

## **Arguments “For” Proposition 137**

When I look at my general election ballot there are way too many things going on: too many ballot measures, too many people and way too many judges. In Maricopa County there are over fifty people running for retention. Who are these people? Does anyone really know? Of course not. None of us do. There are so many, in fact, that it is possible for many bad judges to be hiding among the good ones. That is probably why none of them ever lose. This proposition would ensure that the ballot would be much shorter. It would also ensure that the worst judges are singled out to be on the ballot. If passed, it will make elections cost less, a shorter ballot, fewer errors in tabulating ballots (which will make sure we get a quicker result on election day!) and singling out those judges who have been terrible at their jobs. I urge you to vote yes on this proposition.

**Connie Martin, Prescott**

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There is a reason why this ballot measure is called the “Judicial Accountability Act.” It is called that because for the first time, judges who have ethical problems will be singled out and held accountable to the people. Since the seventies almost two thousand judges have gone up for retention. In all of that time only six have ever lost their retention election. The reason is that no one knows who they are. If this proposition passes, however, everyone will know who the bad judges are. The proposition says that any judge who has a felony, has filed for bankruptcy or who has been a terrible judge in their courtroom will be held accountable by being placed on the ballot for us to vote on. They cannot hide among the good judges. Arizona has a history of having some of the best judges in the country because of the Merit Selection system. The ballot measure will ensure that it stays that way. Vote yes on this proposition.

**Kathleen Liles, Mesa**

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If you have been watching all of the activity in this election, you may be wondering why there are so many signs all of a sudden for judges. The reason is that out of state donors are pouring money in Arizona to influence our courts. For the first time, millions of dollars are being spent opposing and supporting judges. The reason for that is that they believe they can affect the outcomes of these retention elections. We need a court that is independent and that is why I support this proposition. It will prevent big money donors from taking over our courts, while making sure the public has a say in removing judges who are doing a bad job. If you care about the direction of Arizona and you care about keeping our courts free of special interests out of state, please vote yes on this proposition.

**Larry Maddox, Prescott**

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Every election I look at the ballot and wonder who all of these judges are. They all get elected no matter what, but are they really all that good? There are very few resources available to the

public to determine who the good judges are versus the bad judges. That is why I support this proposition. If passed, it will mean that judges who have committed crimes, who treat people poorly in their courtrooms and have serious ethical lapses are singled out and put on the ballot, where most will lose. It allows the people—and only the people—to decide who should remain in office and not a bunch of out of state donors. I urge you to support this proposition.

**Ellen Gordon, Mesa**

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If this proposition passes, counties will save millions of dollars and elections will be decided much more quickly. The reason the ballot is so long is the long list of judges on the ballot. 99% of the time they get reelected, but the public still has to pay for them to appear on the ballot. In addition, most of the errors in our elections appear among the judicial portion of the ballot. This section is the leading cause of delay in having a result in our elections! This proposition will lead to less cost, a shorter ballot and a quicker result, all while making sure bad judges are not retained. Please vote for this proposition!

**Susan Blood, Gilbert**

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THESE ARE THE REASONS THEY SAY TO VOTE YES

Arizona Voters,

As I submit this ballot argument, I believe I'm the only person in Arizona willing to submit a Vote Yes statement on Prop. 137. That should tell you something about the merits of this legislative referral.

Because none of the legislators that referred this ballot measure are willing to tell you why they did it, and why they think you should vote Yes, I will.

Here are their arguments:

They believe judges should have lifetime appointments with no accountability. This is despite the fact that lifetime appointments for judges at the US Supreme Court have been a failure, undercutting our democracy and destroying reproductive rights.

They oppose abortion. They wrote this law specifically to try and keep abortion bans in place by removing any accountability or check on anti-abortion judges.

They believe that laws should be retroactive and wrote Prop. 137 to overturn voter decisions around judges. No law should go back in time.

They wrote this measure to be retroactive because they specifically want to protect Arizona Supreme Court Justices Bolick and King, who are currently up for retention. These two justices

decided to ban abortion in Arizona without exception. If Prop. 137 passes, it overturns the vote we as citizens are taking \*right now\* on the retention of Bolick and King.

They believe that voters should not have the right to decide who acts as our judges, despite the fact that voters have had that right in Arizona for over a century.

In short, these extremists believe that they know better than anyone else and that only the people they choose should decide how we run our State.

These are their reasons they want you to vote Yes.

I hope you see through their cynical referral.

**Lauren Kuby, State Senate Candidate; Legislative District 8; former Tempe Vice Mayor,  
Tempe**