



## **Make Elections Fair Launches Signature Gathering Effort To Treat All Voters and Candidates Equally, Prohibit Partisan Elections**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PHOENIX (November 28, 2023): Make Elections Fair AZ, a bipartisan, Arizona-based political action committee today officially launched a campaign to amend Arizona’s Constitution to mandate, “open primary elections and prohibit the use of taxpayer money to fund any future partisan elections throughout Arizona.”

“The Make Elections Fair Arizona Act is intended to ensure that all voters are treated the same and all candidates for an office compete according to the same rules. The voters of Arizona, 49% of whom are not registered with the two major political parties, should be able to freely vote for any candidate they want without having to choose a party ballot, and elected officials should be accountable to a broader swath of voters in their district. It’s past time to adapt - we need to make elections fair for all and achieve the representation Arizonans deserve,” said Sarah Smallhouse Chair of the Make Elections Fair AZ PAC.

Smallhouse continued, “With independent and unaffiliated voters now accounting for the largest part of the Arizona electorate it’s illogical to confine voter choices in the primaries to the very parties they’ve chosen to separate from. Let all candidates compete, let the voters decide and let the best candidates win.”

Former Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard, who chaired the successful campaign in 2022 to require disclosure of all dark money contributions said, “It is time for Arizona to finish the critical reforms that permit Arizona elections to be fair, honest and open once and for all. Every registered voter in every community across our state should be able to vote in every election for any candidate they choose.”

“Today, 80% of all Congressional and Legislative candidates are basically elected outright in low turnout partisan primaries. This reform will require more competition which creates better choices, and better results for Arizona. It will make our state stronger,” concluded Goddard.

Former Phoenix Mayor and current independent voter, Paul Johnson who has previously sought to reform our Constitution said, "In America, we have prospered, and created more wealth than any nation in history, because America empowered the individual over the collective. In the declaration of independence -- all men are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights. It is indefensible to be unfair to Independent voices who bring fresh perspectives, new ideas, and a commitment to the common good. These citizens deserve to be seen by their government as equal. Our country is big enough that we can hear the voices of all Americans. Every individual must be seen as an equal."

Johnson continued stating, "But today, extreme factions on the right and left do not believe in the power of the individual. Today both parties categorize everyone as some part of a group, usually gender or race and they use that power to oppress, to oppose, to demean. These factions represent a very small portion of America, unfortunately they are disproportionately represented by the two parties today. More Arizonans are registered as Independent or unaffiliated voters, and they are rejecting the use of party to control our politics."

"Today, if you stand up in politics to your party you get primaried. This initiative to amend our State Constitution is intended to reward the individual over the party, to cherish the heroes who embrace the individual power granted to us in our sacred founding documents. To fulfill the wishes of George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson who all warned us about the power of political faction. Today, we are here to give voice to the individual who wants freedom, today we are here to restore American values which celebrate individual liberty. This proposition promotes competition within our political system, to ensure that the best ideas rise to the top and that voices of all Americans are heard. Please support this reform, it is unquestionably an Arizona thing to do," Johnson concluded.

Beau Lane, a successful Phoenix ad executive and former Republican candidate Secretary of State said, "Today, dissent is not welcome in either party, new ideas are not born, compromise is not welcome and the same lesser of two evils wins every partisan election leaving a vast majority of the electorate wondering "how is this my best choice?" Today our political parties are like shopping in a Soviet era grocery store, aisle A or aisle B, there are no other choices. This is not American; this does not represent the very best of us. Politics requires competition, voters commend individual bravery and courage. The Make Elections Fair initiative rewards competition and celebrates bravery – we must not fail to win, our Democracy is depending upon Arizona voters to kick start change, right here right now! Join us today."

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*Make Elections Fair AZ advocates for a system where every Arizona voter is treated equally, where all candidates, including Independents, are afforded the same rights and opportunities, and where any qualified voter can participate in all elections.*

*Make Elections Fair Inc. is an Arizona based 501(c)(4) organization. To learn more and to join our effort visit: [makeelectionsfairaz.com](http://makeelectionsfairaz.com)*