



July 2023: Protecting our Freedom to Vote



AZ Republican lawmakers attended an unofficial daylong hearing at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix immediately following the 2020 election. This brought Arizona into the national spotlight when Trump lawyers Rudy Giuliani and Jenna Ellis were present to make unsubstantiated claims of widespread fraud.

Republicans in the Arizona Legislature have been working tirelessly on telling voters how to vote

Five **new** voting laws signed by former Governor Doug Ducey that inconvenience voters, remove voters from the rolls, and require additional steps for eligible citizens to register to vote:

1. **The Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) is no longer permanent.**

PEVL has been renamed to the Active Early Voting List (AEVL). Beginning 2026, it is estimated 200,000 voters will be purged from the early ballot list if they have not returned an early ballot in the last 2 election cycles. If you have an early ballot, but choose to vote in person, this counts as an unreturned early ballot. Critics say this law will make it easier to purge low-frequency voters, as well as Independent voters who will not automatically be sent primary ballots.

2. **Recount margins have been increased to trigger automatic recounts.**

If the margin of difference between the top two candidates is within 0.5% an automatic recount is triggered. Prior law conducted automatic recounts at 0.1% or 200 votes, whichever was less.

3. **Requiring strict proof of citizenship for new voters and those who registered to vote prior to 2004.**

Prior to 2004, proof of citizenship was not required, so this law would require millions of Arizona voters to re-register. The Department of Justice filed a lawsuit calling the onerous documentary proof of citizenship requirement for certain federal elections

constitutes a “textbook violation of the National Voter Registration Act.” There are several lawsuits challenging this law that were still [active](#) as of February, 2023.

4. **Same-day voter registration has been banned**—the only thing is it doesn’t even exist in the first place in Arizona. Anyone who has registered at least 29 days before the election can cast a ballot.
5. **County Recorders conducting monthly voter roll purges.** County recorders can cancel a voter’s registration if they receive information that a voter is not “qualified” to vote. A statement is added to the voter registration form that notifies the registrant that, if they permanently move to another state, their registration will be canceled. It does not specify what amount of time is considered permanent. Democrats argued this could disenfranchise Arizona student voters attending out-of-state universities. Ducey vetoed a similar bill when he himself raised the possibility that “bad actors” could “seek to falsely allege a voter is not a qualified elector.”

This year, Governor Hobbs has vetoed 21 election-related bills, signed 2, and has 7 waiting on her desk.



In 2023 alone, 85 election-related bills in Arizona have been tracked by the Voting Rights Lab. These are a just a few examples:

1. **Arizona Republicans want your cast ballot to be available online to the public.**

AZ Senator Ken Bennett (Prescott/Sedona) and House Leader Ben Toma sponsored a bill that [would require copies of digital ballot images to be made publicly available online](#). In addition, recorders would publicly post voters' names, precincts, years of birth, and street addresses. Opponents contend the public could learn how a specific voter filled out their ballot, particularly in small rural precincts across Arizona. In late July, Bennett is expected to bring this bill back to the legislature for a third time.

2. **Arizona Republicans want to kick voters off the Active Early Vote List after missing just one election cycle.**

Current law removes voters from the early ballot list after 2 consecutive cycles (even if they voted in person). Republicans during this session passed a bill that would further restrict early voting by stripping voters from the early voting list if they fail to vote their early ballots in all elections within a single election cycle. Governor Hobbs [vetoed](#) this legislation.

3. **AZ Republicans want elections to be hand counted.**

The legislature recently [passed](#) a bill allowing county recorders to conduct hand counts. Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes had this to say about the bill: *"State law does not allow county boards, which are specifically granted limited authority to canvass election results, to unilaterally substitute a hand count for certified and tested electronic tabulation equipment."* Governor Hobbs [vetoed](#) this legislation.

4. **Arizona Republicans are trying to leave "ERIC" a multi-state system that weeds out duplicate, deceased or suspicious voter registrations.**

The [ERIC system](#) is one of the strongest safeguards against voter fraud for election officials; there's [no viable replacement](#). ERIC counts 28 states and the District of Columbia among its members, although a handful of states have left the organization, courtesy of a coordinated misinformation campaign of baseless theories that ERIC's funding sources are somehow suspect, and that practices like sharing data with credible research organizations render it unreliable. Arizona Republicans recently amended a bill which [would stop Arizona from participating in ERIC](#), and Governor Hobbs [vetoed](#) this legislation.

5. **Arizona Republicans are using conspiracy theories to waste tax dollars on new voting equipment.**

AZ Sen. Sonny Borrelli (R-30 Lake Havasu) sponsored a bill that would ban all electronic voting equipment from use unless it meets Department of Defense cybersecurity standards, all pieces of it are made in the US, and the auditor general is given copies of the source codes. Inspired by a baseless conspiracy theory about vote-flipping supercomputers. Governor Hobbs [vetoed](#) this bill with the following response: "The election equipment required by this bill, and the problem it purports to solve, does not exist."

Protecting Our Freedom to Vote

DORR Educational Breakfast

In Person and at Home

Friday, July 21, 2023 at 9:30am

The July 2023 DORR hybrid breakfast will address protecting our freedom to vote. The meeting will be held from 9:30 am until 11 am on Friday, July 21st at the Sedona Community Center, 2615 Melody Lane. (\$10.00) July's speaker will be Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and Emily Levy, Founder and Executive Director of [Scrutineers.org](https://scrutineers.org), a nonpartisan, progressive, online community dedicated to fair, transparent, accessible, and secure elections..

Find out how we can combat the continued attacks on our elections by Republicans in the Arizona Legislature. Let's work together to work towards historic Democratic wins in 2024!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89569635520?pwd=L00xbGRUZEVNaz94Zm4yNjFMMeGQ3Zz09>



Adrian Fontes



Emily Levy