

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT VOTERS

August 1, 2013

Presidential Commission on Elections

Dear Commissioners,

I am part of a grassroots effort in Arizona that aims to level the playing field for voters in this state who choose to be independent of established political parties.

In the last ten years, Arizona voters have increasingly rejected party affiliation in favor of registering independently. In 2004 according to the Arizona Secretary of State 24% of Arizonans registered independent (without party affiliation, aka "other"), while the most current information in 2013 shows that number has increased to a whopping **34%** (the raw number nearly doubled to over 1 million voters now checking the "other" box). **Essentially, over 1 million, or more than one third of Arizona's registered voters have rejected partisan politics.**

This does not mean that they don't want to vote. In fact, it means they have made a conscious decision to not affiliate with an organized political party.

The issues the Presidential Commission on Elections should address, in addition to those in your basic mandate, are those that continue to disenfranchise over one-third of Arizona voters. Namely:

- Why independent voters are treated unfairly in primary elections. Specifically, independents (or "other" voters) are forced to choose one of the two major party ballots in order to participate in citizen-funded primary elections.
- Why independent voters are categorized as "other" and not "independent" in the voter registration process. The designation as "other" is disrespectful and discounts the very independence that these voters represent. Independent voters should be able to register as "independent".

Independent voters should be afforded the same rights as partisan voters to participate in our American elections system. I urge you to add this to your review and discussion.

Respectfully,

Brenda Sperduti
Arizona Independent Voting Activist
2609 E Beekman Place
Phoenix AZ 85016