



**ARIZONA
COALITION
FOR CHANGE**



May 25, 2021

Dear Yavapai County Board of Supervisors,

Election officials in your county are entrusted with the responsibility of preparing, administering, and conducting elections. We write to urge you to commit adequate funding so that election officials can run free, fair, and accessible elections.

Arizona has a history of using private grant funds to assist local election officials in maintaining a system of free and fair elections. Last election cycle for example, Arizona received \$11.5 million in grant funding to ensure that local election offices had the critical resources they needed to safely serve and encourage voter participation. In light of the pandemic, these rapid response funds were essential to ensuring safe, efficient election day administration, expanding voter education and outreach efforts, launching poll worker recruitment, training and safety efforts, and supporting early in-person voting and vote-by-mail. These measures benefited all Arizona voters and expanded the electorate -- resulting in historic turnout under very adverse circumstances. Many of the innovations in 2020 -- such as curb-side ballot drop off, increased use of secure drop boxes, mobile voting units, and increased election staffing -- were all funded using private grant funds.

On April 9, 2021, despite opposition from county election officials, Governor Ducey signed HB2569 into law. This law prohibits the state from utilizing private money to prepare, administer, or conduct elections. This means that any new or unanticipated costs above-and-beyond the normal cost of conducting an election -- like we saw with the public health crisis in the 2020 election -- cannot be supplemented with additional private grant funding. Therefore, it is critical that election officials have the resources necessary to run future elections and respond to any urgent needs that arise.

The Arizona legislature made it clear that it is the responsibility of the counties to make up any funding shortfalls to conduct elections. We are therefore asking you to commit to allocating \$360,346 (your per capita share of the \$11.5 million loss) for election efforts in your county—above and beyond the normal cost of conducting an election— so that election officials can maintain existing access and continue to run free, fair and accessible elections.

At the same time, we would like to bring to your attention an effort at the federal level to secure Congressional funding for election administration and infrastructure. We are working with Center for Secure and Modern Elections (CSME) and The Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL), which recently launched the Election Infrastructure Initiative, a nonpartisan advocacy effort to secure \$20 billion over 10 years in critical election infrastructure funding in the infrastructure package pending before Congress. At least two-thirds of the funds will go directly to local election jurisdictions. You can read more about it [here](#). We are also attaching a short document outlining the Initiative to this letter. We are specifically requesting that you consider signing the letter to Congress [here](#).

Please budget supplemental election funding of \$360,346 consistent with the pro rata loss in funding caused by HB2569. Also, please consider signing on to the national effort to have Congress include elections in the pending infrastructure proposal.

Respectfully,

Alex Gulotta, Arizona State Director, All Voting is Local
Rosemary Avila, Arizona Campaign Manager, All Voting is Local
Amanda Lugo, Democracy Director, Living United For Change in Arizona (LUCHA)
Joel Edman, Executive Director, AZ Advocacy Network
Francisca Gil, Political Director, Arizona Coalition for Change & Our Voice Our Vote Arizona