

Ask your legislators if they support or oppose...

FRIENDS *of* ASBA

educating arizona



How Arizona Legislators Voted in 2017
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 and separate 501(c)(4) corporation, 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 Friends of ASBA has stepped into this role for the third year, amplifying the valuable voting records with additional legislative district data that illuminates the populations and constituents served, voter participation and registration, and new indicators classifying how your local state representatives voted on key K-12 bills.

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 2016 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 2017 Legislative Session?

The Fifty-Third Legislature, First Regular Session adjourned sine die at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2017, after 122 days. The general effective date for non-emergency bills is August 9, 2017. Appropriation bills and bills with an emergency clause are effective immediately upon the signature of the governor.

The following bill summaries were identified by the Friends of ASBA and represent significant pieces of legislation that impact K-12 public education.

Friend of Public Education

This year, legislators will be rated on whether their overall record during the session was supportive of public education or not, in the estimation of Friends of ASBA. This rating is based on voting record, but also how helpful (or not) a given legislator was in advancing the ASBA political agenda during the legislative session. A legislator may earn a thumbs up, thumbs sideways or thumbs down. This is based in part on the member's voting record, but also on other issues that may occur behind the scenes, such as helping to get bills heard (or not) in committee, helping to prevent bad bills from advancing, etc. This is intended to help our supporters determine at a glance which legislators have overall been helpful to the mission Arizona public schools and the 1.1 million students who attend them. In future years, legislators will have the opportunity to earn recognition for their pro-education stance for their entire two-year term to be used in their re-election efforts. Look for more on that program as we move into 2018.

District 16

District 16 includes 8 school districts in Maricopa and Pinal Counties

School Districts Served *(with enrollment)*

Maricopa

Gilbert USD (34,310)
 Higley USD (11,305)
 Mesa USD (60,969)
 Queen Creek USD (5,675)

Pinal

Apache Junction USD (3,816)
 Florence USD (8,110)
 J O Combs USD (4,139)

Elected Representatives and Voters

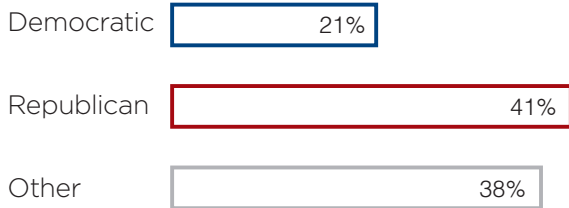
Voter Turnout in 2016 general election

86,276 voters, 66% of registered voters, 45% voting age population

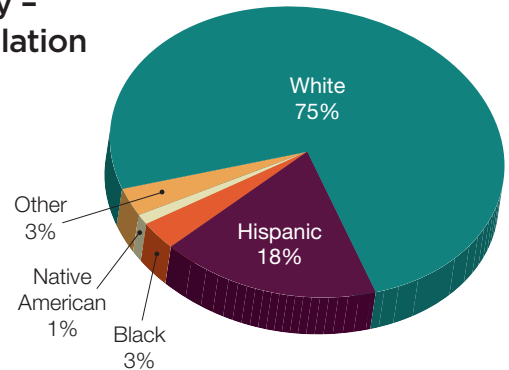
Senate ■ David Farnsworth (R)

House ■ Doug Coleman (R)
 ■ Kelly Townsend – Majority Whip (R)

Partisan Split



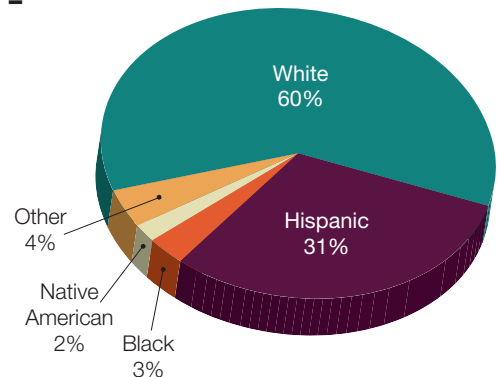
Race/Ethnicity - Total LD Population



Children Served

- 55,463 children
- 40,391 enrolled in school
- 91.5% attend public schools
- 24% of total population
- 30.5% of households have at least one child
- 21.2% 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 16

District 16 includes 8 school districts in Maricopa and Pinal Counties

	BILL	ASBA's Position	David Farnsworth (R)	Doug Coleman (R)	Kelly Townsend (R)
Funding	HB 2219 (Norgaard) Modifies items relating to school capital finance	Supported	Y	Y	Y
	SB 1174 (Lesko) Creates a special override for desegregation funding	Opposed			
Local Control	HB 2017 (Leach) Requires bond disclosure notice	Opposed	Y	N	Y
	SB 1375/HB 2480 (Montenegro & Grantham) Requires bond and override materials to list all funding sources	Opposed	Y	N	
	SB 1041 (Allen) Requires AOI transfer credit acceptance	Opposed	Y		
	SB 1317 (Allen) Modifies specially designed instruction	Supported	Y	Y	Y
	HB 2353 (Boyer) Increases school district lease lengths	Supported	N	Y	Y
	HB 2164 (Boyer) Creates alternative teacher evaluation cycle	Supported		Y	Y
Vouchers	SB 1431 (Lesko) Full phase-in of empowerment scholarship accounts	Opposed	Y	N	Y
	SB 1281/HB 2465 (Smith & Livingston) Modifies the empowerment scholarship accounts program	Opposed		N	
Friend of public education					

 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

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