

“During the election season, most of us have trouble deciphering all of the ballot propositions. We decided to take matters into our own hands. A few of us on staff, along with some regulars that are also political junkies, sat down one afternoon over food and drinks and came up with this proposition guide sheet. We did our best to break down what’s on the ballot this year so you can make an informed vote. Take a look if you feel so inclined.” - Charlie

(*All text highlighted in blue is from [Ballotpedia.org](https://www.ballotpedia.org))

Arizona Proposition 126, Prohibit New or Increased Taxes on Services Initiative

A “**yes**” vote supports this constitutional amendment to prohibit the state and local governments from enacting new taxes or increasing tax rates on services performed in the state.

A “**no**” vote opposes this constitutional amendment, thus retaining the power of the state and local governments to enact taxes on services in the future.

Who is Yes: Currently, sales tax only applies to things you purchase. This initiative would amend the state constitution and make it impossible for sales tax to ever apply to services. This initiative is heavily funded by the Arizona Realtors Association.

Who is No: There is a bipartisan coalition of organizations that oppose this initiative. Opponents say that this permanent and unchangeable policy will actually lead to higher taxes, and handcuff our ability to fund vital services like education and law enforcement. Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate David Garcia and even Republican Gov. Doug Ducey does not think a constitutional ban on taxing services is a good idea.

Arizona Proposition 127, Renewable Energy Standards Initiative

A “**yes**” vote supports this constitutional amendment to require electric utilities in Arizona to acquire a certain percentage of electricity from renewable resources each year, with the percentage increasing annually from 12 percent in 2020 to 50 percent in 2030.

A “**no**” vote opposes this constitutional amendment to require electric utilities in Arizona to acquire a certain percentage of electricity from renewable resources, thereby leaving in place the state’s existing renewable energy requirements of 15 percent by 2025.

Who is Yes: This initiative is funded in large part by Tom Steyer, a progressive billionaire who supports clean energy policies. It is supported locally by Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate David Garcia. “Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona cites studies from the Natural Resources Defense Council, which concludes that the new energy mandates would lower your utility bill by \$33 a year by 2030.” - Arizona Republic

Who is No: The opposition to this initiative is funded in large part by the energy provider APS. “Arizonans for Affordable Electricity, the APS-funded anti-127 group, cites studies from Arizona State University’s Seidman Research Institute, which says the new energy mandates would boost APS customers’ bills by \$1,936 a year” - Arizona Republic

Arizona Proposition 125, Adjustments to Elected Officials’ and Corrections Officer’s Retirement Plans Amendment

A “**yes**” vote supports this amendment to make adjustments to retirement plans based on cost-of-living adjustments, rather than permanent benefit increases, for correctional officers, probation officers, and surveillance officers (Corrections Officer Retirement Plan) and elected officials (Elected Officials’ Retirement Plan).

A “**no**” vote opposes this amendment to make adjustments to retirement plans based on cost-of-living adjustments, rather than permanent benefit increases, for correctional officers, probation officers, and surveillance officers (Corrections Officer Retirement Plan) and elected officials (Elected Officials’ Retirement Plan).

Who is Yes: Prop 125 is unanimously supported by both Republican and Democratic legislators. It is supported by police and firefighter unions as well. “Prop. 125 is a smart, fair measure crafted by one of the broadest stakeholder groups in Arizona political history. The measure will help taxpayers, Arizona communities and the thousands of members who depend on our agency to secure their future.” - The Arizona Republic

Who is No: Prop 125 has no organized opposition.

Arizona Proposition 305, Expansion of Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Referendum

A “**yes**” vote is to uphold the contested legislation, Senate Bill 1431, which would phase in an expansion of the state’s Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) program to make all public school students eligible to apply for an ESA.

A “**no**” vote is to repeal the contested legislation, Senate Bill 1431, which would phase in an expansion of the state’s ESAs program to make all public school students eligible to apply for an ESA.

In 2017 the AZ legislature passed a law that increased the number of individuals who can take public education dollars and use them to send their children to private and religious schools. (also allows EVERYONE regardless of income etc) Parents and educators opposed to “vouchers” organized to collect thousands of signatures from voters to block the law. So now you get a chance to decide, should this law actually go into effect or not. If you vote yes you are voting to allow the bill to become a law. If you vote no, you vote to repeal the law.

Who is No: Save our Schools Arizona, a group of parents and teachers who want more funding for public schools. The people who support a yes vote on 305 put up signs around town that are red and seem designed to look like a yes vote is #redford. In fact the leaders of #redford are in large part opposed to this measure.

Who is Yes: Groups that support public dollars for private and religious education and school choice advocates. This includes the Arizona Catholic Conference, the Center for Arizona Policy, and The Goldwater Institute.

Arizona Proposition 306, Clean Election Account Uses and Commission Rulemaking Measure

In 1998, in an attempt to decrease the influence of money in politics, Arizona voters approved the Clean Elections Initiative. This created a new law that allowed candidates for office to receive public funding for their campaigns. The money came from a fee on police citations, like a speeding ticket.

The current initiative would prohibit candidates from using these clean election monies in coordination with a political party or other political group.

Who is Yes: This item was referred to the ballot by Arizona Republican legislators on a party line vote. It is supported by conservative groups who argue that clean elections funds should not be combined with political parties or groups like labor unions.

Who is No: This initiative is opposed by progressive and democratic groups. They argue that candidates who are running with clean election elections funding should be able to combine resources with political parties and other similar groups. Opponents also say the proposition attempts to transfer powers from the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission to the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council, a board of political appointees chosen by Republican Gov. Doug Ducey - a move they believe is designed to prevent the commission from going after “dark money” spenders.

PHOENIX ONLY

Proposition 419: Election Funding Disclosure Obligations

This initiative requires disclosure of any entity or individual that is making political donations or expenditures in an attempt to influence a City of Phoenix election.

Who is Yes: This measure was placed on the ballot and supported by the majority the Phoenix City Council. It is also supported by former Mayor's Greg Stanton and Terry Goddard. Supporters argue that this measure will prevent "Dark Money" from influencing Phoenix elections by forcing people to say where the money is coming from.

Who is No: "The Chamber opposes this charter amendment to the City of Phoenix charter, as it has the potential to open up the Chamber's and other nonprofit's finances to groups that disagree with positions these organizations take in regards to candidates or ballot measures. Additionally, this effort would effectively suppress the business community's speech in elections." - Greater Phoenix Chamber website