



2019 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

Bills Impacting Arizona's Voters and Elections

We began the legislative session with a **watchful eye on 109 bills** affecting our democracy (woah!) and as session slowly-but-surely moved on, our list dwindled down to **12 consequential pieces of legislation** - both good and bad that would have a lasting impact on Arizona's democracy. Below you'll find our analysis of those bills and what their fate was.

SIGNED INTO LAW:

[HB2080](#) - (Rep. J Allen)

Makes incremental reforms to Arizona's system of felony disenfranchisement. While other states have made more significant progress in unwinding mass disenfranchisement, even small steps are welcome in a state that currently [ranks eighth](#) in the share of our population that is barred from voting due to a felony. This bill makes those with a single felony conviction eligible for automatic rights restoration whether or not they still owe fines, though completing probation and restitution are still required.

[SB1054](#) - (Sen. Ugenti-Rita)

After confusion and lawsuits following the 2018 General Election, the legislature, along with county recorders sought to clarify the process where an early ballot signature is "inconsistent" with those on file. The bill requires counties to contact the voter and allow voters to "confirm" their signature up to five business days after most elections. Additionally, it authorizes counties to begin counting early ballots two weeks before election day, one week earlier than they do now

[SB1072](#) - (Sen. Ugenti-Rita)

Applies to early voting the voter ID procedures that previously only applied on Election Day. Past practice was to confirm ID with your signature, but now voters who choose to vote early in-person have to show ID. Many studies have shown the people of color are less likely to have these forms of ID.

[SB1090](#) - (Sen. Ugenti-Rita)

If a voter finds out in the last few days before Election Day that they will not be able to vote, they will now have to sign a statement under penalty of perjury attesting that they are experiencing emergency that would prevent them from voting on Election Day. The bill also changes how emergency voting locations are designated.

[SB1154](#) - (Sen. Gowan)

Would move up the state primary election from 10 weeks before the general election (usually last Tuesday in August) to the first Tuesday in August. Look out for the 2020 General Election Primary on August 4, 2020.

[SB1451](#) - (Sen. Leach)

On top of the myriad rules that already exist, SB 1451 places **additional technical requirements** on paid petition circulators for initiatives. It also places other technical requirements on circulator registrations in an unveiled attempt to make signatures easier to disqualify.

BILLS THAT FAILED - THANKS TO YOUR HELP:

[HCR2005/SCR1023](#) - (Rep. Kavanagh + Sen. Kerr)

These bills would have referred to the 2020 ballot a state constitutional amendment requiring statewide initiatives to hit a high signature threshold in each of the 30 legislative districts, rather than one statewide number, effectively making it impossible for all but the best-funded campaigns to get something on the ballot.

[HB2616](#) - (Rep. Townsend)

Would have penalized groups and individuals that missed a 10-day deadline to return completed voter registration forms with a **class 2 misdemeanor** (carrying potential jail time), and an unlimited fine of \$25 per form per day. or. These penalties would apply even to honest mistakes and where the voter is not affected in any way.

[SB1188](#) - (Sen. Ugenti Rita)

Would automatically remove Arizona voter the Permanent Early Voter List (meaning they would not get a ballot in the mail for each election)) if they do not vote by mail for two consecutive election cycles.

[HB2724](#) - (Rep. Biasucci)

Would have created new avenues for bad actors to meddle with everything the Citizen's Clean Elections Commission does, from enforcing our campaign finance laws to voter education. **The bill died on the House floor!**

[HB2489](#) - (Rep. Townsend)

Would have created a legislative "election procedures oversight committee" to consider potential future innovations in an effort to create best practices in election policy. That all sounds great, but the bill also direct the committee to focus its attention on the relatively small number of voters on the "federal only" voter rolls, a topic that has been the subject of unfounded conspiracy theories.

[SB1046](#) - (Sen Ugenti-Rita)

Would prevent voters on the PEVL from returning voted early ballots using on-site early voting locations or election day polling places. In November 2018 about 320,000 voters returned early ballots to voting locations. That's a whole lot of voters to add to the lines on Election Day.

Other Bills We Kept an Eye On:

HB2023	HB2133	HB2236	HB2238	HB2721
FY 2020 Budget: \$530,000 appropriated to Attorney General's Office for a "Voter Fraud Unit"				