Southern Arizona Leadership Council

Decisions That Shape Our Region

A voter guide from Southern Arizona's business leaders.

BALLOT POLICY BRIEFS

Our positions are backed by our members' work.

Our 150+ members span the political spectrum and share a mission to create thriving Southern Arizona communities.

These positions reflect months of education, advocacy and outreach. Nothing is rubber-stamped. There are no shortcuts or slates. Our Public Policy Committee and Focus Areas debate each measure and forward recommendations to our Board of Directors for a decision.

Nov. 3 General Election

Pima County dates and voting resources / Pima.vote

OCT. 7 — **Early voting begins and early ballots are mailed.**
Early voting sites, 24/7 drop boxes and mobile voting unit

OCT. 23 — **Last day to request a mail ballot.**
Request a mail ballot

OCT. 27 — **Recommended deadline to mail back an early ballot.**

NOV. 3 — **Election Day: vote at any Pima County Vote Center.**
Map of 126 Vote Centers / List by region (PDF)
Early ballot drop-off options, including ID verification (PDF)

SALC'S POSITIONS AT A GLANCE

Statewide measures

For Arizona voters.

Proposition

141

VOTE NO

Vehicle mileage tax prohibition

Would prohibit mileage-based taxes or fees and require voluntary consent for rules that monitor or limit vehicle miles, with specified exceptions.

Why we oppose it: Keep transportation funding options available for evaluation as vehicles, travel patterns and infrastructure needs change.

Read the brief / 04

Proposition

144

VOTE NO

Election identification and administration

Would require voters to show identification whether voting by mail or in person and add election-administration requirements beginning January 1, 2028, including an Election Day tabulation option at voting locations. The measure does not specify how identification would work for mail ballots, leaving those details to future legislators.

Why we oppose it: New election requirements need clear compliance instructions, workable procedures and a realistic understanding of the cost.

Read the brief / 05

Proposition

320

VOTE NO

School instructional spending requirement

Would require covered districts to devote at least 60% of operational spending to direct instruction, with a phased path and funding penalties for noncompliance.

Why we oppose it: Accountability should help students succeed while allowing districts to respond to local needs and maintain essential services.

Read the brief / 06

SALC'S POSITIONS AT A GLANCE

Local measures

Your address determines which local measures appear on your ballot.

Proposition

421

VOTE YES

City of Tucson voters

Read the brief / 07

Tucson-TEP franchise agreement

Would approve a 25-year framework for TEP's use of Tucson rights-of-way and activate the related Energy Collaboration Agreement.

Why we support it: Long-term infrastructure investment needs clear expectations and dependable coordination between the city and TEP.

Proposition

427

VOTE YES

Voters in JTED member districts in Pima and surrounding counties

Read the brief / 08

Pima JTED general obligation bond

Would authorize up to $250 million in bonds for career and technical education facilities, equipment and technology, repaid through property taxes.

Why we support it: More access to hands-on, career-focused education can strengthen students' futures and Southern Arizona's workforce.

Proposition

430

VOTE YES

Pima County voters

Read the brief / 09

Pima Community College general obligation bond

Would authorize $250 million in debt for college capital projects and refinancing, with repayment through property taxes.

Why we support it: Up-to-date facilities and technology help Pima prepare students for high-demand work and serve employers who need their skills.

Proposition

141

Vehicle mileage tax prohibition

VOTE NO

Arizona voters / Constitutional amendment

OUR PERSPECTIVE

Keep options open for the roads ahead.

> Southern Arizona needs roads that can keep pace with our economy and workable ways to pay for them. We oppose closing off a potential funding option before its costs, benefits and safeguards can be evaluated. As vehicles and travel patterns change, Arizona needs room to consider solutions.

Major Impacts

- **A constitutional restriction.** State and local governments could not impose mileage-based taxes or fees. The prohibition would remain in the Constitution unless voters later amend it.
- **Consent for monitoring.** Rules that monitor or limit the miles a person travels would require voluntary consent.
- **Specified exceptions.** The restrictions exclude certain interstate commercial-vehicle agreements and government-owned and operated vehicles.

Major Talking Points

Keep our region moving.

Reliable transportation supports our economy, our workforce and the movement of goods.

Don’t eliminate options before they’re evaluated.

Transportation funding proposals should be judged on their costs, benefits and effectiveness.

Preserve options for the future.

Transportation needs will keep changing. Policymakers need flexibility to evaluate new approaches without options being eliminated in advance.

Does a NO vote create a mileage tax?

No. It rejects this prohibition. The measure itself also offers no replacement transportation funding plan.

SALC Recommends: VOTE NO on Proposition 141

Rejects the amendment. Does not enact a mileage tax.

Southern Arizona Leadership Council

Proposition

144

VOTE NO

Election identification and administration

Arizona voters / Constitutional amendment

OUR PERSPECTIVE

Secure elections need a workable plan.

> Voters deserve secure, accessible elections and confidence that they will be run well. New requirements should come with clear instructions for implementation and a realistic understanding of the cost. We oppose this measure because it adds administrative complexity without adequately explaining how election officials are expected to comply.

Major Impacts

- **ID for every election.** Government-issued proof of identity would be required before casting a ballot, including by mail. The method of compliance would be prescribed by future legislators.
- **More than an ID rule.** The measure includes Election Day tabulation at the voting location and citizenship, foreign-contribution and election-law provisions.
- **Implementation comes later.** Requirements apply from January 1, 2028. The Legislature must fund implementation of the new requirements, but the text gives no dollar amount.

Major Talking Points

The details aren't finalized.

Prop. 144 creates new election requirements but leaves key questions, including how mail voters would meet the ID requirement, to be resolved later.

New requirements bring uncertainty, costs and complexity.

Election officials would need equipment, staffing, training and procedures to implement changes consistently across Arizona.

Secure elections must also be accessible and workable.

Voters should know exactly what is required. Major changes need a clear implementation plan before they are written into the Constitution.

Would this change how I vote in 2026?

No. The requirements start in 2028. The text does not expressly abolish voting by mail.

SALC Recommends: VOTE NO on Proposition 144

Rejects these changes and leaves current requirements in place.

Proposition

320

School instructional spending requirement

VOTE NO

Arizona voters / Statutory measure

OUR PERSPECTIVE

A spending formula cannot tell the whole story.

> We want education dollars to help students succeed. But a single spending formula cannot account for the different needs of Arizona's students and school districts. We support financial transparency and accountability; we oppose a mandate that could limit local decisions and squeeze services students depend on.

Major Impacts

- **A 60% spending target.** Covered districts must devote at least 60% of operational spending to direct instruction, as defined by the Arizona Auditor General.
- **Not every district is covered.** The measure covers districts with at least 7,500 students anywhere in Arizona, or any district operating a school in a county with at least 500,000 residents, impacting Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties.
- **A phased path, then penalties.** Below-target districts must increase their instructional share by at least one-half of one percent annually from FY2027-28, subject to credit rules.

Major Talking Points

Focus on student outcomes, not spending percentages.

A spending target doesn't show whether students are learning, graduating or prepared for the future.

Keep flexibility for local needs.

Schools need flexibility to invest in services that help students succeed, rather than a one-size-fits-all spending mandate.

Don't penalize students.

Funding cuts could take resources from the students and schools the measure is intended to help.

How much funding could be at risk?

Classroom Site Fund allocations can fall by 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% as years of noncompliance accumulate. Waivers are possible.

SALC Recommends: VOTE NO on Proposition 320

Rejects the new mandate and its funding penalties.

Proposition

421

Tucson-TEP franchise agreement

VOTE YES

City of Tucson voters / 25-year nonexclusive franchise

OUR PERSPECTIVE

Reliable power takes planning and partnership.

> Reliable electricity is essential to daily life and to every business that operates here. We support this agreement because long-term investment requires clear expectations and dependable coordination between the city and TEP. It provides a framework for maintaining and improving the infrastructure our community and economy depend on.

Major Impacts

- **A 25-year framework.** The nonexclusive agreement governs TEP's use of city rights-of-way. Specified terms may be reviewed at years 10 and 20; required permits still apply.
- **The existing fee continues.** The franchise fee remains 2.25%. TEP says the utility-tax offset keeps total city-related charges unchanged by this vote.
- **A companion investment.** The Energy Collaboration Agreement starts at $2 million annually, increasing 2% a year while in effect. These contributions come from corporate funds, not customer rates.

Major Talking Points

Reliable power supports our community and economy.

Families and businesses need dependable electricity every day to live, work and thrive.

Invest for the future.

A long-term framework supports the maintenance and infrastructure upgrades our community needs.

Turn partnership into progress.

Clear coordination between the City and TEP can improve reliability and strengthen our infrastructure.

Does approval freeze electric rates or guarantee service?

No. Rates remain under Arizona Corporation Commission oversight. TEP says it will continue service regardless of the vote; no outage-restoration time is guaranteed.

SALC Recommends: VOTE YES on Proposition 421

Approves the franchise and activates the companion agreement.

Proposition

427

Pima JTED general obligation bond

VOTE YES

Voters in JTED member districts in Pima and surrounding counties / General obligation bond

OUR PERSPECTIVE

Build skills here. Build careers here.

> Young people need more opportunities to build rewarding careers here, and local employers need people with the skills to do the work. We support this investment in JTED's classrooms, equipment and training facilities because access to hands-on, career-focused education strengthens both students' futures and our regional workforce.

Major Impacts

- **Up to $250 million in bonds.** Funds would support land, buildings, equipment and technology. Issuance remains subject to debt capacity and the resolution's terms.
- **Central and satellite campuses.** The current plan allocates about $186.3 million to central campuses and $63.7 million to satellite campuses.

DEMONSTRATED NEED

77%
Average daily membership growth over five years

600-800
Students turned away each school year for lack of space

Major Talking Points

Connect students to careers.
Hands-on training builds practical skills and opens doors to employment and further education.

Build the workforce employers need.
Industry-relevant training prepares students for in-demand careers in Southern Arizona.

Expand access to opportunity.
Modern facilities, equipment and technology give more students access to career and technical education.

What is the taxpayer commitment?

Property taxes would repay principal and interest. Costs depend on taxable value and financing terms. Use the final voter pamphlet for tax estimates.

SALC Recommends: VOTE YES on Proposition 427

Authorizes up to $250 million in bonds repaid through property taxes.

Proposition

430

Pima Community College general obligation bond

VOTE YES

Pima County voters / General obligation bond

OUR PERSPECTIVE

Preparing people for the work our region needs.

> Pima Community College helps people enter the workforce, advance their careers and prepare for changing industry needs. We support this bond because preparing students for high-demand work requires up-to-date facilities and technology. This is an investment in the college's capacity to serve students and the employers who need their skills.

Major Impacts

- **The full $250 million package.** Capital projects and refinancing are included. Property taxes would repay the debt.

Existing infrastructure	**$58.9M**
Academic spaces	**$57.0M**
Public safety training	**$39.8M**
Debt refinancing	**$38.0M**
Police headquarters	**$29.0M**
Student support spaces	**$27.3M**

- **Refinancing savings are projected.** PCC says $38 million in refinancing could free nearly $4 million annually for program support. Results depend on financing terms.

Major Talking Points

Bring facilities into the 21st century.
Address needed repairs and upgrades so students have modern spaces to learn and train.

Grow our local workforce.
Pima gives local students pathways to high-demand careers, helping more stay, work and contribute to our economy.

Strengthen Southern Arizona's economy.
Pima graduates fill critical jobs and generate significant economic impact across our region.

Does PCC get state funding?

Capital funding from the state ended in 2009 and regular operating support ended in 2015, a cumulative $221 million loss of support. It has been more than 30 years since the college last sought this type of voter-approved investment.

SALC Recommends: VOTE YES on Proposition 430

Authorizes $250 million in debt for capital projects and refinancing.

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Read. Discuss. Share.

Put the information to work in your own conversations.

START WITH THE EVIDENCE

A useful starting point, not an exhaustive list.

Our sourcebook brings together selected documents behind the measures and SALC's positions. Use it to examine the proposal, check an estimate or go deeper on an implementation question.

MORE INFO / CAMPAIGN PERSPECTIVES

These advocacy sites align with SALC's positions. They are campaign resources, separate from the official documents in the sourcebook.

Proposition 141	OPPOSE	No organized campaign identified to date.
Proposition 144	OPPOSE	protectthevoteaz.com
Proposition 320	OPPOSE	willofthepeopleaz.com
Proposition 421	SUPPORT	tepfortucson.com
Proposition 427	SUPPORT	yesforjobtraining.com
Proposition 430	SUPPORT	yesforpimacollege.com

SHARE THE BRIEF. START A CONVERSATION.

Send the full guide or the individual brief most relevant to your audience. Each brief includes the proposal, SALC's reasoning and the practical questions worth discussing.

All SALC positions and individual briefs / Sourcebook

Explore the Sourcebook

salc.org/ballotsources/