

EDUCATION POLICY AT THE POLLS

2000-2020

Over the past twenty years, voters have played a significant role in revising and updating education policy and funding streams in Arizona through constitutional and statutory changes.

2000-PROP 203

Proposition 203 worked to repeal the existing bilingual education stipulations in the Arizona School System. The Proposition put in place a law requiring all classes to be taught in English. Students who were classified as “English Learners” would be placed in “Sheltered English Emersion programs” where instructors would use English and minimal amounts of students’ native language. With a goal of providing each student with a “working knowledge of English”. YES 63%

2002-PROP 300

A sister proposition for 104 that stipulated how state land funds would be distributed. Proposition 300 proposed that interest payed on installment sales of state land be counted as expendable revenue that would be used to pay for the fiscal year’s debt service on outstanding state school facilities and revenue bonds. The rent and interest payed for Arizona state land became subject to distribution as basic state aide to schools. The Proposition also specified that the Legislature intended for the monies to supplement not supplant other state funding obligations. YES 75.7%

2004-PROP 105

An Arizona constitutional amendment to amend the composition of the State Board of Education. The amendment added two additional members: one public member and one charter school administrator. In addition, the amendment updated the community college representative role. YES 62.1%

2008-SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION ACT

This act consolidated 76 of Arizona’s 227 school districts into 27 K-12 School districts. This allowed school districts to save money and consolidate resources. This act was filed in 27 separate bills, only four of which received the correct amount of votes. Of these four, three were overturned in the courts.

2016-PROP 123

This proposition was designed to increase the Arizona State education funding by 3.5 Billion dollars over the course of 10 years to resolve a lawsuit over inflation funding in school budgets. This money was allocated from both the general fund and the annual distributions from the state land trust. YES 50.92%

2000-PROP 301

Called the “Relating to Sales Tax for Education Act,” it was drafted to increase the state sales tax by sixth tenths of one percent in the state tax for 20 years. This funding increase for Arizona schools worked to correct building deficiencies, provide funding for universities to invest in technology and research initiatives, and provide community colleges with resources to invest in workforce development programs. Grade schools benefitted through funding that increased teacher salaries as total school days increased, and character development and safety programs. It also aided the state’s mission to develop a system to measure school performance statewide (AIMS), and provide funds to create a statewide database that would log student performance and attendance. YES 53.5%

2002-PROP 104

Prop 104 was a legislatively referred measure. This proposition allowed funding from Prop 301 to be exempted from constitutional expenditure limits so schools could properly budget the Prop 301 monies approved in 2000. YES 70.1%

2006-PROP 203

This proposition increased the state tax on tobacco products, specifically cigarettes which would be taxed at an additional 80 cents per pack. The additional tax revenue would be put toward early childhood education administered through a fund called the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Fund. YES 52.3%

2010- PROP 100

The first statewide special election in thirty years, Prop 100 created a temporary on-cent sales tax to support primary and secondary education, health and human services and public safety in the state budget aftermath of the Great Recession. YES 64.3%

2020-PROP 208

This initiative would place a 3.5% income tax on incomes that are \$250,000 or more and on household incomes of \$500,000 or more. The revenue from this tax would be distributed in grants to school districts and charter schools for teacher and staff salaries, career and technical education programs, mentoring and retention programs, and the Arizona Teachers Academy. YES 51.7%