenging.

A massive obstacle I faced was gathering more than 4,800 valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. Republican and Democratic candidates needed somewhere between 1,500-1650. Even after gathering nearly double the signatures required, I wasn't permitted to be listed on the primary ballot because independent candidates are only listed on the general. I realized the system is stacked against independents.

We "politically homeless" voters, unable to align with Republican or Democratic parties, now make up a third of the electorate. We represent a critical portion of voters yet;

- We are excluded from voting in the presidential preference election, despite funding it with our tax dollars.
- To vote in primaries—where most races are decided—we must request a partisan ballot.
- Independent candidates need up to six times as many signatures to get on the ballot as partisan candidates.

Does any of this sound fair to you? But we have an opportunity to change it. The Make Elections Fair Act eliminates partisan primaries and incentivizes elected officials to focus on the issues their constituents care most about.

A YES on Prop 140 vote will:

- Level the playing field for all candidates with equal ballot requirements, regardless of party.
- Prevent major parties from unfairly benefiting from our tax dollars.
- Provide more and better choices for elected leaders, who will need to appeal to a broader group of voters.

If you believe that all voters should be treated fairly, join me in and Vote YES on Prop 140

Clint Smith, Mesa

There are somethings that are just not right. The primary election process in Arizona is one of those "somethings" that is just not right.

Arizona's primary election is exclusively held for the Republican and Democratic parties. Private political primaries for two parties PAID for by ALL taxpayers of Arizona. It's just not right.

To vote in Arizona's primary elections you first have to vote for a party. Then you are limited to only voting for that party's candidates. It's just not right.

To be a candidate in the primary election you have to be a republican or democrat. Otherwise, you are only allowed to be on the General Election ballot. To be on the republican primary ballot a candidate needs 7,072 signatures. To be on the democratic primary ballot a candidate needs 6,556 signatures. An unaffiliated candidate cannot be on either primary ballot for election but needs 42,303 signatures to be on the general election ballot. It's just not right.

It is time to make elections right in Arizona by leveling the playing field. Let's remove unfair advantages to the process of being an elected official in this Great State of Arizona. Let's make primary elections a truly OPEN primary election with all candidates on the ballot and all registered voters allowed to vote for all candidates. Let's have the signature requirements equal for all candidates to be on the primary ballot. Let's free up our elected officials to build consensus by listening to what their constituents deem important instead of creating division as the party leaders want by threatening to "primary them" in the best interest of the party. Let's make it right. Let's make elections fair in Arizona for better choices, better results, for a better Arizona.

Vote YES for Proposition 140. It's the right thing to do.

David Patterson, Sun Lakes

RepresentUS is a nonpartisan nonprofit advocating on behalf of voters. We have a very simple litmus test for issues that we support or oppose. "Does this measure make it easier or harder for regular people to have a say in their government?" The Make Elections Fair measure makes it

much easier for regular voters to have a bigger say in their government. It does this in three key ways:

- It allows anyone to vote in any election - all voters get an equal say.
- It ends the use of taxpayer money for choosing party nominees - if we pay for it, we get to vote.
- And third, it gives voters more choices by treating all candidates the same and including everyone on the primary ballot - Independents and 3rd party candidates often never even make it to the ballot for voters to consider. This measure makes it as easy for all candidates as it is for Republicans and Democrats already.

Please vote YES.

Bo Harmon, RepresentUS, Leesburg

Veterans for All Voters strongly urges Arizonans to vote YES on Proposition 140, and Make Elections Fair for all Arizonans. Currently, in Arizona, both Independent candidates and Independent voters are treated like second-class citizens. Prop. 140 would fix this by creating a level playing field for all candidates and all voters. Currently, Independent voters must jump through extra hoops in order to participate in the primary elections their taxes help fund. And, Independent candidates in Arizona must collect up to 6 times the number of signatures compared to partisan candidates. The status quo political operating system in Arizona is fundamentally unfair. So, it's time for a system update! However, partisan politicians, party insiders and political elites all enjoy defending the status quo. After all, low turnout, partisan primary elections help them maintain their power and control. Prop. 140 would give more power to all of Arizona's voters, including the over 1.4 Million Arizonans who are not affiliated with either major political party. Indeed, across the country, Independent voters are the fastest growing voting block in most states. Approximately 61% of young people, ages 18-24, identify as Independent. And, over 50% of military Veterans identify as Independent. Independent Arizonans, serving on Active Duty in the military, should not be forced to affiliate with a private political party in order to vote. Veterans for All Voters supports nonpartisan (all candidate) primary elections in all 50 states. In any given state, the party in control always opposes primary election reform. When both major political parties are fighting to maintain the status quo, it's time for "We the People" to rise up and demand free and fair elections. On behalf of Arizona's Independent military Veterans, and Independent voters, please vote YES on Prop. 140 and Make Elections Fair for all voters in Arizona!

Eric Bronner, COO | Founder, Veterans for All Voters, Saint Louis

The United States Congress and our State Legislature do not function as they should or even as they once did. The two parties are so antagonistic that any compromise is considered traitorous. Instead of governing, our representatives give us partisan gridlock, stalemate, and knee-jerk opposition.

This is not good for our State or our Country.

Today, more than 75% of all candidates elected to Congress or to our Arizona Legislature are in effect selected in partisan primary elections. Lopsided registration numbers render the General Election a mere formality. In other words, the most partisan, most extreme voters pick most of our elected representatives.

Today, over a third of Arizona voters choose not to affiliate with either political party. Yet, under Arizona law, unaffiliated candidates must collect six times as many signatures as party candidates to appear on a ballot. Unaffiliated candidates are prohibited from appearing on taxpayer funded primary ballots. Unaffiliated voters are forced to choose a Republican or Democratic ballot to cast a vote in a primary election.

A system that selects the most extreme candidates and in effect disenfranchises over a third of voters undermines confidence in our elections.

Make Elections Fair requires that all candidates for office appear on the same ballot, that all candidates for the same office have the same signature requirements and that taxpayer funds may not pay for partisan primary elections. A successful candidate under the Fair Elections system must appeal to the majority of voters.

As a former Mayor of Phoenix, I've seen firsthand how well open primary elections work in municipal elections. It goes without saying that Arizona cities work a lot more efficiently than our Legislature without the hyper-political gridlock and animosity.

Please vote "yes" on Prop 140.

Terry Goddard, Former Arizona Attorney General & Mayor of Phoenix, Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Nearly every Mayor in Arizona is elected in an open non-partisan primary election. I would like you to ask yourself one simple question, who do you believe serves your interests the best, the US Congress, or your city. If you answer your city read on.

Today, independent, and unaffiliated voters are the fastest growing part of the Arizona electorate. The Make Elections Fair Act, Prop 140, will require that all voters and all candidates be treated identically, just as they are today in nearly every municipal election.

- Today, an unaffiliated candidate in a partisan race must collect 6 times as many signatures as a Republican or a Democrat. The Make Elections Fair Act requires that all candidates be treated the same.

- Today, everyone pays taxes to support our elections, yet under our current rules an unaffiliated taxpaying candidate cannot be on a primary ballot. The Make Elections Fair Act opens a primary election so anyone can run, and anyone can vote.

I have had the privilege of serving as the Mayor of Mesa for the past 10 years, I was elected in an open primary system where voters can choose who to vote for whomever they wish. In my role as Mayor, I have created new partnerships with our K-12 school districts, community colleges and Universities to increase education attainment, increased public safety funding to improve our emergency response and secured our city's future water resources. Potholes and planning are not partisan issues.

We want the State of Arizona and our US Congress to work as well as our city. To do that, we need your support of the Make it Fair Elections Act, Prop 140.

Please join us in supporting Prop 140.

John Giles, Mayor of Mesa, Mesa
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Are you disgusted with the lack of character and leadership among many (but not all) political candidates running for office? More and more registered voters feel disenfranchised by the party they once supported for years. Over 34% of all Arizona registered voters don't identify with either major party. Too frequently, neither the candidates nor their party platforms represent our views. It is time to attract more sensible citizens and fewer extreme activists back into both major parties.

Open primaries hold great hope! An "open primary" doesn't favor any candidate, or party; it simply places all candidates for each position on a single ballot regardless of their political party and lets the voters choose the most qualified candidates to run in the general election. Open "unified" primaries allow each voter to vote for whichever candidate they choose without having to swallow whole a new "party platform," or change their party to do so. This change will neutralize the polarized antics prevalent in our current system. Because all voters will be able to vote for the candidates of their choice, lawmakers will feel accountable to all voters, not just the 5% or 10% of all registered voters who previously got them elected in a party primary. This will incentivize lawmakers to spend time solving serious problems instead of posturing for the next party primary. And it will create appropriate accountability for all lawmakers.

We're not politicians or activists. We are simply registered voters, community members, and neighbors of yours who are disappointed with the current system and its' divisive results. It's time for bi-partisan change! We absolutely respect your right to see it differently, but we're voting YES on Prop 140 and we encourage you to join us!

Dave LeSueur, concerned citizen, Gilbert; Nancy LeSueur, Gilbert; Carey Holgate, Gilbert; Lori Holgate, Gilbert; Blix Thompson, Mesa; Mollie Thompson, Mesa; Matt Riggs, Gilbert; Darl J. Andersen, Chandler; Kaye Andersen, Chandler; Kris Thompson, Gilbert; Carrie Thompson, Gilbert; Melissa Farnsworth, Gilbert; Tom Farnsworth, Gilbert; Todd Philbee, Gilbert; Lynn Philbee, Gilbert; Patti Higgins, Gilbert; Warren Higgins, Gilbert; and Jill Geigle, Gilbert

I have been a member of the Democratic party my entire adult life. As a Democrat I have watched and participated as our Country has continued to strive to live up to the notion of equality that has been our nation's promise since its founding. I have watched and participated as Democrats have continually and proudly expanded the notion of freedom and redefined what it means to be an American.

From Civil Rights, voting rights, housing rights to native American rights and the equality of our brothers and sisters who identify as LGBTQ+. I am proud to be a Democrat that has stood for the principle of equality and freedom.

Today there are slightly more Republicans than unaffiliated voters. I suspect, as the information age takes a greater hold on our Republic that more and more voters are going to choose to not be a member of either party. That is their constitutional right.

Our election system must reflect our commitment to the principle of equality. An unaffiliated voter must go the extra step of requesting a partisan ballot of a party they are not even a member of, and an unaffiliated candidate must collect six times as many signatures to even appear on a general election ballot. While an unaffiliated candidate cannot even appear on a primary election ballot which their taxpayer dollars are paying for. None of this is right, all of it must be fixed.

The Make Elections Fair Act, Prop 140, fixes this problem by eliminating restrictions on voter participation, and ensuring that all candidates compete under the same set of rules.

As I have said, I am a proud Democrat and as such I support treating everyone equally and fairly. Please join me in voting yes on Prop 140.

Art Hamilton, Former Arizona State Representative (1973-1999), Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

I moved to Arizona in 1985 to work on John McCain's first campaign for U.S. Senate. His frequently quoted phrase has inspired my own 39-year career in public affairs: "Country First." John lived his life by those words and it remains my inspiration.

Today, we see that partisan interests are routinely honored above our nation's best interests.

Currently, almost 33% of Arizona voters are registered Independent. By law, these non-affiliated voters are required to pick either a Republican or a Democratic ballot and cannot appear as a candidate in our taxpayer-funded primary elections. For an Independent candidate to even appear on a general election ballot, they must collect six times as many signatures.

The U.S. Constitution says nothing about forcing voters to choose a partisan ballot. George Washington was the only President who did not belong to a party.

John Adams, our second President said, "There is nothing I dread so much, as the division of the Republic into two great Parties, each arranged under its leader and concerting measures in opposition to each other."

We have arrived at a new dawn, as feared by our forefathers, and we must change or perish. Our Constitution gives each State the right to determine how we elect our leaders. It is time to change.

The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights guarantee individual rights to expression. Forcing a partisan ballot, and using taxpayer dollars to fund that election, is clearly not fair when so many Arizonans are choosing not to be a member of a party.

The Make Elections Fair Act restores fairness to Arizona's elections, eliminates funding for partisan primaries, and treats all candidates and all voters equally. Nothing could be more "Country First" than that.

Join me in supporting Prop 140.

Chuck Coughlin, President, HighGround Inc., Phoenix

As a lifelong, conservative Republican and a fiscal conservative who had the pleasure of serving as Governor of Arizona from 1990 – 1997, I am voting in favor of the Make Elections Fair Act. Many of my friends and lifelong associates will be surprised by this development but I would encourage you to look at this from a purely taxpayer perspective.

Today roughly a third of Arizona voters are not registered with either political party. I expect that portion of the electorate to continue to grow over time and likely to eclipse the number of Republican and Democratic voters. The age of information has arrived, and more and more voters want to express their own choices about who they vote for.

Most importantly, however, I find it fiscally unconscionable to ask unaffiliated voters to use their taxpayer dollars to fund strictly partisan elections. It is simply taxation without representation, the stuff our forefathers rebelled against nearly 250 years ago. They were right to do so then, we are correct today.

All things must evolve, if the Country is to survive and prosper, let open competition, and free market values guide our decision here. Please join me in supporting the Make Elections Fair Act.

Fife Symington III, 19th Governor of the State of Arizona, Paradise Valley
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Make Elections Fair is an important step to ensuring that the voices of Arizona voters are better represented in our elections. This initiative does not favor any political party. It favors voters.

By establishing a single, open primary election in which all candidates appear on the same ballot and all voters use the same ballot to vote regardless of political party affiliation or lack thereof, Make Elections Fair will better represent the interests of all voters and create stronger alignment between voter preferences and election outcomes.

As a nonpartisan nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring Arizonans together to create a stronger and brighter future for our state we know a lot about what Arizonans want. Over 15 years of conducting rigorous public opinion survey research we have found that Arizonans agree on more than we disagree on important issues like education, jobs, health care, and more. In fact, our data show that large majorities of Arizonans agree on shared public values and are not nearly as polarized and divided as we often hear. Yet our politics have become extremely polarized and we see major disconnects between what Arizona voters want and what our politics are delivering. The design of our primary election system is a key contributor to this problem: partisan primaries lead to partisan outcomes.

Make Elections Fair is an important step to ensuring that candidates for office and elected leaders are responsive to the broader concerns of the majority of voters as a condition of getting elected. It helps move our politics away from polarization and division and towards solutions.

If you are concerned about extreme partisanship and want to see election outcomes that are more representative of Arizona voters, vote for Make Elections Fair.

Sybil Francis, Chair, President & CEO, Center for the Future of Arizona, Paradise Valley

As the youngest member of my hometown city council, with 30 years as an educator in our public schools and now representing District 1 on the Pima County Board of Supervisors, I have a unique perspective on public service and the value collaboration holds in solving our community's toughest challenges.

A few years ago, while visiting a school to discuss local government, a 3rd grade student asked me why political candidates “hate” each other. Hearing this question from such a young person was jarring. He and his peers lack positive examples of how elected leaders and candidates should behave. Why is this?

Our current system rewards divisiveness and encourages candidates to cater primarily to their party's base, amplifying polarization and hindering meaningful collaboration. How can that possibly be a winning strategy?

The reason is that in our state, a small minority of voters choose the majority of candidates. Partisan primary elections require independent voters to take additional steps to participate. Most of them don't, leaving a significant portion of Arizona's electorate unaccounted for in primary elections—where most candidate elections are determined.

Those of us entrusted with public office are duty bound to represent the needs of our constituents. Local elected officials, chosen in non-partisan elections, can often better represent their constituents because to win they must appeal to ALL voters. The Make Elections Fair Act supports this type of governance by allowing ALL registered voters to have a say in who represents them, encouraging candidates to be responsive to ALL constituents and combating divisiveness.

Additionally, the initiative levels the playing field for independent candidates by eliminating the requirement to gather up to six times more signatures than their partisan counterparts. These changes will give Arizonans better choices, better results, and greater engagement.

Join me in voting YES on Proposition 140.

Rex Scott, Pima County Supervisor, Pima County, District 1, Tucson

The Center for the Future of Arizona recently conducted a Gallup survey which found that Arizona voters overwhelmingly agree upon shared public values and desired outcomes, but do not believe that our elected officials effectively represent them or that Arizona is headed in the right direction.

Our current election system is unfair, rewards partisanship, creates division, and prevents our shared public values from being realized. The Democratic and Republican parties enforce ideological fealty and prevent bipartisan cooperation through a primary election system controlled by the parties but funded by taxpayers. Because of gerrymandered districts, 80% of all electoral races are decided in the primary, not the general election. Yet Independent voters are allowed to participate in primary elections only if permitted by the parties, and they are required to request a ballot, although most do not. Independent candidates must collect over 6 times the number of signatures required of party affiliated candidates to make the ballot, receive less public funding, and do not have the same access to voter rolls.

The Make Elections Fair Initiative, Proposition 140 would reform our broken election system and require that all voters and all candidates are treated equally. It requires open non-partisan primary elections in which candidates are incentivized to address the concerns of all constituents and not just the 15%-20% who vote in primary elections. Candidates will be freed from the threat of “being primaried” for working on bi-partisan legislation and will be incentivized to solve problems that advance our shared public values.

Please join me in voting YES on Prop 140.

Ted Hinderaker, Attorney, Tucson

As a lifelong Democrat, I have always been a supporter of equal ballot access for every eligible voter and candidate. That is why I have always been a strong proponent of the non-partisan election system adopted by most of the municipalities in the State of Arizona. These local elections are fair and treat everyone equally.

On the other hand, the current partisan system used to elect our congressional, statewide, and legislative offices is fundamentally unfair because it causes Independent and unaffiliated voters to face massive participation barriers. It is wrong and its well past time for a change on how we elect these offices.

Not only must independent and unaffiliated candidates collect up to six times the number of signatures compared to partisan candidates, they also do not appear in the Primary Election

ballot. Even worse, independent and unaffiliated voters are required to compromise their principle of non-affiliation and must select a party ballot to participate in the primary election.

There needs to be equal treatment in our elections that allow all candidates and voters to compete under the same rules – that is why I am supporting the Make Elections Fair Act.

Every candidate should have the same rules and requirements to qualify for the ballot. All voters be able to vote for the candidate they want without having to pick a partisan ballot. This is not new – it is exactly how many cities and towns choose their elected officials right now.

Proposition 140 just evens the playing field for the rest of our elections and makes them fair for all. Please join me in voting YES on Proposition 140.

Si Schorr, Tucson

Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

I am a second-generation Native Arizonan born and raised in Winkelman, always proud to call Arizona my home. I admire the independent character of Arizona; it has and will always have a place in my soul. I am a lifelong registered Democrat and as such had always admired and respected the way our state leaders have historically worked together to develop policies that make Arizona the great state that it is.

Times have changed but not for the better regarding our political sphere. Our Federal, State, and local leaders in most cases do not get along, much less work together. It is like an unwinnable contest between two sides that focuses on making the other side look bad. That results in acrimony and does not represent what this state deserves.

Arizonans are choosing not to register as Republicans or Democrats but choose to do so as independents, the fastest growing sector. Unfortunately, our current laws regarding the electoral process relegate them to be viewed as second class citizens. They must secure Democrat or Republican ballot to vote in the primary, not fair!

I believe that we can change our constitution to allow all voters and all candidates to be treated the same. Today, 80% of Arizonan's election candidates are elected in the primary election. Yet, voter turnout is low and consequently the ideologues in either party who do not represent all constituents get elected.

The "Make Elections Fair Act" treats Independent/unaffiliated voters and candidates fairly. Every voter can participate in every election. Competition produces better choices and makes candidates accountable to most voters and leads to better choices, better results, and a stronger Arizona.

Please join me in supporting the Make Elections Fair Act.

Victor Flores, Phoenix

Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

This election, nearly nine out of ten elections for the AZ State Legislature will be decided in the partisan primary before the November election. That's because our election system creates unbalanced districts and onerous rules that favor one political party or the other. The winner of the partisan primary is nearly guaranteed victory in the General Election. This unbalanced and unfair system effectively disenfranchises all of those voters who do not belong to the dominant party. They have virtually no say in who represents them in their district. They've been cancelled.

On the other hand, all voters in the many city elections will have a voice in who leads them. That's because in most city elections, ALL of the candidates appear on the primary ballot, regardless of party affiliation, and ALL voters get to choose from the same slate of candidates. Both voters and candidates are on a fair and equal footing.

I've participated as a candidate in a city election, and I found it to be especially rewarding! Because all voters mattered, I had to reach out and listen to everybody: Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Candidates needed to take real positions on issues, because we were accountable to voters from all over the political spectrum. I did not shy away from my party affiliation, but I couldn't easily hide behind it, either. I found the process to be exhilarating! And especially fair for all. Primary Elections in Arizona should include ALL candidates who run using the same rules. Arizona voters deserve to have a voice and a real choice in who represents them. That's what the Make Elections Fair Act will do: Make sure that all of us have a voice!

Please support Fair Elections and Vote YES on Prop 140.

Scott Smith, Former Mayor of Mesa, Mesa
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

It is my honor to represent District 6 on the Phoenix City Council as your independent voice. With 36 years of dedicated service in the Phoenix Police Department, including 18 years as a senior executive, I have prided myself on serving our community with integrity and fairness.

During my career in law enforcement, I encountered many brave men and women who exhibited heroism daily— putting the needs of their communities ahead of their own.

Most Arizona municipalities already hold non-partisan elections open to all voters. As an independent elected official, elected in a non-partisan race I felt empowered to make decisions based on what's best for our community. I ran on the foundation of my experience, prioritizing the community, leading with dignity, and respecting diverse backgrounds and differing opinions, and never showing contempt, but respect for anyone who had an opinion different from my own.

By creating more choices, opening our electoral process the candidates who speak to a majority of the electorate will be rewarded. There should be no role for partisan politics in honoring the very best qualities that make State 48 the best place in the Country to live, to raise a family and to work.

Unfortunately, independent candidates like me rarely reach statewide office because we're required to gather up to six times the number of signatures as partisan candidates. Independent voters also face unfair treatment, having to take extra steps like requesting a partisan ballot to vote in a primary election their tax dollars fund. It's unjust to make citizens pay for a public process they can't fully participate in. It is time to make our elections fair.

Join me in voting YES on Prop 140.

Kevin Robinson, Phoenix City Councilman - District 6, Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Democracy isn't working for most Arizona voters — Republicans, Democrats or Independents. Most of our state's 30 legislative districts are considered "safe," meaning one party's candidate always wins in the general election.

This boils down to most Arizona elections are already decided in primary elections — where only about 20% of voters participate in Republican primaries and only about 15% participate in Democratic primaries.

If you — like me — are one of the 34% of Arizona voters not registered with either party, you hardly have any voice at all, and certainly no independent candidate to vote for.

Independent voters face additional requirements than partisan voters to participate in primaries their taxpayer dollars helped fund. They must request a Republican or Democratic ballot, abandoning the right to proclaim party independence.

The political parties have even made it harder for an independent candidate to get on the general election ballot by requiring them to collect six times more signatures to qualify. Our current elections system is not a real democracy for all voters.

The Make Elections Fair Act eliminates partisan primaries and replaces them with open primaries in which all candidates are on the same ballot. This gives voters the opportunity to vote for the candidate of their choice, regardless of the voter or candidate's party affiliation.

This initiative levels the playing field for independent candidates by making the signature requirements the same regardless of party registration.

Open primaries allow all voters to have a real choice in deciding which candidates make it to the general election. It's time to change our current partisan primaries that do not give all voters a say in which candidates will represent them.

Vote for a more fair system that truly represents Arizonans — VOTE YES on Prop 140.

Dr. Matthew Whitaker, Business for Democracy-AZ, Mesa
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Over the last two decades, the East Valley of Maricopa County has been one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Members of the PHX East Valley Partnership believe that part of the success of the region is because community leaders have come together to develop massive new employment centers and world class educational opportunities that have fueled our economic growth. The combined efforts of government, business, education, and local community leaders have been inspiring to observe!

In providing leadership opportunities for the future, we view the proposed “Make Elections Fair” initiative as a positive approach to engage every voter in the process to select their government leaders. With over 1.4 million independent Arizona voters who have chosen not to be a member of the two major political parties, our current closed partisan primary election process can have the effect of disenfranchising both independent candidates and voters. Independent candidates cannot even appear on a partisan primary ballot and to express their voting opinion, independent voters must request a ballot of a party that by choice is not their party.

The rest of the voters are forced to choose between an all Democratic or Republican primary ballot. A voter cannot choose to vote for a Republican County Supervisor and a Democratic Congressperson.

We believe that free markets are good for business and that they are also good for politics. We also believe that competition produces better choices and that “All Voices and All Voters Matter.”

The Make Elections Fair Act treats all candidates and voters equally, eliminates partisan primaries, and rewards candidates who choose to work on issues that matter most--the economy, public safety, and education.

We encourage you to join us in supporting the “Make Elections Fair Act.”

John W. Lewis, President, PHX East Valley Partnership, Gilbert

It was my incredible honor to represent thousands of brave first responders as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona. I have also had the privilege of serving the citizens of Phoenix as both a member of the Phoenix City Council as well as the Mayor’s Chief of Staff.

Through it all, I have witnessed politics at the national, state, and local level. I have seen firsthand what works and what does not.

At the state level, I have witnessed the gridlock of a divided legislature unable to collaborate on policies impacting the health, compensation, and labor rights of firefighters. Locally, I have seen elected officials who are much more willing to reach across the aisle to collaborate and find solutions.

The difference? How the elections are conducted. Our current primary system rewards partisanship and excludes independent voters from participating in elections their tax dollars pay for. The result is gridlock and animosity.

On the other hand, elections for most of Arizona's cities are nonpartisan elections with everyone competing on the same ballot. The result is local officials who are accountable to a wide range of constituents who depend on them to safeguard their taxpayer dollars and ensure access to essential services like safe roads, running water, electricity, and emergency services.

Research consistently shows that Arizonans prefer their local governments over any other elected officials.

The Make Elections Fair Act ensures every voter has an equal chance to vote for any candidate they choose, even if that candidate is not in their registered party. It will encourage our statewide and legislative officials to appeal to more voters and deter the partisanship that has been holding the state back.

When candidates are held accountable to all voters, not just a party, we all benefit. Vote YES on Prop 140.

Bryan Jeffries, Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

As longtime residents of Arizona, we have been deeply engaged in the business, civic and philanthropic aspects of our State. We have participated actively in political issues and campaigns and watched with dismay as our politics have become more extreme, more divisive and less focused on the issues important to a majority of voters.

We think our primary election system is a big part of the problem. Because so many districts have been configured to be reliably Democrat or Republican, most are now "safe" for one party or the other so that the only election of consequence is the primary. Today, our primary elections are set up to give outsized power to hard core Republicans and Democrats – often extremists. Independents and "no party declared" voters must work extra hard to be eligible to vote. With this proposed proposition, a voter who qualifies to vote in November automatically qualifies to vote in the primary.

Because of partisan primaries, once elected, legislators are incentivized to keep in lockstep with an extreme slice of the electorate rather than to govern in the public interest. The idea of being "primaried" keeps them aligned to the base out of fear of losing the next election. Party loyalty is more important than effective governance.

We think all voters should be able to vote in a nonpartisan primary. It would encourage greater participation and make officials accountable to a broader base of the electorate. We strongly support Proposition 140 and hope you will join us in voting YES.

Phil Francis, Retired Chairman & CEO, PetSmart, Paradise Valley and Juanita Francis, Retired R.N. | Former Chair, Valleywise Health Foundation, Paradise Valley
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Flagstaff has always had a reputation for independent thinking. I hope that motivates my fellow residents, as well as all Arizonans, to join me in supporting a critical change to our election system.

Prop 140 will change primary elections by taking control away from political parties and giving it back to us, the voters. All candidates will be on one ballot and all registered voters will be able to vote for their preferred candidate. In states where similar changes have been made, candidates tend to be more “middle of the road,” like most of us.

I support Prop 140 because it is more fair. It allows all voters - including Independents - to participate in all elections and all candidates to compete under the same rules. It opens the door for new ideas by allowing a broader range of candidates, including those not strictly aligned with traditional party platforms. This change will promote candidates and elected officials who respond to the needs and preferences of voters, not their political parties.

This is a good change; I hope you will join me in voting YES on Proposition 140.

Eve Ross, J.D. | Retired VP, W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc., Flagstaff
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Arizona’s primary voting system discriminates against Independents and unaffiliated voters; the second largest group of registered voters in Arizona. Today, primary voters may vote only for candidates in one of the political parties. To vote, you must either be registered as a member of a party or request a ballot from one of the parties that includes just their candidates. You may not vote in a Presidential Preference primary unless you register as a member of a political party. To run for office as an Independent you must get 6 times as many signatures to qualify for the ballot. Clearly this is not a fair system.

It results in the extreme candidates in both parties winning their races since they have only to appeal to the partisan base, not to the broader general public. This gives inordinate power and authority to the few over the many. Political success goes to the loudest and most provocative voices over the thoughtful, well researched, fact-supported public policy ideas that address what most of our citizens care about.

Make Elections Fair will fix this. When we open our primaries so everyone can vote we get several critical benefits. Winners must get a majority of votes cast, so successful candidates will be those who address what the majority see as key issues rather than just attacking their opponent. Once in office, officials supported by a broad majority of voters will not fear being “primaried” and will be empowered to make the hard decisions that go with governing.

Make Elections Fair will enable every registered voter to vote in every election, including primaries; public funding of party-controlled elections will end; and campaigns will reward candidates whose ideas are embraced by a majority of citizens, not just a highly partisan minority.

Donald V. Budinger, Chairman & Founding Director, The Rodel Foundation, Scottsdale
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Vote “YES” on Make Elections Fair Act

Voting “YES” on Prop 140 is likely the single most impactful action you can take in your lifetime to help ensure that our great nation remains a well-functioning representative democracy.

It is broadly accepted that partisan primaries are one of the biggest problems in our broken political system. They facilitate the election of extreme candidates and prevent elected officials from doing the hard work of finding common ground – solving problems in ways that are supported by most Americans -- without risk of losing their jobs by being “primaried.”

The Make Elections Fair Act would address these problems by adopting non-partisan primaries, which is widely viewed as the most effective step that informed citizens can take to ensure our votes matter, regardless of whether we belong to a political party or consider ourselves independent. If you’re not completely satisfied with the choices of political candidates that have been presented in recent elections, and with the performance of those elected, this is your opportunity to effect change.

This initiative is aimed at restoring fairness to elections: fairness for voters, ensuring every citizen’s ability to vote for their candidates of choice, regardless of political party; fairness to candidates, leveling the playing field for running for office, irrespective of party affiliation; and fairness to elected officials, providing freedom to seek consensus around issues that are important to constituents, without undue exposure to party reprisal.

If you’re skeptical or unsure about primary reform, please do your homework. A book called *The Primary Solution* is an excellent resource. Please get informed and then vote “YES” so you can tell your grandkids you played a pivotal role in securing the future of our young democracy.

Rob Draper, Tucson
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

George Washington, the only President of the United States who was not a member of any political party, warned his fellow countrymen about the three horsemen of the American apocalypse: geopolitical sectionalism, political factionalism, and the interference of foreign powers in the conduct of our government.

If Washington’s words were not enough, our nation’s second President, John Adams was even more prescient, stating, “There is nothing I dread so much, as a division of the Republic into two great Parties”

This requires courageous action, and a willingness to face our own weaknesses. Paraphrasing General “Chesty” Puller’s words when contemplating the surrounding Chinese and North Korean hosts – “We have them right where we want them. Aim in any direction and fire for effect!”

The solutions have been with us in foundational form for centuries, “all men are created equal (with) unalienable rights”.

Every voter and every candidate must be able to participate in any election they are eligible for regardless of their political affiliation.

Nearly 49% of American’s no longer belong to either political party. It is time to end the stranglehold of control that two parties have on our current electoral system.

No more Republican or Democratic primary ballots paid for with general tax dollars. Just one ballot for all voters where everyone competes together.

Competition can save our democratic Republic if we simply end the duopoly which governs our elections today. Honor the individual over the party, honor the country over the party. Honor principle over the party.

While some will appeal to you to hold onto partisan tradition, to do so will deny you your own future liberty. We must permit every voter to participate in each election of their choosing. We must make every election fair.

Rusty Bowers, Former Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives, Mesa
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

American politics are broken. Toxic partisanship has wrecked our political system and threatens our very democracy. As he left office in 1796, George Washington warned Americans against the great danger of political parties – “combinations or associations” that could subvert the public interest. But instead of heeding Washington’s advice, we have institutionalized political extremism.

We require all taxpayers to fund partisan primaries for two private clubs: Democrats and Republicans. We make it nearly impossible for candidates unaffiliated with these clubs to run for office. And in Arizona, we also require citizens who seek to be independent of these privileged groups to pretend to be a member for one day in order to vote in primaries.

Voters are increasingly leaving the two parties. About the same number today are independent as are affiliated with either party. As the “unaffiliated” increase the cohort remaining in each party becomes even more partisan. The primary elections are then dominated by the most partisan and extreme on each side, driving ever more voters out of the primaries. This “distillation loop” means that each primary is now decided by fewer than fifteen percent of eligible voters. And so few general elections are truly competitive that primary results effectively determine who is elected. The upshot? A small sliver of our most partisan citizens choose who will represent all of us.

The current election system does not fairly represent the collective will of the people. To sustain the American Experiment we need to empower more citizens with a broader range of views to participate. This Proposition seeks to do this by opening up primary elections to all candidates

and to all voters on a fair playing field. Let us begin to follow Washington's advice. Let us make Arizona elections fair.

Grady Gammage Jr., Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

My name is Aaron Lieberman, and it was my honor to represent District 28 in the Arizona House (now District 4). As a social entrepreneur, I've dedicated my career to addressing social issues through cooperation and evidence-based strategies. I brought this mindset to my work in the Arizona House, and I believe the Make Elections Fair Act embodies these principles.

As a former representative, I saw how our current election system punishes those who work across the aisle. I was the first Democrat to win my state house seat in a district with a significant Republican advantage. I got elected by promising to work with anyone willing to move Arizona forward.

Unfortunately, during my time in the Legislature, I found the majority party more interested in working with their most extreme members than with pragmatic Democrats like me. This is due to partisan primary elections, where candidates must appeal to the extremes of their party to secure nominations. This discourages moderation and bipartisanship, leading to a more divided and less effective government.

The Make Elections Fair Act offers a solution. By creating open primaries where all candidates compete on the same ballot, we can ensure elected officials are accountable to all voters. This reform will encourage more moderate positions and collaborative problem-solving.

Furthermore, the Act will make our electoral system more inclusive. Independent voters, who make up nearly one-third of Arizona's electorate, are currently marginalized by the primary system. In my district, their votes decided general elections but played almost no role in primaries. Independent candidates face significant hurdles, needing six times the signatures of party-affiliated candidates. This Act will eliminate these barriers, ensuring all voices are heard and represented.

Let's create a political environment that rewards problem-solving and collaboration. Join me in voting YES on Prop 140.

Aaron Lieberman, Former Arizona State Representative, Paradise Valley
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

As a lifelong Phoenician and an attorney with a 40-year career dedicated to protecting civil rights in our community, I confidently endorse the Make Elections Fair initiative. This proposal will improve our electoral system for every voter in Arizona.

Prop 140 will increase voter turnout by permitting all voters to participate in primary elections. Historically, most candidate races are decided in the primary. By including more voters in this crucial phase, we ensure better representation and outcomes for all Arizonans.

Our current system blatantly suppresses independent voters in primary elections. These voters are either excluded or forced to join a party to participate in elections their tax dollars fund. This is a clear case of voter suppression.

Excluding Arizona's fastest-growing voter segment silences the voices of over 1.3 million citizens. These voters, often from racially diverse backgrounds, feel disconnected from candidates who don't represent them, leading to low voter turnout.

The Make Elections Fair Act is a step towards true enfranchisement for African American, Native American, and Latino voters who feel marginalized under our current system. This reform gives all voters equal voting rights and grants genuine freedom to choose candidates who truly represent their interests.

Prop 140 has the potential to increase voter turnout and empower disenfranchised communities, encouraging them to reengage and help shape our political landscape.

By inviting greater competition into Arizona's elections, Prop 140 motivates candidates to appeal to a broader electorate, ensuring they genuinely represent their constituents. Arizona is overdue for this type of reform. The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. Prop 140 will increase participation and make our state stronger. Join me in voting YES!

Danny Ortega, Attorney at Law, Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

Let's face it. The two-party election system in Arizona is failing us. With only one-third of voters casting ballots in the primaries, a small percentage of voters are determining the choices we have in November.

As an example, in the 2022 Senate race Mark Kelly earned his place on the November ballot by receiving 589,400 votes in the Democratic primary. This represented 14% of registered voters. On the Republican side, Blake Masters earned his spot on the November ballot by receiving less than 8% of registered voters. Combined, our choice for Senator was decided by less than a quarter of Arizona voters.

It's no surprise that voters are disillusioned and turnout at the ballot box is low. Our candidate choices are not determined by the whole electorate, but by a minority. Arizona's two-party system controls the electoral process, effectively by-passing roughly one-third of voters who are not registered Republican or Democrat.

We can do better. We deserve an electoral system that engages more voters and gives us more choices. Proposition 140 will do just that. It will abolish party primaries and instead establish a single non-partisan primary. Voters will be able to choose from among all candidates running for a political office, and the top vote getters will move on to the general election.

Open primaries encourage choice and competition and rewards consensus building among elected officials. Vote YES on Proposition 140.

Michael Welborn, Scottsdale and Patricia Welborn, Scottsdale
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

My name is César Chávez, and I had the honor of representing the 29th Legislative District (currently District 24) in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2017 to 2023. As someone who immigrated to the United States at the age of three and witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by marginalized communities, I understand the importance of creating a political system that truly represents all Arizonans. It's with this commitment to inclusive and effective governance that I urge you to support the Proposition 140.

Our current election system, with its partisan primaries, forces candidates to cater to the extremes of their party, often sidelining the needs of the broader electorate. Throughout my service in the Arizona House, I saw how this divisive system hampers our ability to address critical issues. Elected officials are rewarded for focusing their attention on issues that are only pertinent to a few, rather than addressing the issues that matter most to Arizonans.

The Make Elections Fair Act would create an open primary where all candidates appear on the same ballot, compelling candidates to appeal to all voters throughout the election. This will encourage candidates to adopt more common-sense viewpoints that reflect the interests of their entire district, not just the extreme elements that tend to dominate primaries.

Our current system disenfranchises independent voters, who represent a significant portion of our state's population, and stifles the voices of moderate candidates. Independent voters are required to request a partisan ballot to participate in primary elections, and independent candidates must gather six times as many signatures to appear on the general ballot. Prop 140 would eliminate these barriers, allowing all voters and candidates to participate in all elections freely, as our democratic system intended.

Join me in creating better choices for a better Arizona. Vote YES on Prop 140.

César Chávez, Former Arizona State Representative, Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

We are a cross-partisan group of business and community leaders in Arizona – Republicans, Independents, and Democrats – dedicated to growing the economy of our great state. We urge you to vote YES on the Make Elections Fair Act, Prop 140. It is one of the most important votes you will cast in 2024.

A vote for this Act will end the unfair practice that largely keeps independent voters, 34% of the electorate, from voting in primaries. These primaries are financed by all taxpayers, and taxation without representation conflicts with core American values.

Yet, in the current primary system, independent voters face barriers to participation which Republicans and Democrats do not. These obstacles significantly depress their participation. Just 10% of Maricopa County's 2022 primary participants were independents.

Under the Act, Independent Voters will be treated equally for the first time in Arizona's history. They will automatically receive a mail-in ballot if they opt-in, just as Democratic and Republican voters do now.

Moreover, as business and community leaders, we endorse free market competition and the economic principles that underlie our great democracy. When politicians are accountable only to narrow subsets of the electorate, they become less likely to serve the public at large. This makes it harder to solve the complex problems facing our community, create jobs and grow the economy of our great state.

A vote for this Act will end the deadlock in our legislature and ensure our government's ability to address vital issues such as affordable housing, educational attainment and sustainable water policies.

Please join Leadership Now Arizona in supporting the Make Elections Fair Act. It is good for democracy and good for business.

Sincerely,
John Fees and Adam Goodman
on behalf of Leadership Now AZ

John Fees, Co-founder & CEO, GradGuard, Phoenix and Adam Goodman, CEO, Goodmans, Paradise Valley

First as the Pima County Attorney and then during my 18 years in the United States Senate, I worked with stakeholders from every political background and served on multiple, critical committees where it was necessary to work across the aisle to create resolution for proposed issues. This is how progress was made – Democrats and Republicans working together. Sadly, bipartisan engagement to accomplish the best outcomes for The People has all but disappeared.

Voting YES on the Make Elections Fair Act, Proposition 140, will help us create a more representative, efficient, less partisan government with more compromise and less gridlock.

As President Lincoln stated, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Because of gerrymandered partisan districts, our current election system incentivizes elected officials to NOT compromise because doing so might hurt their primary reelection chances. Open primaries will force candidates to reach out beyond their narrow, partisan minority bases and listen to and appreciate the views of a broader electorate, fostering a more collaborative and effective political environment that better serves the needs of all Arizonans.

Almost one third of Arizona's electorate does not affiliate with the two major parties. Our current partisan primary system, paid for by all taxpayers, requires that Independents and non-aligned

voters request a partisan ballot to cast a primary vote. And more signatures are required for their candidates to make the ballot. The Make Elections Fair Act will also eliminate these unfair practices and ensure that all voters and candidates have equal access into primary elections, regardless of their party affiliation.

We are at a decisive moment and our Democracy is worth defending! I believe that having open primaries will be a major step in the right direction. Join me in creating a better Arizona, vote YES on Prop 140.

Dennis DeConcini, United States Senator, Retired, Tucson
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

This is an opportunity to open our primary election system to treat all candidates and voters fairly. All candidates will appear on the same ballot and compete under the same rules and all registered voters, including independents, will use the same ballot to cast their vote.

I have lived here for over forty years. It has been my experience, when it comes to politics, that most Arizonans cannot be easily labelled or defined. We are an independent bunch. We don't like extremism, preferring to work things out for the common good. We prefer mature and forthright talk about how to solve problems, rather than drama, lies and rude name-calling. We value commonsense. We recognize that what is best for our state is usually the result of negotiation and compromise, where our leaders put Arizona and its citizens above party politics.

I support open primaries because I think they will discourage extreme politics and encourage candidates to appeal to the broader electorate rather than the narrow partisan interests of a particular political party. I also believe open primaries will encourage more and better candidates to run. This increased competition will lead to better ideas and solutions, benefiting Arizona.

John DeWulf, Phoenix

The Arizona Forward Party urges voters to say YES to Proposition 140, the Make Elections Fair initiative to adopt open, non-partisan primaries in Arizona.

Have you ever wondered why it seems that we always end up with two bad choices in our general elections? Polarized partisan politics and our current primary election system lead to the exclusion of good governance.

Our current "open" primary system is anything but open. Any voter can only see one-half of the available candidates: Republican voters only see Republicans, Democrats only see Democrats, and independent voters (34% of the electorate) can only see candidates from one legacy party per their designation.

This system disenfranchises many voters, with the exhausted majority failing to participate in the primary elections. This puts the decision of who appears on the general election ballot in the hands of 10% of each party--who tend toward the political extremes. Once elected, these candidates are unlikely to work across the aisle for fear of being perceived as weak, and being "primaried out" by an even more extreme candidate in the next election cycle. And so, we are doomed to have progressively more polarized elected officials as time goes on.

Open, non-partisan primaries can change that. By having all candidates appear on one primary ballot—regardless of party affiliation—voters have a choice of candidates that reflect a broader range of positions than the strict doctrines of the legacy parties. This will lead to ALL candidates being more responsive to the majority of Arizonans, and lead to better governance.

Please support Proposition 140 to make elections fair and make a positive change for Arizona.

Jamie Cowgill, Leadership Team, Arizona Forward Party, Scottsdale

As the Founder and President of Open Primaries, as an independent voter, and as a patriotic American who believes strongly in self-government, I am passionately endorsing Proposition 140.

Primary elections should be open to all voters and all candidates. Period. That what Proposition 140 calls for.

The current system shuts people out. No Arizonan should be required to join a private organization to vote in a taxpayer-funded election!

Who gets shut out? Independents – 30% of all voters in Arizona and growing. Independent voters face barriers to participation. They are completely barred from presidential selection primaries – even though their tax dollars pay for them. They are forced to a) jump through bureaucratic hoops and b) compromise their political beliefs by requesting a party ballot to vote in state primaries. Plus, independent candidates must gather six times as many signatures as party candidates to appear on the November general election ballot. Proposition 140 treats all candidates and voters equally by allowing them to compete under the same rules.

Fairness. A level playing field. One set of rules that applies to everybody. It's not rocket science. It's the bedrock of our great country.

Prop 140 is one of the most important election reform initiatives on the ballot anywhere in the country this November and I'm proud to support the Make Elections Fair Act.

Proposition 140 will not only treat all voters and candidates equally, but it will also increase voter participation and encourage competition, which will result in elected officials focusing on the issues that matter most to Arizonans.

I urge you to vote YES on Proposition 140 to create a truly open and fair system for all Arizonans. Let All Voters Vote!

John Opdycke, Founder and President, Open Primaries, Chicago

Today, more than ever, the right to vote is under attack. At the Greater Phoenix Urban League, we are defending against those attacks with vigorous campaigns to increase civic engagement

and voter participation. We are a leading voice in advocating for the right to vote for all Arizonans, regardless of race, gender, religion, or zip code.

While we work to increase voter education and engagement, we face some significant headwinds. In Arizona, only one in five eligible voters vote in primary elections. This is especially alarming when primaries so often determine the winners, either because of "safe districts" or uncontested races, essentially relegating the general elections to a mere formality in many cases. Our democracy is threatened when millions of Arizona citizens fail to exercise their right to vote, and officials are elected to office by a relatively small proportion of voters.

Changing our primary election system is one step toward addressing this crisis. Our current system, funded by taxpayers but controlled by political parties, places limitations on voters and potential voters which discourages participation. Meanwhile, the percentage of voters in either Arizona who register as independent continues to rise. While independents can vote in either the Democratic or Republican primaries, many are unaware that they can, or put off the additional steps necessary, so they simply don't vote.

It is imperative that we remove the systemic impediments that are discouraging voter participation, especially among our fastest growing demographics, young people and Latinos. This proposition is a necessary first step. We encourage all voters to join us in supporting this important initiative. Sincerely,

George Dean, President & CEO, Greater Phoenix Urban League, Scottsdale
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

I am a native Arizonan, growing up in Phoenix. I served for 38 years in the US Navy and retired back to Arizona in 2021. It was an honor and privilege to serve our country and to support and defend the Constitution.

I have been, as many veterans are, a registered independent voter. In Arizona, independent voters (and candidates) are disadvantaged by our current election system. Some argue it's unfair as independents don't get to vote in primary elections though all taxpayers pay for these. While true, my primary concern is that our current election system prevents independents from participating equally in our election process. Our election system places allegiance to a particular party above our State and Country.

The Make Elections Fair Act will fix this. It will require that all voters (and candidates) be treated equally, a founding principle in our Declaration of Independence. The Make Elections Fair Act will correctly promote Country and State interests above partisan interests.

Fixing our election system to make it fair for all should be an end unto itself but it will do more. Make Elections Fair Act will lead to better election choices, better results and a stronger Arizona. A result we could desperately use now.

Please join me and the 1+ million Arizonan independents in supporting the Make Elections Fair Act. Together, we can make our State stronger by adopting the principle 'treating all voters (and candidates) the same' into our State Constitution and relegating partisan interests below those of our allegiance to our State.

We need our public officials to focus on why we elect them – to solve the problems we face.

Phil Sawyer, Prescott

Over the last decade the West Valley has experienced tremendous economic growth with a current population of 1.84 million residents. WESTMARC has been a key part of bringing diverse coalitions together to promote job development, infrastructure investment, educational advancement, job training, and career and technical training opportunities for our growing community.

As the region and state has grown, so has the number independent voters. Today, 1.45 million Arizonans have chosen not to be a member of either party and to make decisions that address community issues rather than party affiliation. For Independents to vote in the primary election, they must request a ballot of either the Republican or Democratic party. Under the current system, Independent voters are not accurately represented as voters. Additionally, Independent candidates cannot appear on the Primary ballot. To appear on a general election ballot that same Independent candidate must collect six times as many signatures to compete for our votes. And all voters are forced to vote a straight party line ticket in a taxpayer

Our current closed partisan primary election disenfranchises both Independent candidates and voters. The Make Elections Fair initiative provides an opportunity to address one of the fundamental inequities that is at the core of our political dysfunction today – pure partisanship. The Make Elections Fair Act further moves the needle towards a more equal society by treating every voter and every candidate the same.

The Make Elections Fair Act creates an environment where all voters and all candidates are encouraged to work for our best interests and on the issues that matter most, the economy, public safety, and education.

It's time to make our elections fair. Please join us supporting the Make Elections Fair Act.

Sintra Hoffman, President and CEO, WESTMARC, Goodyear

As neighbors and Arizonans, it's essential everyone work together to maintain our high quality of life while ensuring economic and policy goals in everyone's best interests are maintained and enhanced. For strengthening education, creating jobs, economic development, Arizona's water policies and much more, we need elected leaders working collaboratively to address the biggest obstacles to our state's future prosperity.

Today, asking our political leaders to work together in a bi-partisan manner is punished by Arizona's election system. This leads to extreme partisanship and gridlock at a time when we need leaders to come together to find solutions.

We believe that Prop 140 will help address this problem.

A Republican working with a Democrat to resolve pressing issues should be rewarded – not punished. We believe the Make Elections Fair Act will accomplish this goal by mandating an open primary system, providing every voter and candidate be treated equally, competing with one another on a level playing field.

Prop 140 allows solution-focused candidates to appeal to a broader electorate of all voters instead of a narrow partisan primary audience. It will also ensure the growing number of Arizonans who are registered as independent and unaffiliated are equally and fairly treated.

Currently, unaffiliated voters, nearly the largest voting bloc in the entire State, face numerous election hurdles, from not being able to be a candidate in a publicly-funded election to having to request a partisan ballot forcing them to vote for candidates of one-party.

Please join us in supporting Prop 140 for better candidates, elections, and results for all of Arizona.

Greater Phoenix Leadership is an organization of business leaders working at the intersection of the business, education, philanthropy and public policy sectors to improve the state we all call home.

Neil Giuliano, President & CEO, Greater Phoenix Leadership, Tempe

The stranglehold our two-party system has on the election process is destroying our country.

America is one of the world's greatest democracies and, as President Abraham Lincoln so eloquently stated in his Gettysburg Address, "A government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth." As a democracy, the mere fact that we the people get to elect those who govern us is a freedom many in this world do not enjoy.

When the people are barred from being able to vote, their voice is taken away, and the power of that voice dramatically shifts to those who took the people's power.

In Arizona, over a third of those registered to vote are independents, not a member of either the Democratic or Republican parties. They must select a Democratic or Republican ballot if they wish to vote in a primary, which may preclude them from voting for the candidates of their choice — which is likely why they became independents.

Because of the gerrymandering, most districts are shoo-ins for either the Democratic or Republican candidate. The current system, controlled by the two parties, by excluding voters from primary elections, allows candidates to be elected by less than 20% of voters. The primary winner often doesn't face a challenger in the general election because no one from the other party believes they can win.

The two political parties are more concerned about winning and maintaining power at all costs. The will of the people no longer seems to count.

We the people can change this. We can take control of elections away from the parties and give it back to the people. Please join me in voting yes on Prop 140.

Doug Pruitt, JD Pruitt & Associates, Knife River
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

My name is Sheila Kloefkorn, native Arizonan, business and marketing expert with over 30-years of experience, previously and currently serving on a wide range of community and philanthropic boards, certified business coach, and a frequent national and local speaker on a vast scale of marketing and business topics. I am committed to making a difference in our community and a steadfast advocate for growth and equality. This is why I am urging you to vote yes on the Make Elections Fair Act - Proposition 140, to make our elections fairer and more equal for every voter and candidate.

In today's political climate, it has become incredibly polarized and hyper partisan to where it feels like we are consistently having to choose between the lesser of two evils when it comes to who we elect. Prop 140 would change this by having all candidates, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof, compete under the same rules.

Today, independent and unaffiliated candidates are not permitted to participate in the primary election, but instead will appear on the general election ballot; that is if they can collect six times as many signatures as Republicans or Democrats to qualify. This is why most of our candidate elections are decided in the Primary election by the most active and partisan voters.

To vote in a primary election, Independent and unaffiliated voters must have to go through the extra step of requesting either a republican or democratic ballot. This completely defeats the purpose of why a third of our electorate chooses to not affiliate with a party.

Our current election system is fundamentally unfair. Independent/unaffiliated voters should not have to face massive participation barriers to achieve their constitutional right to vote.

Join me in voting yes on Prop 140 to create a better Arizona.

Sheila Kloefkorn, CEO, KEO Marketing Inc, Tempe
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair AZ

I am a native Arizonan. I raised my family here, grew my business here for sixty years, and have volunteered many hours in my community. I care about our future and I've never seen politics so ugly as it is now. We citizens are responsible for the state of our democracy, and we are the ones who must correct its problems. Today we have too much divisiveness and not enough focus on working together to tackle our biggest challenges.

Concerted bipartisan efforts to make progress on serious public policy issues is lacking. We need to change the way we do business to fix this. We can start with one primary election ballot, where all the candidates appear and voters can choose whoever they want, regardless of party affiliations. This makes politicians accountable to everyone – not just 10% of partisan primary voters who vote in “safe” districts – which happens now in over 80% of Arizona legislative districts. This isn't fair or representative.

Open primaries help elected officials want to use their best judgment and negotiate solutions without fear of “being primaried”. They create greater accountability, reward elected officials for solutions, and will reduce fierce attacks on political rivals.

With open primaries all candidates have the same qualifications. We shouldn't have more complex rules for unaffiliated voters or set higher standards for unaffiliated candidates in a state where these citizens make up the largest and fastest growing group of voters.

All taxpayers currently pay for a system that discriminates against some voters and candidates. This is wrong. We should all participate equally.

Today's politics are not like any I have ever experienced in my life. We must do better for our kids and future generations. Open primaries are a big step in the right direction. Vote YES on Prop 140.

Buck O'Rielly, Tucson

Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

We are Arizonans from diverse political persuasions, united in our belief that every citizen should have an equal say in who governs us. Prop 140 addresses the chief cause of inequality and unfairness in our election system, party primaries.

PROBLEMS WITH PARTY PRIMARIES

Dominance in Districts: In 80% of Arizona's voting districts, one party dominates, making the primary election the real decider while the general becomes a mere formality. Over the past 20 years, voter turnout for each party's primary has averaged 14%. A tiny fraction of voters decides the outcomes of 80% of our political races.

Uncontested Races: In November 2022, 40% of Arizona's races, including eight senate seats, were uncontested. Party primaries and safe districts discourage candidates from running and voters from voting.

Polarization: Extreme candidates and platforms drive away moderates, leading to more polarized parties and divisiveness.

WHAT DOES PROP 140 DO?

It proposes a single nonpartisan primary open to all candidates and voters, with standardized requirements for getting on the ballot. Candidates can still indicate their party, and parties can still endorse their preferred candidates.

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

Majority Winners: General elections with 67% turnout will decide winners instead of party primaries with 14%, ensuring broader representation and accountability.

Fewer Uncontested Races: Standardized rules and nonpartisan primaries will encourage more candidates to run.

More Choice: Voters can choose any candidate, regardless of party.

Better Governance: Lawmakers can focus on consensus and the country's needs rather than party politics. They can prioritize the country over their party with less backlash in the next primary.

Prop 140 is a win for voters, candidates, and governance. It doesn't favor any party but makes our government more representative and accountable. Please join us in voting yes for a better future.

Michael LeSueur, Gilbert; Susan LeSueur, Gilbert; Brent Boyce, Gilbert; Curtis Nolan, Willcox; Julie Nolan, Willcox; Jon Andersen, Gilbert; Ken Kilmurray, Sierra Vista; Philip LeSueur, Sierra Vista; and Christina LeSueur, Sierra Vista

The Tucson Metro Chamber is guided by principles that bolster Tucson's economic competitiveness. Our organization advocates for policies that increase access to business opportunities and create a competitive environment where business thrives and our community prospers.

For these reasons we have chosen to support the Make Elections Fair AZ initiative. The proposal reduces barriers and increases access for all registered voters and candidates regardless of party registration.

By making these changes we invite more competition into these vital races. The "business model" of our current election system isn't working because a lack of access is producing a lack of representation, which in turn creates dissatisfied, disengaged Arizonans. On the other hand, representation and access creates good governance. And good governance creates a better environment for business.

The Make Elections Fair Arizona Act is a pro-business initiative. It is an innovation that will allow our election system to improve and evolve with the changing times. As the voice of the business community in Southern Arizona we urge you to join us in voting "yes."

Michael Guymon, President and CEO
Tucson Metro Chamber

Michael Guymon, President and CEO, Tucson Metro Chamber, Tucson
Sponsored by Tucson Metro Chamber

The Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona represents over 8,000 Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Professionals from across the State of Arizona. When you call for help in a medical emergency or fire, it is our members who show up to help you. We are proud of our members who put their lives on the line every day to serve you.

We are asking you to vote YES on Prop 140, the Make Elections Fair Act because the way our state makes public policy these days is in crisis. This is our 911 emergency call to you to help.

Today, the deeply partisan nature of our Congress and our State Legislature makes the effort to adopt and support thoughtful public safety policy all but impossible. Good public safety policy is neither Republican nor Democrat. Nearly every city in Arizona elects its Mayor and Council using a non-partisan system, that permits every candidate to participate and every voter to vote in every election. That's the way we should elect all offices.

The most important policy questions facing our state are education, water, economic development and, of course, public safety. Our elected officials should represent us all, not just members of a political party – because these issues affect us all.

The Make Elections Fair Act will ensure that no candidate can win their election outright in a primary election where less than 35% of voters are participating. It will require that every candidate for office face a competitive General Election with legitimate candidates capable of competing against one another.

The Make Elections Fair Act will provide Arizona voters with better choices, better results and a stronger Arizona. Please join the Professional Firefighters of Arizona in supporting Prop 140, the Make Elections Fair Act, it is critical.

Don Jongewaard
President
PFFA

Don Jongewaard, President, Professional Firefighters of Arizona, Scottsdale

Every voter's voice should matter. Yet in 2022, only 16.7% of Arizona voters effectively elected the entire state house in primary elections – months before November. That's not representation. It's no wonder 70% of Arizona voters don't believe their elected leaders are focused on the issues they care about.

Opening up Arizona's primaries is about giving power back to voters through making a fairer, more representative election system.

Under the current system, Arizona's nearly 1.5 million independent voters must choose between either a Democratic or Republican ballot in the primaries to decide who represents them. These voters include disproportionately high numbers of veterans and young people – those who defended our country and who are the future of our country. Our democracy should give these — and all voters — more freedom to select the candidate they want for every office, regardless of party.

The Make Elections Fair petition would do just that. Putting all candidates on one all-candidate ballot has been shown to increase voter participation, reduce partisanship and extremism, and increase representation. Open primaries incentivize leaders to work for the majority of voters – not the minority who vote in primaries – and empower voters to hold leaders accountable for delivering results.

This November, half a dozen states will consider ballot initiatives, like the one in Arizona, to strengthen and evolve their election systems – a practice states have engaged in for over a century. If approved, they'll join the five states that already hold nonpartisan primaries – Alaska, Louisiana, California, Washington, and Nebraska.

Instead of forcing the choice between a red or blue ballot, it's time for a red, white, and blue ballot that prioritizes the good of Arizonans above political self interest. It's time to Make Elections Fair.

Nick Troiano, Executive Director, Unite America, Denver
Sponsored by Unite America

My history as a civil-rights attorney working as an employee of the Department of Justice, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, and finally as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona has made me acutely aware of the need to provide voting access to all U.S. citizens. Working for the U.S. Justice Department and for the Arizona U.S. Attorney's Office gave me immense pride in championing the fair and equal treatment of Arizonans.

This belief has carried out throughout my legal career. I was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of the attorneys for the first Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. That made me even more aware of the need to ensure people could vote for people seeking elective office.

My experience solidifies my belief that our current partisan primary system does not promote fairness or equality for all voters.

Nearly one-third of Arizona's voters are independent, yet they are not afforded the same civil liberties as Republican or Democratic voters. An independent candidate is required to gather up to six times the amount of signatures as a partisan candidate and still won't appear on the primary ballot.

Forcing voters to jump through extra hoops because their values and beliefs don't align with a political party deters a substantial number of Arizonans from exercising their right to vote.

The Make Elections Fair Act eliminates partisan primary elections and prohibits public tax dollars from being used for private party elections. Creating an open primary effectively ends discrimination against any voter or candidate and requires all candidates compete under the same rules.

This measure will ensure that all voters are treated equally in the electoral process and provides every Arizonan the right to have a say in who represents them.

Join me in voting YES on Prop 140!

Jose de Jesus Rivera, Phoenix
Sponsored by Make Elections Fair PAC

The Grand Canyon Institute (GCI) is a non-partisan think tank that provides fact-based research and education to decision-makers and the public on policies that affect the economic, fiscal and social future of Arizona. In line with our mission, we strongly support the Make Elections Fair Act.

The bipartisan Make Elections Fair AZ coalition has raised over \$7 million exclusively from in-state donors, demonstrating significant local backing for this measure. This substantial economic investment reflects the widespread support for making elections fairer in Arizona.

Currently, approximately 80% of the candidate races that significantly impact our daily lives in Arizona are decided during the primary elections, as these candidates face little to no opposition in the general elections. This methodology effectively empowers the hyper-partisan minority 15%-20% who vote in primary elections to act as kingmakers for general election voters who are left without real choice.

Ignoring the 1.3+million independents who are not permitted to vote in a primary election unless they request a ballot. Prop. 140 will allow independents to receive a ballot more easily and counter the extremism that can be the primary voice heard in primaries currently.

Prop 140 ensures that every voter has the right to participate in every election. By shifting the focus from narrow ideological bases rewarded in partisan primaries, this initiative compels politicians to engage with people across the political spectrum, including those from the opposing party and independents in order to win. Prop 140's reintroduces competition into the state's politics and encourages a more balanced and representative governance.

Prop 140 is a commonsense solution Arizona will benefit greatly from. It fosters compromise and middle ground, crucial elements for effective governance. Join us in voting YES!

Rick DeGraw, Board Chair, Grand Canyon Institute, Phoenix

Prop 140 aims to replace the current semi-closed primary system with an open primary, where all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, would compete on a single ballot. The top candidates, determined by the legislature, would then advance to the general election.

This initiative seeks to enhance voter participation and representation by allowing all registered voters to participate in selecting candidates for the general election, irrespective of their party affiliation. It would also encourage candidates to focus on issues that matter to a broader range of voters, rather than just the fervent party base. Most importantly, it could help reduce the influence of partisan politics and extreme ideologies by allowing all candidates to compete on a level playing field.

The measure also proposes banning the use of public dollars to administer political party elections, with an exception for Presidential Preference Elections if such elections are open to all registered voters regardless of political party affiliations.

Given how incompetent most party leadership has proven itself to be in 2024, I find the ideas here very compelling because around 34% of Arizonans are registered Independent voters and I want their votes to matter even though I am not one of them.

If you are an Independent or moderate Democrat/Republican and want to see better candidate quality, research this for yourself and vote YES on Prop 140.

Mohit Asnani, Tucson