



March 8, 2022

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA) and Humane Voters of Arizona, statewide organizations with tens of thousands of Arizona supporters, and the undersigned organizations and individuals, we request that you oppose SB1629 registration; verification; images; audits; boxes.

SB1629 creates unnecessary, difficult hurdles for nonprofits and volunteers who register citizens to vote. This bill also adds a layer of cumbersome bureaucracy for the Secretary of State's office.

ADLA is a member group of Voices for Arizona Animals, a coalition of 15 nonprofit animal welfare and rescue organizations whose volunteers work to encourage animal advocates to register and vote in Arizona's elections. By law, 501(C)(3) organizations are permitted to engage in nonpartisan efforts to register voters and encourage citizens to vote. Our organizations encourage supporters in our communities to get involved and vote in Arizona's elections. We are concerned that SB1629 is oppressive, punitive, and would have a chilling effect on volunteers who register people to vote.

SB1629 requires an unpaid person who collects more than 25 completed voter registration forms within a calendar year to register with the Secretary of State before collecting voter registration forms. *How would volunteers know the number of people they would be registering before actually registering voters?*

SB1629 also requires the same provisions for a paid person who collects 1 or more registration forms. *If our nonprofit pays for food or drinks for a volunteer who registers voters, would he/she be considered a paid person?*

SB1629 adds numerous other stipulations. It requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to create a registration application that volunteers must submit to register voters which must be signed before a notary and include:

- The volunteer's full name, residence address, telephone number, and email address
- The name, address, and telephone number of any entity or organization for which the person is volunteering.
- A statement that the person consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state in resolving any disputes concerning assisting in, soliciting, or collecting voter registrations.

SB1629 requires the Secretary of State to publish all information required for registration on the SOS website. These requirements are unnecessary and punitive, as they jeopardize the privacy of volunteers who help people register to vote. Under this bill, volunteers would be forced to have their personal information displayed on a public government website. This provision alone would have a chilling effect on volunteers who exercise their democratic right to register voters.

SB1629 also dilutes the National Voter Registration Act. According to the American Bar Association, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) is a federal law designed to reduce barriers to voter registration. The NVRA governs elements of voter registration in the U.S. and requires, among other provisions, that certain government agencies like DMV affirmatively provide voter registration services. Despite the clear mandate of the NVRA, there have been attacks on third-party voter registration drives under state legislation (including SB1629) that restrict and burden volunteers who register people to vote.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. Please do not allow this bill to place unnecessary burdens on nonprofits and volunteers who help register citizens to vote. Please oppose SB1629.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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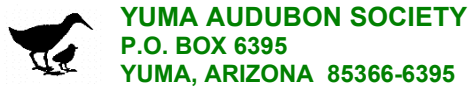


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