



June 25, 2025

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

Our organizations request that you veto **Senate Bill 1001** (SB 1001), which seeks to move the early ballot drop-off deadline from 7 p.m. on election day to the Friday before election day and significantly lowers the number of polling locations available for ballot drop-off, among other things.

This proposal would essentially eliminate three days for voters to return their early ballots at a polling location, limiting their right to vote. **A majority of registered Arizona voters do not want this and want to keep the current deadline.** A recent [Secure Democracy poll](#) found that 65 percent of registered Arizona voters across all parties want to keep the current deadline.

Additionally, SB 1001 would **disproportionately impact rural and Native voters living on rural Tribal lands and creates more unnecessary restrictions for early ballot voters.** Due to the remote nature of these communities, mail in these areas takes significantly longer to be received by the voter, and takes just as long to be received by the county recorder by the deadline. Many Native voters on Tribal lands receive mail only from a post office rather than their homes due to having rural addresses that cannot receive home delivery. Often, these post offices are located in communities away from their homes; therefore, checking one's mail is reserved for certain days, which may not align with these new deadlines. SB 1001 does not take any of this into account.

Further, the bill does not account for the time it may take for these voters to make informed decisions regarding the growing number of ballot initiatives Arizona voters are seeing on their ballots. For example, the Arizona 2024 General Election ballot had a total of thirteen initiatives.

Additionally, SB 1001 removes all polling locations as drop-offs and instead designates ONLY certain "voting locations" for drop-offs. Limiting the number of locations a voter can return a ballot or vote always disenfranchises voters. SB 1001 seeks to remove all polling locations as designated ballot drop-off locations and designate only certain locations with no

minimum guidelines to ensure all voters are adequately served. Election officials would be allowed to designate only one “designated location,” such as the recorder's office, to be the only drop-off location. For counties such as Apache County, it takes more than three hours and over 200 miles to travel from the community of Teec Nos Pos, AZ, to St. Johns where the Apache County Recorder's Office is located. SB 1001 would not only disenfranchise voters by limiting where they can drop off their early ballot, but would also confuse them as they would no longer be able to vote in the normal routine they've been accustomed to from previous elections.

SB 1001 uses election day early ballot drop-offs as a scapegoat for delayed election results. Long lines were an issue seen during the 2024 General Election, with some wait times reaching more than three hours. Instead of addressing ways to mitigate such wait times in future elections, SB 1001 would add to this by forcing those who have an early ballot to wait in line to exercise their right to vote instead of being able to simply drop off their early ballot on election day. Adding longer wait times and confusion on election day is not the answer.

In closing, SB 1001 does more harm to Arizona voters than it supposedly seeks to remedy. Voters, especially those in rural communities and Native voters living on Tribal lands, already face obstacles in exercising their right to vote, and SB 1001 would place further restrictions on them. For the above reasons, we respectfully request that you veto SB 1001.

Thank you, Governor Hobbs.

All Voting Is Local Action