

Published: 07.06.2006

## Cluttered Nov. 8 ballot is stirring concern

**By Howard Fischer**

*CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES*

PHOENIX — With 19 separate measures expected to be on the state's ballot, some voters could be rushed and perhaps disenfranchised, the president of the Arizona League of Women Voters said Wednesday.

Bonnie Saunders said wading through so many issues on the general election ballot could prove difficult in the time voters are allotted — especially when some of the measures conflict with each other.

State law limits voters to no more than five minutes.

And while that is enforced only sporadically, it could leave some Arizonans with an incomplete ballot when the time runs out.

The items likely to be left unmarked would be the initiatives and referenda at the bottom of the ballot.

Today is the deadline for initiative backers to file signatures to qualify for the Nov. 8 ballot.

The last five initiatives scheduled to have petitions filed today:

- A constitutional measure to define marriage as between one man and one woman.
- Smoking restrictions — but, unlike an earlier measure, this one is financed by a major tobacco company and would allow smoking in bars and some restaurants.
- Bans on the use of small pens for pregnant pigs and calves bred for veal.
- Curbs on the ability of government to take private property and requirements to compensate for reduced value.
- Setting up a statewide vote-by-mail system.

To get to those measures, voters will have to make their way past the races for all statewide offices, contests for U.S. Senate and congressional districts and three legislative seats in each district as well as various local races.

The number of ballot measures surprised Saunders. "That's an awful lot," she said.

She said the situation is going to require informed voters.

"If you go into the voting booth knowing nothing about the ballot issues, no,

### What it says

This is the text of the state law on voters' allotted time:

ARS 16-580(C) In order that the rights of other voters shall not be interfered with, a voter shall not be allowed to occupy a voting booth for more than five minutes when other voters are waiting to occupy the booth. If the voter refuses to leave after the lapse of five minutes the voter may be removed by the judges. If a voter has not completed a ballot after the allotted five minutes, the voter may request the marshal to hold the ballot and when another booth is empty and all voters present have had an opportunity to vote the removed person may be allowed an additional five minutes in the booth.

### Expected ballot measures in November Constitutional changes:

- Ban same-sex marriage, civil unions (I)
- Set aside up to 690,000 acres of trust land for conservation\* (I)
- Preserve about 40,000 acres of urban lands and set up procedures for conservation of another 400,000 rural acres\* (R)
- Deny bail in some circumstances to people charged with crimes who are not in this country legally\* (R)
- Declare English the state's

you can't do it in 10 minutes," she said. And that's twice as much time as the law allows.

So what does she suggest?

"You can vote from home," taking all the time necessary to review the measures — including descriptions and pro and con arguments in brochures published by the Secretary of State's Office and her organization.

State law no longer requires people to prove they will be out of their district on Election Day to get early ballots. Requests can be made by phone, in writing or online.

Saunders added, though, that there are options for those who prefer to go to the polls. People can make their decisions at home, mark up the sample ballot mailed to all voters and take that into the voting booth with them.

Not all of the measures up for voter review are there because of petition drives.

Eight proposals on the Nov. 7 ballot are constitutional changes approved by the Legislature but legally requiring voter ratification.

A ninth, a recommendation by a special commission to raise legislators' pay by 50 percent, to \$36,000, also has to go to voters.

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- Declare English the state's official language\* (R)
- Bar people not in this country legally from collecting punitive damages if they are injured\* (R)
- Reset the limit for year-over-year increases in city spending\* (R)

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- Reset the limit for year-over-year increases in city spending\* (R)
- Increase amount cities can borrow for certain purposes\* (R)

### Statutory changes:

- Raise minimum wage to \$6.75/hour\* (I)
- Make adult education and subsidized child care off limits to those not here legally; ban on in-state tuition rates for illegal immigrants\* (R)
- Set up \$1 million lottery for those who vote each year\* (I)
- Ban smoking in most public places, including bars and restaurants\* (I)
- Ban smoking in most public places with exception for bars and some restaurants (I)
- Impose restrictions on penning of pigs and calves by ranchers (I)
- Change future elections to largely vote-by-mail system (I)
- Impose 80-cent-a-pack cigarette tax to fund programs for early childhood development\* (I)
- Set limits on use of eminent domain by government and require compensation for land use regulations (I)
- Allow judges to impose jail time on methamphetamine users despite 1996 voter-approved measure on first-time drug offenders\* (R)

### Miscellaneous:

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