

One Arizona works to improve the lives of Latinos, young people, and single women by building a culture of civic participation.

One Arizona was formed in 2010 as a direct response to the growing disenfranchisement of voters and to the attack on our Latino community in the form of SB1070, best known as ‘the show me your papers’ law. For almost 10 years, One Arizona has worked under a successful collaborative format on civic engagement efforts in statewide, presidential, mid-term, off-year and odd year (municipal) election seasons. Since 2016, One of Arizona has grown to 20 table members, representing a broad tapestry of 501(c)(3)’s organizations coming together to coordinate on voter registration, voter engagement, voter mobilization, election protection, and leadership development.

One Arizona just completed its most successful cycle to date, which succeeded up its previously most successful cycle in 2016. One Arizona coordinated a voter registration effort in 2018 that turned in over 190,000 applications; we turned in over 154,000 in 2016. The impact of that work is being felt across the state as Arizona has elected more POC candidates than ever before and turnout amongst Latinos, POC, young people, and other underrepresented communities is at record highs.

Antipathy towards voting rights for Latinos and First Peoples has run deep amongst Arizona’s leaders for decades. As unauthorized immigration to Arizona spiked in the mid-2000s, cynical conservative politicians like Joe Arpaio and Russell Pearce once again discovered they could stoke racial animosity for political gain. One of the first policy outgrowths of that movement was a 2004 white supremacy omnibus ballot initiative titled, in classic Orwellian fashion, the “Arizona Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act.” That measure included a voter ID law, a first-of-its-kind documentary proof of citizenship requirement for voter registration, and new restrictions on access to public services for certain noncitizens.

While Arizona has in some (but not all) respects moved beyond the overheated anti-immigrant atmosphere of that era, the conservative movement against democracy has only intensified in recent years. Since Governor Doug Ducey came into office in 2015, we have seen: a law making it a felony to collect another voter’s ballot (even with the voter’s permission) and turn it in to be counted; an expansion of the Arizona Supreme Court, allowing Ducey to appoint a career litigator for Koch-funded anti-government organizations; the most aggressive local preemption law in the country, designed to stifle progressive policy at the local level; a comprehensive deregulation of the state’s campaign finance laws; and attacks on the voters’ right to use ballot measures designed, in the words of the state GOP Chair, “for ballot initiatives to be thrown out for minor errors regarding language and paperwork.” Attacks on Arizona’s Clean Elections system (a beacon of light in all the darkness) recur every legislative session.

Additionally, we have failed to take action as a state to administratively to ease participation like expanding technology that would allow for real-time availability of data and communication between state agencies (postal service, DMV, etc) for rapid updates and verification of registrations. This would also reduce the number of provisional ballots and reduce the number of rejected early ballots. The following are some of the solutions from a report produced by One Arizona, Arizona Advocacy Foundation and Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona.

- **Extend current voter registration deadlines**, many states have same-day voter registration siting only a slight increase in printing cost

- **Increase types of identification allowed at the polling place** including student ID, tribal ID, state or local-issued identification (library card)
- **Reduce rejections of early ballots** by allowing any ballot postmarked on or before election day to be counted

The report continues to outline an action plan to protect and expand voting rights to all eligible Arizonans. We are working every day to ensure all those who are eligible to vote are registering and know the process to exercise their right to do so.