

Against SCR 1015

SCR 1015 is the fourth time the Republican majority in the Legislature has attempted to amend the Arizona constitution to erode Arizonans' direct democracy rights and it is up to us, the voters, to again stop this legislative overreach in its tracks. Erecting barriers like SCR 1015 to the rights of everyday Arizonans to make their own laws should receive a resounding no from the voters.

The drafters of the Arizona Constitution knew it was important to provide Arizona citizens with the power, through the initiative process, to directly enact laws or amend the Constitution when the Arizona Legislature refuses to take action desired by a majority of the voters. Recent examples of successful initiatives are the increase in the minimum wage and outlawing dirty money in political campaigns.

For more than 150 years it has been sufficient to collect a number of valid signatures equivalent to 10% (15% for constitutional amendments) of the statewide voted cast in the last election for Governor. SCR 1015 would wipe out that statewide calculation and enact a requirement that the 10% and 15 % thresholds be met in each and every one of Arizona's 30 Legislative Districts. SCR 1015 effectively gives a single legislative district the power to kill any citizen's initiative. At the very least, SCR 1015 would significantly increase the cost of gathering signatures. Small grass roots organizations would face nearly insurmountable obstacles which would mean only rich corporations and deep pocketed national groups would be able to use the initiative process.