

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented By The Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Annual Report will be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Arizona State Senate and the Speaker of the Arizona State House of Representatives. This report will be made available online at www.azcleelections.gov.

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Katie Hobbs
Governor

Thomas M. Collins
Executive Director



Mark Kimble
Chair

Galen D. Paton
Mark Kimble
Steve M. Titla
Amy B. Chan
Damien R. Meyer
Commissioners

State of Arizona
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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February 29, 2024

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission is pleased to submit for your information the 2022/2023 Annual Report, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §16-956(A)(5). The Annual Report describes the activities performed by the Commission in the last calendar year.

In 1998, the voters of Arizona passed the Citizens Clean Elections Act. Over 2 decades later, the Commission continues its commitment to uphold the letter and spirit of the Act. The Commission accomplished its goals set forth and looks forward to the same success in 2024.

Respectfully,

Mark Kimble, Chairman
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Voter Education Budget



The Commission spends 10% of the expenditure cap on voter education in accordance with its statutory requirements.

See page 10 of this report for more financial information.

Voter & Public Education

The Commission provides information to the public regarding participation in the political process and the functions and purposes of the Clean Elections Act. This is accomplished through education campaigns throughout 2022/2023, along with grassroots and social media outreach. The Commission consistently provides election information on how, where, and when to vote.

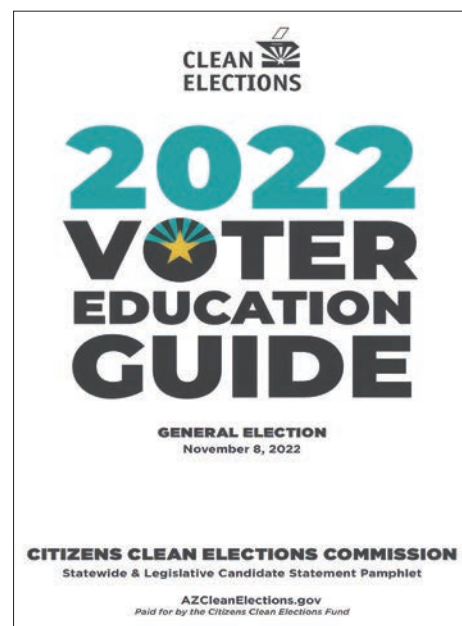
The Commission's education and outreach efforts for 2022/2023 included:

- **Voter Education Campaigns**
- **U.S. Senate & State Debates**
- **Voter Education Guides**
- **Voter Issue Surveys and Subject Matter Expert**
- **Comprehensive Election Information**
- **Grassroots Outreach**
- **Website & Social Media**



Voter Education Campaigns

Voters continue to have questions on how to participate, how to get information on voting, and who to trust for election information. In 2022, the Commission's voter education campaigns explained to voters Clean Elections purpose to provide straight-forward information on how to participate and where the candidates stand. In addition, the Commission launched a successful youth voter outreach campaign, "Level Up". This outreach effort encourages younger voters to get better educated or Level Up their election knowledge and register to vote. Campaigns featured such crucial tools as the Voter Education Guide and debates.



Election Information

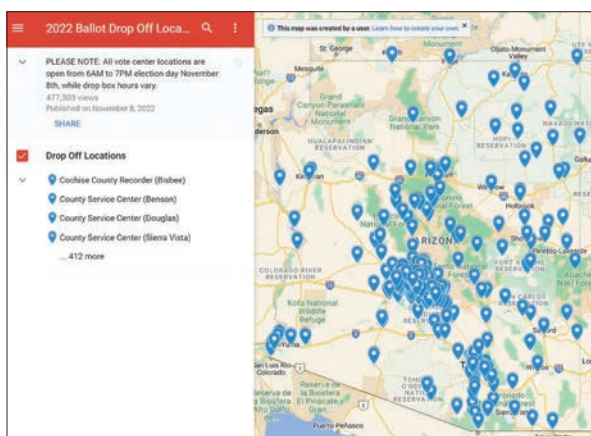
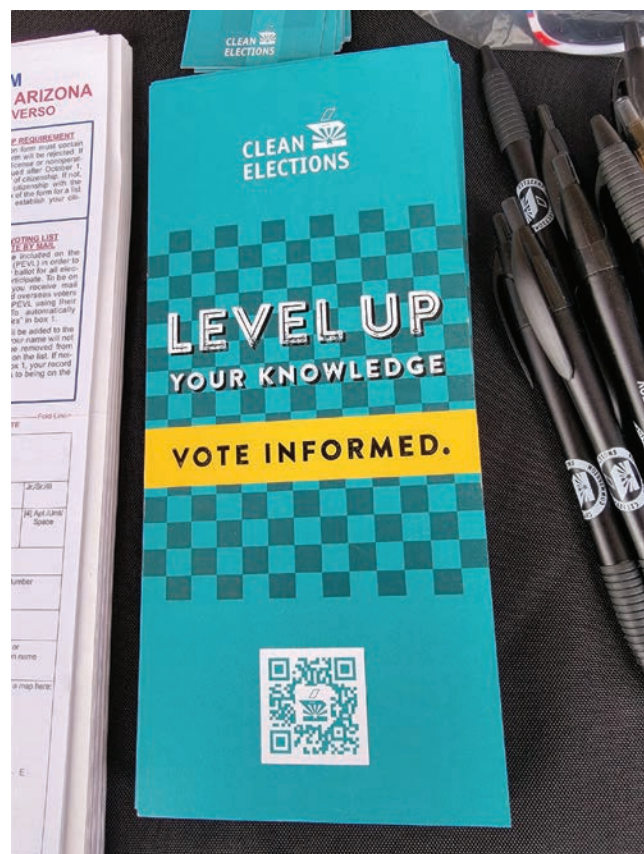
Every year, before each election, the Commission reaches out to all 15 counties within Arizona to identify what jurisdictions are having an election. The Commission updates its website with:

- Information on each election
- Highlight key deadlines
- How to get your ballot
- Voter education tools, such as videos and infographics

This information provides a quick point of reference for voters to access all necessary voting information. Voters learn how to access information through a comprehensive outreach campaign.

It's worth noting that the November 8, 2022, election was particularly eventful with all statewide offices up for election along with a Senate seat and all the Congressional seats. The Commission received positive feedback from the Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) regarding this effort and AASBO was able to share these detailed pages with their mailing list, which contains around 3,900 readers!

The Commission supplements election information web pages with voter education tools, such as videos and infographics. For example, the Commission developed a video explaining bond and override elections.



U.S. Senate & State Debates

2022

In 2022, the Commission hosted state legislative debates throughout the state. Whether a candidate was using the Clean Elections system or running traditionally, the debates provided voters with more information on the candidates and allowed the candidates the ability to speak directly with the voters. In addition, the Commission hosted statewide candidate debates as well as a U.S. Senate debate.

Debate Work Group Efforts

2023

The Commission hosted a Debate Work Group that consisted of voters, elected officials, members of the media, as well as political consultants.

The working group looked at the Commission's practice of hosting candidate debates and provided insight and feedback on ways to enhance the process. Those ideas included separating the debates into party debates instead of hosting all candidates at once, including moderators from the local community who have a pulse on the election issues, among others. The Commission will implement many of the group's suggestions as early as the 2024 election cycle.





**HEAR DIRECTLY FROM CANDIDATES
WITH VIRTUAL DEBATES.**

You may have heard a lot about the candidates in your district, but what have you heard directly from them? Clean Elections virtual debates are your chance to listen to what candidates have to say about the issues. You can also submit questions to see where they stand on topics important to you.

Find the debate schedule and submit your questions at
AZCleanElections.gov/debates or call 877-631-8891
for more information.

**CLEAN
ELECTIONS**

728x90

See Mark Kelly, Blake Masters and Marc Victor debate
LIVE OCTOBER 6

CLEAN ELECTIONS ARIZONA PBS ABA

SUBMIT QUESTIONS

300x600

See Mark Kelly, Blake Masters and Marc Victor debate
LIVE OCTOBER 6

CLEAN ELECTIONS ARIZONA PBS ABA

SUBMIT QUESTIONS

300x250

See Mark Kelly, Blake Masters and Marc Victor debate
LIVE OCTOBER 6

CLEAN ELECTIONS ARIZONA PBS ABA

SUBMIT QUESTIONS

300x50

See Mark Kelly, Blake Masters and Marc Victor debate
LIVE OCTOBER 6

CLEAN ELECTIONS

320x50

See Mark Kelly, Blake Masters and Marc Victor debate
LIVE OCTOBER 6

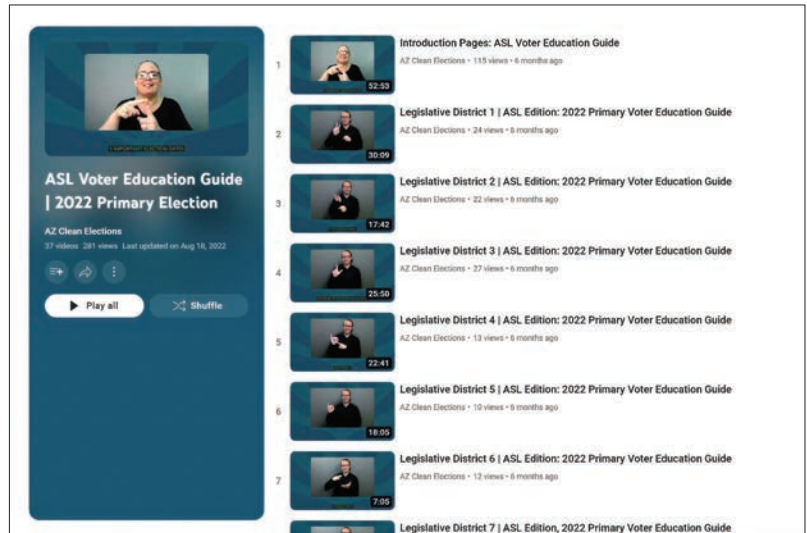
CLEAN ELECTIONS

Voter Education Guide

The Commission provides the public with a Voter Education Guide. The Guide is designed to be district-specific, so voters can see candidates running in their district as well as statewide offices.

The guide:

- Presents candidates by district.
- Includes a 200-word statement and an image from each candidate.
- Is provided in English, Spanish, American Sign Language, and in a spoken form for those with impaired vision.
- Is available in print and electronic formats.



Grassroots Outreach

In an ongoing effort to increase outreach to Arizona Voters, the Commission participated in many events over the course of 2022 and 2023. Some outings included National Voter Registration Day and Registration Drives across the county where the Commission helped register voters and provided voting fundamentals and how to stay up to date on local, state and federal elections. Below is a list of the 2023 events.

MARCH

Gina and Avery held a virtual presentation for the public on how our government works and civil discourse for National Civics Learning Week.

MAY

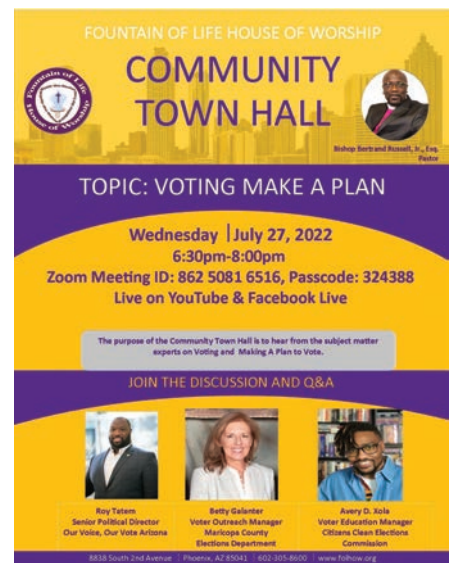
Gina, Avery, and Tom attended the Election Officials of Arizona conference

JULY

- Commissioner Meyer, Tom, Gina, and Avery attended the 12th Annual African American Conference on Disabilities
- Avery was a vendor at the 9th Annual Teacher Leadership Summit to promote Clean Elections civics curriculum
- Tom and Avery attended the 75th Anniversary Native Right to Vote luncheon
- Avery was a panelist for the Arizona's Youth Electorate: Exploring the Political Behavior of Young Swing Voters discussion by the McCain Institute

AUGUST

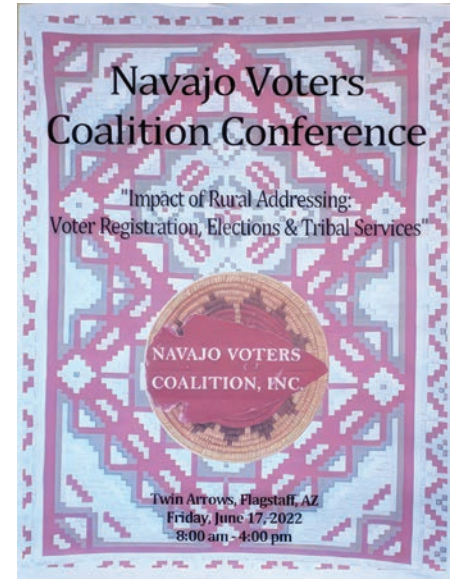
Avery presented on Running Clean for the AZ Commission of African American Affairs



VOTER & PUBLIC EDUCATION

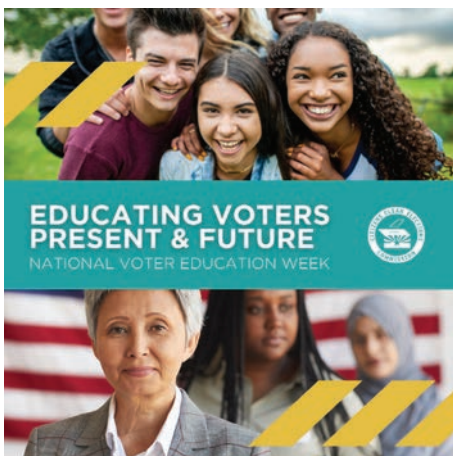
SEPTEMBER

- Gina and Avery participated in the Disability Voting Rights Week and National Voter Registration Day virtual training by Disability Advocacy Coalition and the Arizona Disability Voter Coalition
- Avery held a Civil Discourse workshop at Tempe Public Library to kick off National Constitution week
- Gina and Avery attended and presented at the Tribal County Summit in Camp Verde, AZ hosted by the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona
- Avery collaborated with Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions to celebrate National Voter Registration Day at the University Center
- Gina and Dana Lewis, Pinal County Recorder, held a Q&A on Facebook Live for National Voter Registration Day



OCTOBER

Gina and Avery participated in the Disability Voting Rights Week and National Voter Registration



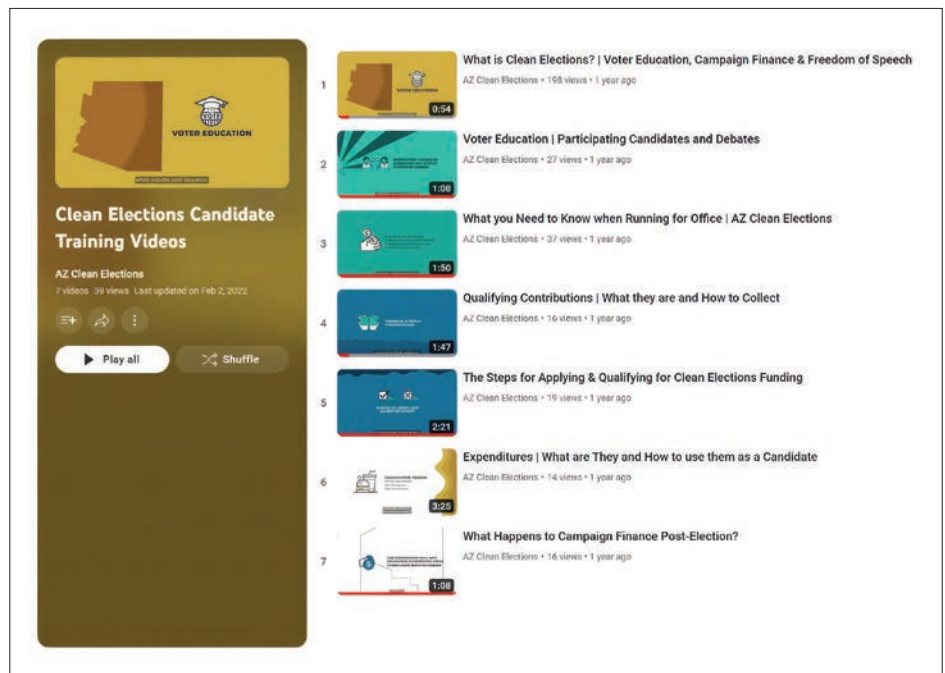
Clean Elections

TRAINING & GUIDES

Education is a core component of the Commission. In 2022 & 2023, the Commission continued to provide information to interested groups and potential candidates through speaking engagements, training workshops, as well as through publications on our enhanced agency website.

Each election cycle the Commission develops a guide to assist participating candidates as they navigate the political campaign process and to inform non-participating candidates, and other groups involved in elections, about the Clean Elections Act and rules. The guide covers important topics such as requirements of the Clean Elections Act and Rules, filing and reporting deadlines, how to become a Clean Elections participating candidate, and how to qualify for funding.




Participating candidates are required to attend one Clean Elections Candidate Training Workshop during the election cycle. The workshops are open to the public and designed to provide information to prospective candidates, or those who are assisting participating candidates, about the requirements of the Clean Elections Act. The workshops began in July of 2023 and will continue into 2024.



Website & Social Media

The Commission had an increase in its engagement with voters online. Utilizing social media channels has allowed the Commission to instantly connect with voters on timely and important election-related issues. Voters and candidates alike can follow the Commission on social media for more information about elections and running for office.

Social media sites such as Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook were used. The chart below displays the amount of followers/likes throughout the recent years. Even numbered years represent statewide election years.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	34,492 Followers	34,084 Followers	33,481 Followers	33,185 Followers	33,000 Followers
	1,860 Followers	2,098 Followers	2,197 Followers	2,820 Followers	2,784 Followers
	3,307 Views	1,712,089 Views	532,334 Views	7,290,966 Views	3,149,061 Views

YEAR	SESSIONS	USERS	% OF NEW USERS	PAGE VIEWS
2023	399,000	300,000	99.33%	570,000
2022	1,000,000	796,000	98.86%	1,700,000
2021	360,595	301,443	99.9%	533,898
2020	1,514,415	1,196,474	98.65%	2,881,496
2020	1,514,415	1,196,474	98.65%	2,881,496
2019	194,338	165,171	90.4%	356,231

Financial Information

REVENUE SOURCES

Citizens Clean Elections Commission revenue comes from the following sources:

- 10% surcharge on all civil penalties and criminal fines
- Civil penalties paid by candidates.
- \$5 qualifying contributions collected from participating candidates.

CY 2022*/2023** REVENUES	
Court Assessments	\$5,591,193* \$5,947,461**
Commission Assessments	\$46,781* \$4,680**
\$5 Tax Check-off (late tax filings)*	\$0*/\$0**
Miscellaneous	\$35,994*/\$0**
\$5 Qualifying Contributions	\$79,495*/\$0**

*Previously, Arizona citizens could contribute voluntarily through a \$5 check-off box on Arizona state income tax return forms and through dollar for dollar tax credits. This portion of the Act was removed in 2012; however, late tax filers may still contribute.

**The Citizens Clean Elections Commission operates on a calendar year budget rather than the State's fiscal year budget.

CONTROLS ON SPENDING

The Commission's total expenditures cannot exceed seven times the number of Arizona residents personal income tax returns filed during the previous calendar year. Up to 10% of the total expenditure cap for administration and enforcement purposes may be used. The Commission may make public education paid media expenditures up to 10% of the total expenditure cap as well. (A.R.S. §16-949)

The 2022 expenditure caps were as follows:

- Total Expenditure Cap: \$23,919,756
- Administration & Enforcement Cap: \$2,391,976
- Public Education Expenditure Cap: \$2,391,976

The 2023 expenditure caps were as follows:

- Total Expenditure Cap: \$23,948,344
- Administration & Enforcement Cap: \$2,394,834
- Public Education Expenditure Cap: \$2,394,834


Clean Elections is funded by voluntary contributions and surcharges on criminal penalties and violations, such as traffic tickets.



Not a single dollar of Clean Elections funding comes from the State's General Fund.

In fact, Clean Elections has donated \$74 million to the State's General Fund since the Commission's inception.

The removal of the \$5 check-off box on Arizona state income tax return forms and dollar-for-dollar tax credits caused a decrease in revenue to the Clean Elections Fund, and as a result the Commission was unable to transfer excess monies to the General Fund in 2022 and 2023.



Enforcement, Audits & Litigation

The Commission enforces the Citizens Clean Elections Act and Commission rules which are a part of the Arizona Administrative Code. The Act and Commission rules contain specific campaign finance provisions and limitations.

Commission staff monitor campaign finance reports to ensure campaign spending occurs as specified by the Act and Rules. The Commission has the authority to subpoena witnesses, take evidence, and require, by subpoena, the production of any books, papers, records or other material relevant to an enforcement matter.

Potential penalties for violations of the Act range from monetary penalties, the disqualification of a candidate or forfeiture of office. Most enforcement matters are settled amicably.

The Commission also conducts audits to ensure compliance with the Act and Commission rules. The audits are completed by an independent auditing agency. Candidate audits are conducted during election years after the Commission has disbursed funds to qualified candidates.

In 2022, the Commission conducted 33 audits: 13 primary election audits and 20 general election audits.

ENFORCEMENT

The Commission acts on both external and internally filed complaints.

During 2022, the Commission resolved 8 complaints arising from the 2022 election cycle.

Rulemaking & Legislation

COMMISSION RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

In accordance with A.R.S. §16-956(C), the Commission may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of the Citizens Clean Elections Act.

The Commission proposes and adopts rules in public meetings, with at least sixty days allowed for interested parties to comment after the rules are proposed. After consideration of the comments received in the sixty day comment period, the Commission may adopt the rule in an open meeting.

The Commission diligently makes changes to its rules and procedures to address concerns and improve the functions of the program. Rules adopted by the Commission are not effective until January 1 in the year following the adoption of the rule. However, rules adopted by unanimous vote may be immediately effective and are enforceable.

In 2022, the Commission amended the following rules:

- A.A.C. R2-20-305
- A.A.C. R2-20-306



VISION STATEMENT

Through the successful implementation of the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Act, the Commission seeks to improve the integrity of Arizona state government and promote public confidence in the Arizona political process.

RULEMAKING & LEGISLATION

The 2022 election saw the passage of Prop 211, also known as the Voters Right to Know Act (VRKA). This law established new disclosure requirements for entities that are involved in elections. Under VRKA, more information on who is donating money to third party groups is available to the public. The Commission worked throughout 2023 to draft rules governing the new law. The proposed rules were available to the public for their input, were made available to all involved in campaigns, and were discussed at length during the Commission meetings that are open to the public both in person as well as via streaming.

The following rules regarding the Voters Right to Know Act were approved by the Commission in 2023:

R2-20-801.	Definitions and Rules of Construction
R2-20- 802.	Time
R-20-803.	Opt-out Notices
R2-20- 804.	Request for Exemptions
R2-20- 805.	Disclaimers
R2-20-806.	Ex Parte
R2-20-807.	Record keeping
R2-20- 808.	Advisory Opinions
R2-20-809.	Complaint Procedures
R2-20- 810.	Response Procedures
R-20-811.	Investigation and Enforcement Procedures
R2-20- 812.	Enforcement Hearing Procedures
R2-20- 813.	Transactions and Structuring

2022/2023 Legislation

The Commission adopted the following legislative principles and priorities in an effort to improve the Act and Commission procedures:

Oppose efforts to defund, eliminate or limit the Citizens Clean Elections Act and/or the Commission. Over several sessions, members of the legislature have proposed measures that seek to defund, limit, or eliminate the authority of the Act or the Commission itself. The Commission has historically opposed these efforts on the grounds that they are typically poorly constructed, misleading, or otherwise ill-considered. The Commission works to maintain the letter and spirit of the law and supports efforts that further the purpose of the Act. The Commission opposes the following:

- **Amending, superseding the Clean Elections Act and/or diverting funds from the Clean Elections fund without furthering the purpose of the act or the required supermajority vote.**
- **Attempts to limit the power the Commission must enforce the Act**

Additionally, the Commission monitors proposed legislation regarding current campaign and elections laws and supports election law reforms. Election issues continue to percolate through both the political and legal process. The Commission continues to support reforms including improving the public financing program; improving the campaign finance code to ensure that voters are receiving information about the identity and contributions of campaign contributors and expenditures, including independent expenditures; ensuring that changes improve the State's anti-corruption, anti-circumvention, and informational interests, the Clean Elections Act and the Commission's independence; and improving voter access to information, voter involvement and voting.

Support improvements to voter education and access. The Commission continues to support efforts to enhance voter education and participation through legislation that advances the anti-corruption and public participation values that undergird the Act.

Looking Forward to 2024

Here is a preview of what the Commision is looking forward to in 2024.

2024 EDUCATION PLAN PREVIEW

With a Presidential election, Senate and Congressional races as well as state and local contests, 2024 looks to be a very exciting and demanding year for the Commission. As in the past, the 2024 Voter Education Plan will provide voters many opportunities to become engaged in the political process. From debates and pamphlets, to voter registration drives and partnering with nonprofits, the Commission is preparing for an eventful 2024. The following are just a few of the areas the Commission is involved with in 2024:

- CRM/Texting Campaign
- Civics Curriculum
- Civic Engagement and Voting education
Comic Book
- Voter education and outreach materials
- Debates
- Voter Education Guides
- PPE Education
- Primary Election Education
- General Election Education
- Social Media Videos
- Accessible voting information, including multiple languages (such as Diné and ASL)

2024 ELECTION CYCLE ~ CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidates may begin collecting \$5 qualifying contributions on August 1, 2023, the start of the qualifying period. Candidates must collect a minimum number of qualifying contributions, as referenced below:

CORPORATION COMMISSION	LEGISLATURE
1,500	200

Commissioners & Staff

COMMISSION STRUCTURE & MISSION

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission was established by the enactment of the Citizens Clean Elections Act, A.R.S., Title 16, Chapter 6, Article 2. In addition to administering the provisions of Article 2, the Commission promulgates rules and enforces A.R.S. §§ 16-940 through 16-961.

The Commission's mission is to fairly, faithfully and fully implement and administer the Citizens Clean Elections Act.

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission consists of five members. All members must be registered to vote in the State of Arizona. No more than two members of the commission may be members of the same political party. No more than two members of the commission may be residents of the same county.

COMMISSIONERS*

Steve M. Titla (D)

Gila County, AZ

Mark Kimble (I)

Pima County, AZ

Damien R. Meyer (D)

Maricopa County, AZ

Galen D. Paton (R)

Pima County, AZ

Amy B. Chan (R)

Maricopa County, AZ

COMMISSION STAFF

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Paula Thomas

Executive Officer

Mike Becker

Policy Director

Gina Roberts

Voter Education Director

Alec Shaffer

Web Content Manager

Avery Xola

Voter Education Manager

*Commissioners listed are for the 2022/2023 calendar year.

Commissioner Biographies

MARK KIMBLE

Independent – Pima County

Governor Katie Hobbs appointed Mark Kimble, an Independent, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in July 2015, while she served as Senate Democratic Leader. Mark was a longtime journalist in Southern Arizona. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Mark worked for the Associated Press and then for the Tucson Citizen newspaper. During a 35-year career at the Citizen, he was a reporter, city editor, assistant managing editor and associate editor-columnist in charge of the editorial page. When the Citizen closed in 2009, Mark went to work as senior press advisor and later as communications director for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. When she resigned in 2012, Mark became communications director for her successor, Congressman Ron Barber. Mark and his wife, Jennifer Boice, live in Tucson.

DAMIEN R. MEYER

Democrat – Maricopa County

Former Governor Jan Brewer appointed Damien R. Meyer to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to serve a term ending January 31, 2019. Damien R. Meyer is an experienced commercial litigation attorney. Damien has extensive experience in representing both individuals and businesses including banks, contractors, landlords, real estate developers, aviation companies, entrepreneurs, and health care companies in all areas of their business including contractual analysis and disputes, collection and payment disputes, commercial tort liability, provisional remedies and negotiation of pre-litigation disputes to avoid formal litigation. He also has extensive experience in representing clients in formal litigation in Arizona State and Federal courts, the Arizona Court of Appeals, in private arbitrations and before several state administrative agencies. Mr. Meyer, his wife and two children currently reside in Phoenix.

STEVE M. TITLA

Democrat - Gila County

Former Senate Democratic Leader Leah Landrum Taylor appointed Steve M. Titla in July 2013 to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. Mr. Titla is a partner in the Titla & Parsi law firm and is admitted to practice law both in Arizona and on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The firm represents the San Carlos Apache Tribe as special counsel and has also served as legal counsel for the election boards of the San Carlos Apache and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribes. Previously, Mr. Titla was an attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and has served as president of the National Native American Bar Association. In addition to a B.S. and J.D. from Arizona State University, Mr. Titla earned an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix. From 1974-76 Mr. Titla served in the U.S. Marine Corps, leaving with an honorable discharge. He also served in the Arizona National Guard until his honorable discharge in 1980. Mr. Titla's term on the Citizens Clean Elections Commission expires in January of 2018.

Commissioner Biographies

GALEN D. PATON

Republican – Pima County

Former Governor Doug Ducey appointed Galen D. Paton, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in 2016. Commissioner Paton obtained his Master of Arts in Physical Education from the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He has had a long and rewarding career coaching high school and college softball, volleyball and basketball teams in the southwest. In 2005, he led Sabino High School to the Arizona 4A State Championship and a No. 4 ranking in the country. The Arizona Coaches Association along with the National Fastpitch Coaches Association crowned Mr. Paton 2005 coach of the year. Mr. Paton retired from coaching in 2010 and is a current member of the Realty Executives Tucson Elite group. He resides in Tucson with his wife.

AMY B. CHAN

Republican – Maricopa County

Governor Katie Hobbs appointed Amy B. Chan, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in 2017, while she served as Senate Democratic Leader.

Commissioner Chan was admitted to the State Bar in 1999. Initially she worked as an immigration attorney, helping people obtain immigration benefits through the administrative and immigration court process. In 2001 she began work as a legislative research analyst for the House Judiciary Committee. She was an Administrative Law Judge for the Corporation Commission from 2005-2006 and then returned to the legislature as Policy Advisor and Counsel to the Majority for the State Senate. In 2009 Secretary of State Ken Bennett appointed her State Election Director. She served in that capacity until 2013, when she left to spend more time with her growing family. She returned to the Arizona Secretary of State's office as General Counsel in 2022 and currently serves in that capacity. She and her husband Keith have two sons and live in Phoenix.



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