

## Submitting Arguments For or Against a School District Ballot Measure

[The Pima County School Superintendent](#) is responsible, in cooperation with the governing boards and the [Pima County Board of Supervisors](#), for all special school district elections [A.R.S. § 15-302](#).

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### WHAT ARE THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING A PRO OR CON ARGUMENT FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE?

The following requirements must be met in order for submitted arguments to be considered for possible inclusion in the information pamphlet:

- The argument contains the **original signature of each person sponsoring it**. *E-mails, copies and faxes of arguments will not be accepted.*
- The person or persons signing the argument shall **each** identify themselves by giving their name and telephone number.
- Arguments must be submitted by the deadline set by the County School Superintendent.
- The argument must be 200 words or less.
- Each argument should clearly state to which ballot measure it refers.
- Arguments sponsored by an organization or corporation (not a Political Committee) must be signed by either the chairman or the treasurer and identified by group name.
- Arguments sponsored by a Political Committee must be signed by the committee's chairman or treasurer and identified by committee name.

### HOW MANY ARGUMENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED?

Arizona Revised Statutes require that the information pamphlet shall contain at least two arguments, if submitted, but no more than ten arguments for and at least two arguments, if submitted, but no more than ten arguments against the ballot measure. The argument from the district governing board for the proposed ballot question shall count as one pro argument. The County School Superintendent has the ultimate decision as to which arguments will be printed. A.R.S. § 15-481.B.9

### IF THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT BELIEVES THAT AN ARGUMENT CONTAINS AN INACCURATE STATEMENT OF FACT, WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR CORRECTING IT?

The individual/organization will be contacted for clarification, documentation or review of any factual statement in question. The County School Superintendent will either make the correction or choose to delete an inaccurate statement of fact. The individual/organization will be informed of changes made to their arguments.

The County School Superintendent will not review and correct any portion of the written arguments which is identified as the author's opinion.

### WILL THE PRO AND CON ARGUMENTS BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

Yes. The County School Superintendent shall make the written arguments available to the public as provided in Title 39, Chapter 1, Article 2.

**ARE THE PRO / CON ARGUMENTS ACCEPTABLE IF THE POSTMARK ON THE ENVELOPE WAS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT?**

No. The argument must be received by the County School Superintendent no later than 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date as outlined in the public notice.

**MUST MY NAME AND ADDRESS BE INCLUDED WITH MY ARGUMENT IF I DON'T WANT MY NAME PRINTED IN THE INFORMATION PAMPHLET?**

Yes. The person or persons signing the argument shall identify themselves by giving their name and telephone number (the telephone number will not appear in the Information Pamphlet).

A person who has submitted an argument will not have their name included in the Information Pamphlet without their specific permission. Names that are excluded from the pamphlet will be made available upon request to the County School Superintendent. All statements or arguments are public information and will be available to the general public as well as the media.

**MAY AN ORGANIZATION SUBMIT A PRO OR CON ARGUMENT?**

Yes. Organization names will be used when the pro or con argument is signed by either the organization's chairman or treasurer.

**WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE?**

Political Committee means:

- A candidate or
- Any association or combination of persons that is organized, conducted or combined for the purpose of
  1. influencing the result of any election or
  2. to determine whether an individual will become a candidate for election in this state or in any county, city, town, district or precinct in this state
  3. that engages in political activity
    - on behalf of or against a candidate for election or retention or
    - in support of or opposition to an initiative, referendum or recall or any other measure or proposition and that applies for a serial number and circulates petitions

Political Committees include the following types of committees:

- a candidate's campaign committee
- a separate, segregated fund established by a corporation or labor organization pursuant to A.R.S. 16-920(A)(3)
- a committee acting in support of or opposition to the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot measure, question or proposition
- a committee organized to circulate or oppose a recall petition or to influence the result of a recall election
- a political party
- a committee organized for the purpose of making independent expenditures
- a committee organized in support or opposition to one or more candidates
- a political organization (an organization that is formally affiliated with and recognized by a political party, including a district committee)
- an exploratory committee
- a standing political committee

Political committees must organize and file reports in compliance with the campaign finance laws in Title 16, Chapter 6