

Issue: GOP Insanity

You Can't Make This Up!

Voting

Ignoring Voters

Republicans recently introduced bills to allow the legislature to overturn election results it didn't like:

- HB 2596 would have enabled the legislature to *call a new election*, required all ballots to be counted *by hand* within 24 hours of the polls closing, and would have eliminated early voting and mail voting.
- HB 2720 would have allowed the legislature to override the popular vote *for any reason*.
- HB 2800 would have required the legislature to come into session after every election to evaluate the results, and then affirm *or reject* the results.

Fortunately, none of these bills made it out of committee. But they can be proposed again.

Illegal and Undue Barrier to Voting

Here is a bill that *was* signed into law in 2022:

- HB 2492 will require proof of citizenship to register to vote, conflicting with federal law and removing hundreds of thousands of eligible Arizonans from the voter rolls, giving them just a month to reregister.

See the Complete Report: [Republicans Suppress the Vote in Arizona](#)

Reproductive Health

Abortion

Even before the U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision overruling *Roe v. Wade*, Arizona Republicans were preparing to ban abortion however they could, resulting in the current situation of *two* competing laws stripping women of the right to control their own bodies:

- A pre-statehood law still on the books in Arizona (ARS § 13-3603), and in effect until *Roe* in 1973, *prohibits any abortion unless necessary to save a woman's life*.
- In April 2022, the Arizona legislature passed along party lines and Governor Ducey signed SB 1164, banning abortion after 15 weeks (effectively 13 weeks). The law *does not include exceptions for rape or incest*.
- However, SB 1164 specifically refers to the pre-statehood law, making it absolutely clear the intent of the Republican-controlled Arizona legislature was to ban and criminalize *all abortions* in Arizona, not just those after 15 weeks, if *Roe v. Wade* was overturned in the *Dobbs* ruling. The only exception puts doctors in the position of proving medical necessity to save a woman's life.

Fetal Personhood

In 2021 the Republicans in the Legislature went even farther:

- They passed SB 1457, recognizing fetal personhood and giving to *embryos and fetuses* "all rights, privileges and immunities available to other persons, citizens and residents of this state" under *every law* in Arizona.

The law is currently blocked by a judicial preliminary injunction, but the case is still being litigated and the law has not been overturned.

See the Complete Report: [Roe Overturned — Now What for Arizona?](#)

Anti-Police Reform

Anti-Police Reform Laws

In the 2021 and 2022 sessions, while most of the rest of the country was enacting police reform bills, Arizona Republicans took the state backward with a series of new laws:

- HB 2462 created a new requirement that *civilian* review board members have 80 hours of *law enforcement training*.
- HB 2550 requires that complainants about police misconduct be notified that making false allegations to a police officer is a felony.
- HB 2567 requires that 2/3 of any board or entity that investigates police misconduct be composed of *police officers from the same department* as the officer being investigated.
- HB 2319 *prohibits the filming of police officers* closer than eight feet with few exceptions.

See the Complete Report: [Backsliding on Police Reform in Arizona](#)

In Their Own Words

Voting

Arizona GOP nominee for Governor Kari Lake said during an Arizona Republican debate in June that she would not have certified Biden's victory in Arizona. In the same debate, she called the election corrupt and said—with no evidence—that 34,000 ballots “were counted two, three, and four times” in Arizona and that 200,000 ballots were trafficked by mules.

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2022/08/25/how-election-denying-gop-governors-could-tilt-the-2024-presidential-election/>

In an interview with CNN in 2021, Arizona Republican state Rep. John Kavanagh stated, “Democrats value as many people as possible voting, and they're willing to risk fraud. Republicans are more concerned about fraud, so we don't mind putting security measures in that won't let everybody vote—but everybody shouldn't be voting.” He went on to say, “Quantity is important, but we have to look at the quality of votes, as well.”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicholasreimann/2021/03/11/everybody-shouldnt-be-voting-arizona-lawmaker-defends-gop-effort-to-restrict-voters/?sh=6e1b9cdf7624>

Mark Finchem, one of the state's loudest proponents of baseless election fraud claims, who is running to oversee elections as Secretary of State, urged attendees to show up at their local polling place to monitor voters: “Stand 75 feet away from the entrance of the polls. The mere fact that you are there watching scares the hell out of them.”

<https://www.azmirror.com/2022/08/02/republicans-are-urging-vigilantes-to-watch-ballot-drop-boxes-polling-locations-to-sniff-out-fraud/>

This is the same man who attended the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capital and identifies himself as an Oath Keeper.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/01/us/politics/mark-finchem-arizona-elections.html>

Reproductive Health

"We will continue to prioritize protecting life in our preborn children, and this legislation goes a long way in protecting real human lives," stated Governor Ducey while signing SB 1457 in 2021.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona/2021/04/27/arizona-anti-abortion-bill-becomes-law/4855859001/>

In 2021 Rep. Blake Masters called on Congress to pass a personhood law and said support for abortion rights has become "demonic" and likened it to "religious sacrifice." He has also said, "Hard to imagine a bigger deprivation of due process than killing a small child before they have a chance to take their first breath. So I think you do need a federal personhood law."

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/blake-masters-abortion-arizona-senate_n_62793263e4b0b7c8f0877c08

Regarding the Dobbs decision, Rep. Paul Gosar wrote "Christ wins." "As amazing and historic as today is, there is still so much more work to be done to return this country to God," he tweeted. "Thank the Lord for this day, and thank you President Trump for making this possible. Let's keep our momentum and push ever forward. For Him."

<https://www.azmirror.com/2022/06/24/arizona-republicans-cheer-supreme-court-ruling-on-abortion-democrats-express-outrage/>