

ENHANCE THE E-QUAL SITE

The US Constitution guarantees our right to petition, and in Arizona candidates and initiatives are required to obtain a minimum number of petition signatures to appear on a ballot. Voters who want to support Statewide and Legislative candidates can sign a petition electronically using the E-Equal system administered by the Secretary of State. When operational, this is a secure, efficient and accessible system, but it must be improved and expanded beyond just a few political offices.

Currently, few local officials can gather signatures by this method. Also, no statewide initiatives have access to these verified signatures, which could ensure that our “citizen legislature” has the same access to the ballot currently enjoyed by some politicians. The E-Equal system is a good one for Arizona, it fulfills our First Amendment right to petition, but it must be expanded and made more resilient.

In order to fulfill the promise of our First Amendment, as Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes will work with legislative leadership and local, and county election officials to help this system realize its full potential. Every registered voter in Arizona should be allowed to sign any petition via this system for any election in their jurisdiction, including statewide initiatives.

Additionally, advances in process planning and a clear view of the future will allow the E-Equal system to prepare for the next round of redistricting, new security protocols and an increase in access to help promote and protect each aspect of the democracy which supports our Republic.

***THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON EVOLVING SECURITY, LEGAL, AND TECHNICAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY OF COURSE REQUIRE ADJUSTMENTS TO THESE POLICIES IN THE FUTURE. FLEXIBILITY MUST ALWAYS BE PART OF ANY PLAN.**