



July 6, 2012

To the Members of the Arizona State Senate and House of Representatives:

As you know, business and community leaders from all walks of life, ideologies, and political beliefs from across Arizona have come together to place the Open Elections/Open Government Act before Arizona voters this November, opening our election process up to more voters and more candidates.

Our motivation is simple. Arizonans – indeed, ALL Americans -- are clamoring for change to our election process that seems to yield little these days beyond partisan sniping and gridlock.

We can certainly understand why some politicians are concerned and even frightened by the prospects of a more open election process. We respect those with opposing views, and we look forward to a lively debate this fall with those who believe our current system is just fine.

However, we cannot stand idly by as some elected officials who oppose the Open Elections/Open Government initiative use their office and public funds to protect and advance their own personal interests.

We understand that a Special Session of the Arizona Legislature will be called next week in order to consider a competing referendum to the Open Elections/Open Government initiative. We view such a maneuver as a cynical and Machiavellian attempt to confuse Arizona voters this November.

Two questions arise; why, and why now.

No such legislation was debated in the recent session that concluded in May, let alone introduced. In fact, no major reforms to our election process the likes of Open Elections/Open Government has been a priority in the Legislature at any time in recent years. The complexity of any referendum demands not only thoughtful consideration by the Legislature, but the opportunity for public input. Certainly it is worth more than quickly called special session and consideration of a measure literally designed to be rammed through the Legislature.

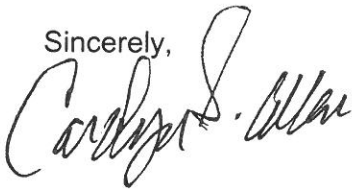
Why now? It's quite simple. The Open Elections/Open Government initiative feared by some is on the verge of qualifying for the November ballot. Yesterday, our campaign filed 365,486 signatures in order to place the initiative on the ballot. The filing included well over 100,000 more signatures than required by law, and included the signature of voters from every county in the state. In fact, a record number of signatures were filed. No citizen initiative filed in the history of Arizona that went on to be approved by Arizona voters has ever secured more signatures.

Paid for by: Open Government Committee Supporting C-03-2012  
Major funding by: Greater Phoenix Leadership, HSL Properties, Cowley Companies, Inc.,  
and United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 99

We recognize that any competing measure may actually prove to aid our efforts, as it provides one more powerful example that our systems of elections are broken, and why the reforms of Open Elections/Open Government are so crucial. As former members of the Arizona Legislature, we very much want to have respect for a governing process that represents the people. We make this appeal not out of fear, but out of respect for the principles of democracy, the cherished right to the citizen initiative process provided for under the Arizona Constitution, and our desire to limit any further erosion of public faith and confidence in our governmental institutions.

We urge you to oppose this attempt to simply confuse voters, and preserve the integrity of the citizen initiative process that has been a part Arizona's governing process since statehood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn S. Allen".

Carolyn Allen  
Scottsdale

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Konopnicki".

Bill Konopnicki  
Safford