

A guide to Arizona Propositions

Making Sense of Ballot Measure Numbering

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

100

Constitutional amendments, whether initiated by the people or referred by the Legislature, are numbered in the 100s.

200

Citizen initiatives to create new or amend current state laws (statutes) are numbered in the 200s.

300

Legislative referrals to create new or amend current statutes are numbered in the 300s.

400

Local matters are numbered in the 400s.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM MEASURES

A Progressive Era

At the time Arizona became a state in 1912, a political movement to put citizens in greater control of the law-making process was taking place.

As a result of that Progressive Movement, unlike many eastern states that formed earlier in our nation's history, Arizona's Constitution puts legislative power not only in a House of Representatives and Senate, but in the people themselves.

Initiative

This means that Arizona voters have the ability to propose laws or constitutional amendments or changes to laws or the Constitution through the initiative process.

To propose such changes, the proponents must file an application with the Secretary of State, including a summary of the measure and the complete text that is proposed to be submitted to a vote of the people.

If sufficient signatures are gathered, the Proposition will be placed on the next general election ballot, just as voters will do at this year's election on November 2, 2010.

Referendum

Not only do Arizona voters have the ability to propose laws, they may also circulate a petition against a measure or part of a measure approved by the Legislature.

As with initiative measures, to propose such changes, the proponents must file an application with the Secretary of State, including a summary of the proposal and the text of the measure or portion of the measure that is proposed to be submitted to a vote of the people.

If sufficient signatures are gathered, the Proposition will be placed on the next general election ballot.