

Civic Engagement Beyond Voting

*Prop 131 (lieutenant governor; joint ticket): **NO***

This is another measure placed on the ballot by lawmakers, who want to sucker Arizonans into creating [a lieutenant governor position](#) (who would run on a single-party slate with the governor). If Prop 131 passes, the new lieutenant governor would be first in line to become governor, starting in 2027, instead of the Secretary of State.

Republican lawmakers first proposed creating a lieutenant governor position for Arizona in 1990. They finally got the idea to the ballot in 1994, where it failed epically, flaming out with 65% voter disapproval. [Undeterred](#), they put it on the ballot again in 2010, where it once again failed with 59% voter disapproval. [Still not getting the hint](#), they introduced it yet again in 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 — succeeding this year in getting their idea on the ballot a third time.

Voters clearly [aren't clamoring for a lieutenant governor](#). So why do some lawmakers want to see it happen so badly? For starters, Prop 131 would ensure any replacement governor belongs to the same political party as their predecessor — meaning the same party would still retain power. It's notable that this bill, championed by Republicans who have long held control of both the legislature and the governor's office, has been advanced to the ballot only now that Arizona has a Democratic Secretary of State. By contrast, our current system ensures a sort of political house cleaning if a governor is removed from office, which [happens fairly often in Arizona](#). That's not a bad thing.



And what would a lieutenant governor even do? Part of the reason this failed so many times is that some Republicans consider it an epic waste of money which “bloats government” for no reason. To address these concerns, Prop 131 would allow the governor to appoint the lieutenant governor into any position within their authority, from the director of the Arizona Department of Administration to the governor's chief of staff. That's truly alarming. A chief of staff is an unelected appointee, not a politician. That person wields an immense amount of power behind the scenes and is ultimately accountable to no one but the governor. This setup could permit an appalling amount of cronyism and shady dealing. I've never met a chief of staff who would make a good governor, or vice versa.

Prop 131 Recommendation: Spends taxpayer money on something voters don't want. Enables cronyism and corruption. We're doing just fine without a lieutenant governor; there's no reason to change our current setup. **Vote NO.**

Source:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p8hhclUupaELvSFekvZyC8ee-o-0HsCUwFG6JcW3lbU/edit>