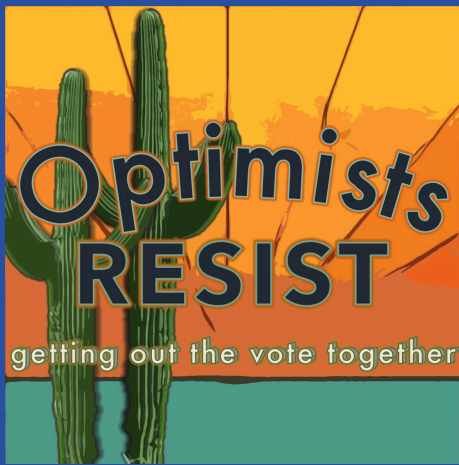




Election Newsletter

Your November Ballot - a Shareable Resource

September 28, 2026

**VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT...VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT...VOTE THE ENTIRE
BALLOT**

The purpose of this Election Newsletter is to put in your hands important election information in a concise, shareable way.

We want you to

- **Share this email** or portions of it with those in your circle of influence - family, friends, and neighbors.
- **Register to vote and vote.** Encourage others to do the same.
- **Vote the entire ballot** and urge others to do the same. Historically, our wins have been on the margins. Skipping even a single race can mean a preventable loss for that candidate.
- **Be comfortable speaking persuasively with friends, family, and neighbors** about the candidates. You don't have to be an expert, but you can back up your opinions with succinct facts. The information and links in this email will help you do that.
- **Use this information when canvassing**, electioneering, or phone-banking.
- **Know that our No.1 goal in November is to "flip" the Arizona legislature and re-elect our Democratic Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General.** Republicans for too long have controlled the Arizona legislature, blocking Democratic bills from getting a hearing while our state's most serious problems go unaddressed.

We're channelling our fury and frustration over the Protect Education Act citizen's initiative failure into **a focused, strategic, and determined effort to put Democrats in the majority in the Arizona legislature.**

With a Democratic majority, we can finally take positive steps to end the ballooning cost of the ESA voucher program, properly fund our public education system so Arizona does not continue to rank among the five weakest school systems in the country, seriously address issues of affordability, high healthcare, housing, and utility costs, water security, the protection of voting rights and reproductive rights, and intelligent and humane border security.

Let's get informed and let's do this!

What's in this Election Newsletter?

- 1.....Ballot Races
- 2..... Midterm Election Schedule
- 3..... What Will Be on My Ballot?
- 4.....Ballot Guides
- 5.....Candidates: Our Choices and the Case Against Their Opponents
- 6..... Propositions (Ballot Measures)
- 7.....Judicial Retention Choices
- 8.....Important Voting Information

1. BALLOT RACES

The United States Congress

The road to a Democratic majority in the United States Congress runs right through Arizona. **It is an absolute MUST that we get Dr. Amish Shah elected to Congress from Congressional District 1 (CD1)** and finally wrest that seat away from Republican control. This is the seat being vacated by David Schweikert who is not running for re-election. (He ran unsuccessfully in the GOP primary for Governor.) **Let's win this seat and do our part to give Democrats a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.**

Arizona's Top State Offices

Arizona's top state offices - Governor, Lieutenant Governor (a new elected office this year), Secretary of State, and Attorney General - are all on the ballot this election. **Governor Katie Hobbs, Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, and Attorney General Kris Mayes are all Democrats running for re-election.** They have been in the forefront of pushing back against the Trump administration's efforts to take over our elections by restricting and suppressing voting, including vote by mail. **It is imperative that we return each of these three individuals to office.** Their opponents are a slate of MAGA Republican election deniers and extremists who will do everything in their power to make Arizona a Trump puppet state.

The Arizona Legislature

Simply put, we need to **end the GOP's 60-year vice grip on the state legislature**, put in a Democratic majority, and start making our Arizona legislature actually work for Arizonans. Additionally, the state legislature plays a significant role in shaping state-level responses to federal policies.

Other Critical State Offices

Critical state, county, and municipal offices are on the ballot in different voting districts and the choices we make will shape Arizona's future for decades on issues that affect our schools, elections, economy, healthcare, environment, water security and communities. We need:

- **a Superintendent of Public Instruction** who can address the serious issues caused by the out-of-control ESA voucher program.

- **Corporation Commissioners** who will lower utility costs, strengthen consumer protections, and ensure Arizona urgently harnesses its clean energy potential before it's too late.
- **a State Treasurer** who is competent, intelligent, ethical, and non-partisan.
- **a Mine Inspector** who will restore communication with the citizens whom the office serves and modernize the office.

These races and others on the ballot do not always get the same level of publicity as the "top" ballot races but they are every bit as important. **We need to ensure that there is no "ballot drop off." We need votes cast for our candidates in EVERY RACE.**

Local Offices (Scottsdale)

We need to:

- elect **Raoul Zubia** to the Scottsdale City Council and end the chaos, infighting, and poor decision-making that has overtaken the Council.
- elect **Dr. Jennifer Johnson** to the Scottsdale Unified School District Governing Board, an educator who has the experience and motivation to prioritize academic achievement, career readiness, and community engagement.

2. MIDTERM ELECTION SCHEDULE

September 19	UOCAVA (Military and Overseas Ballots) Mailed
October 5	Voter Registration Deadline for Voting in the November 3rd Election
October 7	Maricopa County Begins Mailing Out Ballots and Early Voting Starts
October 23	Last Day to Request a Replacement Ballot by Mail (damaged or lost ballot)
October 27	Last Day to Mail Back Your Ballot
November 3	Election Day

3. WHAT WILL BE ON MY BALLOT?

All the Arizona state-wide offices that have open seats will be on your ballot.

Where you live determines which (Federal) Congressional District race and which county and local races will be on your ballot. Click [HERE](#) to find your Federal Congressional District (CD); State Legislative District (LD); Maricopa County Board of Supervisors District, and City Council District.

The Maricopa County Democratic Party (MCDP) has a voter guide which will show you every Democratic candidate on your ballot. Click [HERE](#) and simply put in your address.

4. BALLOT GUIDES AND OTHER RESOURCES

Ballot Guides - The Candidates

Ballot Guides and additional candidate information on ALL of the races are helpfully provided by your Democratic LDs. Here are links to the LDs in the districts in which most of our members live.

[LD3....Ballot Guide](#) [HERE](#)
[LD4....Ballot Guide](#) [HERE](#)
[LD5....Ballot Guide](#) [HERE](#)
[LD8....Ballot Guide](#) [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) to view all the Clean Election Commission candidate debates (videos of those which have taken place and a list of those scheduled.)

Click [HERE](#) to view the PBS Arizona "Candidates in Conversation" series hosted by Ted Simon (with links to both past and upcoming candidate conversations.)

Additionally, opportunities to hear and meet the candidates are regularly promoted in Optimists Resist's newsletters, LD mailers, various organizational notices, and emails from the campaigns themselves.

Ballot Guides - The Judges

Your ballot will contain a list of judges currently on the judicial bench in Arizona who are up for retention. You can vote to decide whether to keep or remove each of those judges. Removing judges is rare because many voters don't know enough about them and they skip this section. **DO NOT SKIP this section of your ballot. Many of these judges rule on issues of importance to you.**

Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) again offers its "**Gavel Watch**" as an excellent voting resource about the judges up for retention. It contains, for each judge, a vote recommendation and rationale. Click [HERE](#) for the Summary (judges' names and recommendations). Click [HERE](#) for the Report (detailed explanation of the research methodology).

Propositions (Ballot Measures)

There will be EIGHT propositions on the ballot. VOTE NO ON ALL! They are all legislative referrals by the Republican-controlled Arizona legislature, not citizen initiatives. If these were popular, positive measures, the legislature would have been able to pass them. Because they are not supported by enough legislators, the Republican majority has decided to push them to the ballot box hoping they can convince/confuse Arizonans into passing them.

5. CANDIDATES

NOTE: the information contained in this section is a highlight of candidate positions expressed by the candidates themselves, gleaned from their voting records or actions taken, or sourced from various local news reports.

SCOTTSDALE MUNICIPAL RACES

SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL

Raoul Zubia

www.zubiaforscottsdale.com

3 candidates are running to fill 2 Scottsdale City Council seats. 2 candidates are "conservative" extremists.

Zubia is the **ONLY** commonsense candidate in the race.

You can maximize the impact of your vote by voting ONLY for Zubia. In this three candidate race, you do NOT have to use both of your votes. Vote ONLY for Zubia and leave the second choice blank. Don't give your second vote to either of the conservative candidates.



PLEASE share this important voting strategy with your family, friends, and neighbors.

Solid arguments for voting for Zubia

- **Responsible growth:** Zubia supports managing growth while protecting established neighborhoods and Scottsdale's quality of life.
- **Water security:** Zubia has made Scottsdale's long-term water supply a central issue, calling for drought planning, conservation, and expanded water recycling efforts. The current Council majority, including Councilmember Barry Graham who is running for re-election, tabled the Council-approved Water Strategic Plan which identified new water sources and infrastructure needed to protect Scottsdale's future supply. With Scottsdale heavily dependent on the Colorado River, delaying these investments could also put pressure on the city's AAA bond rating and ultimately, local finances.
- **A record of community service:** Zubia served as Vice Chair (2022-24) of the city's Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force which developed the recommendations that led to the 2024 voter-approved preservation funding. He also chaired (2010-2016, 2021-2024) the Scottsdale Human Services Commission and served as President (2005-present) of Partners for Paiute, in addition to remaining active with several Scottsdale community organizations.
- **Deep Scottsdale roots:** A lifelong Scottsdale resident and Coronado High School graduate, Zubia was inducted into the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame in 2024.

The case against Zubia's opponents

They have frequently been described as "agents of chaos."

Barry Graham

Current City Councilmember

- **Water:** Graham voted against funding and implementing Scottsdale's Water Strategic Plan which had been developed with input from city staff, water experts, and residents and adopted by the City Council in August 2024. He voted against moving ahead with a critical project aimed at delivering advanced purified recycled water directly to residents.
- **Public participation:** Graham supported moving general public comment to the end of Council meetings, making it significantly harder for residents to participate.
- **68th St. Sidewalk:** Graham faced an ethics complaint over efforts to delay this project.
- **Old Town parking garage:** Graham joined a request for a criminal investigation of Mayor Borowsky. The County Attorney's Office found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing and closed the case.

Michelle Ugenti-Rita

- **MAGA-aligned endorsement:** Endorsed by conservative organizations and officials including Barry Graham and Turning Point.
- **Voting rights:** As an Arizona legislator, Ugenti-Rita sponsored legislation to remove infrequent voters from Arizona's Active Early Voting List and backed other voting restrictions.
- **Ballot initiatives:** She sponsored legislative measures making it harder to qualify citizen initiatives for the ballot.
- **Water:** Ugenti-Rita strongly opposes Scottsdale's planned expansion of advanced water purification despite the city's decades of experience using this system and recycled water.
- **Extreme positions:** Supported bill to expand residents' right to use lethal force to defend property; accused the County library of promoting "sexually explicit material," referring to books relating to LGBTQ+ subjects.

SCOTTSDALE SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. Jennifer Johnson

www.jennifer4susd.com

There are 3 candidates vying for 2 positions on the Scottsdale Unified School District Board with 2 running as a "conservative team."

You can double the power of your vote if you VOTE ONLY FOR DR. JOHNSON.

Don't use your second vote. Leave it blank. Casting a vote *only* for Dr. Johnson maximizes the impact of your vote by reducing the number of votes going to either of the other two candidates.

PLEASE share this important voting strategy with your family, friends, and neighbors.

School Boards are ground zero in the fight for Arizona's public schools. Dr. Johnson would bring a high level of education and management experience and professionalism to SUSD.

Solid arguments for voting for Dr. Johnson

- **Deep Arizona education experience:** Teacher, principal, superintendent, Deputy Superintendent at the Arizona Dept. of Education, and higher education administrator.
- **Builds school-community partnerships:** Board Chair of School Connect, connecting schools with community and career opportunities.
- **Balanced approach:** Supports rigorous college-prep academics alongside strong career and technical education.
- **Endorsed by Save Our Schools Arizona**



The case against Dr. Johnson's opponents

Amy Carney, a current SUSD Board member, and **Jeanne Beasely** are running together as a self-described "conservative team."

- **Tom Horne Supporters:** Both support current Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne and are endorsed by the Arizona Republican Party.

- **Conservative School Boards:** Both advocate electing conservative school boards which challenge what they describe as "left-leaning" agendas.
- **Carney:** Opposed an SUSD students' petition to ban Turning Point chapter which the students claimed was promoting hate and division and targeting marginalized groups. Supported removal of the novel *Ghost Boys* which depicts the murder of a young black boy by a white police officer on grounds that it would "create division" and make students "uncomfortable." Called teaching about Black Lives Matter "activist curriculum."

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (CD) 1 REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Amish Shah

www.amishforarizona.com



Dr. Amish Shah (D)

vs. Jay Feely (R) vs. Monica Alponete (L)

CD1 is considered a key race for control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Solid arguments for voting for Dr. Shah

- **ER Physician and three-term Arizona legislator** with strong bipartisan record.
- **Healthcare leader:** passed more bills than any Arizona Democrat in the past decade, many focused on healthcare and public health.
- **Priorities:** protecting democracy, affordable healthcare, Social Security and Medicare, reproductive rights, public education, and gun safety.
- **Recognized for service:** Recipient of 2024 Jacob K. Javits Public Service Award and numerous healthcare and legislative honors.

The case against Dr. Shah's opponents

Jay Feely

- **Trump-endorsed MAGA conservative** who decided to run for office and switched from CD5 to CD1 at Trump's request.
- **Strong Trump supporter:** campaign describes him as a "staunch supporter" of Trump and America First agenda.
- **No legislative experience:** former NFL kicker and CBS sports analyst
- **Does not live in CD1** - lives in Gilbert, outside the district.

Monica Alponete

- **Libertarian political newcomer** and former conservative talk-show host.
- **No legislative experience:** campaigns on "individual sovereignty" and limited government.
- **Strong Second Amendment and self-defense advocate.**

STATEWIDE OFFICES

Not all elected offices on the ballot are listed below. Check **your** ballot, ballot guides and information provided by your LDs, the candidate's own information, as well as other election materials to see the full list of races and candidates.

AZ GOVERNOR

Katie Hobbs

www.katiehobbs.org



AZ LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

John Giles

[no separate campaign website]



Katie Hobbs (D) and John Giles (I) vs. Andy Biggs (R) and Sine Keer (R)

Arizona's 2026 election is the first in which voters will elect the governor and lieutenant governor as a joint ticket. Hobbs chose former Republican Mesa Mayor John Giles as her running mate, citing his record of successful, practical leadership and bipartisan appeal. **Together, Governor Hobbs and Giles are aligned against political extremism and, by their ticket, show an intent to put people above party.**

Solid arguments for re-electing Governor Hobbs / John Giles

- **Hobbs stood up to Arizona's Republican-led legislature:** Vetoed over 500 bills passed by the Republican-led legislature, effectively blocking measures aimed at restricting voting access, cutting public school funding, and rolling back environmental regulations.
- **Balanced the budget:** turned a \$1.4 billion deficit into a balanced budget.
- **Protected abortion rights** by helping lead the successful repeal of Arizona's 1864 near-total abortion ban.
- **Erased more than \$1 billion in medical debt** for nearly 671,000 Arizonans.

- **Created more than 100,000 jobs** while attracting major new private investment to Arizona.
- **Protected Arizona's water future** by acting against foreign corporations pumping groundwater and by advancing water conservation policies.
- **Lowered costs for families** through child-care investments, tax relief, and expanded affordable housing and down-payment assistance.
- **Invested in border security:** Invested over \$100 million in law enforcement and border security, seizing millions of fentanyl pills and illegal weapons.
- **Made data centers pay their fair share:** Placed a 3-year freeze on tax exemptions for data centers to ensure they paid fair-share energy and water fees.

The case against Hobbs' and Giles' opponents

They are extremists and election deniers.

Andy Biggs

U.S. Congressman (CD5)

- **Election denial and January 6th:** Biggs supported efforts to challenge the 2020 election and was among the members of Congress identified by the January 6th committee as seeking a presidential pardon. Also strongly supported pardons for January 6th insurrectionists.
- **Abortion and health care:** Biggs backed federal abortion restrictions and supported the Republican "One Big Beautiful Bill" budget legislation that reduced federal Medicaid spending by \$800 billion over a 10-year period.
- **Extreme positions:** Biggs has aligned himself closely with Trump and has supported policies that would significantly change federal and state approaches to immigration, health care, abortion, and taxation.
- **Iran war:** Voted against House resolutions attempting to curb Trump's authority to pursue the Iran war.
- **Blocked bipartisan legislation that would have protected women and children against pedophiles:** As AZ Senate President, single-handedly blocked legislation that would have addressed corrupt law enforcement in Colorado City that enabled pedophile cult leader Warren Jeffs; twice voted against release of Epstein files before Trump reversed his strategy and signaled his position permitting a vote for their release.

Sine Kerr, Biggs' running mate

- **Hard-line social agenda:** While in the Arizona Senate, sponsored legislation restricting abortion, criminalizing physicians' performance of abortions, and supported measures adversely affecting transgender rights.
- **Voting and regulatory power:** Kerr supported legislation making citizen-led ballot initiatives harder to qualify and legislation limiting the Arizona Corporation Commission's authority over clean-energy standards.

AZ ATTORNEY GENERAL

Kris Mayes

www.krismayes.com

Kris Mayes (D) vs. Warren Petersen (R)

The Attorney General is Arizona's chief legal officer. This election will determine whether that office continues to defend Arizona's authority over its elections or

aligns with efforts to revisit 2020 and expand federal control over state-run elections.



Solid arguments for re-electing Attorney General Mayes

- **Protected Arizonans' rights:** Defended reproductive rights and Arizona's authority to run its own elections.
- **Stood up for consumers:** Fought corporate abuse, unfair utility increases, and actions that drive up costs for Arizona families.
- **Protected Arizona's interests:** Defended the state's water resources and pursued large drug-trafficking and other public-safety cases.
- **Successfully challenged federal funding cuts** and got \$1.5 billion restored
- **Sued to hold the Trump administration accountable:** Joined and led multiple multi-state lawsuits challenging federal actions affecting elections, health care funding, energy and consumer costs.
- **Part of coalition of state attorneys general who sued Meta**, alleging that the company designed addictive features on its platforms that harmed youth mental health and misled the public about their safety. Achieved a collective settlement of \$17.1 billion, with Arizona set to receive over \$200 million.

The case against Mayes' opponent

Warren Peterson

State Senate President (LD14)

- **Election denier:** Petersen remains a prominent promoter of claims about the 2020 election and turned over Arizona's 2020 election records to the Trump administration.
- **The Cyber Ninjas audit:** As an Arizona State Senate leader, Petersen helped launch the controversial 2020 election review at a cost of \$4 million. The Maricopa County Elections Department documented numerous false and inaccurate claims in the resulting report, which ultimately reaffirmed Biden's victory in Maricopa County.
- **Hard-line legislative record:** Petersen has supported legislation restricting abortion and voting access and measures affecting transgender rights.
- **Environmental concerns:** Petersen has supported uranium mining in the Grand Canyon region and other policies adversely affecting Arizona's environmental regulations.

AZ SECRETARY OF STATE

Adrian Fontes

www.electfontes.com

Adrian Fontes (D) vs. Alexander Kolodin (R)

The Secretary of State is the state's chief election officer, overseeing voter registration, campaign finance, candidates, ballot measures, voting equipment certification, and election results. The office also manages business filings, notaries, public records, and the state library and archives.

This critical office overseeing Arizona's elections must NOT fall into the hands of someone who denies the legitimacy of the 2020 election.



Solid arguments for re-electing Secretary of State Fontes

- **Protected Arizona's elections:** Expanded voter access, strengthened election security, and increased transparency in election administration. Has been a steadfast supporter of Arizona's vote-by-mail system, used by over 80% of Arizona's voters.
- **Modernized voting:** As Maricopa County Recorder and Secretary of State, improved ballot tracking and voter services, including the statewide BallotTrax system, receiving national recognition.
- **Defended Arizona's election authority:** Challenged federal efforts to interfere with Arizona's election laws and obtain Arizona voter data.
- **Improved business services:** Streamlined government services and made it easier for Arizona businesses to interact with the Secretary of State's office.

The case against Fontes' opponent

Alexander Kolodin

State Representative (LD3)

- **Election denier:** Kolodin participated in lawsuits seeking to overturn Arizona's 2020 election results which courts rejected for lack of evidence and legal basis.
- **Sanctioned by the State Bar:** He was disciplined over his involvement in post-election litigation, fined, placed on probation, and required to complete ethics education.
- **Far-right legislative record:** Kolodin is a member of the Arizona Freedom Caucus and has supported measures to change Arizona's election laws and restrict access to early voting.
- **Guns:** He has supported expanding access to certain firearms, and firearm accessories, such as suppressors, sawed-off shotguns, and pipe bombs.

**AZ STATE
TREASURER**

Nick Mansour

www.mansourforarizona.com

**AZ SUPT OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION**

Dr. Theresa Ruiz

[www.drruizforarizona.co](http://www.drruizforarizona.com)

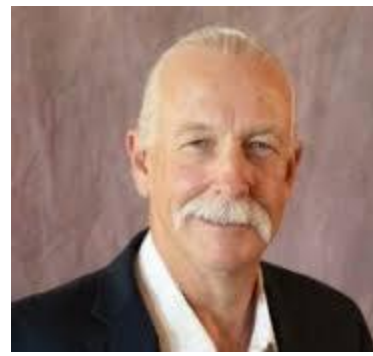
[m](#)

**AZ MINE
INSPECTOR**

Brian Matlock

[www.matlockforazmi.co](http://www.matlockforazmi.com)

[m](#)



Nick Mansour (D) vs. Elijah Norton (R)

The State Treasurer oversees billions in state assets and cash management. This race matters because the Republican candidate has pledged to conduct a DOGE-style audit of state government and eliminate investments in companies with DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) or ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) policies, potentially reshaping how Arizona's public funds are invested.

Solid arguments for voting for Mansour

- **Financial expertise:** Entrepreneur and former CEO of Arizona College of Nursing, with an MBA from Stanford.
- **Wants to modernize and maximize state investments:** Plans to actively manage Arizona's assets, improve returns on the education endowment, and increase transparency.
- **Protect taxpayer dollars:** Supports stronger oversight of school voucher spending and accountability for documented abuses.
- **Keep the Treasurer focused on Arizona:** Envisions a nonpartisan office focused on sound investments, affordability, and education funding—not political battles over DEI and ESG.

The case against Mansour's opponent

Elijah Norton

- **Political agenda over nonpartisan stewardship:** A former Arizona Republican Party treasurer, Norton says he would use the Treasurer's office to "divest from woke and leftist causes" and target companies based on their DEI and other policies.
- **DOGE-style government audit:** Norton has proposed a comprehensive audit of Arizona's investment portfolio, state finances and education system, modeled after the federal government's DOGE effort.
- **Limited public sector investment experience:** Norton's professional background is primarily in the private insurance and finance sector; his public financial experience includes serving as Arizona Republican Party treasurer during the 2024 election cycle.

Teresa Leyba Ruiz (D) vs. Kimberly Yee (R)

This race is critical because the Superintendent of Public Instruction leads the Arizona Department of Education and oversees administration of the state's K–12 education programs, including the rapidly growing ESA voucher program. The Superintendent has significant authority over how those programs are administered and monitored.

Solid arguments for voting for Dr. Ruiz

- **35 years in education:** Former math teacher and president of Glendale Community College, with extensive experience leading large educational institutions. Deeply experienced in both education and management.
- **Bring accountability to ESAs:** Would increase transparency and audit and restructure the voucher program, ending, for example, automatic approval of ESA expenses under \$2,000.
- **Invest in educators and students:** Supports higher teacher pay and retention, stronger academic standards, universal pre-K, literacy, and expanded career and technical education.
- **Strengthen rural schools and restore trust:** Would create an Office of Rural and Small Schools and focus the Department of Education on collaboration, transparency, and student achievement.

The case against Dr. Ruiz's opponent

Kimberly Yee

State Treasurer

- **No professional education background:** Yee's career has been in politics and government, including as a legislator and Arizona State Treasurer—*not as an educator*.
 - **Expanding ESA vouchers:** Yee has made expanding ESA vouchers a central part of her education platform.
 - **Culture war focus:** Yee has promoted claims about “woke” ideology in schools and repeated the debunked story that a Washington school district provided litter boxes for students who identified as cats.
-

Brian Matlock (D) vs. Walter “Les” Presmyk (R)

This race matters because the State Mine Inspector is responsible for protecting miners, inspecting active mines, securing dangerous abandoned mines, investigating accidents, and enforcing mine-safety and reclamation laws. Arizona has more than 400 active mines and tens of thousands of workers directly and indirectly connected to mining.

Solid arguments for voting for Matlock

- **Mining expertise:** Brings decades of hands-on mining and heavy-industry experience plus mechanical engineering expertise, with a practical focus on mine safety.
- **Plans to modernize office and mine safety:** Would strengthen inspections, improve health and safety standards, track “near misses,” address abandoned mine hazards, and increase accountability and transparency.
- **Protect workers and communities:** Wants better communication with mining communities and stronger protections for tribal lands from uranium contamination and environmental damage.

The case against Matlock's opponent

Les Presmyk

State Mine Inspector

- **Status quo approach:** Presmyk has emphasized continuing existing mine-safety practices and over time improving injury rates rather than pursuing major changes.

- **Mining industry ties:** His campaign has received contributions from major mining interests, raising questions about the independence of the office.
 - **Appointed, not elected:** Presmyk was appointed by Gov. Katie Hobbs in 2025 to complete the term of Republican Mine Inspector Paul Marsh and is now seeking a full term.
-

AZ CORPORATION COMMISSION (**VOTE FOR BOTH!**)

Clara Pratte

www.claraforaz.com

Jonathan Hill

www.votehillaz.com



Jonathan Hill and Clara Pratte vs. Kevin Thompson and Ralph Heap

The Corporation Commission race is fundamentally a debate over Arizona's energy future. Hill and Pratte support stronger utility oversight, clean-energy investment, and action against recent rate hikes. Their opponents favor less regulation, greater reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear power, and oppose policies promoting clean energy.

Solid arguments for voting for Pratte

- **Energy and public service experience:** Co-founder of Navajo Power and a former senior federal and tribal affairs official who has served under three U.S. presidents and four Navajo Nation presidents.
- **Lower costs and protect consumers:** Wants affordable utility rates, stronger Commission accountability, fair treatment for rural and tribal communities, and data centers to pay their share of energy and water costs.

Solid arguments for voting for Hill

- **Science and engineering expertise:** Holds advanced degrees in aerospace engineering and geological sciences and spent 18 years working on NASA missions at ASU.
- **Data driven energy policy:** Focuses on grid reliability, utility accountability, consumer costs, water security, and cleaner energy while protecting Arizona's long-term economic competitiveness.

The case against Pratte's and Hill's opponents
Thompson

Corporation Commission Chair

- **Opposes clean energy mandates:** Supports reduced regulation and greater reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear power.
- **Potential conflict of interest:** While serving on the Corporation Commission and helping shape policies affecting data centers, Thompson also operates a government relations consulting business that represents a major data center company.

Heap

State Representative (LD10)

- **Anti-clean energy platform:** Opposes renewable energy mandates and promotes fossil fuels, nuclear power, and an explicitly anti-ESG agenda.
- **Backed by Turning Point Action:** Heap is endorsed by Turning Point Action, the conservative political organization
- **Subject of at least one Arizona Clean Elections Commission investigation** concerning his campaign finance reports and sign expenditures. After a preliminary finding of "reason to believe violation may have occurred," Heap was directed to get his finance reports in order. Heap also failed to participate in the Clean Election debates although Clean Elections candidates are required to do so or be fined.

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

Flipping the Arizona Legislature is a top priority this election. Republicans currently hold majorities in both the House and Senate, creating divided government and repeated conflicts with Governor Hobbs.

A change in legislative control would shift the balance of power in the Capitol and determine which policies can advance on issues including public education, voting rights, water security, reproductive rights, affordable housing, and health care. In 2026, Gov. Hobbs vetoed over 150 bills passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature.

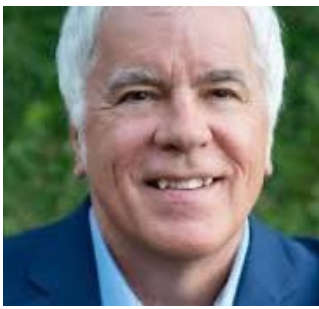
LD3

LD3 has long been a Republican stronghold, but shifting demographics and a large independent electorate have made the district increasingly competitive. LD3 Democrats have spent several years building voter participation through extensive canvassing and by mailing ballot guides to more than 60,000 residents—including Democrats, Independents, and some Republicans.

With Republicans holding narrow majorities in both chambers, the outcome in LD3 could affect the balance of power at the State Capitol.

**LD3 STATE
SENATE**

**LD3 STATE HOUSE
VOTE FOR BOTH GABLE and SPARGO**



Jeff Fortney

www.electfortney.com



Julie Gable

www.juliegable.com



Rick Spargo

www.electspargo.com

Jeff Fortney (D) vs. John Kavanagh (R)

Solid arguments for voting for Fortney

- **Education experience:** Former computer programmer who became a special education teacher; has served on the Cave Creek Unified School District Governing Board since 2021.
- **Public education:** Supports fully funding public education and brings more than two decades of classroom experience to the race.
- **ESA oversight:** Calls for greater accountability and oversight of Arizona's ESA program.
- **Broad policy agenda:** His platform includes voting rights, clean elections, human rights, health care, reproductive rights, water security, affordable housing, and public investment.

The case against Fortney's opponent

John Kavanagh

State Senate Majority Leader (LD 3)

- **Long conservative legislative record:** Kavanagh has served nearly two decades in the Arizona Legislature, moving between the House and Senate under the state's term limit rules. He is currently Senate Majority Leader.
- **Voting restrictions:** In 2021, Kavanagh supported efforts to limit Arizona's Permanent Early Voting List and defended Republican voting restrictions by arguing that the "quality" of votes should matter as well as quantity. His comment drew intense national criticism.
- **Restrictions on recording police:** Kavanagh sponsored the bill which made it a crime in most circumstances to record police activity from within eight feet without permission. A federal judge blocked the law from taking effect.
- **School vouchers and social issues:** Kavanagh has strongly supported Arizona's ESA voucher program and has sponsored legislation adversely affecting transgender people and against abortion except in rare cases.

Julie Gable (D) and Rick Spargo (D) vs. George Khalaf (R) and Cody Reim (R)

Solid arguments for voting for Gable and Spargo

Julie Gable

- **Broad professional experience:** Led complex technology projects at Accenture, owned local technology consulting firms, and served as CEO of a behavioral healthcare company.
- **Health care and behavioral health:** Priorities include protecting Medicaid and behavioral health services, supporting rural hospitals, and expanding preventive care.
- **Responsible technology:** Supports establishing guardrails for artificial intelligence.
- **Education:** Supports greater transparency and accountability for the ESA program, including measurable outcomes, while strengthening Arizona's public schools.
- **Community leadership:** Has served on several Valley boards and been recognized by the Phoenix Business Journal and AZ Big Media for her professional and community leadership.

Rick Spargo

- **Business and community experience:** Has operated a medical and pharmaceutical recruiting business for more than 30 years and has extensive community service experience, including fundraising for homeless veterans. He served as president of the Arizona Sons of the American Revolution from 2024–26.
- **Water security:** Makes Arizona's water supply a central issue and supports conservation, infrastructure investment, and careful review of high water use developments such as data centers.
- **Education:** Supports greater transparency and accountability for ESA vouchers and increased investment in Arizona's public schools.
- **Public safety and government:** Supports increased recruitment and mental health training for first responders and a two-term limit for state legislators.

The case against Gable's and Spargo's opponents

George Khalaf

- **Political background:** Former Arizona GOP executive director and former director of the Arizona Right to Life Foundation; supports expanding the ESA program and making school board elections partisan.
- **Campaign finance controversy:** In 2024, Khalaf agreed to a judgment requiring him to pay \$120,000 in a lawsuit involving invoices for Mark Brnovich's U.S. Senate campaign. The settlement followed allegations that he improperly caused nearly \$500,000 in valid invoices from a fundraising vendor to go unpaid while invoices from other vendors, including his own companies, were paid. Khalaf said the matter was a payment dispute.
- **Conservative political endorsement:** Khalaf is endorsed by Turning Point Action.

Cody Reim

State Representative (LD3)

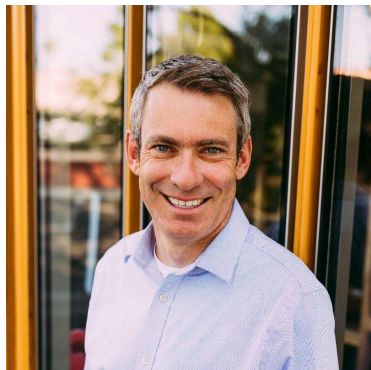
- **New legislator:** appointed in March 2026, now seeking election to the seat.
- **Conservative policy positions:** His legislative record includes positions on border security, education, health policy, election law, and gun rights that align with the conservative agenda promoted by Turning Point Action.
- **Conservative political endorsements:** Reim is endorsed by Turning Point Action and the Arizona Freedom Club PAC.

LD4 is an important battleground in the fight for control of the Arizona Legislature. In 2024, Republicans won all three LD4 seats - a Senate seat and two House seats. Democrats are targeting the district in 2026 as one of several competitive legislative contests that could affect the balance of power at the State Capitol.

LD4 STATE SENATE

LD4 STATE HOUSE

VOTE FOR BOTH GRESHAM & CAPUTI



Aaron Lieberman
www.aaron4az.com



Karen Gresham
www.karenforaz.com



Tammy Caputi
www.tammycaputi.com

Aaron Liberman (D) vs. Carine Werner (R)

Solid arguments for voting for Leiberman

- **Business and legislative experience:** Arizona native, entrepreneur, and former state representative with experience in early childhood education and business leadership.
- **Early childhood leadership:** Founded national early childhood organizations focused on expanding access to early learning and supporting families.
- **Education and workforce:** Supports increased K–12 funding, expanded early learning and stronger vocational and technical education programs.
- **Arizona's future:** His platform emphasizes affordability, small business growth, water security and drought preparedness, clean energy, and public safety.

The case against Leiberman's opponent

Carine Werner

State Senator (LD4)

- **Conservative legislative record:** Elected to the Arizona Senate in 2024 and has aligned with the Republican caucus on education and other policy issues. Endorsed by Turning Point Action.
- **School book and curriculum restrictions:** While serving on the SUSD Governing Board, Werner supported restricting certain books and opposed the district's purchase, for elementary school students, of e-books that addressed the subject of protests. Her positions have drawn criticism from those concerned about limiting students' access to age-appropriate materials.
- **Hot mic controversy:** In 2025, Werner was caught on a hot mic making disparaging comments about a district employee, prompting more than

1,500 people to call for her resignation from the school board.

- **Education policy disputes:** Her votes and positions on SUSD matters have generated significant disagreement, including disputes involving district leadership and school finances.

Karen Gresham (D) and Tammy Caputi (D) vs. Matt Gress(R), Pamela Carter (R)

Solid arguments for voting for Gresham and Caputi

Karen Gresham

- **Fiscal and education experience:** Third-generation Arizonan, former CPA, and second term Madison Elementary School District governing board member. Her board experience includes overseeing multimillion dollar school budgets.
- **Public education:** Supports fully funding K–12 schools, competitive teacher pay, safe and modern facilities, preschool and early literacy, and protecting school funding.
- **Fiscal accountability:** Calls for greater transparency and accountability in state budgeting and for addressing waste, fraud, and abuse in the ESA program.
- **Affordability and infrastructure:** Supports keeping housing costs down, investing in water infrastructure and long-term, science-based water management, and opposing unnecessary utility rate increases.

Tammy Caputi

- **Business and civic experience:** Scottsdale business owner with more than 20 years running an electrical supply company; served four years on the Scottsdale City Council.
- **Community and economic development:** On the City Council, focused on local business, economic development, public safety, and responsible community investment.
- **Education and affordability:** Supports stronger funding for public schools and competitive teacher pay, along with expanded access to affordable healthcare and childcare.
- **Jobs and public safety:** Supports reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses, workforce development and fair wages, while strengthening community policing, crime prevention, and resources for domestic violence survivors.

The case against Gresham's and Caputi's opponents

Matt Gress

State Representative (LD4)

- **Outside lobbying role with serious conflict of interest concerns:** Gress is a current LD4 state representative and also serves as Vice President of Government Affairs for Americans for Fair Treatment (AFFT), an organization that advocates for anti-union legislation and support of laws that weaken teachers' unions. Public school advocates have called for an ethics investigation, arguing that his dual roles create potential conflicts of interest.
- **Education policy:** Gress supports Arizona's ESA vouchers and has opposed some proposals for increased public-school spending.
- **Legislative record:** His record includes positions favoring ESA vouchers, limits on public sector unions, and conservative education policies.

- **Strong anti-abortion stance:** introduced several fetal personhood bills

Pamela Carter

State Representative (LD4)

- **Conservative policy positions:** Carter's stated positions include opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage and support for expanded gun rights.
- **Education and firearms:** Her positions include support for school choice programs and allowing trained teachers to carry firearms in schools.
- **Trump campaign:** Carter served as Arizona state director for Donald Trump's 2020 presidential campaign.

LD5

LD5 is currently represented by Democrats Sarah Liguori and Aaron Márquez in the House and Lela Alston in the Senate. With Alston retiring, Christine Marsh is running to return to the Senate.

LD5 decidedly leans Democratic, so **the focus in this district is turnout**. A strong Democratic turnout will not only determine these three races, it will also boost Democratic candidates up and down the ballot.

LD5 voters: VOTE—and VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT!

AZ STATE SENATE

AZ STATE HOUSE

VOTE FOR BOTH LIGOURI & MARQUEZ



Christine Marsh

www.christineportermarsh.com



Sarah Liguori

www.sarahligouri.com



Aaron Marquez

www.aaronmarquez.com

Christine Marsh (D) vs. Jason LaForest (NL)

Solid arguments for voting for Marsh

- **Three decades in education:** Nearly 30 years teaching in Arizona public schools; named **Arizona Teacher of the Year in 2016**. She continues to teach while serving in the Senate.
- **Legislative experience:** Former and current Arizona state senator with experience on the Senate Education Committee and a record of sponsoring and supporting legislation involving public schools, early childhood education, and student services.
- **Health care:** Supports policies to expand access to quality, affordable health care.

- **Energy:** Supports renewable energy and policies addressing Arizona's long-term energy needs.

The case against Marsh's opponent

Jason LaForest

- **No Labels candidate:** He advanced from an uncontested No Labels primary with only 303 votes.

Sarah Ligouri (D) and Aaron Marquez (D) are running uncontested.

Solid arguments for re-electing Ligouri and Marquez

Sarah Ligouri

- **Legislative experience:** Incumbent LD5 state representative with experience in the Arizona legislature.
- **Education and families:** Supports strong public schools, policies benefiting working families, and affordable housing.
- **Rights and environment:** Supports reproductive freedom and environmental protections.

Aaron Marquez

- **Education and public service:** Incumbent LD5 representative, former Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board member, and U.S. Army combat veteran.
- **Opportunity and education:** Focuses on strengthening public education and expanding economic opportunity.
- **Access and services:** Supports expanded voting access and reproductive health care, and emphasizes making government work effectively for Arizona families.

LD8

LD8 has historically been a strong Democratic district, but increasing turnout is important. A high level of voter participation in LD8 can affect not only the three legislative races in the district but also Democratic candidates in races farther down the ballot.

With Republicans currently holding majorities of 33–27 in the House and 17–13 in the Senate, **increasing turnout in Democratic-leaning districts such as LD8 is part of the broader effort to change the balance of power at the State Capitol.**

LD8 voters: VOTE—and VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT!

**LD8 STATE
SENATE**

**LD8 STATE HOUSE
VOTE FOR BOTH GARCIA & CONNOLLY**



Lauren Kuby
www.kubyforsenate.com



Brian Garcia
www.briangarciaaz.com



Janeen Connolly
www.azjaneen.com

Lauren Kuby (D) vs. Bill Loughrige (R)

Solid arguments for re-electing Kuby

- **Experienced public servant:** Incumbent LD8 state senator and former Tempe vice mayor who served on the Tempe City Council from 2014–2022.
- **Climate and sustainability expertise:** Senior Global Futures Scientist at ASU, with a background in climate solutions, sustainability, and community resilience.
- **Arizona priorities:** Has focused on public education, affordable housing, environmental protection, workers' rights, and climate action.
- **Health and community services:** Supports protecting Medicaid, SNAP, public schools, and funding for local communities.

The case against Kuby's opponent

Bill Loughrige

- **Reproductive rights:** Strongly opposes abortion, in contrast to Kuby's support for reproductive rights.
- **Education:** Supports the current ESA voucher program, while Kuby supports greater oversight and investment in public schools.
- **LGBTQ+ rights:** Opposes expanding nondiscrimination protections, while Kuby supports LGBTQ+ protections.
- **Climate and health care:** Opposes government-managed health plans and positions contrast with Kuby's focus on climate action, clean energy, and protecting Medicaid.

Janeen Connolly (D) and Brian Garcia (D) vs. Donald Hawker (R)

Solid arguments for re-electing Connolly and Garcia

Janeen Connolly

- **Public service and business experience:** Incumbent LD8 state representative with 27 years at SRP, ultimately serving as a senior government relations representative working with communities and chambers of commerce across Arizona.
- **Consensus builder:** Has extensive experience bringing communities, businesses, and other stakeholders together around major infrastructure and economic development issues.
- **Affordability and housing:** Has made affordable housing, responsible growth, and job creation central legislative priorities.

- **Energy and community development:** Uses her infrastructure background to advocate for reliable, sustainable energy policy and strong Arizona communities.

Brian Garcia

- **Public service experience:** Incumbent LD8 state representative with experience working for the U.S. House of Representatives, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.
- **Legal and education background:** Attorney and former Tempe Union High School District Governing Board member with a strong focus on public education.
- **Community and family priorities:** Supports affordable housing, health care, economic opportunity, and policies aimed at strengthening Arizona families and communities.

The case against Connolly's and Garcia's opponent

Donald Hawker

- **Conservative positions:** Wants to return to conservative values, describes himself as an advocate of "limited government" and "liberty."
- **Election policy:** Questions computerized vote tabulation and advocates changes to Arizona's election system.
- **Immigration:** Makes immigration enforcement a central campaign issue.
- **First-time candidate:** No public service experience.

MARICOPA COUNTY

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Sebastian ("Seb") Matta

www.sebforclerk.com

Sebastian (Seb) Matta (D) vs. Jeff Dial (R)

The Clerk is the chief administrator of Maricopa County Superior Court records and operations. The office maintains court records and filings, collects court fees, processes documents, and proposes its office budget. The Clerk does not interpret laws, sentence defendants, provide legal advice, or oversee elections.



Although the Clerk is elected on a partisan ballot, the office itself is **nonpartisan**.

Solid arguments for voting for Matta

- **Public service candidate:** ASU student with experience in speech and debate, community organizing, Spanish-language sports broadcasting, and as an Arizona House page.
- **Language access:** Proposes translating the Clerk's website into multiple languages to make court information more accessible.
- **Modern, accessible services:** Wants to implement pragmatic modernization, expand online filing including probate filings, and increase public awareness of the Clerk's role and services.

The case against Matta's opponent

Jeff Dial

- **Republican partisan political experience:** Dial is a former Arizona state senator and representative, bringing substantial partisan political experience to an office whose day-to-day work is administrative and nonpartisan.
- **DOGE-style approach:** Advocates complete audit of \$40 million budget to eliminate waste and running the Clerk's office more like a business.

6. BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

There are **EIGHT** legislative propositions on the ballot. They are all legislative referrals - not citizens ballot measures - placed on the ballot by the Republican-controlled state legislature. These are controversial partisan propositions which the Republicans lacked the votes to pass in the legislature so they are trying to see if they can get the voters to approve them. Some have harmless sounding titles but do not let the titles fool you.

[VOTE NO ON ALL 8 PROPOSITIONS!](#)

Click [HERE](#) for a link to **LD3's** clear and concise analysis of why a **NO VOTE** is so important as to each of these ballot propositions.

Click [HERE](#) for another excellent resource on the propositions - a powerpoint prepared by **North Scottsdale Democrats** and shared with their permission.

7. JUDGES (JUDICIAL RETENTION VOTES)

Your ballot will also contain a list of judges currently sitting on the bench in Arizona who are up for retention. You will decide whether to keep or remove each of those judges. **Do NOT skip over this section! These judges rule on cases that are important to you.**

Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV)'s "**Gavel Watch**" is an excellent resource to learn more about these judges. The report contains a vote recommendation and rationale for each judge. Click [HERE](#) for the full **Gavel Watch Report** (a detailed explanation of the research methodology). Click [HERE](#) for the **Gavel Watch Summary** (judges' names and recommendations).

IMPORTANT: There is ONE Arizona Supreme Court Justice up for retention - **John Lopez IV**. We urge you to **VOTE NO ON RETENTION**. Justice Lopez authored the Court's decision reinstating the 1864 abortion law.

8. IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

[To Check Your Registration Status](#)

Use the Maricopa County website [BeBallotReady.Vote](#) to

- **confirm your voter registration is up to date** with your current legal name and address.
- **sign up for mail-in/early voting**
- **sign up for ballot tracking** to receive text or email messages that track the status of your ballot - when it's mailed to you, when it's received back

in the County Recorder's office, when your signature is verified and when your vote is counted. You can also **text 628-683** in the "To" line and "Join" in the message line. Hit return/enter and follow the prompts at the bottom of your screen to set up your free account.

➔ **Call the Maricopa County Elections Dept. at 602 506-1511 if you have questions specific to your circumstances.**

To Update Your Voter Registration Info

Use the Arizona Secretary of State's website - click [HERE](#). Or go to www.servicearizona.com/VoterRegistration/selectLanguage.

If You'll Be Away/Travelling During the Voting Period

The U.S. Post Office is not legally permitted to forward a ballot. To request that your ballot be sent to your temporary address, call the Maricopa County Elections Dept. at **602 506-1511** or send an email to voterinfo@maricopa.gov. Provide your full name, residence address, temporary mailing address and date of birth for verification purposes. *We recommend that you make this request as soon as you know your plans.*

What Ballot You'll Receive

You'll receive the ballot that corresponds to your residential address. Different addresses are in different districts which in turn have different representatives. Your ballot will have the names of those candidates running to represent your districts in different offices. You'll see federal, state, county, and local races on your ballot.

You'll Be Mailed a Ballot if You are on AEVL or Request a Ballot

You'll be sent a ballot only if you are on the Arizona Early Voting List (AEVL) **or** if you contact the Maricopa County Elections Dept. **by October 23rd** and make a one-time request to be sent a ballot. *We recommend that you make this request as soon as possible.*

You Can Vote in Person or Drop Off Your Mail-in Ballot

You can vote in person on Election Day, November 3rd or beforehand at a voting location **beginning October 23rd**. Go to [BeBallotReady.Vote](#) for a complete list of voting locations and the days and hours they are open. The list will be posted when available.

In-Person Voting Locations Are Open Beginning October 23rd.

To download a current list of Maricopa County voting locations, days and hours of operation (when posted), go to [BeBallotReady.Vote](#). **You can vote in person even if you have been mailed a ballot.**

What You'll Need To Bring to a Voting Location to Vote in Person

Proof of identity is required: a valid government-issued ID that includes your name, photo and the address where you are registered to vote, eg., AZ driver license or tribal ID.

If that ID does not match your voter record, you'll need two forms of ID - find the full list at [GetID.Maricopa.Vote](#). A few examples include:

- Official Election Mail
- Bank Statement or Utility Bill

- Tribal ID with or without photo
- Voter Registration Card ([BeBallotReady.Vote](#))
- Valid AZ Vehicle Registration or Insurance Card

Do Not Ignore Mail From the County Elections Dept.

It may be advising you that additional information is needed to confirm/update your voter registration.

Also, by law, the County Recorder's office must send a notification to voters on the Active Early Voting List (AEVL) to confirm mailing address information and inform you of the upcoming election. If your mailing address information is correct, nothing further is required. *If corrections are needed, instructions are provided with the mailer.* **If you don't receive the mailer and believe you should be on the AEVL, call 602-506-1511 or update your information at [BeBallotReady.Vote](#).**

For Military and U.S. Citizens Living Abroad

Go to the Maricopa County Elections Dept. website for comprehensive Q & A's. Click [HERE](#)

If you live outside Maricopa County, check out the AZ Secretary of State website [HERE](#): "Out-of-County Military/Overseas Voter Registration - Information."

Visit the Maricopa County elections website for additional information - www.elections.maricopa.gov.

Optimists Resist: Website, Links & Resources

www.optimistsresist.org

The [Linktree](#) in our **Links and Resources** section is filled with useful information on a wide range of topics such as voter registration, the two citizen ballot initiatives, how to contact your representatives, school board meetings, activist tools, sign-ups, and so much more.

Invite Friends and Family to Join Our Mailing List

They can just log onto our website and click on [Newsletter](#) Our weekly and mid-week mailers provide up-to-date information on activist opportunities they can do both out in the community and from the comfort of their home.

Instagram: [@optimistsresist](#)

Bluesky: [@optimistsresist.bsky.social](#)

TikTok / Facebook

Website: www.optimistsresist.org

Linktree: www.linktr.ee/optimistsresist

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