

Arguments “For” Proposition 311

Arizona’s first responders are a vital part of our community. They work hard to keep us safe and make our state a great place to live.

But they are under attack - not just police, but our firefighters and paramedics too. Violent assaults on first responders are happening at record levels. Staffing shortages and rising crime are putting an increased strain on already difficult job.

This won’t get any better until the community stands up and says “enough is enough.”

As a lifelong Arizonan and business owner, I know how important these men and women are to our state. It’s why I was proud to sign on as chairman of Back the Blue.

Back the Blue will strengthen penalties on criminals who assault our first responders and establish a \$250,000 survivor benefit to be paid to families of first responders who are killed in the line of duty, paid for by a \$20 surcharge on criminal convictions. Best of all, it sends a strong message that Arizona stands with our first responders.

Back the Blue gives us all a chance to show our support for the men and women who keep us all safe. They have our backs - it’s time for us to have theirs.

I hope you will join me in voting YES on Proposition 311 to Back the Blue.

Tom Hatten, Chairman, Back the Blue, Scottsdale
Sponsored by Back the Blue

Our police and first responders have a difficult job even on the best of days. I don’t think I need to tell you that these are not the best days. Every year, we ask them to take on a tougher job with fewer resources and less support. The results aren’t surprising: recruitment is down and crime is on the rise.

My husband is a currently active 37 year police officer so I’ve seen firsthand the toll this takes on our first responders.

Something has to change.

Proposition 311 is a step in the right direction. It tells our first responders that the community has their backs. It protects them directly by increasing penalties on criminals who attack them and it gives them a little extra peace of mind knowing that their families will be taken care of if the worst were to happen.

Please vote YES on Prop 311. Thank you.

Cynthia Hill, M.Ed.; President and Founder, AZ Law Enforcement Outreach and Support, Scottsdale
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Vote YES on Prop 311 - Back the Blue

Right now, police officers across Arizona are working tirelessly to protect you and keep our neighborhoods safe. They are putting their lives on the line to defend yours.

It's an important job, one that we are honored to do. But we need your help.

Political and physical attacks on police are driving good officers away from our state and we aren't able to recruit enough new applicants to replace them. The City of Phoenix alone is over a thousand officers short of our current needs. The men and women of the Phoenix Police Department have done a remarkable job in spite of that but every year it gets harder. And Phoenix isn't the only city facing this crisis - it's affecting multiple departments and agencies in Arizona.

What our officers need most is to know that the community supports them. Prop 311 won't solve all of our problems but it is an important step towards addressing these challenges.

I urge you to vote YES on Prop 311.

Ben Leuschner, President, Phoenix Police Sergeants and Lieutenants Association, Glendale
Sponsored by Back the Blue

Please offer your strongest support for this Back the Blue measure. As an elected official, I saw the ranks of our police department drop to dangerously low levels because of the attacks on our heroes and their families. This measure says we support our men and women in blue, we support those protecting our families.

Police officer ranks have dropped to dangerously low levels throughout the entire state of Arizona.

We need our police officers and they need us to send a strong message of support.

This measure is extremely simple, it increases penalties on those who attack all first responders, protects the family of the officer if they are killed in action, and requires criminals to fund the expense.

Thank you again. Please help send a strong message to the rest of the state that we back those in blue.

Sal DiCiccio, Former Phoenix City Councilman, Phoenix
Sponsored by Back the Blue

In jurisdictions all across Arizona, there is a growing shortage of police officers and other first responders. In Phoenix, the shortage is critical. Assaults against police officers and other first responders are becoming more and more frequent while, at the same time, “defund police” rhetoric from radical elements in our society fuels this serious problem. This “Back the Blue” ballot measure will change the narrative in Arizona to reverse this trend, to encourage more police and fire recruits, not fewer. By passing this simple measure, we will clearly demonstrate that, in Arizona, we stand with cops, not criminals.

Sydney Hay, Scottsdale