

## **Arguments “Against” Proposition 133**

Ballot Prop Az Require Partisan Primaries – NO

Another proposition, “Make Elections Fair Arizona,” is on this same ballot. That one proposes a reasonable and necessary amendment to broaden voter options in primary and general elections. That “Make Elections Fair” proposition came from the voters of Arizona as a citizen-proposed ballot initiative. However, this proposition to “Require Partisan Primaries” was inserted by the AZ legislature as, I suspect, an attempt to confuse and obscure a grassroots effort to improve Arizona elections.

You can read much more about the “Make Elections Fair” measure elsewhere in this pamphlet.

For now, what you should know about this “Require Partisan Primaries” prop is that, if it is passed, this constitutional amendment will supersede any conflicting local laws.

- >> This would prevent the use of open primaries for partisan offices (Statewide, County, Legislative, Federal)
- >> It could force cities to change their election practices
- >> It could conflict with charter city election sovereignty
- >> Even schoolboard elections may be forced to be partisan elections

Vote NO to tamp down the extreme partisanship that we're being subjected to daily.

Vote NO to tell the Arizona Legislature to keep smoke screen propositions like this one off future ballots.

Vote NO

**Clive “Bob” Sommer, Co-Owner, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe**

Protect Voter Choice: Vote NO on Prop 133

Arizonans, it's important to vote 'No' on Proposition 133. This proposal might sound like it's about simplifying elections, but it will actually make things harder for a lot of voters. If you pass Proposition 133, primary elections would be strictly partisan, meaning that you'd only be able to vote for candidates in your own party during primary elections. That means if you don't strongly identify with a party or if you like a candidate from a different party, you're out of luck.

It's not fair to limit our choices like that.

Beyond limiting voter choice, this constitutional amendment will stifle diversity of thought and innovation in our political system. By forcing candidates to stick to party lines, we miss out on hearing a range of perspectives and fresh ideas.

Our democracy thrives when we have a mix of voices at the table, not when we shut out those who don't fit neatly into one party or another. Plus, this amendment could make it even harder for independent candidates and smaller parties to get a fair shot. That's not what democracy is about. We should be making it easier for everyone to take part in elections, not shutting doors.

Since it's a constitutional amendment it would likely lock in a restrictive system that stifles innovation & choice forever.

Vote 'No' on Proposition 133 to stand up for fairness, openness, and inclusivity in our electoral process.

Every Arizonan deserves a voice, regardless of party affiliation. Let's keep our elections accessible to all by voting NO on Prop 133.

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

The partisan primary elections initiative is unfair to independents and gives the state government too much power. Taxpayer money should be spent on initiatives that benefit everyone, not just political parties. This initiative uses taxpayer money to support specific political parties, which isn't fair. Independent voters deserve an equal chance to participate in elections. People who choose not to belong to a political party should not have less of a voice. The government should not have excessive control over who can vote and how our money is spent on elections. Vote NO on Prop 133.

**Blake Sacha, President, Voter Choice Arizona, Gilbert**

Prop. 133 is about protecting the most extreme, partisan members of the legislature. They and their supporters don't want to face real competition in primary elections, so they're asking voters to insulate extreme legislators through this ballot measure. How? Through closed primaries in which only registered party members vote. They know those primaries attract the most extreme partisan voters rather than voters concerned about everyday government operations or problem-solving. And considering that one-third of Arizona voters are independent, the closed primary system impedes a large percentage of Arizonans from voting in primaries. Close your eyes and think of the most extreme voices you hear coming from our Capitol. You know those voices clamoring about conspiracies, targeting others, and perpetually fundraising instead of governing. Prop. 133 is designed to protect them. Please vote against it.

**James Smith, Concerned Citizen, Self, Phoenix**

I will vote NO on Proposition 133 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**

Proposition 133 is intended to nullify key provisions of the proposed “Make Elections Fair Arizona” Initiative. Proposition 133 limits choice. It is a cynical attempt by the major parties to maintain the status quo which benefits the parties at the expense of voters. Republicans and Democrats want their control of our primary elections to continue. The current process discriminates against Independents that make up about one-third of all registered voters. All voters, including Independents pay to hold our elections, but Independent candidates don’t even appear on a primary ballot.

This Republican sponsored Proposition reflects a profound disrespect and lack of trust in Arizona voters. The extreme partisanship on display at the Arizona legislature may play well on social media, but it does nothing to address the real problems facing Arizonans. If you want more choice, and the opportunity to elect leaders who care more about addressing the problems facing Arizonans than appeasing their party bosses, vote NO on Proposition 133.

Arizona Independent Voter's Network

**Perri Benemelis, Editor, Arizona Independent Voter’s Network, Mesa**

As a citizen of Arizona, a voter just like you, I urge you to vote NO on Proposition 133. Prop 133 is a legislative referral that seeks to cement the status quo regarding elections into our state constitution. Voting NO on this proposition will have no impact on the current electoral system. A NO vote simply allows us to keep our options open to address problems and improve the system in the future. Many of us are not happy with the way elections are being run in the state of Arizona. But this initiative will make it very hard for us to change or reform the way we hold elections. Unsurprisingly, our state legislators do not want voting reform, given they’ve figured out how to win within the system. But we’re not winning. We need the chance for reform. Let’s not shoot ourselves in the foot by voting to eliminate even the possibility of improving our election procedures.

**Sally Lee, Private Citizen, Tucson**

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?” Prop 133 clearly makes it HARDER for regular voters to have a say in their government. It does this in several ways.

- First, this measure would lock into our Constitution a requirement that taxpayers fund partisan elections. If taxpayers pay for it, all voters should be able to participate.

- Second, the measure gives tremendous power to political parties when most of Arizona's voters are Independent.

- The measure would even ban millions of voters from participating in primary elections of their choice. When most seats are solidly Republican or Democrat, the primary is where the real competition is and all voters should be able to participate.

Prop 133 makes it harder for regular voters to have a say in their government. Please vote NO.

### **Bo Harmon, RepresentUS, Leesburg**

Arizona has more registered Independent voters than most states. We are independent thinkers. Yet people always ask why Independents are almost completely excluded from choosing our leaders. I'll tell you why. Because of corrupt ideas like this legislatively-referred ballot measure. Be very clear, if you are looking for reforms that would allow more participation in our elections, Prop 133 would shut that down completely. Registered Independents, Libertarians, or members of some new party we've not yet imagined will be shut out, probably for decades to come. This is a constitutional amendment and therefore incredibly difficult to repeal. It will prohibit reforms, such as open primaries (where people of any party can vote in the primaries) or ranked choice voting (a system where you rank the candidates in the order you like them, which has proven to increase voter choice across America). Would the Republican Party have ever replaced the Whig Party prior to the Civil War, had there been this level of two-party system rigging in the 1850s? Probably not. So, what's behind this? Power, money and control. Simply put. The United State and America needs fundamental reforms if we are to survive our current malaise. I can't say which reforms will win out. But if we pass Prop 133 be assured that our Arizona tradition of independent thinking will wither away.

### **Ken Clark, Voter, Representing Myself, Phoenix**

Veterans for All Voters urges Arizonans to vote NO on Proposition 133. Over 50% of military Veterans do not identify with either major political party. In other words, most Veterans prefer to be Independent Voters - free from the toxic, partisan fray. Arizona currently has over 1.37 Million voters registered as "Other." By banning nonpartisan primary elections Prop 133 will prevent over 1.37 Million Arizonans from having any choice in their own taxpayer-funded primary elections; including over half of Arizona's approximately 450,000 military Veterans. This is unconscionable. In an era of poisonous partisanship, the very last thing our country needs is more partisanship. Prop. 133 is nothing more than a cynical power play by partisan politicians who wish to maintain the status quo. Prop. 133 will be costly, and it's completely unnecessary. Prop. 133 prevents Arizonans from reforming or improving the public primary election system for which their taxes pay. Prop. 133 takes power away from all of Arizona's voters, and most especially, Prop. 133 takes power away from Arizona's independent voters - the fastest growing voting block in most states in our country. Veterans for All Voters supports nonpartisan (all candidate) primary elections in all 50 states. In any given state, whichever party is in control always opposes nonpartisan primary elections. Why? Because it means they will have more competition when they run for re-election. Competition is good for voters. More choices. More Voices. When both major political parties are fighting to maintain the status quo, it's time for

"We the People," and "We the Veterans" to rise up and oppose them. On behalf of Independent Voters everywhere, and especially, the millions of Independent Veterans, please vote NO on Proposition 133.

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

The Arizona Forward Party is urging you to vote NO on Proposition 133.

One thing that most Americans can agree on is that our two-party system of government is broken--fostering political polarization and leading to legislative deadlock. Our elected officials care more about preserving the control of their party and finger-pointing than they do about solving problems that are important to Arizonans.

The Arizona Forward Party believes in a vibrant democracy and that all qualified candidates should have equal access to the ballot. This measure will impede moderate or independent candidates from fairly competing for your vote. In order to reduce polarization and increase representation, it's crucial to ensure that voters have a multitude of options.

Our current primary system 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. The best way to solve this is to reform how we conduct our primary and general elections to give voters more choice.

This constitutional amendment will forever enshrine our current primary system, and prevent any future possible reforms. If this passes, voters who want to see change in our political system will continue to have restricted influence at the ballot box.

Please vote NO on Proposition 133 to protect your right to make changes to improve our election system.

**Chris Hendrickson, Board of Directors, Arizona Forward Party, Scottsdale**

Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter opposes Proposition 133.

Prop. 133 would preemptively block democratic options that have improved voter participation, which is against our values of supporting a strong, inclusive democracy. A ban on non-partisan primaries and the inclusion of independent candidates on primary ballots would further disenfranchise the over 1.3 million Arizona voters who are not members of a political party and deserve to have their voices heard the same way partisan-registered voters do – in both the primary election and the general elections.

Currently, independent voters are eligible to request one partisan primary ballot. However, because this requires an extra notice to their county recorder, participation rates in primaries for independent voters are extremely low. This ballot initiative would make it much more difficult to include independents and other voters who are not Republicans or Democrats in the full democratic process, not just the general election. This is particularly important when many of our

general election contests are not competitive – even according to the Independent Redistricting Commission, at most 7 of our 30 legislative districts are expected to be competitive.

Additionally, this law would preempt the right of local governments to hold their elections in long-standing ways that voters are accustomed to. Ballot initiatives approved by voters can only be amended or repealed by another initiative approved by voters – Arizona voters cannot afford to wait until 2026 to fix something that may depress participation in already low-turnout local elections.

Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter believes a healthy democracy is a prerequisite to clean air and water, protected natural resources and wildlife, and a thriving planet. Vote no on Prop. 133 to protect the opportunity to build a stronger, more inclusive democracy for all Arizonans.

**Cyndi Tuell, chair, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter, Tucson and Jim Vaaler, vice chair, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter, Phoenix**

PROPOSITION 133 / HCR 2033

Long & complicated ballot got you down?

I have the solution: Just “swipe left” by VOTING NO ON EVERY MEASURE REFERRED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

That is EVERY one of the 11 items that passed with an HCR or SCR.

That includes 133, 134, 135, 311, 312, 313, 314 and others not numbered at the time of this writing.

The Republican majority in each chamber has become living proof that running for the legislature is now the last resort of the unemployable.

They are simply incapable of acting in the public interest.

They had NO TIME to seriously address Water, Education, Transportation, Housing, Technology, Consumer Protection, Health Care, Environmental and all the other REAL issues much less pass a serious Budget.

They were TOO BUSY “in recess” while collecting per diem, posing, manipulating, and filing useless lawsuits for which YOU are paying.

It’s not that they have the institutional memory of Minute Rice, it’s just that they don’t care.

These are not wise people so rest assured that if they can find another way to embarrass Arizona next year they will most surely do so.

Thank them for the obnoxiously long ballot by SWIPING LEFT on everything referred by the Arizona Kookocracy.

Further, as you read your ballot statements, know that IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST to vote opposite of any argument "sponsored" or paid for by the Center for Prosperity, Free Enterprise Institute or Goldwater Institute. They have been hard at work gutting the tax code and eroding your rights for decades.

Eric Gorsegner  
Phoenix

**Eric Gorsegner, Phoenix**

Prop 133 presents significant concerns regarding its impact on taxpayers and the integrity of our electoral process. This measure would mandate taxpayer funding for primaries of major parties, while neglecting the representation of independents who make up a substantial portion of our electorate. Moreover, it prohibits the implementation of nonpartisan primaries in state and federal races and threatens to eliminate nonpartisan elections at the local level, potentially conflicting with charter city sovereignty.

Enacting Prop 133 would strip local governments and municipalities of their autonomy to tailor election rules that best suit their unique needs and circumstances. This top-down approach undermines local charters, laws, ordinances, and policies, eroding the authority of local entities in election-related matters.

Furthermore, this measure fails may impose additional costs on taxpayers. Implementing a state-mandated primary election law could introduce bureaucratic layers that complicate the election process. It risks creating administrative inefficiencies as local election officials navigate conflicting mandates between state and local policies, leading to confusion and operational challenges.

As someone who values efficiency and local governance, I oppose Prop 133 due to its potential to diminish local authority, disenfranchise independents, and burden taxpayers with unnecessary costs. A balanced approach is essential to preserve the integrity of our electoral system while respecting the diversity and autonomy of local communities.

Vote NO on this measure.

Bob Sommer, Business for Democracy-AZ

**Bob Sommer, Tempe**

The League of Women Voters of Arizona strongly opposes Proposition 134. The Arizona Constitution enshrines Arizona citizens' right to initiate legislation through the petition process. The petition process requires collecting a specific number of valid signatures from registered voters, regardless of where in Arizona they live. Proposition 134 radically changes the signature requirements by requiring a minimum number of signatures from each of the 30 legislative districts.

Even if a majority of Arizona voters are in favor of a proposition, if even one of the 30 districts does not meet the necessary minimum number of petition signatures, the proposition will not be on the ballot, thus depriving all voters of the opportunity to make their voices heard. In contrast, state legislators can move an initiative to the ballot for voter approval by a simple majority, and without collecting signatures.

If passed, this proposition will make it overwhelmingly difficult, if not impossible, for citizens' initiatives to qualify for the ballot. As a result, Arizona voters' constitutional right to make laws will be irrevocably curtailed. Therefore, we urge you to help maintain the rights given to us by Arizona's founders.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARIZONA URGES YOU TO VOTE NO

**Pinny Sheoran, President, League of Women Voters of Arizona, Scottsdale**  
*Sponsored by League Of Women Voters of Arizona*

**Tanzida Zaman, Phoenix**

I'm a veteran teacher who is passionate about making sure my students understand our government. (I've taken students to DC for "We the People" and to the AZ Capitol for "Youth and Government" with the YMCA.)

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I am VERY concerned about FIVE propositions that our Legislators have put on the ballot! Every one of these is a sneaky way of LIMITING or RESTRICTING voter input!

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This is NOT a fictional story.

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Once upon a time, our Legislature decided to restrict voter input...

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"Not possible," cried the citizens.

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"Mwhaha..." chortled the Lawmakers. "We'll write our OWN 'ballot initiatives.' We need only 16 AZ Senators and 31 Representatives to put something on a ballot." (Normal citizens must collect over 384,000 legit signatures to get a constitutional change on a ballot!)

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"We've put FIVE of these on this year's ballot to limit voter input! They'll never realize what they're 'voting' for, so it won't be our fault!"

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PROP 133-

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ALL taxpayers pay for 'party primaries,' but most voters aren't eligible to vote because of rules restricting the 34% of Independent voters in our state. This bill PREVENTS non-partisan primaries! They do not WANT competition!

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Did you know that 65% of Arizonans are not voting in primary elections? (aztownhall.org) According to Chuck Coughlin (HighGround, Inc), "80% of Arizona election candidates are elected in the primary elections."

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If this Proposition passes, voters CANNOT REFORM this and it WILL be the voters' fault that we will never be able to hold primaries any other way.

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PLEASE VOTE NO ON PROP 133 and let's keep our options open!

**Bonnie Hickman, Concerned Arizona Educator, MESA**  
*Sponsored by Better Ballot Arizona*

Arizonans should get to decide what types of elections work best for them. Prop 133 is a result of legislative overreach and would allow state lawmakers to tell small towns how they should and shouldn't manage their elections. Though no county currently practices Ranked Choice Voting, the state legislature should not get to revoke the right of local towns to implement the method of voting that their constituents find works best for them.

Voting NO on Prop 133 does not mean that any city or town will be required to implement Ranked Choice Voting. Voting NO simply means that cities and towns get to pick the best method of voting that works for them. The choice will belong to small cities and towns, without say from lawmakers who do not live in those districts. Small towns deserve the independence to do what works best for them if it does not impact the rest of the state. Vote NO on Prop 133 to protect against government overreach.

**Jennifer Guzman, Program Director, Common Cause Arizona, Phoenix**