



# 2025 All Voting Pro-Voter Agenda: Arizona

Our Vision for the Future of Voting in the Grand Canyon State

**All Voting is Local Arizona**  
Contact: Alexa Gulotta, State  
Director  
[alex@allvotingislocal.org](mailto:alex@allvotingislocal.org)

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	p. 2
<b>Who We Are</b>	p. 5
<b>Voter Registration Practices &amp; Policies</b>	p. 6
<b>Voting Methods, Opportunities, &amp; Policies</b>	p. 8
<b>Vote Count &amp; Post-Vote Procedures</b>	p. 17
<b>Conclusion</b>	p. 19
<b>Appendix</b>	p. 20

# Introduction

This is a critical time in our democracy, and now more than ever, we must be fierce advocates for our right and freedom to vote. In Arizona, efforts to enforce Documentary Proof of Citizenship, as well as many attempts from anti-voter politicians and advocates to increase barriers to the ballot in the state legislature, are creating confusion and unnecessary friction for voters and signal an urgent need to uphold and defend our democratic systems.

Every eligible Arizonan voter must be able to exercise their right to vote safely, securely, free from intimidation, and with assurance that their vote will be counted. No matter our color, ZIP code, gender, or sexuality, all Arizonans deserve greater access to the ballot and stronger voter protections.

Since our country's founding, the structure of our democracy has been intentionally designed—and actively maintained—to exclude people from participating fully, especially people of color and other marginalized communities. At All Voting is Local, our guiding principle is a democracy that welcomes people in, rather than one built on the notion that people should be kept out—bold by design, as we aim to transform the systems that govern our democracy to include everyone. This commitment to building an inclusive, accessible, and equitable democracy drives both our long-term vision and our day-to-day work.

That's why we've launched All Voting is Local's National and State Pro-Voter Agendas—a long-term affirmative vision for voting that calls on state and local election officials to use the broad authority they already have to expand access to the ballot. The Pro-Voter Agenda was created as a tool to be implemented by those

decision-makers while centering Black, Brown, Native American, and other historically marginalized communities.

Our agenda outlines actionable solutions to ensure the following:

- Every American can get on the rolls and stay on the rolls.
- Every American can vote when, where, and how it works for them—in under 30 minutes.
- Partisan interference in vote counting and certification is stopped.

The path forward requires vigilance and action. We must resist anti-voter laws, support election officials (and push back on them when necessary), and advocate for policies that make it easier—not harder—for every voter to participate in our democracy. The stakes couldn't be higher. The fight for voting rights is not a relic of the past—it's a fight for our future.

The power of American democracy lies in the hands of the people—and the officials who are responsible for ensuring the voice of the people is heard through free and fair elections. As All Voting continues advocating for policies that expand access to the ballot, this agenda will serve to clearly and accurately define our positions and our priorities—across our eight states and across the country.

*—Hannah Fried, Executive Director, All Voting is Local (Spring 2025)*



# Who We Are

All Voting is Local (“All Voting”) is a nonpartisan organization that fights on the ground in eight states for free and fair elections. In a moment of unprecedented threat to our democracy, All Voting advocates state and local officials for policies and practices that ensure the American people choose their leaders, not the other way around.

All Voting works year-round with our partners to prevent partisan interference in our elections, advance fair and inclusive rules on voter registration, and remove barriers that make it more difficult for people to vote—particularly for Black, Brown, Native American, and other historically marginalized communities. As a multistate organization with a national presence and resources, we build connections between state and national advocacy groups so that local voices and perspectives inform the national conversation around voter access.

All Voting is Local is on the ground in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. During the 2024 cycle, All Voting programs expanded access for over 13 million voters.

# Voter Registration Practices & Policies

Every American can get on the rolls & stay on the rolls

## Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)

All eligible Arizonans should be able to register to vote, online or with a paper form, without facing intimidation or barriers. All Voting AZ believes in easy and accessible voter registration by mail, online, or in person, through all federal, state, and local government agencies, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Eligible voters should be automatically included in the state's registration rolls whenever they conduct a qualified transaction, known as "front-end" AVR, at a federal, state, or local government office, unless they affirmatively request to opt out. This provides a quick and easy way to register voters proactively. All Voting also supports "back-end" AVR, where government agencies share information that voters transact in their respective systems with state election officials through secure and encrypted means. This allows a voter's registration to be updated in near real-time. The voter does not need to confirm the change at the time of the transaction; instead, a notification is sent that allows them to confirm the changes.

## Same-Day Voter Registration

A voter's ability to register to vote should not be based on socioeconomic status, language, disability, or where the eligible voter lives, and all eligible Arizonans must have easy and readily available access to register to vote—both online and with a paper form. All Voting AZ believes that voters should be able to update their registration information and/or register at any time, while allowing the option to vote

in person at the polls during early voting or on election day. Voters should be able to do so without additional ID requirements, provided they affirm their identity and place of residence by signature. Voters should not be required to register at their local election offices and then return to the polling place to vote, as that unnecessary burden would lead to voter attrition. Wherever applicable, online registration and election websites should meet accessibility standards to help voters with disabilities find the information they need to register.

### **Responsible List Maintenance**

All Voting AZ supports responsible voter list maintenance done well in advance of an election and in alignment with the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA). Responsible list maintenance requires that jurisdictions take into account all relevant information that might indicate that a voter's eligibility has changed and notify voters of those changes before any actions are taken to remove eligibility. Appropriate list maintenance ensures that voters receive accurate information about voting, such as where to vote and who is on their ballot, and it can protect voters from challenges to their eligibility by a third party.

# Voting Methods, Opportunities, & Policies

Every American can vote when, where, & how it works for them—in under 30 minutes

## Expanded Language Access

All Voting AZ believes every voter should have equitable access to the polls, regardless of the language they speak. Consistent with the Voting Rights Act, if a jurisdiction reaches a threshold of 5 percent or 10,000 people speaking a covered primary language other than English, election officials are required to provide voter education and translation of the voting process without delay. We believe that individuals with both limited English proficiency and/or the inability to read or write should also receive additional levels of support, separate from expanded language access, through accessibility provisions that allow for telephonic and other forms of assistance, which are not currently provided uniformly throughout the voting process.

Jurisdictions covered under the language minority provisions under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act shall appoint bilingual poll workers and/or ensure access to on-site or remote interpretation services in the covered language(s) to provide language assistance to voters who need it. Some examples of means to publicize the availability of assistance while voting include making announcements over minority language radio or television stations and direct contact with language minority group organizations.

Additionally, Native Arizonans speaking historically unwritten languages like Navajo and Apache must also be provided equal access to the ballot. When sending

election materials in historically unwritten languages, such as Navajo and Apache, officials must communicate with voters via radio and other spoken or auditory means. Speaking a language other than English or not having proficiency in English should not be a barrier to voting. Support should be provided or accessible for voters where there is a need for language assistance.

## **Use of Paper Ballots**

All Voting AZ believes that a paper record of each ballot ensures the most reliable and replicable election results. Hand-marked paper ballots are the best method for recording votes, securing our elections, and accurately reflecting the will of the voters in every race. Paper ballots are widely recognized by experts as one of the most important election security measures that states can adopt.

Additionally, All Voting AZ supports the availability of ballot marking devices or other tools so that all voters, regardless of physical ability, can cast their ballots privately and independently. When selections are recorded on paper, voters can easily verify that their ballot accurately reflects their choices. Paper ballots also facilitate post-election risk-limiting audits, where election workers can check the paper records against electronic vote totals to confirm that voting machines are working as intended. All polling locations that use electronic voting machines should be required to have a supply of backup paper ballots, amounting to 20% of voters in each precinct, in case of a technological issue with their machines.

## **Expanded Access for Voters With Disabilities**

All Voting AZ supports ample and accessible opportunities for everyone to register and/or vote, regardless of physical ability. People with disabilities must have equal, fair, and accessible voter registration opportunities as well as appropriate voting tools such as functional voting devices, large print and braille ballots, and accessible in-person voting sites to accommodate all voters and facilitate independent casting

of ballots as guaranteed by the Help America Vote Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

An estimated 21.3 million eligible voters have a disability that affects mobility. Voting locations should be accessible to all voters and free of impediments that may make it difficult for them to access the ballot. Voting locations should offer curbside voting and include adequate equipment and support for voters with disabilities.

Administrators should, at a minimum, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires at least one accessible machine at each polling place.

Additionally, people in hospitals, nursing care facilities, and those who are homebound must have access to a special election board to cast their ballots.

Federal laws like the ADA and National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) have provided important protections for accessible voting and can be strengthened and built upon with policies, including but not limited to these:

- Wherever applicable, online registration and election websites should meet accessibility standards to help voters with disabilities find the information they need to register.
- Vote centers allow any voter in the county to cast a ballot rather than rejecting out-of-precinct voters. Vote centers drastically reduce the number of provisional ballots that are completely discarded because the voter used the wrong ballot form. Vote centers provide easier and less costly compliance with accessibility requirements under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Larger, newer facilities that are already ADA compliant are used in most instances.
- The Help America Vote Act's (HAVA) requirement for one accessible voting machine at each voting location is the bare minimum. Election offices should be aware of the needs in their community and make plans accordingly to ensure that voters who need to use accessible voting machines do not experience longer wait times or greater burdens than other voters.
- Voting sites should be pretested for potential barriers that may affect voters with disabilities.

- Increased training for poll workers on voting with a disability should be provided to ensure that disabled voters are permitted to have privacy while voting and bring an authorized person to assist them in the voting process.
- Barriers to voting by mail should be reduced by allowing caretakers, family members, or other individuals to assist with and return ballots on behalf of voters.

## Early Voting

Early Voting in Arizona starts 27 days prior to election day. Early Voting is the state’s most popular voting method, and it must be preserved in its various forms. All Voting AZ believes that early, in-person voting should run for at least two weeks before election day, including weekends and before—and after—work hour availability, to ensure voters have ample opportunity to participate in our democracy without sacrificing their other responsibilities, such as jobs and child care. Voters should have multiple options for voting early in person across their communities—such as at locations near centers for work, recreation, education, and worship—to ensure their vote can be cast conveniently.

## Voting by Mail

Mail-in voting has a proud history in Arizona for its security and reliability, and it has been in use for over 20 years. During the 2024 primary election, 95% of voters in Maricopa County cast their ballots using an early ballot. To participate in vote-by-mail, Arizona voters can join the Active Early Voting List (AEVL) by registering online or submitting a written request. There is no deadline to join the AEVL. However, to receive a ballot by mail for an upcoming election, a voter must sign up at least 11 days before election day. Once a voter is on the AEVL, they must use their AEVL ballot once every two years to stay on the list.

As such, All Voting AZ believes all voters should be able to continue using vote-by-mail to ensure voters have ample opportunity to vote in a manner that is

safe and accessible for them. A robust vote-by-mail program includes the following:

- Voters are allowed to return completed ballots through accessible and secure methods. This may include returning their ballot in person to election officials, at a drop box or voting location, by mail, or through delivery by a family member, household member, or other third party.
- Voters can easily request an absentee ballot by mail. They should not require an excuse, and there should be no requirements for a witness, notary, or other secondary proof of signature to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot.
- Ballot drop boxes as a reasonable, reliable, and cost-effective method of voting that allows all voters to securely exercise their freedom to vote without intimidation.
- Election offices should be required to mail a vote-by-mail ballot within two days of receipt of the ballot request.
- A vote-by-mail policy should include strong opportunities to amend any errors on a ballot (i.e., to “cure” the ballot).
- Voters should be able to track their ballot through an election office-provided service.
- Voters should have the ability to “spoil” their ballot if they choose to vote in person (early or on election day) instead.
- Election offices should provide pre-paid postage for ballots.
- Election offices should accept and count ballots that are postmarked by election day, rather than requiring ballots to be received by election day.

### **Equitable Voting Access for Justice-Impacted Voters**

All Voting AZ believes all current or formerly incarcerated individuals should retain their right to register and vote. While jailed or incarcerated, voters should have access to accurate and up-to-date information on upcoming elections, voter registration processes, methods for obtaining a ballot, and access to voting. People who were previously incarcerated and had their right to vote taken from them must have their rights restored in a timely and efficient manner once they are eligible.

All Voting AZ supports voting by mail from jail, as well as the placement of polling locations in detention centers and the dissemination of voting guides and poll books inside of jails for direct use by people currently incarcerated and those administering the voting methods. We also recommend designating jails as voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act. Upon entering custody, we suggest providing voter registration and allowing incarcerated persons to copy their relevant ID numbers, which they can include in any future voter registration paperwork. All Voting believes all eligible citizens should remain enfranchised voters regardless of whether they are or have been incarcerated. Formerly incarcerated individuals should not lose their voter registration status or ability to vote due to a criminal conviction.

### **Accessible and Well-Resourced Voting Locations**

All Voting AZ believes all voters should be able to easily access and cast a ballot in person at an early voting site, an election day polling location, or a vote center. Election offices should establish standards to ensure they have adequate and accessible voting locations, parking, signage, provisional ballots, machines, and poll workers to administer their elections smoothly and support voters, including those with disabilities. This will require continued assessment. Additionally:

- Voters should be able to cast their ballot within 30 minutes of arriving at their voting location.
- Voting locations should be accessible by public transit (where available).
- An estimated 21.3 million eligible voters have a disability that affects mobility. Voting locations should be accessible to all voters and free of impediments that may make it difficult for them to access the ballot.
- Voting locations should offer curbside voting and include adequate equipment and support for voters with disabilities. Administrators should, at a minimum, comply with federal law, which requires at least one accessible machine at each polling place.

Additionally, All Voting AZ believes that vote centers can save taxpayer resources, increase the quality of poll workers, address poll worker shortages, and are accessible when thoughtfully placed. Vote centers drastically reduce the number of provisional ballots that are completely discarded because voters use the wrong ballot form. Vote centers provide easier and less costly compliance with accessibility requirements under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Larger, newer facilities that are already ADA compliant are used in most instances.

### Expanded Voter Identification Options

All Voting AZ supports states' using a variety of different methods to verify a voter's identity at the time of registration and/or voting, and the elimination of a photo ID requirement altogether, requiring only Help America Vote Act-style documentation at the time of registration, if ever. Our study reveals that obtaining a voter ID is prohibitively expensive for many voters. A total of 36 states have laws that require or request voters to show some form of identification at the polls. The remaining 14 states and Washington, D.C., employ alternative methods to verify voter identities. Most frequently, other identifying information provided at the polling place, such as address verification, is checked against information on file. When voting by mail, a voter should not be required to photocopy and submit their ID with a completed ballot; rather, election administrators should verify signatures on ballot envelopes against those on registration records. If ID is required, All Voting supports only those expanded ID options that include forms of non-photo ID, such as a bank statement, utility bill, or lease.

Officials must also ensure that a voter's gender identity or presentation on their ID does not affect their right to cast a ballot. Gender discrepancies on an ID, unfair suspicion or discrimination from poll workers due to appearance, and a lack of required ID may prevent transgender voters from casting a ballot. Many transgender and gender nonconforming people do not have state-issued identification that matches their gender identity and expression or have a photo that matches their appearance, but this does not make their identification invalid.

According to queer rights activists, transgender people are disproportionately more likely not to have a state-issued photo ID due to fear of discrimination and disrespect when obtaining one. Additionally, lacking transportation that requires a driver's license, being low income, living in rural areas without access to Department of Motor Vehicles locations, and living in urban areas that do not require owning a vehicle are all reasons why voters might not have a government-issued form of photo identification, regardless of their gender identity.

### **Respecting Tribal Sovereignty & Expanded Voter Identification**

Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes; therefore, Arizona election officials must create permanent processes for meaningful consultation with Tribal governments. Consultation must include joint development of election plans to ensure equal access to voter registration and voting opportunities in a manner that recognizes and affirms Tribal sovereignty and protects the voting rights of Tribal communities. People living on Tribal land must have equal access to in-person voter registration events, in-person early voting locations, election day polling locations, drop boxes, and other methods of voting, particularly to overcome disparities in access to mail, internet, and transportation that exist in Tribal communities.

Additionally, Native Americans are less likely to have a form of ID compliant with voter ID laws requiring residential addresses. There are also socioeconomic and institutional factors that keep reservation residents from obtaining IDs. Although many tribes issue IDs, not all Tribal IDs include the individual's address. Even if a Tribal member has an ID with an address, because reservation voters often lack residential addresses, the ID may list a P.O. box or a descriptive address. Nontraditional addresses do not fit into county database systems, resulting in counties reassigning addresses to voters. This may result in the ID being rejected due to insufficient poll worker training or because it does not match the residential address in the voter file. This has resulted in voters being denied a regular ballot because the address on their IDs did not match the addresses assigned by the counties for the voter

registration database. To ensure that Native voters on Tribal lands have equal access to the ballot, All Voting AZ believes that:

- Poll workers in tribal areas should receive training on non-standard addresses and the use of P.O. boxes on Tribal identification documents.
- Poll workers should be trained on all the housing options that eligible voters occupy and how to match mailing addresses with identification.
- Eligible registration addresses should include the following:
  - A homeless shelter to which the registrant regularly returns
  - A temporary place for living that the individual is a resident of (halfway house, transitional housing, etc.)
  - The county courthouse in the county in which the resident resides
  - A general delivery address for a post office covering the location where the registrant is a resident

## Protections for Voters

All Voting AZ believes that all voters should feel comfortable when casting a ballot via whatever method they choose and be able to do so free from intimidation. Federal regulations, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1965, protect against intimidation. States can enforce and strengthen these regulations to ensure that all voters feel safe, whether they are putting their ballot in a drop box or going to a voting site. Elections offices should enforce and strengthen regulations that protect voters from intimidation by poll watchers, state and local law enforcement, or anti-democracy groups.

## Election Official and Election Worker Protections

All Voting AZ believes that since we entrust election officials to uphold our democratic systems, they should, in turn, be able to trust that they can do so safely and without fear, intimidation, or threats of violence. In recent years, election officials,

staff, and poll workers have been subjected to threats, accusations of crime, and leaked private information (doxing) at historically high rates. As a result, some states have enacted legislation specifically to protect election officials, staff, and poll workers.

## Vote Count & Post-Vote Procedures

Partisan interference in vote counting & certification is stopped

### Notice & Opportunity to Cure

All Voting AZ believes in a robust notice-and-cure program that gives voters at least eight days from the time an error on a ballot is discovered and they are notified to cure the issue. This process should also provide the same amount of time for a voter to provide identification that would allow a provisional ballot to be counted as a normal vote. The term “cure” refers to the process of fixing or remedying the perceived error(s) on a ballot.

We support the following:

- Requiring election officials to notify voters within two days of reviewing the ballot if any discrepancies exist.
- Requiring election officials to contact voters by automated phone, text, email, or mail within 24 hours of identifying any errors on their ballot. Within 48 hours, if the issue remains unresolved, a staff member should contact the voter.
- After a voter is successfully notified, they should be allowed up to three weeks (and no less than eight days) to fix any perceived error.
- Specification by the election offices of the documentation required to correct the error and the deadline for submitting it, to avoid delays in certification.

## **Nonpartisan Ballot Counting & Certification as a Ministerial Duty**

Certification—the written statement attesting that the tabulation and canvassing of the election is complete and accurate—is an essential part of the election process and must be completed in accordance with the timelines set out in federal and state law. The powers of state officials in the certification process must be clearly defined and limited, and those responsible for certifying federal elections should not be allowed to rely on any information other than the election returns themselves. We believe the job of a state official reviewing election returns for certification is to make sure the math is correct and nothing more. A state official who fails to abide by their duty should be subject to immediate removal and other penalties as applicable under state law. Timely certification of elections is a priority for all Arizonans. Bipartisan hand counts of a sample of ballots already have a role in post-election audits. Counties cannot exceed the sample sizes mandated by law.

# Conclusion

All Voting is Local believes that the policies laid out in this Pro-Voter Agenda are a powerful step toward a thriving democracy that enfranchises voters in local, state, and federal elections. These measures—from automatic voter registration to expanded language access to additional ways to vote in person—foster inclusivity, accessibility, and representation, empowering citizens to actively participate in our electoral processes for a more equitable American democracy. We believe that these policies go beyond just the 2026 and 2028 elections and that there is still more work to be done for our country to truly achieve a democracy that works for us all. Our Pro-Voter Agenda is a milestone in advancing a better future for voters that is absolutely within reach, enfranchising millions and moving our country forward.

# Appendix

## Expanded Voter Identification Options

Jody L. Herman, Nathan Cisneros, Lindsay Mahowald, and Will Tentindo. September 2024. *The Potential Impact of Voter Identification Laws on Transgender Voters in the 2024 Election*. UCLA School of Law Williams

Institute. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-voter-id-impact/>