

Arizona Advocacy Network

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Reminders of why we worked to pass Clean Elections:

- Long before the Clean Elections law was passed, years of political corruption scandals, including AzScam, prompted Arizona voters to place strict limits on campaign contributions (Prop 200, 1986). These limits were adjusted further downward by a key element of the voter-protected Clean Elections Act in 1998.
- Before Clean Elections, candidates had to appeal to the same big-money special interests to finance their campaigns and these special interests expected a return on their investments. The vast majority of campaign contributions in all races came from Paradise Valley, the Tucson Foothills, or out-of-state.
- To diminish the influence of big-money special interests; elected officials using the system would be more connected to and accountable to their voters, not to lobbyists and big-money special interests
- To increase competition and bring varying viewpoints into each race
- To increase citizen participation in the political process
- To make it possible for citizens who are not connected to big-money to run viable campaigns

Benefits of Clean Elections:

- The people--not fat cats in smoke-filled rooms--can decide who runs and who is elected.
- Ordinary people run: teachers, social workers, progressive activists and artists have been elected to public office.
- More competition and more points of view as fewer candidates run unopposed. (*In 1998 24 senate candidates ran unopposed as compared with eight in 2008.*)
- \$5 qualifying contributions dramatically increased the economic, ethnic and geographic diversity of contributors (stakeholders) to candidate campaigns. Prior to Clean Elections, most campaign contributions came from Paradise Valley, the Tucson foothills or out-of-state sources. Now they come from every corner of the state.
- Even \$5 contributions make voters feel more invested in elections and candidates. Legislators report a significant increase in constituent calls after running Clean.
- Better voter education: The CE publicity pamphlet goes to every voting household introducing voters to all candidates and their views. This leads to greater voter participation. CE debates force candidates to go head-to-head on the issues before voters.
- Prior to Clean Elections, voter turnout was in a ten year decline. Turnout has been rising steadily since enactment of Clean Elections.
- Year after year, 80 percent of voters report that Clean Elections is important to Arizona (CCEC annual survey.)
- High participation: most Corporation Commission candidates run Clean, along with nearly two-thirds of state House candidates and more than half of state Senate candidates.
- CE majority at Corp. Comm. has sided with the public against utilities on renewable energy standards, energy efficiency standards and rejecting Picacho Peak power plant. *Now Tucson Electric Power is determined to kill Clean Elections!*

PLEASE OPPOSE SCR 1009 and SCR 1043, to kill Clean Elections. These measures are supported by the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Qwest, Intel, Tucson Electric Power and the Arizona Cardinals.