

# FRIENDS *of* ASBA

educating arizona

---

How Arizona Legislators Voted in 2015  
on High Priority K-12 Education Bills

---

The Friends of ASBA is a 501(c)(4) private, non-profit organization that provides information on high-priority, high-impact policy issues related to K-12 education in Arizona, leading to greater public understanding and support for public education in Arizona. This guide is intended to be factual, non-partisan and a key resource for voters who want to take into account education issues when casting their ballots.

We are proud to be a sister organization of the Arizona School Boards Association.

# Table of Contents

---

- 4 Letter from the Executive Director of Friends of ASBA
- 5 A User's Guide to This Publication
- 5 Summary of Key K-12 Bills for 2015

## A District-by-District Guide to Elected Representatives, Voters, Constituents, School Districts Served and Voting Records

7	Legislative District 1	37	Legislative District 16
9	Legislative District 2	39	Legislative District 17
11	Legislative District 3	41	Legislative District 18
13	Legislative District 4	43	Legislative District 19
15	Legislative District 5	45	Legislative District 20
17	Legislative District 6	47	Legislative District 21
19	Legislative District 7	49	Legislative District 22
21	Legislative District 8	51	Legislative District 23
23	Legislative District 9	53	Legislative District 24
25	Legislative District 10	55	Legislative District 25
27	Legislative District 11	57	Legislative District 26
29	Legislative District 12	59	Legislative District 27
31	Legislative District 13	61	Legislative District 28
33	Legislative District 14	63	Legislative District 29
35	Legislative District 15	65	Legislative District 30

# A trusted resource to track key votes in K-12 education

---

The Friends of ASBA, a sister organization of the Arizona School Boards Association, is dedicated to providing resources that lead to more informed public discussion of K-12 education in Arizona and greater understanding and support for our state's public schools and the more than 1 million students who attend them. Our mission, developed and supported by a board of directors comprised of current and former school board members from throughout Arizona, is providing both the public and key stakeholder groups access to information on high-priority, high-impact education policy issues.

The Friends of ASBA is focused on educating the people of Arizona so we, as a state, can do a better job of prioritizing the importance of education for all children.

This publication focuses on the impact of the Arizona Legislature, specifically the votes of individual legislators on key bills impacting K-12 education. On these pages, we look at voting records of Arizona legislators on 10 significant bills introduced last session that focused on vouchers, standards, funding and local control.

School board members and other school district leaders will be familiar with the color-coded voting records format, which provides at-a-glance insights into the level of support – or lack of support – each and every Arizona legislator provided for Arizona public schools and the local school boards who govern them. The Arizona School Boards Association has published voting records like this for many years. The Friends of ASBA has stepped into this role for the second year, amplifying the valuable voting records with additional legislative district data that illuminates the populations and constituents served, as well as voter participation and registration.

It's a powerful combination that we hope will inspire discussion among your communities. Education remains the top priority for Arizona voters surpassing other state issues. The quality of education our students receive, without a doubt, is helped or hindered by legislative action.

It's important to honor those state representatives who support our work to bolster and better our state's public schools and hold those accountable that do not.

I encourage you to use this resource to do just that.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Timothy L. Ogle**

Executive Director, Friends of ASBA

# Using the Voting Records

---

Arizona's 90 elected state legislators serve constituents in our state's 30 legislative districts. Each district has two representatives who serve in the House and one who serves in the Senate. On the following pages, we provide a snapshot of each legislative district and a record of legislators' support or lack of support for public education in Arizona.

The information for each legislative district is shown on two pages. The first page includes data about the legislative district itself. This data includes the names and party affiliation of elected representatives, a look at the partisan split of registered voters in the district and data on Voter Turnout in 2014, plus details of the race/ethnicity of the district's total population and under age 18 population. Of major importance from an accountability perspective is the number of school districts located in the legislative district and the student enrollment in each.

The second page includes a record of how legislators representing that district voted on significant K-12 education bills that came before them in the last legislative session, and are grouped in four key areas: Vouchers, standards, funding and local control.

## Legislator Accountability – How Did Your Legislators Vote On Key Legislation In The 2015 Legislative Session?

---

The 2015 Legislative Session adjourned sine die on Thursday, April 3rd at 3:37 a.m. after an 81-day session. The General Effective date for chaptered bills is July 3rd, 2015 unless it was passed with an emergency or retroactivity clause.

ASBA is committed to ensuring our members' voices are heard at the Capitol, as well as the executive and regulatory arena; however, it is the work that you do each and every day, overcoming challenging obstacles, to ensure students have every opportunity for success that is essential. You, the Heroes of Public Education (HOPE), give our students hope and it is why these voting records are so key. Your job to ensure our students have a quality education is either supported or hindered by legislative action. We must honor those who help us and hold those accountable that do not.

The following bill summaries represent many of the significant policy bills affecting K-12 public education identified by Governmental Relations. For a detailed summary of K-12 education bills, please consult the Legislative Wrap-Up Brief.

There was one important bill that we chose not to include in the voting records. SB 1476 (K-12 education; budget reconciliation; 2015-2016), the K-12 education budget bill that includes the policy and implementation items for the Fiscal Year 2016. ASBA worked diligently on two key changes: 1) the session law change to the

classroom spending definition and 2) reporting requirements on the feasibility of implementing current year funding. Working with the executive branch and key legislators, both of these items were included and we are appreciative of those efforts. Thus, while we still opposed the bill that includes implementation for the K-12 cuts that incurred, the voting records on this item didn't necessarily reflect the strong work by legislators to get those changes included. Hence, we've included the main budget bill that specifically references the K-12 funding cuts as part of the voting records.

Again, please be sure to communicate with your legislators regarding their voting record, holding them accountable for the positive and negative votes cast on K-12 education legislation.

## Vouchers

**SB 1332 (empowerment scholarship accounts; reservation residences) – Begay** This bill expands Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) to all students who live within the boundaries of Native American lands. ASBA opposed; Chapter 225; 2015 Laws.

**HB 2174 (empowerment scholarship accounts; grandchildren) – Finchem** This bill would have expanded ESAs to grandchildren being raised by their grandparents. ASBA opposed; Failed House Third Read on a 28-32 vote.

## Standards

**SB 1289 (schools; letter classification; transition process) – Ward** This bill provides a two-year transition period for the A-F accountability system. ASBA supported as a priority issue; Chapter 76; 2015 Laws.

**HB 2190 (schools; common core; replacement) – Finchem** This bill would have prohibited the State Board of Education from implementing the current Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. ASBA opposed; Failed Senate Committee of the Whole on a 13-16 vote.

## Funding

**SB 1469 (general appropriations; 2015-2016) – Biggs** This bill is the overarching Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Budget bill, also known as the "feed bill." ASBA opposed; Chapter 8; 2015 Laws.

**SB 1406 (schools; audit findings; financial penalty) – Yee** This bill would have allowed the State Board or Arizona Department of Education to withhold up to 10% of state aid for any audit finding that was not corrected. ASBA opposed; Failed House Third Read on reconsideration on a 29-30 vote.

**HB 2246 (statewide assessments; parental opt out) – Ackerley** This bill would have allowed parents to opt their child out of statewide assessments. ASBA opposed; Failed Senate Third Read on reconsideration on a 15-15 vote.

## Local Control

**HB 2483 (school tax credit; classroom expenses) – Livingston** This bill allows public school extracurricular tax credit contributions to be made until April 15th and increases student tuition organization (STO) accountability. ASBA supported; Chapter 217; 2015 Laws.

**HB 2079 (local bonding; property tax measure) – Petersen** This bill would have required all election materials prepared, issued or used by a political subdivision to include the words "property tax measure." ASBA opposed; Failed Senate Third Read on a 15-13 vote.

**SB 1173 (schools; bonds; overrides; funding sources) – Yee** This bill would have expanded the voter information required to include a statement with the total dollar amount per pupil that the district received from all funding sources (federal, state and local), including capital and non-capital, in the previous fiscal year. ASBA opposed; Failed House Third Read on a 22-37 vote.

# District 11

District 11 includes 13 School Districts in Pima & Pinal Counties

## School Districts Served (with enrollment)

<b>Pima</b>	Red Rock ESD (320)
Marana USD (12,476)	Eloy ESD (981)
Amphitheater USD (13,273)	Picacho ESD (194)
	Toltec ESD (1,214)
<b>Pinal</b>	Casa Grande ESD (6,980)
Maricopa USD (6,300)	Stanfield ESD (509)
Casa Grande Union HSD (3,669)	
Santa Cruz Valley Union HSD (411)	<b>JTEDs</b>
Oracle ESD (478)	CAVIT (755)

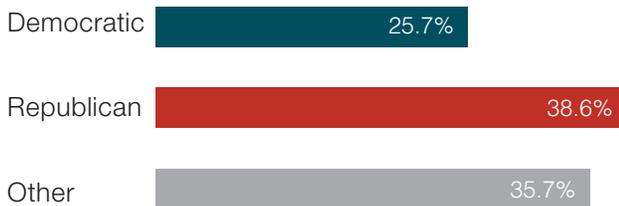
## Elected Representatives and Voters

<b>Senate</b>	■ Steve Smith (R)
<b>House</b>	■ Vince Leach (R)
	■ Mark Finchem (R)

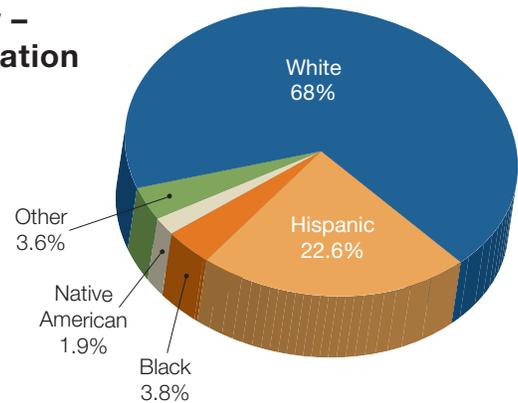
### Voter Turnout in 2014

65,092 voters, 55.5% registered, 40.8% voting age population

### Partisan Split of Registered Voters



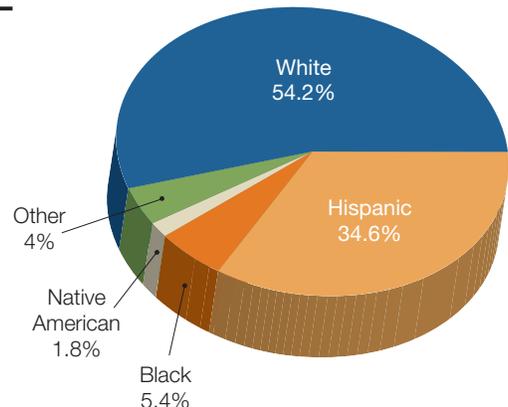
### Race/Ethnicity – Total LD Population



## Children Served

- » 49,583 Children
- » 36,588 Enrolled in School
- » 86.9% Attend Public Schools
- » 25% Of Total Population
- » 33% Of Households Have at Least One Child
- » 12% Of Children Under 18 Live in Poverty, Compared to 22% Statewide

### Race/Ethnicity – Children in LD



Sources: Arizona Department of Education, U.S. Census 2012 ([www.factfinder2.census.gov](http://www.factfinder2.census.gov)) and Arizona Secretary of State ([www.azsos.gov](http://www.azsos.gov)).

# District 11

District 11 includes 13 School Districts in Pima & Pinal Counties

	Bill	Sen. Steve Smith	Rep. Mark Finchem	Rep. Vince Leach
VOUCHERS	SB 1332 empowerment scholarship accounts; reservation residences			
	HB 2174 empowerment scholarship accounts; grandchildren			
STANDARDS	SB 1289 schools; letter classification; transition process			
	HB 2190 schools; common core; replacement			
	HB 2246 statewide assessments; parental opt out			
FUNDING	SB 1469 general appropriations; 2015-2016			
	SB 1406 schools; audit findings; financial penalty			
LOCAL CONTROL	HB 2483 school tax credit; classroom expenses			
	HB 2079 local bonding; property tax measure			
	SB 1173 schools; bonds; overrides; funding sources			

■ Vote in accord with ASBA position    ■ Vote in opposition to ASBA position

■ Legislation on which ASBA was neutral    NV Member was eligible to vote but did not     Bill did not come before this member