

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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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.azcleanelections.gov.

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Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Thomas M. Collins
Executive Director



Amy B. Chan
Chair

Damien R. Meyer
Mark Kimble
Steve M. Titla
Galen D. Paton
Commissioners

State of Arizona
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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February 24, 2022

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission is pleased to submit for your information the 2021 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. 23 years 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 2022.

Respectfully,

Amy B. Chan, Chairman
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Voter & Public Education

As the state's nonpartisan voter education agency, the Commission provided vital information to the public regarding the four elections held in 2021, along with information on how to participate in the political process and civic engagement. This was accomplished through education campaigns in paid media, grassroots efforts, partnerships with community based organizations and social media outreach.

The Commission's education and outreach efforts for 2021 included:

- Election Information Web Pages
- Education on Election Administration and Election Security
- Candidate Training
- Deployment of Civics Curriculum
- District specific information through the Voter Dashboard
- Redistricting 101
- Grassroots Outreach

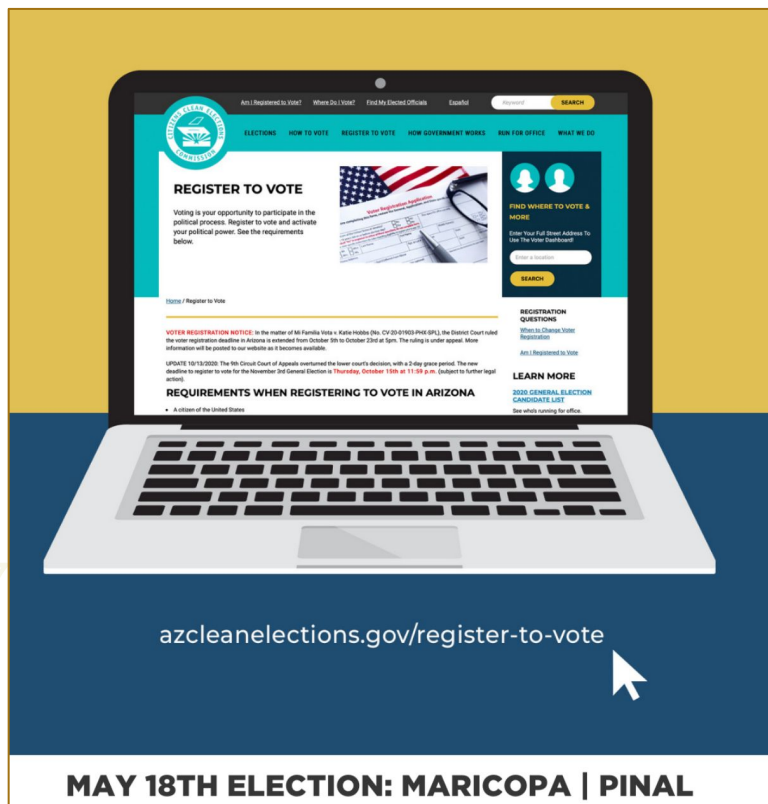
Voter Education Budget

The Commission spends 10% of the expenditure cap on voter education in accordance with its statutory requirements. See page 10 of this report for more financial information.

Election Information Web Pages

Prior to 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, highlighting key deadlines, how to get your ballot and more. This creates a one stop shop for voters to obtain all of their necessary voting information. The Commission informs voters on how to access this information through a comprehensive outreach campaign.

Local elections are particularly important as they have the most direct connection to voters. The November 2, 2021 election date was particularly eventful with over 1.5 million voters eligible to participate. The Commission ensured voters had access to accurate, official, nonpartisan information through its website and social media channels so voters could cast their ballots confidently in their local elections.



Education on Election Administration and Election Security

During and after the 2020 elections, voters expressed a need for nonpartisan information on how their ballot is counted, how elections are kept safe and secured, and more information about the administration of elections. The Commission provided voters with comprehensive information through its election security and administration content on its website, which addressed voters' timely questions. This section of the website was recognized by national groups of election professionals and used as a resource to provide voters with accurate information on how elections are conducted.

EMPOWER YOURSELF WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO UNDERSTAND THE VOTING AND BALLOT TABULATION PROCESS, THE SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE ELECTION SECURITY, AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED.



HOW ELECTION SECURITY WORKS

- [How Elections Work - The Basics](#)
- [Who counts the ballots and how can you be sure yours is counted?](#)
- [Elections and Cybersecurity](#)
- [How you can get involved in the election process as more than a voter?](#)



HOW TO AVOID MISINFORMATION

- [Official Information Regarding Sharpies](#)
- [How can I avoid misinformation about elections?](#)
- [What are the official sources for information on elections?](#)
- [How has the issue of election security changed over time?](#)

Deployment of Civics Curriculum

In 2021 the Citizens Clean Elections Commission, in partnership with expert curriculum writers, put forth the Civics Classroom Curriculum as part of Clean Elections youth voter education and outreach initiative. The effort aims to educate the next generation of voters about every aspect of the political process and to inspire participation in voting. The curriculum is one prong of the youth voter initiative, which encourages young people to activate their political power.

BENEFITS OF THE CIVIC CLASSROOM CURRICULUM



Adheres to Arizona's classroom teaching standards



Unique lesson plans for different grades, from 4th-12th



Applicable within more than one subject



Designed with teachers in mind



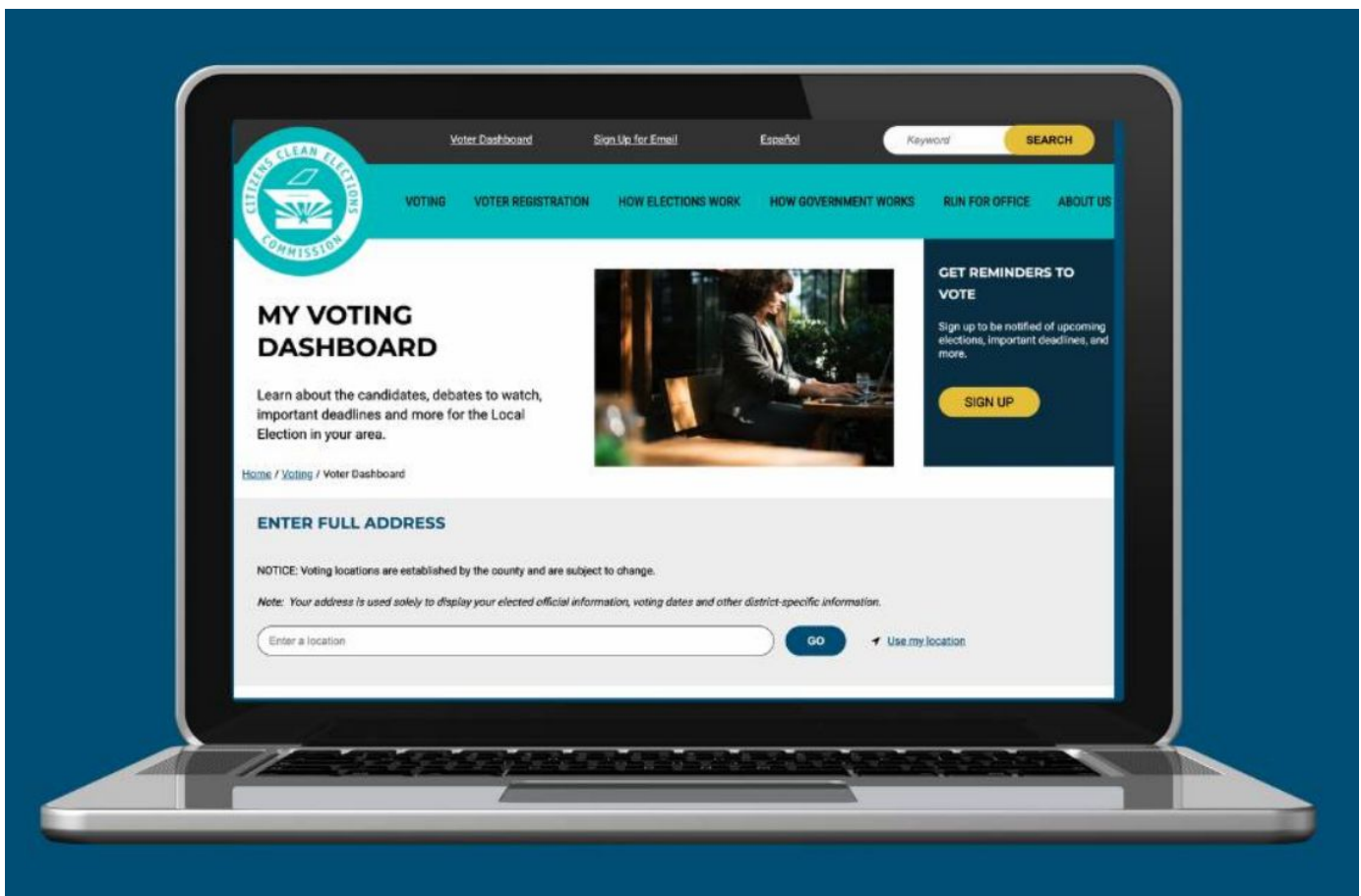
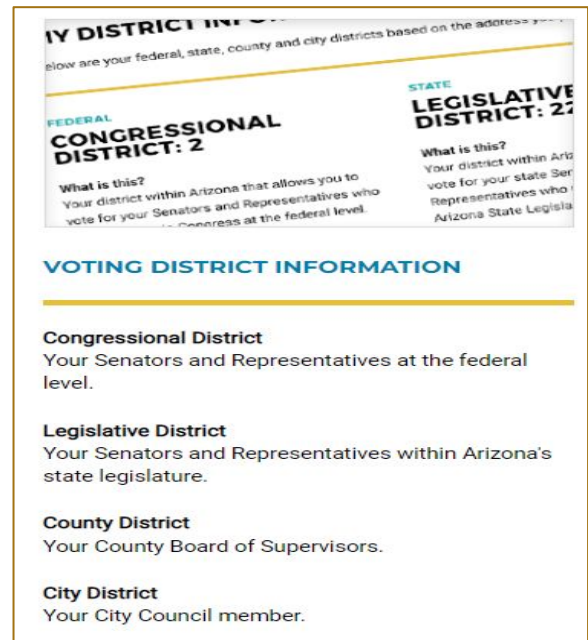
Designed to fit within a typical classroom period



Engaging for students

Voter Dashboard

The Clean Elections Commissions Voter Dashboard provides an intuitive and seamless process for voters to obtain their district specific information on all election related materials. Voters can use the dashboard to discover their elected officials, election dates, polling location and more simply by entering their address.



Redistricting 101

In 2020, the country underwent the decennial census, triggering the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission to gather in 2021 and begin the process of redrawing Arizona's congressional and legislative lines.

Clean Elections, in our mission to educate voters and promote participation in the political process, created content that explains the redistricting process and how it impacts voting. Clean Elections met several times with IRC staff in regards to public outreach and education efforts, and Clean Elections launched new web content and social media assets to educate voters. Clean Elections staff also provided several presentations and speaking engagements to voters and community organizations across the state.

REDISTRICTING

Now that the 2020 census is concluded, Arizona will redraw congressional and legislative district lines. This process is known as redistricting.



Grassroots Outreach

In an ongoing effort to increase outreach to Arizona Voters, the Commission participated in many events over the course of 2021. Some outings included National Voter Registration Day and Registration Drives across the county where the Commission helped register voters and inform them on how to vote and stay up to date on local, state and federal elections.

Snapshot of Outreach Events

- Mr.Xola represented Clean Elections and attended the virtual *African American Conference on Disabilities* Opening Session. February 1, 2021
- Mr.Xola participated in a panel workshop discussing civic education with valley youth at the *19th Annual AZ African American Legislative Council Virtual Youth Day* on February 12, 2021
- Ms.Roberts and Mr.Xola were special guest presenters at *Future for Kids* and held a mock election with grade school students (April 1, 2021)
- Mr.Xola attended *Arizona State University's American Indian Student Support Services Post Election Webinar* planning meeting (June 3, 2021)
- Mr.Xola attended the *African American Reconstruction Teen Conference* (July,12,2021)
- Mr.Xola and Ms.Roberts recorded a series of interviews for *Spot 127* (Summer 2021)
- Mr.Xola participated in an Arizona Military Veteran Interview by the *Arizona Department of Administration* to promote veterans to apply for state employment. (July 21, 2021)
- Ms.Roberts and Mr.Xola met with *The Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL)* to discuss outreach for voters without a permanent address on August 27th.
- Ms.Roberts and Mr.Xola continued collaboration with the *Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing* (September 15, 2021)
- Mr.Xola participated as a vendor at Mesa Community College for *National Voter Registration Day*. (September 28, 2021)

Clean Elections

Training & Guides

Education is a core component of the Commission. In 2021, 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 election cycle 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.

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 Twitter, YouTube and Facebook were utilized and the chart below displays the amount of followers/likes throughout the previous years. Even years represent statewide election years.

Social Media Traffic:

	2018	2019	2020	2021
	35,098 Likes	34,492 Likes	34,084 Likes	33,481 Likes
	1,699 Followers	1,860 Followers	2,098 Followers	2,197 Followers
	990,541+ Views	3,307 Views	1,712,089 Views	532,334 Views

**These totals reflect the number of views within that calendar year exclusively.

Website Traffic:

Year	Sessions	Users	% of New Users	Page Views
2021	360,595	301,443	99.9%	533,898
2020	1,514,415	1,196,474	98.65%	2,881,496
2019	194,338	165,171	90.4%	356,231
2018	1,012,202	676,846	81.9%	1,909,600

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 2021** Revenues

Court Assessments	\$6,442,703
Commission Assessments	\$1,558
\$5 Tax Check-off (late tax filings)*	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$36,547
\$5 Qualifying Contributions	\$0

Controls on Spending

The Commission's total expenditures cannot exceed seven times the number of Arizona resident 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 2021 expenditure caps were as follows:

- Total Expenditure Cap: \$22,974,427
- Administration & Enforcement Cap: \$2,297,443
- Public Education Expenditure Cap: \$2,297,443

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.

Rather than taking money from taxpayers, Clean Elections has donated \$74 million to the State's General Fund since its inception through 2016.

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 2021.

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

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.

In 2021, the Commission did not conduct any audits. All participating candidates will be audited during the 2022 election cycle.

Enforcement

The Commission acts on both external and internally filed complaints.

During 2021, the Commission resolved 1 complaint arising from the 2020 election cycle.

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. In 2019, the Commission began implementing Proposition 306.

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. In 2021, the Commission amended the following

rules:

A.A.C. R2-20-101

A.A.C. R2-20-109

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.

2021 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.

Over several sessions, members of the legislature have proposed measures that seek to defund, eliminate or limit 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. Staff recommends the Commission oppose legislation that seeks to defund, eliminate, or limit the CCEA and/or Commission.

- **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 has to enforce the Act**

Address proposed legislation on elections, voting, and campaign finance.

The Legislature continues to expand, contract, and tweak election- related laws. Staff will continue to monitor and consider positions on each proposal as it is introduced.

The Commission has supported efforts to enhance voter education and participation through legislation that advances the election confidence and public participation values that undergird the Act. The Commission should continue to support such legislation.

2021 Legislation

The last few sessions have seen an uptick in proposals that could limit participation or give rise to new information challenges for voters. These proposals appear to have the effect of diminishing confidence in the election system, particularly among Republican voters. According to the website FiveThirtyEight:

Polling from Monmouth University before and after Arizona's [review of Maricopa County ballots] found that the [audit did more to reinforce concerns around election fraud than to alleviate them. And as laws have been passed under the banner of improving voter trust, Republican voter trust in elections remains low. Just 35 percent of Republicans said they had at least some trust in the U.S. electoral system in a poll conducted by Morning Consult on Dec. 30, 2021. That's down from 43 percent in January of last year, and 69 percent prior to election day 2020, according to prior polling from Morning Consult.[1]

While blanket opposition to such proposals does not serve the Commission's interest in promoting participation and restoring confidence in elections, it is important that the Commission be in a position to observe critical issues that may be overlooked or unconsidered, including the need for additional voter education.

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 2022

Here is a preview of what the Commission is looking forward to in 2022:

2022 Education Plan

The Commission will continue its voter education efforts in 2022 by offering voters a comprehensive education plan that focuses on how to participate in the electoral process and voting informed. The Commission will offer voters the following education tools in 2022:

- Voter Education Guide
- Candidate Debates
- Candidate Compass
- ID at the Polls Tool
- Voter Dashboard
- Website Content
- Mobile App



2022 Election Cycle ~ Candidate Information

Candidates began collecting \$5 qualifying contributions on August 1, 2021, the start of the qualifying period. Candidates must collect a minimum number of qualifying contributions, as referenced below;

Governor	Secretary of State	Attorney General	Treasurer	Supt. of Public Instruction	Corporation Commission	Mine Inspector	Legislature
4,000	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	500	200

Commissioners & Staff

Commissioners*

Chairwoman Amy B. Chan (R)
Maricopa County, AZ
Appointed 2017

Damien R. Meyer (D)
Maricopa County, AZ
Appointed 2015

Steve M. Titla (D)
Gila County, AZ
Appointed 2013

Galen D. Paton (R)
Pima County, AZ
Appointed 2016

Mark Kimble (I)
Pima County, AZ
Appointed 2015

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 Specialist
Julian Arndt, Executive Support Specialist

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 listed are for the 2021 calendar year.

Commissioner Biographies

Mark Kimble – Independent – Pima County

Senate Democratic Leader Katie Hobbs appointed Mark Kimble, an Independent, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission in July 2015. 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.

Damien R. Meyer – Democrat – Maricopa County

Former Governor Jan Brewer appointed Damien R. Meyer to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to serve a term ending January 31, 2019. Damien R. Meyer is an experienced commercial litigation attorney. Damien has extensive experience in representing both individuals and businesses including banks, contractors, landlords, real estate developers, aviation companies, entrepreneurs, and health care companies in all areas of their business including contractual analysis and disputes, collection and payment disputes, commercial tort liability, provisional remedies and negotiation of pre-litigation disputes to avoid formal litigation. He also has extensive experience in representing clients in formal litigation in Arizona State and Federal courts, the Arizona Court of Appeals, in private arbitrations and before several state administrative agencies. Mr. Meyer, his wife and two children currently reside in Phoenix.

Commissioner Biographies

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.

Galen D. Paton – Republican – Pima County

Governor Doug Ducey appointed Galen D. Paton, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission for a 5-year term expiring January 31, 2021. 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.

Commissioner Biographies

Amy B. Chan – Republican – Maricopa County

Senate Democratic Leader Katie Hobbs appointed Amy B. Chan, a Republican, to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission for a 5-year term expiring January 31, 2022.

Amy B. Chan was admitted to the State Bar in 1999. Initially she worked as an immigration attorney, helping people obtain immigration benefits through the administrative and immigration court process. In 2001 she began work as a legislative research analyst for the House Judiciary Committee. She was an Administrative Law Judge for the Corporation Commission from 2005-2006 and then returned to the legislature as Policy Advisor and Counsel to the Majority for the State Senate. In 2009 Secretary of State Ken Bennett appointed her State Election Director. She served in that capacity until 2013, when she left to spend more time with her growing family. She and her husband Keith have two sons and live in Phoenix.

CLEAN ELECTIONS

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