

Arguments “Against” Proposition 315

This measure is one of those insidious legislative ballot referrals that makes superficial sense but in practice would create enormous obstacles for reforming government programs such as the runaway spending of Arizona’s ESA voucher program. For example, ClassWallet is an almost universally despised payment processor for ESA accounts. A different vendor could easily cost the same amount or more, but would run afoul of this new obstacle.

Tying the hands of future lawmakers carries vast unforeseen consequences when decisions can easily cost (or save) in the millions. Those attacking “regulation” and “bureaucracy” fail to note that such agencies protect us from contaminated food, fraudulent health care claims, predatory lenders, unscrupulous contractors, and so much more. Agencies fill in essential gaps between statute and implementation with a tightly supervised rulemaking process, and trying to smother that with even more red tape and partisan infighting is a fool’s errand.

Interfering with the regulatory process in this manner means that biased lawmakers could impose their ideological will to supersede the expert and informed decisions of staff. Politicization of the regulatory process is unwelcome, intrusive, and dangerous and we strongly urge a “no” vote.

Catherine Sigmon, Co-Founder, Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, Tempe and Melinda Iyer, Co-Founder & Policy Director, Civic Engagement Beyond Voting, Phoenix

Protect Our Seniors: Vote NO on Proposition 315

Proposition 315 is an unnecessary and potentially harmful measure that will impede the effective governance of critical sectors, especially healthcare in senior care.

A law already exists for this purpose: Arizona law already mandates that state agencies have statutory authority with guardrails before they enact regulations. Additionally, all final proposed state agency rules must receive final approval from the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council. This existing oversight ensures that any new regulations are carefully vetted and justified, balancing regulatory needs with public interests.

Approving Proposition 315 would add yet another layer of bureaucracy by requiring new regulations to also be approved by the state legislature. This would significantly slow down the process of enacting essential regulations and might even halt necessary health and safety regulations altogether. The negative consequences for healthcare, particularly in senior care facilities could be severe.

As highlighted in detailed reports by The Arizona Republic & the AZ Auditor General, there are already alarming instances of resident harm in senior living facilities. The delay or inability to update regulations promptly could make matters even worse, leading to deteriorating conditions and insufficient safeguards for vulnerable Arizonans.

Without being able to implement new health and safety regulations or change fees to hire inspectors, senior care facilities may continue to operate using outdated rules that fail to address

current challenges, like emerging health threats, evolving care standards, and population growth. This could lead to further neglect and mistreatment of residents, undermining their health and well-being.

Proposition 315 poses a significant risk to effective governance and public safety. It threatens to stifle regulatory development crucial for maintaining and improving care standards in Arizona, especially in the most vulnerable sectors like senior care. Please reject this harmful proposition to ensure we protect our elders.

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

Please Oppose Proposition 315!

Proposition 315 was referred to the ballot by one of the most radically right legislatures in our state's history. Because they do not have total control over state agencies and also generally oppose implementation of strong rules to protect our air, our water, and our communities, they are seeking to win passage of Proposition 315 to make it more difficult, if not impossible, to implement rules such as those that help protect our drinking water or that are necessary to meet health-based standards for our air.

Much like the recent decision by the Supreme Court to overturn a long-standing principle that allowed agencies to interpret the laws that they implement—from those ensuring clean air and water, to those governing telecommunications and medical safety—Proposition 315, if approved, would hamstring agencies, and delay clean water and clean air measures, plus it would concentrate more power in the Arizona Legislature. It should be rejected. Please vote no.

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

The League of Women Voters of Arizona strongly opposes the proposition 315, which would give the legislature the power to interfere with the rule-making authority of the state's regulatory agencies.

This proposition would give the legislature the power to approve proposed rules that are estimated to increase the cost of regulation by specified dollar amounts. It undermines the autonomy of state agencies by shifting accountability for spending from the governor's and state attorney's offices to the legislature. State agencies need the authority to operate effectively based on their specific roles, responsibilities, and budgets. Furthermore, regulatory agencies have a level of subject matter expertise and familiarity with the regulatory environment lacking in the legislature.

This attempt at legislative overreach will hamper the regulatory agencies' ability to manage resources efficiently and address issues swiftly, ultimately impacting the quality of services provided to the public.

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

Opportunity Arizona strongly opposes Proposition 315, which would give the politicians at the State Legislature near-total control over agency rulemaking. Extremists in our State Legislature don't understand agency rulemaking and plan to weaponize the impact of this proposition under a divided government. This is an attempt by corrupt politicians to enforce authoritarian rule by creating yet another obstructionist tool that they can use to block policies they don't agree with.

Rule-making isn't political, so we have experts and regulatory attorneys at the agency level interpret the laws to create the rules. Not politicians. Proposition 315 will hamper the ability of those experts at the state agencies to keep our water safe and our air clean by bringing politics into it.

The Legislature already has multiple avenues for budgetary authority and agency oversight, many of which they are already not meeting deadlines for. Adding additional reviews to work that they are already behind on will worsen this backlog and prevent our state agencies from fulfilling their purpose to work for the people of Arizona. VOTE NO on Proposition 315 to tell extremist politicians in the legislature to keep their hands off our state agencies.

Ben Scheel, Executive Director, Opportunity Arizona, Phoenix
Sponsored by Opportunity Arizona

The ability to elect our legislators gives us an opportunity to "fire" those that aren't doing what we "hired" them to do. We don't have the same control of government agencies. It's hard to hold a person who is hired into a position at an agency accountable. Government is supposed to represent the will of the people. If the regulations coming from an office are not according to the will of the citizenry, Prop 315 gives us checks and balances to prevent those regulations.

Vote NO on Prop 315 to keep government agencies in line just as we do our elected officials.

John Hassett, Phoenix