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AZ initiative calls for all future voting to be by mail

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PHOENIX - Arizona voters are being asked to make next year's general election the last time they go to the polls.

An initiative drive launched Thursday seeks to require that all future elections be conducted solely by mail. All registered voters would get a ballot automatically that they could fill out and put it in a pre-stamped return envelope.

Initiative drive organizer Rick Murphy needs 122,612 valid petition signatures by July 6 to put the issue on next year's ballot.

Murphy, a Republican who owns five radio stations in northwest Arizona, said he is prepared to use \$300,000 of his own money to pay circulators to ensure that the measure gets the signatures it needs.

He said this is not a partisan issue and cited a study from Oregon, where residents adopted all-mail voting in 1998, which increased increased in participation by people of both parties.

Secretary of State Jan Brewer said that may be true, but those who want to vote by mail already have that option.

The initiative would still require some polling places where ballots could be cast on Election Day.

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