Undercut our Right to Vote

MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Legislature passed legislation to make municipal elections partisan. MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Senate introduced Senate Bill 1011 which would have repealed the law that does not allow most cities and towns to have partisan elections for council members. MAGA Extremists across the country are trying to make municipal elections partisan as an attempt to influence local government. "Arizona's communities are simply not asking for their local elections to be partisan affairs," Governor Hobbs wrote in her May 22 veto letter. [AZ SB 1011, vetoed, 5/22/2023; KJZZ, 6/26/2023]

MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Legislature passed legislation to make it easier to remove voters from active early voting lists. MAGA Extremists in the Arizona House introduced House Bill 2415 which would have removed people from the active early voting list if they go a full election cycle without voting. Active Early Voting lists allow voters to automatically receive ballots in the mail. MAGA Extremists across the country have made attacks on voting and limiting early access to voting centerpieces of their rightwing agenda. "Arizona's active early voting list is secure and convenient for voters," Governor Hobbs wrote in her veto letter. [AZ HB 2415, vetoed, 4/6/2023; AZ Mirror, 4/6/2023; Phoenix New Times, 6/27/2023]

MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Legislature advanced legislation to ban voting centers. MAGA Extremists in the Arizona House introduced HCR2032, a proposed ballot measure to ban voting centers. The measure would turn back the clock more than a decade on state election procedures. Voting centers, authorized by the legislature in 2011, allow anyone to cast their ballot at any voting center in their county, rather than being required to vote at an assigned polling place. Banning voting centers would also eliminate in-person early voting, because polling places are only open on election day. The House voted 31-28 to approve the bill. [HCR2032, 2024; Courthouse News Service, 3/4/24]

MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Legislature advanced legislation to eliminate most early voting and vote-by-mail. MAGA Extremists in the Arizona House introduced HB2876, to severely limit early voting, both by mail and in person. Arizona voters have used early voting 70% to 90% in recent elections. The bill would allow only those who are aged, infirm, or out of state on election day to use early voting. The bill passed the House on a 31-28 vote but stalled in the Senate. [HB2876, 2024; Arizona Republic, 2/16/24]

In an effort to protect Supreme Court justices who reinstated a Civil War-era abortion ban, MAGA extremist Arizona legislators are trying to take away voters' right to hold judges accountable. The legislature this year passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 1044, which would amend the state constitution to allow Supreme Court judges to serve indefinitely, instead of facing a vote by Arizonans every six years. Two conservative justices face contentious retention elections this November after upholding an 1864 law prohibiting abortion in all circumstances except to save the mother's life. SCR1044, if ratified by voters, would apply retroactively and nullify any vote to remove them. Arizona's judicial merit retention rules have been in place since 1974 and were championed by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, but extremist legislators

now favor lifetime appointments with no voter input to spare far-right judges from consequences of their decisions and behavior. [ABC News, 6/12/2024; Arizona Mirror, 3/19/2024]