

The Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission Presents

CAPTAIN ACTIVATE!

AND THE FUTURE VOTERS

VISION STATEMENT

Through the successful implementation of the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Act, the Commission seeks to improve the integrity of Arizona state government and promote public confidence in the Arizona political process.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented By The Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Annual Report will be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Arizona State Senate and the Speaker of the Arizona State House of Representatives. This report will be made available online at www.azcleelections.gov.

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Katie Hobbs
Governor

Thomas M. Collins
Executive Director



Mark S. Kimble
Chair

Steve M. Titla
Galen D. Paton
Christina Werther
Sam Crump
Commissioners

State of Arizona
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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February 19, 2026

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission is pleased to submit for your information the 2025 Annual Report, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 16-956(A)(5). The Annual Report describes the activities performed by the Commission in the last calendar year.

In 1998, the voters of Arizona passed the Citizens Clean Elections Act. Over two decades later, the Commission continues its commitment of upholding the letter and spirit of the Act. The Commission accomplished its goals set forth and looks forward to the same success in 2026.

Respectfully,

Mark Kimble, Chairman
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Voter Education Budget

The Commission spends 10% of the expenditure cap on voter education in accordance with its statutory requirements.

See page 11 of this report for more financial information.

Voter & Public Education

The Commission provides information to the public regarding participation in the political process and the functions and purposes of the Clean Elections Act. This is accomplished through education campaigns throughout 2025, along with grassroots and social media outreach. The Commission consistently provides election information on how, where, and when to vote.

The Commission's education and outreach efforts for 2025 included:

- **Voter Education Campaigns**
- **U.S. House of Representatives Debates**
- **Voter Issue Surveys and Subject Matter Expert**
- **Grassroots Outreach**
- **Website & Social Media**



Voter Education Campaigns

Voters continue to have questions on how to participate, how to get information on voting, and who to trust for election information. In 2025, the Commission's voter education campaigns explained to voters Clean Elections purpose to provide straight-forward information on how to participate and have their voices heard. In addition, the Commission continued its successful youth voter outreach campaign, with its second comic book *Captain Activate and the Future Voters*. The Commission also began a podcast, *Beyond the Ballot*, as well as a newsletter, *The People's Ledger*.



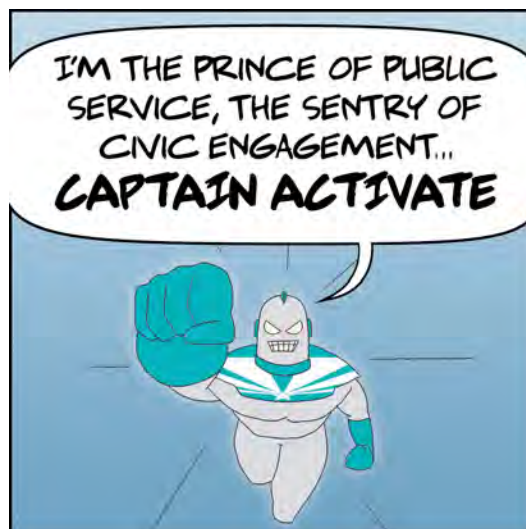
Beyond the Ballot AZ

Beyond the Ballot AZ is a twice-a-month show diving into the stories of legendary Arizonans, notable, and sometimes notorious, political events, and illustrious social movements that shape today's conversations in our state. A resource of Arizona's Citizens Clean Elections Commission, join Executive Director Tom Collins and Director of Voter Education Gina Roberts as they break down what's happening and how you can get involved in the political process. Engaging lessons you didn't learn in civics class!



The People's Ledger

The Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission is proud to present The People's Ledger! A ledger is usually a book or collection of financial records but for our purposes, it will house election related information. This ledger will contain articles that explore, summarize or explain relevant election topics and ways to become involved & engaged.



Election Information

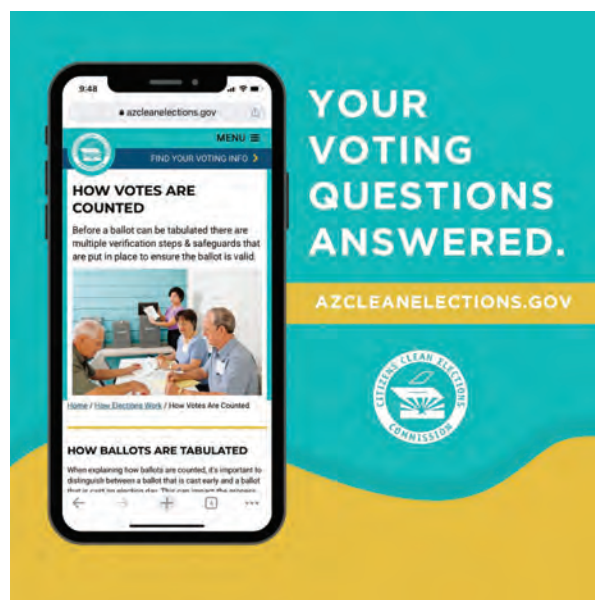
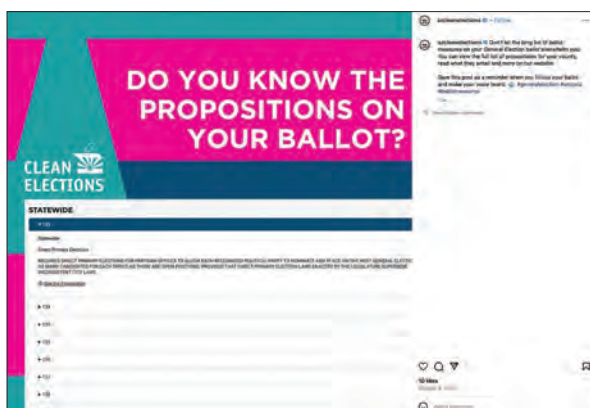
Every year, before each election, the Commission reaches out to all 15 counties within Arizona to identify what jurisdictions are having an election. The Commission updates its website with:

- Information on each election
- Highlight key deadlines
- How to get your ballot
- Voter education tools, such as videos and infographics

This information provides a quick point of reference for voters to access all necessary voting information. Voters learn how to access information through a comprehensive outreach campaign.

It's worth noting that 2025 was a busy time with several cities and towns holding elections, along with a special election in Congressional District 7.

The Commission supplements election information web pages with voter education tools, such as videos and infographics, discussing everything from bond elections to the propositions.



U.S. House of Representatives Debates

2025

The Commission hosted a debate for candidates running in Congressional District 7. The debates provided voters with more information on the candidates and allowed the candidates the ability to speak directly with the voters.



“At a time when there’s confusion and misinformation in politics, **debates** remain one way that voters can really **size up the candidates.**”
JIM NINTZEL

ARIZONA CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP
FLINN-BROWN FELLOWSHIP

2025 Flinn Brown Fellow

Improving the quality of life in Arizona to benefit future generations.

Thomas Collins
Executive Director of Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission

CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Grassroots Outreach

In an ongoing effort to increase outreach to Arizona Voters, the Commission participated in many events over the course of 2024. Some outings included National Voter Registration Day and Registration Drives across the county where the Commission helped register voters and provided voting fundamentals and how to stay up to date on local, state and federal elections. Below is a list of the top 2024 voter education and outreach events.

- **AzAMLE/AMLE SW Middle Grades Summit**

The 2025 Middle Grades Summit was Arizona's only statewide conference dedicated exclusively to middle grades education (grades 5 - 9), bringing together teachers, instructional coaches, school leaders, higher education faculty, and district administrators from across the state. Clean Elections participated to provide nonpartisan civic education resources and voter information, supporting educators who influence instruction, school culture, and student engagement statewide.

- **Tolleson High School District Commitment Day**

A two-day event that connected Tolleson Union High School District seniors with employment, enrollment, and enlistment opportunities, Commitment Day brought together more than 4,000 students to explore post-secondary pathways and finalize their next steps. Clean Elections participated alongside our Captain Activate! mascot to provide nonpartisan civic education resources and engage students around the importance of civic participation and future readiness.

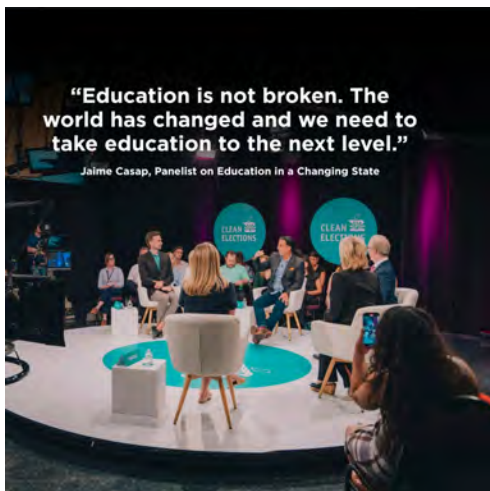


VOTER & PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Partnered with county and local election officials statewide
- Expanded grassroots engagement across communities and regions
- Reached thousands of voters and increased brand awareness
- Strengthened civic collaboration through ongoing outreach work groups
- Shipped 3,000+ copies of Captain Activate! Issue #2 to local election agencies and nonprofit partners
- Distributed 3,000+ copies to community members through outreach events and tabling
- Mascot outreach expanded youth and family engagement
- Captain Activate! appearances increased visibility and connection
- Major events: Phoenix Fan Fusion, Tucson Book Festival, Youth Day at the Capitol
- County collaboration highlight: Public Safety Day with Pinal County Recorder
- County Voter Outreach Work group leadership
- Presentations to clerks and educators statewide
- Engagement with tribal governments and election partners
- Increased outreach to diverse and under served communities



2025 saw the Commission develop "Inside the the Issues." A television show that brought experts on specific issues together for a unique and unfiltered discussion. Education and healthcare were two topics covered during this two separate 60-minute programs. The programs were available on multiple formats such as tv, radio, YouTube. Additionally, ABC 15 aired "Inside the Issues" live.



Clean Elections

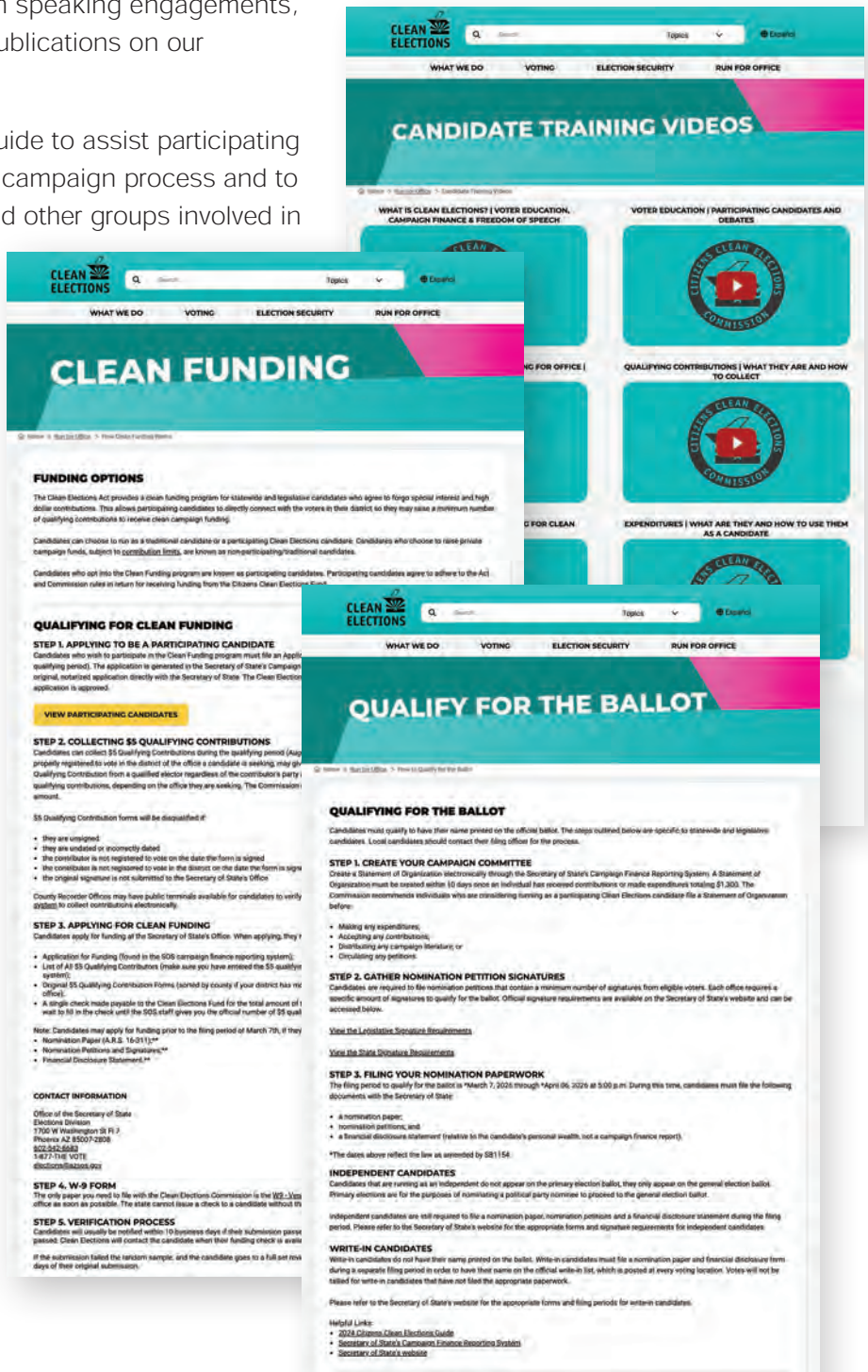
TRAINING & GUIDES

Education is a core component of the Commission. In 2025, the Commission continued to provide information to interested groups and potential candidates through speaking engagements, training workshops, as well as through publications on our enhanced agency website.

Each year the Commission develops a guide to assist participating candidates as they navigate the political campaign process and to inform non-participating candidates, and other groups involved in elections, about

the Clean Elections Act and rules. The guide covers important topics such as requirements of the Clean Elections Act and Rules, filing and reporting deadlines, how to become a Clean Elections participating candidate, and how to qualify for funding.

Participating candidates are required to attend one Clean Elections Candidate Training Workshop during the election cycle. The workshops are open to the public and designed to provide information to prospective candidates, or those who are assisting participating candidates, about the requirements of the Clean Elections Act. Workshops began in July of 2025 and will run through July of 2026 .






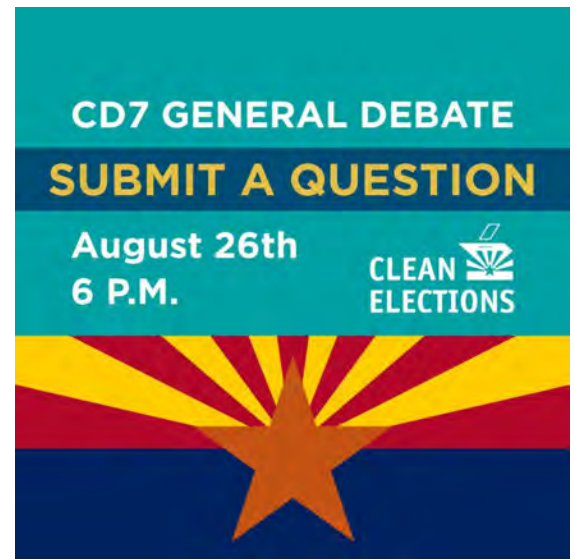
Website & Social Media

The Commission had an increase in its engagement with voters online. Utilizing social media channels has allowed the Commission to instantly connect with voters on timely and important election-related issues.

Voters and candidates alike can follow the Commission on social media for more information about elections and running for office.

Social media sites such as X(Twitter), YouTube, and Facebook were used. The chart below displays the amount of followers/likes throughout the recent year. Even numbered years represent statewide election years.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	33,481 Followers	33,185 Followers	33,000 Followers	32,821 Followers	32,921 Followers
	2,197 Followers	2,820 Followers	2,784 Followers	2,697 Followers	2,649 Followers
	532,334 Views	7,290,966 Views	3,149,061 Views	5,599,567 Views	509,697 Views



VOTER & PUBLIC EDUCATION

YOUR DISTRICT INFORMATION

Showing information for: [Change](#)

Federal Congressional District: 5 U.S. Senators ● U.S. Representatives ●	State Legislative District: 13 State Senators ● State Representatives ●	County Board of Supervisors District: Maricopa 1 County Supervisors ●	City City & City Council District: Chandler 0 Mayor ● City/Town Council Members ●
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Scroll down to view [ballot measures](#) and [candidate information](#).

DATES YOU NEED TO KNOW

[See All Dates](#)

←	OCTOBER 07 Voter Registration Deadline	OCTOBER 09 Early Voting Begins	OCTOBER 25 Last Day to Request a Ballot by Mail	OCTOBER 29 Mail Back Your Ballot By	NOVEMBER 01 Last Day to Vote Early In-Person	→
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Additionally, the Commission revamped the website, making it more user friendly and providing even more information than in previous years. The public enjoyed the revamp, as shown in the numbers below:

Congressional District 7
135,000 new users

Local Elections (May, August)
111,000 new users

Local General Election
136,000 new users

YEAR	SESSIONS	USERS	PAGE VIEWS
2025	645,449	502,000	852,000
2024	1,700,000	1,400,000	2,400,000
2023	399,000	300,000	570,000
2022	1,000,000	796,000	1,700,000
2021	360,595	301,443	533,898

VOTER & PUBLIC EDUCATION

[Home](#) > [What We Do](#) > [Past Elections](#)

HISTORICAL ELECTION DETAIL PAGES

Clean Elections is proud to be able to communicate voting information about elections to the public. Below is a listing of the many different election detail pages we've created to help citizens vote informed.

[2025](#)
[2024](#)
[2023](#)
[2022](#)
[2021](#)
[2020](#)
[2019](#)
[2018](#)
[2017](#)
[2016](#)

[March 11, 2025 Local Elections](#)

[May 20, 2025 Local Elections](#)

[July 15, 2025 - CD7 Special Primary Elections](#)

[August 5, 2025 Local Elections](#)

[September 23, 2025 - CD7 Special General Elections](#)

[November 4, 2025 Local Elections](#)

NOVEMBER 4, 2025 - PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS

Location	Election Type	What's on the Ballot
Cochise County	Vote Center	Excise Sales Tax, 12% Budget Override, Proposition
Coconino County	Hybrid	Question 490 & 491
Gila County	Ballot by Mail	General Obligation ("GO") Bond Measure & Fire District Bond Measure
La Paz County	Vote Center	M&O Budget Extension
Maricopa County	Ballot by Mail	Depends on Location
Navajo County	Ballot by Mail	10 Propositions
Pima County	Ballot by Mail	Councilmember Election in Wards 3, 5 and 6 & 4 Propositions
Pinal County	Ballot by Mail	Depends on Location
Yavapai County	Ballot by Mail	Depends on Location
Yuma County	Depends on Location	Prop. 434, District Additional Assistance ("DAA") Override, Recall

Financial Information

REVENUE SOURCES

Citizens Clean Elections Commission revenue comes from the following sources:

- 10% surcharge on all civil penalties and criminal fines
- Civil penalties paid by candidates.
- \$5 qualifying contributions collected from participating candidates.

CY 2025** REVENUES	
Court Assessments	\$6,596,069**
Commission Assessments	\$483,796**
\$5 Tax Check-off (late tax filings)*	\$0*
Miscellaneous	\$0**
\$5 Qualifying Contributions	\$0

*Previously, Arizona citizens could contribute voluntarily through a \$5 check-off box on Arizona state income tax return forms and through dollar for dollar tax credits. This portion of the Act was removed in 2012; however, late tax filers may still contribute.

**The Citizens Clean Elections Commission operates on a calendar year budget rather than the State’s fiscal year budget.

CONTROLS ON SPENDING

The Commission's total expenditures cannot exceed eight times the number of Arizona residents personal income tax returns filed during the previous calendar year. Up to 10% of the total expenditure cap for administration and enforcement purposes may be used. The Commission may make public education paid media expenditures up to 10% of the total expenditure cap as well. (A.R.S. § 16-949)

The 2025 expenditure caps were as follows:

- Total Expenditure Cap: \$27,962,216
- Administration & Enforcement Cap: \$2,796,221
- Public Education Expenditure Cap: \$2,796,221

Clean Elections is funded by voluntary contributions and surcharges on criminal penalties and violations, such as traffic tickets.

Not a single dollar of Clean Elections funding comes from the State's General Fund.

In fact, Clean Elections has donated \$74 million to the State's General Fund since the Commission's inception.

The removal of the \$5 check-off box on Arizona state income tax return forms and dollar-for-dollar tax credits caused a decrease in revenue to the Clean Elections Fund, and as a result the Commission was unable to transfer excess monies to the General Fund in 2025.

Enforcement, Audits & Litigation

The Commission enforces the Citizens Clean Elections Act and Commission rules which are a part of the Arizona Administrative Code. The Act and Commission rules contain specific campaign finance provisions and limitations.

Commission staff monitor campaign finance reports to ensure campaign spending occurs as specified by the Act and Rules. The Commission has the authority to subpoena witnesses, take evidence, and require, by subpoena, the production of any books, papers, records or other material relevant to an enforcement matter.

Potential penalties for violations of the Act range from monetary penalties, the disqualification of a candidate or forfeiture of office. Most enforcement matters are settled amicably.

The Commission also conducts audits to ensure compliance with the Act and Commission rules. The audits are completed by an independent auditing agency. Candidate audits are conducted during election years after the Commission has disbursed funds to qualified candidates.

ENFORCEMENT

The Commission acts on both external and internally filed complaints against candidates.

In addition, the Commission enforces Prop 211 and reviews complaints filed based on that law.

Rulemaking & Legislation

COMMISSION RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

In accordance with A.R.S. §16-956(C), the Commission may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of the Citizens Clean Elections Act.

The Commission proposes and adopts rules in public meetings, with at least sixty days allowed for interested parties to comment after the rules are proposed. After consideration of the comments received in the sixty-day comment period, the Commission may adopt the rule in an open meeting.

The Commission diligently makes changes to its rules and procedures to address concerns and improve the functions of the program. Rules adopted by the Commission are not effective until January 1 in the year following the adoption of the rule. However, rules adopted by unanimous vote may be immediately effective and are enforceable.



2025 Legislation

The Commission adopted the following legislative principles and priorities in an effort to improve the Act and Commission procedures:

Oppose efforts to defund, eliminate or limit the Citizens Clean Elections Act and/or the Commission. Over several sessions, members of the legislature have proposed measures that seek to defund, limit, or eliminate the authority of the Act or the Commission itself. The Commission has historically opposed these efforts on the grounds that they are typically poorly constructed, misleading, or otherwise ill-considered. The Commission works to maintain the letter and spirit of the law and supports efforts that further the purpose of the Act. The Commission opposes the following:

- **Amending, superseding the Clean Elections Act and/or diverting funds from the Clean Elections fund without furthering the purpose of the act or the required supermajority vote.**
- **Attempts to limit the power the Commission must enforce the Act**

Additionally, the Commission monitors proposed legislation regarding current campaign and elections laws and supports election law reforms. Election issues continue to percolate through both the political and legal process. The Commission continues to support reforms including improving the public financing program; improving the campaign finance code to ensure that voters are receiving information about the identity and contributions of campaign contributors and expenditures, including independent expenditures; ensuring that changes improve the State's anti-corruption, anti-circumvention, and informational interests, the Clean Elections Act and the Commission's independence; and improving voter access to information, voter involvement and voting.

Support improvements to voter education and access. The Commission continues to support efforts to enhance voter education and participation through legislation that advances the anti-corruption and public participation values that undergird the Act.

Looking Forward to 2026

Here is a preview of what the Commission is looking forward to in 2026.

2026 EDUCATION PLAN PREVIEW

The 2026 Voter Education Plan will provide voters many opportunities to become engaged in the political process. From focus groups and surveys, to voter registration drives and partnering with nonprofits, the Commission is preparing for an eventful 2026. The following are just a few of the areas the Commission is involved with in 2026:

- CRM/Texting Campaign
- Candidate Debates
- Candidate Statement Pamphlet
- Civics Curriculum
- Civic Engagement and Voting education Comic Book
- Voter education and outreach materials
- Social Media Videos

2026 ELECTION CYCLE ~ CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidates may begin collecting \$5 qualifying contributions on August 1, 2025, the start of the qualifying period. Candidates must collect a minimum number of qualifying contributions, as referenced below:

Governor - 4000

Secretary of State, Attorney General - 2500

**Treasurer, Sup. of Public Instruction,
Corp. Com. - 1500**

Mine Inspector - 500

Legislator - 200

Commissioners & Staff

COMMISSION STRUCTURE & MISSION

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission was established by the enactment of the Citizens Clean Elections Act, A.R.S., Title 16, Chapter 6, Article 2. In addition to administering the provisions of Article 2, the Commission promulgates rules and enforces A.R.S. §§ 16-940 through 16-961.

The Commission's mission is to fairly, faithfully and fully implement and administer the Citizens Clean Elections Act.

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission consists of five members. All members must be registered to vote in the State of Arizona. No more than two members of the commission may be members of the same political party. No more than two members of the commission may be residents of the same county.

COMMISSIONERS*

Steve M. Titla (D)

Gila County, AZ

Mark Kimble (I)

Pima County, AZ

Christina Werther (I)

Maricopa County, AZ

Galen D. Paton (R)

Pima County, AZ

Sam Crump (R)

Maricopa County, AZ

COMMISSION STAFF

Thomas M. Collins

Executive Director

Paula Thomas

Executive Officer

Mike Becker

Policy Director

Gina Roberts

Voter Education Director

Alec Shaffer

Web Content Manager

Avery Xola

Voter Education Manager

*Commissioners listed are for the 2025 calendar year.

Commissioner Biographies

MARK KIMBLE

Independent - Pima County

Governor Katie Hobbs appointed Mark Kimble, an Independent, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in July 2015, while she served as Senate Democratic Leader. Mark was a longtime journalist in Southern Arizona. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Mark worked for the Associated Press and then for the Tucson Citizen newspaper. During a 35-year career at the Citizen, he was a reporter, city editor, assistant managing editor and associate editor – columnist in charge of the editorial page. When the Citizen closed in 2009, Mark went to work as senior press advisor and later as communications director for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. When she resigned in 2012, Mark became communications director for her successor, Congressman Ron Barber. Mark and his wife, Jennifer Boice, live in Tucson.

CHRISTINA WERTHER

Independent - Maricopa County

Christina Werther is a Partner at Pierce Coleman PLLC and has extensive state and local government experience, specifically in election law. A former State Elections Director for the State of Arizona and a current certified election officer, Christina has represented local governments in election lawsuits and advised state officials and local governments on policy, election administration, and campaign finance matters. Christina serves as primary legal counsel for municipalities. She is a frequent speaker on election issues and local government topics and has presented at numerous trainings and conferences for attorneys, clerks, and elected officials. She previously worked at the State Senate, Governor's Office, and Secretary of State's Office and was the General Counsel for the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. She served on the Governor's Bi-Partisan Elections Task Force and was appointed by Governor Hobbs to the Citizens Clean Election Commission.

STEVE M. TITLA

Democrat - Gila County

Former Senate Democratic Leader Leah Landrum Taylor appointed Steve M. Titla in July 2013 to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. Mr. Titla is a partner in the Titla & Parsi law firm and is admitted to practice law both in Arizona and on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The firm represents the San Carlos Apache Tribe as special counsel and has also served as legal counsel for the election boards of the San Carlos Apache and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribes. Previously, Mr. Titla was an attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and has served as president of the National Native American Bar Association. In addition to a B.S. and J.D. from Arizona State University, Mr. Titla earned an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix. From 1974–76 Mr. Titla served in the U.S. Marine Corps, leaving with an honorable discharge. He also served in the Arizona National Guard until his honorable discharge in 1980. Mr. Titla's term on the Citizens Clean Elections Commission expires in January of 2018.

Commissioner Biographies

GALEN D. PATON

Republican - Pima County

Former Governor Doug Ducey appointed Galen D. Paton, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in 2016. Commissioner Paton obtained his Master of Arts in Physical Education from the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He has had a long and rewarding career coaching high school and college softball, volleyball and basketball teams in the southwest. In 2005, he led Sabino High School to the Arizona 4A State Championship and a No. 4 ranking in the country. The Arizona Coaches Association along with the National Fastpitch Coaches Association crowned Mr. Paton 2005 coach of the year. Mr. Paton retired from coaching in 2010 and is a current member of the Realty Executives Tucson Elite group. He resides in Tucson with his wife.

SAM CRUMP

Republican - Maricopa County

State Treasurer Kimberly Yee appointed Sam Crump, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in August 2025.

Sam Crump is an attorney and former Arizona State Representative. Practicing law since 1989, he opened his law practice in Anthem, Arizona in 2003. Sam attended the University of San Francisco, and earned his JD at Santa Clara University School of Law. He is an Army veteran and began his career as an Army prosecutor in Germany. He previously served as Mayor of Sebastopol, California and was elected twice to the Arizona state legislature. Sam is married to Colleen, who is a retired RN. They have four adult children, and three grandchildren.



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