

Vote Yes: Proposition 128

Arizona Farm Bureau's Positions

Proposition 128: Voter Protection Act

Proposition 128 would allow the legislature to amend, defund, or supersede a ballot initiative if the initiative contains illegal or unconstitutional language. Arizona Farm Bureau supports giving the Legislature this helpful and needed flexibility.

When Arizona passed the Voter Protection Act, it wanted to make sure that the Legislature could not override the will of the people when ballot measures are enacted. However, tying the hands of the Legislature entirely meant that it has been unable to make changes as simple as correcting drafting errors. But it has also meant that the Legislature cannot remove unconstitutional language from our state's laws. Proposition 128 un-ties the hands of the Legislature by allowing it to modify ballot initiative language when either the Arizona Supreme Court or the Supreme Court of the United States determines that language to be illegal or unconstitutional. The rest of the protections offered by the Voter Protection Act are untouched.

Arizona Farm Bureau Policy:

Arizona Initiative Process:

We believe that the Arizona citizens' initiative process in its present form results in "taxation without representation". In 2009, Arizona had the highest budget deficit to expenditure ratio of any state in the union. Over fifty percent of Arizona's annual budget expenditures are a direct result of initiative compliance funding mandates, yet most initiatives have been passed by less than twenty percent of registered voters.

We support an Arizona Constitution amendment that includes the following:

1. The number of validated signatures necessary to qualify a ballot initiative is to be determined and required for each County and based on the highest number of qualified votes cast in any of the previous five general elections.
2. Funding disclosure requirements for initiatives are to be the same as those for state office candidates.
3. Initiatives must designate full funding source(s) that do not include the state general fund as a revenue source.
4. Five years after passage of a statutory initiative it must be reaffirmed by passage in the legislature and its sources of funding are to come under the control of the legislature. (Amended 2020)