Ask your legislators if they support or oppose ...

FRIENDS *of* ASBA
educating arizona

How Arizona Legislators Voted in 2016 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.

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 funding, vouchers 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 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 within your communities. Education remains the top priority for Arizona voters. 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 state House of Representatives, and one senator, who serves in the State Senate. On the following pages, you will find an overview of each legislative district and a record of legislators' votes to highlight those who support and do not support public education in Arizona.

The information is separated into two pages. The first includes data about the legislative district itself with the names and party affiliation of each elected representative, the partisan split of registered voters, and data regarding voter turnout in the 2014 general election. It also includes race/ethnicity of the total population, and the population under age 18 within the district. Also, note the number of school districts within each legislative district and the student enrollment of each.

The second page displays the voting record of each legislator in that district on key K-12 education bills. These are grouped into three focus areas: funding, vouchers and local control.

Legislator Accountability – How Did Your Legislators Vote On Key Legislation in the 2016 Legislative Session?

The 2016 session of the Arizona Legislature adjourned *sine die* at 5:45 a.m. on Friday, May 7, 2016, after 117 days. The general effective date for non-emergency bills is August 6, 2016. Appropriation bills and bills with an emergency clause are effective immediately upon the signature of the governor.

This year, thanks to the tireless efforts of people like you, the education community celebrated a few wins: JTED funding was restored, declining districts were held harmless under the move to current year funding and no new cuts took place. This is all thanks to your voices. Without you, our mission to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed would not be possible. However, our work is not done. As we move into election season, it is more crucial than ever that you hold your legislators accountable for the positive and negative votes they cast.

EXTRA CREDIT – NEW THIS YEAR

We realize merely displaying voting records doesn't tell the whole story. A great majority of our advocacy efforts happen behind the scenes. Each year a handful of legislators go the extra mile to advocate for public education, which often goes unnoticed. That is why this year Friends of ASBA has included extra credit within our voting records. Just like when a student goes above and beyond in the classroom, we want to recognize those individuals who go above and beyond at the Capitol. We hope that by including this extra credit, it will show the work that is not always captured by a yes or no vote.

Please use this information to stay informed and involved in the decisions being made for your community. As always, be sure to communicate with your legislators regarding their positive and negative votes cast on K-12 education policy.

Funding

SB 1525 JTED restoration and reforms (Shooter) This bill restores the cuts slated to take place in the FY 17 for JTEDs, school districts and charter schools. ABSA Supported; Chapter 4; 2016 Laws.

HB 2401 schools; desegregation funding; phase-down (Leach) This bill would have phased out desegregation funding over a period of 10 years. ASBA Opposed; Retained on House Committee of the Whole Calendar.

HB 2476 school; property; sales; leases; use (Norgaard) This bill modifies criteria relating to the school plant fund expenditures and consolidates the three funds into one. ASBA Supported; Chapter 242; 2016 Laws.

HB 2480 additional; state aid; maximum amount (Olson) This bill would have limited the amount of additional state aid for education to $1.5 million per county beginning FY 17. ASBA Opposed; Failed Senate Committee of the Whole on an 8-22 vote.

***HB 2002 statewide special election (Gowan)** This bill authorized a special election on May 17, 2016, for a constitutional amendment regarding education finance. **ASBA Supported; Chapter 2; 2015 Laws.

Vouchers

SB 1279/HB2482 empowerment scholarships; expansion; phase-in (Lesko & Olson) These bills would have drastically expanded the ESA program; one expanding the program to any student who qualifies for free and reduced lunch and the other to any child beginning school year 2018-2019. ASBA Opposed; Failed House Committee of the Whole.

SB 1280 empowerment scholarship accounts; eligibility; administration (Lesko) This bill modifies the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts eligibility criteria and administration of the program. ASBA Opposed; Chapter 353; 2016 Laws.

SB 1457 eligibility; empowerment scholarships; health insurance (Bradley) This bill allows Empowerment Scholarship Account students with a disability to continue receiving funds until age 22 and removes the freeze on Kids Care. ASBA Supported; Chapter 112; 2016 Laws.

It should be noted that while this bill included an ESA expansion, the portion of the bill that resumed KidsCare also falls within ASBA's core belief that "the basic life needs of children must be met for them to succeed."

Local Control

SB 1282 public records; unduly burdensome requests (Kavanagh) This bill would have provided a defense to any action on the denial of access to unduly burdensome or harassing public records requests. ASBA Supported; Failed House Third Read on a 19-40 vote.

SB 1287 Arizona online instruction; transfer credits (S. Allen) This bill would have required transfer credits from a school district, charter school or Arizona Online Instruction to be accepted if they aligned with State Board of Education competency requirements. ASBA Opposed: Failed in Senate Education Committee on a 2-5 vote.

*Bills that were passed in the 2015 – Fifty-Second Legislature – First Special Session
** Prop. 123

District 7

District 7 Includes 41 School Districts in Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Gila, Graham, and Pinal Counties

School Districts Served *(with enrollment)*

Mohave
Kingman USD (6,855)
Peach Springs USD (219)
Hackberry ESD (40)

Coconino
Grand Canyon USD (6,818)
Williams USD (615)
Fredonia – Moccasin USD (222)
Page USD (2,785)
Tuba City USD (1,753)
Flagstaff USD (9,818)

Navajo
Cedar USD (126)
Kayenta USD (1,863)
Pinon USD (1,244)
Winslow USD (2,250)
Holbrook USD (2,060)
Joseph City USD (420)
Show Low USD (2,425)
Blue Ridge USD (2,133)
Whiteriver USD (2,339)

Apache
Alpine ESD (62)
Concho ESD (189)
Vernon ESD (98)
McNary ESD (125)
St. John's USD (812)
Round Valley USD (1,340)
Sanders USD (850)
Red Mesa USD (607)
Chinle USD (3,644)
Window Rock USD (2,100)
Ganado USD (998)

Gila
San Carlos USD (1541)
Hayden-Winkelman USD (300)

Graham
Ft. Thomas USD (604)
Pima USD (1,500)
Safford USD (3,341)
Solomon ESD (198)

Pinal
Ray USD (447)

JTEDs
CAVIAT (455)
CVIT (219)
GIFT (1,100)
NATIVE (684)
NAVIT (850)

Elected Representatives and Voters

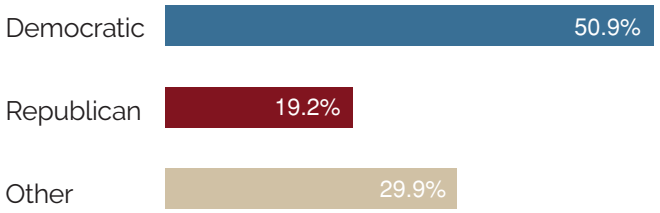
Senate Carlyle Begay (R)

House Jennifer Benally (D)
Albert Hale (D)

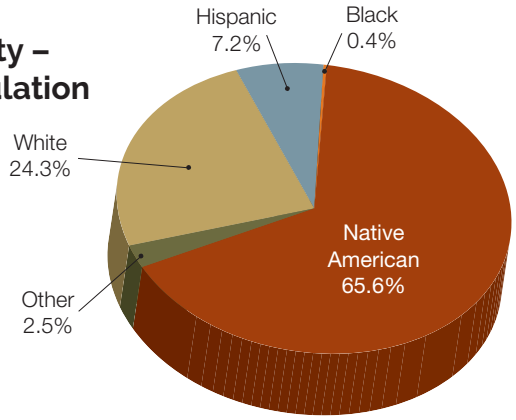
Voter turnout in 2014 general election

46,282 voters, 39.7% registered, 32.5% voting age population

Partisan Split (March 2016)



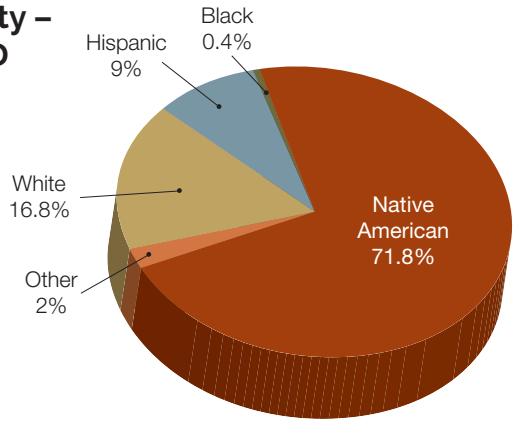
Race/Ethnicity – Total LD Population



Children Served

- 61,259 children
- 45,036 enrolled in school
- 96.1 % attend public school
- 29.8% of total population
- 39.6% of households have at least one child
- 43.8% of children under 18 live in poverty, compared to 24.9% statewide

Race/Ethnicity – Children in LD



SOURCES: ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. CENSUS 2014 (WWW.FACTFINDER2.CENSUS.GOV) AND ARIZONA SECRETARY OF STATE (WWW.AZSOS.GOV).

District 7

District 7 Includes 41 School Districts in Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Gila, Graham, and Pinal Counties

	BILL	ASBA's Position	Sen. Carlyle Begay	Rep. Jennifer Benally	Rep. Albert Hale
FUNDING	SB 1525 (Shooter) Restoration of JTED funding	Supported	NV		
	HB 2401 (Leach) Phase-out of desegregation funding	Opposed			
	HB 2476 (Norgaard) Modifies process for the sale or lease of school property	Supported			
	HB 2480 (Olson) Establishes cap on additional state aid	Opposed		NV	
	*HB 2002 (Gowan) Statewide special election	Supported			
VOUCHERS	SB 1279/HB2482 (Lesko & Olson) Phase-in of empowerment scholarship accounts (ESA)	Opposed			
	SB 1280 (Lesko) Expands and modifies administration of ESAs	Opposed			NV
	SB 1457 (Bradley) Expands the ESA program and eliminates the freeze on KidsCare	Supported			
LOCAL CONTROL	SB 1282 (Kavanagh) Creates a defense for unduly burdensome public records requests	Supported	NV		
	SB 1287 (Allen) Requires AOI transfer credit acceptance	Opposed			
	Extra Credit		+	++	++

*BILLS THAT WERE PASSED IN THE 2015 – FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE – FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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

NV Member was eligible to vote but did not Bill did not come before this member +++ Maximum amount of extra credit

Arizona School Boards Association
2100 North Central Avenue
Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

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How did they vote?
Do you know?

Is education
a priority in AZ?

Learn more at www.friendsofasba.org