

May 26, 2022

Governor Doug Ducey  
1700 W Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Honorable Governor Doug Ducey,

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you sign HB2617, a comprehensive voter roll maintenance measure that will help ensure clean and current voter rolls.

The first step to a secure election system in which the electorate has trust and confidence is ensuring that only qualified individuals are properly registered and voting. This requires front end protections in the registration process to ensure applications from unqualified individuals are rejected, such as HB2492 which you signed into law earlier this year. It also requires having processes in place to regularly remove those who have become ineligible – whether due to death, residency, felony conviction, or other reasons.

HB2617 establishes a process to ensure just that. It requires regular checks of several databases containing information pertinent to voter qualifications and then requires, when a county recorder has confirmed that an elector is no longer eligible, cancellation of the registration. However, it also includes safeguards to ensure individuals who are eligible are not improperly removed from the rolls. Prior to cancelling a registration, the county recorder must first send notice to the registrant informing them of the reason for cancellation. The individual then has 90 days to respond to the notice. It is only after a recorder has confirmed an individual is no longer eligible, has sent notice to the individual, and has not received a response within 90 days, that the registration is cancelled.

Ineligible individuals on the voter rolls are often not the result of fraud. Instead, it is due to a lack of processes that ensure routine maintenance. It is also in large part a result of voters moving, and with the many burdens that come with that, they do not get around to notifying the state or county from which they moved that they no longer reside there. However, they are likely to obtain a driver license in their new state of residence.

Nearly all states are members of the Driver License Compact, requiring the licensing authority to verify whether an applicant currently holds a valid license issued by another state, and if so, require the individual to surrender that license before issuing a new one. (A.R.S § 28-1852) States will then either notify the other state's licensing authority of the surrendered license or mail the license to the issuing state so that it can be cancelled.

States work to ensure that individuals have only one valid license issued from one state at a time. In fact, many states impose penalties on individuals who are in possession of more than one valid driver license (see Texas Transportation Code § 521.451). In Arizona, for the purposes of Title 28, registering to vote meets the definition of resident (A.R.S § 28-2001), which then requires an individual to obtain an Arizona driver license immediately in order to operate a vehicle in this state. This is common throughout the country, because obtaining a driver license is a clear declaration of one's residency.

There is no conceivable reason for an individual to be registered to vote in one state and later obtain a driver license from another state, while still considering the former their state of residence.

For these reasons, utilizing information that an individual registered to vote in Arizona who *later* obtains a driver license in another state is one of the best ways to keep our voter rolls clean, and ensure individuals are not registered in more than one state. Other states have taken similar approaches (see Virginia § 24.2-427), top election integrity think tanks like the Heritage Foundation have recommended it, and HB2617 should become the model other states adopt.

While the driver license provision is likely the most proactive and impactful, the requisite database checks and causes for cancellation will undoubtedly take far leaps in providing the electorate confidence that our voter rolls contain only the names of eligible citizens and ensuring that in Arizona it is easy to vote, and hard to cheat.

Respectfully,

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President, Arizona Free Enterprise Club

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