

May 16th, 2023

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

Voting rights have been under attack in the state legislature this week. The undersigned organizations represent communities that have been targeted with anti-voter and anti-democracy bills that have passed out of the legislature and we respectfully ask you to veto one of the most recent bills, SB1324/HB2560.

SB1324/HB2560 have been accompanied by a slew of misinformation attempting to rationalize the absurd bills that are fundamentally based on extreme conspiracy theories. Proponents of this legislation have spread falsehoods claiming that the bills are the same as other states' ballot image posting laws and that they are designed to increase transparency as a way to combat election disinformation. Make no mistake — SB1324 and HB2560 do none of this.

SB1324/HB2560 have been marketed as being the same as the bills in states with digital ballot image pilots such as Colorado, Maryland, and Georgia. This is not accurate. The Arizona proposals are far different. For example, the Colorado version of the bill has guidelines to redact identifiable information on ballot images, but proponents in Arizona are staunchly against any additional measures to prevent ballots from being identifiable. However, implementing the versions from other states does not make sense for an Arizona landscape because posting ballot images is flawed at its core.

Just last week, the Georgia Court of Appeals [revived a lawsuit](#) from election deniers arguing ballot images are not enough to prove the 2020 election wasn't stolen and more manual inspections are needed. Opening the door for more frivolous election challenges through this proposal is the last thing Arizona taxpayers and election administrators need.

Furthermore, this at-home, DIY audit proposal is dangerous for democracy and does nothing to dispel conspiracy theories or increase trust in our elections. This is especially true when sensitive information is released **during a live election**, before state certification and the completion of all required recounts. This bill is a recipe for election sabotage and would put Arizona at risk of missing the 2024 Safe Harbor deadline.

SB1324/HB2560 also makes voter information publicly available in a way that is not currently accessible to the everyday person.

Under this proposal, any person with access to the internet would be able to view the full name, street address, years of birth, and precinct numbers of every voter. This is more than enough information to identify someone and make them the target of retaliation. This proposal is dangerous for everyone, especially BIPOC voters who have been the target of harassment by election deniers in the past. Access to such private information becomes even more dangerous when you look beyond election retaliation.

This is especially worrisome for victims of domestic violence and stalking. It's important to recognize that not all victims of stalking or domestic violence have the resources needed to be able to register as a protected individual. SB1324/HB2560 would put those without access to protection resources at further risk of harm.

Arizona Voters, by right, deserve to cast a secret ballot. This proposal is fundamentally unfixable and far beyond what Arizonans actually need to feel confident in their elections. Notably, the [majority of Arizonans feel confident](#) in the security of Arizona's elections — this is not the time to make them feel weary by posting their information and ballot images online. The undersigned organizations of the Arizona Voting Rights Coalition ask that you continue protecting confidence and trust in our elections and veto SB1324/HB2560.

Sincerely,

Activate 48

All Voting Is Local Action Arizona

Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders for Equity

Arizona Center for Empowerment

Arizona Coalition for Change

Arizona Democracy Resource Center (ADRC)

Arizona Dream Act Coalition

Arizona Faith Network

Arizona Students' Association

Civic Engagement Beyond Voting

Common Cause Arizona

CORAZÓN Arizona (Federation of Faith in Action)

Fair Elections Center

Fuerte Arts Movement

Indivisible

Indivisible Arizona

Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)

Mi Familia Vota

Opportunity Arizona

Our Voice Our Vote Arizona

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona

Poder Latinx

Progress Arizona

Rural Arizona Action
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter