

ARGUMENTS FILED IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 123

As a businesswoman and former teacher, I cannot begin to express how honored I am to lead an endeavor as worthwhile and needed as Prop 123. With this measure, we have the opportunity to assist a generation of students who will help our state to compete and flourish in the present and coming modern economies. In order for this to happen, we need the best and brightest teachers and we need classrooms where computers and technology are as commonplace as chalkboards and chalk. Prop 123 will deliver \$3.5 billion in additional funding to our schools over the next 10 years without raising taxes. That money represents a strong commitment to improving education, and we have the responsibility to ensure its passage so that our students and teachers can be the beneficiaries of these additional dollars. Virtually every education group and business organization in Arizona supports Prop 123, as do elected officials from both parties. This is an issue we can all agree on for the betterment of our state. Please join me in voting 'yes' for Prop 123 on May 17!

Sharon Harper

Sponsored by "Let's Vote Yes for AZ Schools"

In my first year as Governor I have visited classrooms all across our state, and I have been inspired by the great work our teachers and principals are doing for our students. A consistent message I've heard from educators, parents and the business community is that our classrooms need additional financial support. Proposition 123 is our innovative way of ensuring that our schools get additional sustainable funding now and into the future – without raising taxes. Better utilizing the State Land Trust, whose primary purpose since our state's founding is to support K-12 education, will help us to inject our schools with \$3.5 billion over the next 10 years. This money will go into our classrooms and get teachers additional resources they've been asking for, and in a way that gives them the flexibility they need to meet their needs. Proposition 123 not only provides new money to our classrooms but also sets in place economic safeguards to protect our state and settles the education funding lawsuit that has been hanging over our state for too long. Please join me today by Voting YES for Prop 123 and let's stop paying lawyers and start paying teachers.

Doug Ducey

Please vote YES on Prop. 123.

Prop. 123 is a historic bipartisan agreement that places more resources in Arizona classrooms without raising taxes. This is, by far, the largest increase in education funding in Arizona history without a corresponding tax increase.

As Speaker of the House of Representatives, it is my honor to work with the men and women you have selected to represent you in the Legislature to meet Arizona's challenges. The largest challenge in recent years has been finding ways to put significantly more resources toward the education of our children when our State is still recovering from a severe economic recession.

Prop. 123 is the solution to this challenge. It provides immediate funding and ensures that all increases in state spending are sustainable—both now and in the future.

To all who came together to make this solution happen: Thank You! At times the discussions were difficult and the differences between both sides seemed impassible. But everyone involved showed great patience and continued to work for a shared goal: a solution that would keep the trust with all Arizonans.

Governor Doug Ducey deserves credit for bringing creative solutions to the table, urging that the conversation continue during the rough spots, and never departing from the belief that we could all reach a solution that would work for Arizona's children and families. And this bipartisan consensus wouldn't be possible without the dedicated efforts of President Andy Biggs of the Arizona State Senate.

Your elected representatives have done their part. The decision now belongs to you. Please support our classrooms without raising taxes. Please vote YES on Prop. 123.

David Gowan

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly supports Proposition 123, which will inject \$3.5 billion into our K-12 public schools over the next 10 years without raising taxes.

Passage of the proposition would mean an end to a lengthy and contentious lawsuit that has racked up legal bills and put the health of our entire state budget at risk.

The tax reforms that have helped make Arizona a magnet for new jobs are safe under passage of Proposition 123, and other spending priorities such as our universities, public safety and health care are on much firmer ground. Proposition 123 also protects the state's general fund should we experience another economic downturn.

The plan calls for adding about \$300 per student per year. This is substantial. Increased dollars will support our robust public school choice environment and advance the reforms that have led Arizona to be a leader in closing the achievement gap and in producing nationally distinguished charter and district schools.

Arizona's state land trust account has swelled to over \$5 billion, while distributions have remained at a level below the minimum distribution required by law for private charitable trusts. The plan calls for boosting distributions from the trust in a way that increases spending for our kids in school today, while protecting the trust for future generations.

The proposal's passage is critical to Arizona's future. Our Governor, legislative leadership, and the education community have done their part in forging this historic settlement. For our kids to reap the benefits, it's time we do ours.

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry urges you to vote yes on Proposition 123.

Glenn Hamer and Jason Bagley

Sponsored by "Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry"

Homebuilders Support Proposition 123

The Home Builders Association of Central Arizona is a business trade organization which represents over 500 member companies and thousands of employees engaged in all aspects of the residential construction industry. Our members, strongly encourage the voters of Arizona to vote yes on Proposition 123.

As Arizona has faced tough economic times, our tax revenues have declined. This forced policy makers to reduce funding for our education needs to balance state budgets.

Proposition 123 is a solution to that problem. Under the leadership of Governor Ducey and our Legislative leadership, they proposed Proposition 123 which provide 3.5 billion dollars of new funding for our children in our public schools. Without raising taxes.

Our K-12 education system needs these new funds to ensure that our public schools have the resources to educate Arizona's students.

Please support Proposition 123 and provide \$3.5 billion for our public schools without a single tax increase for this new revenue.

Vote Yes on Proposition 123!

Connie Wilhelm and Tom Davis

Sponsored by "Home Builders Association of Central Arizona"

PRO STATEMENT FOR PROPOSITION 123

As former Arizona Superintendents of Public Instruction, we urge our fellow citizens of this great state to vote YES on Proposition 123. While we understand that money alone is not the single ingredient to obtain a quality school, this proposition is very much needed. A combination of factors such as parental involvement/choice, meaningful academic standards, a robust accountability system, and recruitment/retention of outstanding dedicated teachers, are part of the components we need to create and sustain an excellent educational system for all students across Arizona. And we cannot ignore the fact that sufficient resources absolutely are necessary in order to ensure that all students have access to an extraordinary education.

Over the past several years Arizona has enacted significant K-12 reform: Our elementary and secondary education system established for the first time a school grading system (A through F) that measures academic gains in core subject matter, and we coupled that with a teacher/principal

evaluation system. Those combined efforts give us a far better picture of progress of student achievement, and are critical to changing the culture of our education system to be one of the highest expectations for students. All of Arizona's reform efforts are having an impact, with our state's achievement rapidly gaining on others around the country according to the latest national comparisons.

These academic gains in Arizona have transformed the future for our students and must be supported and sustained. Arizona's public education system is increasingly based on market-driven principles, and this investment will allow our schools to compete well on behalf of their students.

A "YES" vote for Proposition 123 will signal that Arizonans are aware of our schools' advancing quality, and that we are ready and willing to invest in their work and in the future of our kids.

Lisa Graham Keegan and Jaime A. Molera
Sponsored by "Molera Alvarez"

The 135 senior business leaders of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC) fully endorse Arizona Proposition 123. SALC is committed to its successful passage and we ask all Arizonans to join with us and make a strong statement about the importance of education in Arizona.

Arizona's education system is seriously underfunded. Proposition 123 is an excellent first step towards rebuilding the base funding of Arizona's K-12 system. The new baseline of K-12 funding created by Proposition 123 is critical in helping education leaders address many of the vitally important issues they face, such as Arizona's teacher retention crisis. Our ultimate goal is the creation of a high performing K-12 education system where students graduate ready for college or careers, capable of filling the good jobs that a high quality education system will help attract to our state.

Proposition 123 is innovative and it represents a sound business opportunity that employs the State Land Trust for its intended purpose at a critical time in our state's history.

Business leaders agree that improving education must be a top priority if Arizona is to reach its full potential. SALC believes that more resources are needed for every segment of Arizona's education pipeline. While Proposition 123 will not solve every problem facing education in our state, it is a significant and important investment in a system that has been neglected for far too long.

Proposition 123 is a great opportunity for Arizona voters to invest significantly in Arizona's K-12 system. Please join SALC and Vote Yes on Proposition 123!

Ronald Shoopman
Sponsored by "Molera Alvarez"

Arizona Charter Schools Support Prop 123

The Arizona Charter Schools Association strongly urges your support of Proposition 123

Today, more than 170,000 students are served in Arizona's public charter schools. On behalf of these students, their families and the dedicated charter school operators, we encourage your support of Proposition 123.

Proposition 123 will:

- Support all students in Arizona's public education system;
- Will provide important *new education funding without a tax increase*;
- Will end the litigation that has created gridlock in our state's efforts to bring about school finance reform.

Proposition 123 is a great example of what can be accomplished when our state's political and education leaders come together to address a crisis. All sides recognized the need to restore education funding and move the debate from the courtroom to the classroom.

Proposition 123 will provide stability to Arizona's school funding, which will allow schools to reinvest in successful academic programs, update materials and student resources, and reward our school's best teachers.

Please vote YES on Proposition 123!

Eileen Sigmund and Jay Heiler

Sponsored by "Arizona Charter Schools Association"

We are voting 'yes' for Proposition 123 put forward by Governor Ducey and the Legislature, and supported by teachers and school administrators, for the following reasons:

- 1) We are tired of reading that Arizona ranks near the bottom of all 50 states for per student public school funding.
- 2) We think that "saving" money on education is hurting, not helping our state.
- 3) We do not believe we can attract or keep qualified teachers when the salaries offered fall far below the national median teacher salary of \$56,000.
- 4) We worry that wide education attainment disparities threaten to create a permanent underclass of citizens in our state.
- 5) We believe that the quality of a state's education system has a direct impact on the state's ability to attract business.
- 6) We believe it takes only one great teacher or role model to make a lasting difference in a child's life, but would rather see to it that we have many.
- 7) We believe that workplace morale among all employees is important, and that stagnant wages and career ceilings ensure mediocre performance.
- 8) We believe that low taxes are important to grow the economy – Prop 123 does not raise taxes.

- 9) We believe that poorly equipped and maintained schools give children the impression that they are not cared for or valued.
- 10) We believe that action speaks louder than words and good intentions.

If you agree, please speak to your family, friends and neighbors about Prop 123 and vote YES on May 17.

David Abeyta, Kurt Long, Erin Hutchinson, and Eve Ross
Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

NAIOP ARIZONA SUPPORTS STATE LAND TRUST K-12 SPENDING PLAN

As the largest commercial real estate trade association in the state, our members are on the front line of attracting and expanding firms that provide high-wage jobs to our state. Therefore, we are vitally interested in giving our schools the resources they need to educate our future workforce while not harming our competitive tax structure and improving our regional and national image as a good place to do business.

We believe this integrated funding package does all these things. While this overall plan increases base funding per student and injects \$3.5 billion more into schools over 10 years, we appreciate that the proposal provides prudent safeguards to protect our state budget in times of economic downturn and does not raise taxes.

Because funding from the General Fund and the increase in distributions from the State Land Trust are conditionally enacted with voter approval, NAIOP Arizona strongly encourages a "YES" vote.

Timothy D. Lawless and Molly Carson
Sponsored by "NAIOP-AZ"

Proposition 123 represents a masterful compromise crafted by Governor Ducey and our legislative leaders in close consultation with all stakeholders, including local school boards and representatives of Arizona's teacher associations. It resolves the long-simmering inflation funding lawsuit while increasing the base per-pupil funding level and providing \$3.5 billion more for K-12 education in Arizona over the next decade, all without raising taxes at a time when our economy is still growing slowly. That's roughly \$300 per student annually, money that can be spent to promote classroom teaching and learning and to recruit and retain talented educators.

The majority of the funding will come from increased distributions from the state's Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund, consistent with the original congressional intent in establishing the trust fund at the time of Arizona statehood. Proposition 123 contains safeguards ("triggers") to protect the state's general fund in the event of a prolonged economic downturn. It's actuarially sound and preserves the balance of the trust fund for future generations of students.

Competition and choice are essential to excellence in education. But there's little question that K-12 education has been underfunded for too long. Proposition 123 will also provide schools with valuable funding to assist the more difficult-to-educate segments of the student population including low-income students, limited English proficient students, students with disabilities and special needs, and Native American students.

Proposition 123 will send a strong signal that we Arizonans value the importance of K-12 education. As someone who has spent a lifetime in education - as a school board president, CEO of a national nonprofit dedicated to helping charter schools with their facility and funding needs, and as a U.S. Congressman who chaired the House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education - I strongly urge its passage.

Frank Riggs, Phoenix

Expect More Arizona encourages voter support of Proposition 123 to put much needed resources in Arizona's classrooms, and to help students and teachers succeed. Proposition 123 is one step that puts us on a positive path forward.

Every child's education should be funded from the early years through career to support high expectations and achieve excellence. When schools have the resources they need, they can help all students read proficiently, attract and retain great teachers in Arizona, ensure more students graduate high school prepared for college and career and much more.

Investing in a strong education system doesn't just benefit students, it improves the quality of life for everyone. A strong education system leads to healthier and safer communities, higher property values and greater economic prosperity for all. Giving every child, regardless of their background or where they live, the opportunity to succeed from the early years through high school and beyond, will require a long-term, sustainable funding plan.

Please Vote Yes. Proposition 123 is one step that puts us on a positive path forward.

Pearl Chang Esau and Tom Franz
Sponsored by "Expect More Arizona"

As leaders of the A for Arizona project, we strongly encourage your support of Proposition 123, which sends \$3.5 billion to classrooms without increasing taxes or cutting from other areas. Our project works with some of the state's finest schools, all of which serve a majority of low-income students. Our schools have all earned an 'A'-grade, and challenge the notion that some students cannot be high achievers. They are changing what is possible for students in Arizona – and their work deserves far more support. Right now, we estimate these highly performing schools contribute far more time than they are paid for, and we know that if they were financially able, all of the schools would expand and accept more students.

Passing Proposition 123 is an excellent way for our state to stand behind the work of our great school leaders, and to invest in the changes they are making in student lives every day. Please join us in voting YES for Proposition 123.

Lisa Graham Keegan and Rick DeGraw

Sponsored by "Arizona Chamber Foundation"

In solidarity with the major educational associations in Arizona, **I am voting for Proposition 123. I hope you will join me.** Each "yes" vote may help salvage what is left of public education. I say "help salvage" because Proposition 123 alone is not nearly enough to replace the \$60 million dollars in cuts the Amphitheater District alone has suffered since 2007. I say "may help" because the legislature has been self-serving and untrustworthy. **Members ignore their oath to honor the words of the Arizona Constitution which requires them to "...make such appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions, and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement."** It has diverted to the General Fund money from the tobacco tax that the voters had directed to early child development and health. It has diverted to the General Fund the .6% sales tax that voters had directed to public education. It has refused to follow a Superior Court decision that requires sending \$320 million to public education. It has created cuts to JTED that threaten to end that program. **Quality teachers are the critical ingredient in any effective educational programs.** The legislature has the power to impose programs, but none will succeed without quality teachers. The legislature has neither the power to force teachers to come to Arizona, nor to keep teachers in Arizona. **Most school districts were not fully staffed at the beginning of the school year and substitutes are still filling many positions.** Identify your specific legislators who are voting against public education. By voting for Proposition 123 you may help salvage public education. **An even greater service would be to replace the legislators who are hurting children and endangering the future of Arizona.**

Kent Barrabee, Tucson

As Arizona's economy continues to grow and diversify, the sustained growth of manufacturing will depend on our access to a skilled workforce. The research on the relationship between a quality workforce and a quality education grows stronger with every passing year. As an industry, it's our priority to improve our talent pipeline by supporting a quality education system.

In Arizona, two decades of education reform are bearing fruit. Our schools are on the right trajectory to preparing students for the 21st century economy. Schools, like businesses, need direction and investment. Over the last five years, a contentious lawsuit has injected uncertainty into both our schools' budgets and the state's financial position. By settling this lawsuit and investing in our state's education future, Proposition 123 is a prudent approach to moving Arizona forward.

We plan for Arizona's manufacturing sector to grow, and we plan for that growth to rely on prepared Arizona graduates. Proposition 123 injects an additional \$3.5 billion into our schools over the next ten years, and does so in a way that keep us economically competitive and is fiscally responsible.

The Arizona Manufacturers Council urges you to vote YES on Proposition 123.

Steve Macias and Jim Norton

Sponsored by "Arizona Manufacturers Council"

The East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance (EVCCA) is the largest chamber of commerce organization in Arizona with more than 5,500 members representing nine chambers in the East Valley including Apache Junction, Carefree Cave Creek, Chandler, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale and Tempe. Our membership includes large multi-national corporations and local small businesses. The EVCCA is a true representation of the Arizona business community.

On behalf of the 5,500 members of the East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance, we urge you to support Proposition 123 because it will increase K-12 education funding without raising taxes. For business retention and recruitment purposes, it is important to invest in public education. Development of a knowledgeable, intelligent and competent workforce is critical to our continued economic prosperity. The plan provides an additional \$3.5 billion for our students and teachers and facilitates an end to a five-year lawsuit.

Vic Linoff and Mary Ann Miller

Sponsored by "East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance"

Argument Supporting Proposition 123

The children of our state are our most valuable resource. They are our future. So it only stands to reason, that we would invest valuable resources in them. That is why we support Proposition 123 as an initial step toward providing increased funding for our students' education.

As teachers we know that students' success rests on our shoulders. To have the resources to do our jobs effectively will only improve the outcomes that we all work so hard for.

We urge you to vote YES on Proposition 123 as a first step in funding classrooms to help Arizona's teachers and students succeed in the classroom and in the future.

John-David Bowman, Beth Maloney, Nancie Lindblom, and Kristie Martorelli

Sponsored by "Arizona Education Association"

Argument Supporting Prop 123

We support Proposition 123 because it puts \$3.5 billion on the table for all public schools across the state this year.

Proposition 123 would provide a much-needed boost to public education in Arizona, at a time when expectations are higher to prepare our students for a 21st century global workplace. Voting YES on Proposition 123 means that our students will finally be able to count on a permanent, codified inflation funding source for their education. As the architects of this ballot measure agreed, this is an important first step on the way to improving education funding in Arizona. Only one step, perhaps, but a very significant, healthy beginning.

We urge you to support our students and vote YES on Proposition 123.

Paul Lowes and Tom Oviatt

Sponsored by “Arizona Education Association”

Argument Supporting PROP 123

PROP 123 will provide much needed funds to our schools this fiscal year and will resolve the long-standing inflation funding lawsuit. This past school year, students across Arizona entered classrooms without full-time certified teachers, without updated textbooks, and without enough desks. If we expect our students to succeed, then Arizona must provide our teachers and schools with adequate resources and funding to meet the state’s higher expectations or we will continue to see droves of teachers leaving the profession in debt and tears.

PROP 123 will provide support and resources to classroom teachers to increase student performance and meet new rigorous education reforms. The ballot measure also includes several accountability measures, such as audits conducted every five years for all education funding and funding for the Arizona Department of Education’s technology system to track teacher, school, and student performance.

Overall, this ballot measure will bring \$3.5 billion dollars to schools over the next ten years and confirms that Arizona will fund inflation in perpetuity, while creating a 10-year additional funding source for schools.

Improving our public schools and doing what’s best for our students has always been the Arizona Education Association’s goal and this is a first step in a larger education funding conversation at the state level. Settling the lawsuit allows our state to focus on restoring funding to other portions of the education budget, including full-day kindergarten, JTED programs, and district additional assistance for textbooks, curriculum, technology, and building repairs.

The Arizona Education Association requests that you vote YES on PROP 123.

Andrew F. Morrill and Joe Thomas

Sponsored by “Arizona Education Association”

Vote **YES on Prop. 123** to immediately fund our public schools with needed resources to support our children. **YES on Prop. 123** ratifies the agreement between school boards, teachers, and school business officials – and you, the voter – to provide our students with monies owed since 2010 and settles a five-year lawsuit.

Arizona public schools have seen the largest percentage of cuts in the nation over the past seven years, and yet, in achievement, Arizona outperforms this resource gap by scoring average among other states in the nation. Imagine what we can accomplish being properly funded?

YES on Prop. 123 is the first step to provide stability to our public schools. **YES on Prop. 123** is prioritizing our children to ensure they have every opportunity needed to be successful citizens. **YES on Prop. 123** is the first step towards honoring our extraordinary teachers, nurses, bus drivers, and so many others working every day so our children's future is brighter that their commitment is appreciated.

YES on Prop. 123 is a strong statement that when we work together, with a shared commitment to our students and public schools, we take the first step toward a brighter future for all of Arizona.

Elaine Hall and Tim Ogle

Sponsored by "Friends of Arizona School Boards Association"

Education is a critical component to the success of Arizona's economy. A well-educated workforce means higher wages and greater productivity. Companies like Cox Communications rely on an educated, talented workforce so that we can continue to enhance our network and the quality of our products and services. Not to mention that a strong education system is attractive to businesses as they look to locate, innovate and expand right here in Arizona. Given our own substantial investment in Arizona, it is equally important to Cox to ensure that our employees' and customers' children have the best possible opportunity for a quality education. No business should expect less for its families and its community.

Fortunately, our education leaders and elected officials understand the importance and value of a strong education system. To that end, they have collaborated on this innovative and important ballot measure and are asking voters to make an important decision regarding education. Supporting Proposition 123 means a cash infusion of an additional \$3.5 billion in Arizona's classrooms over the next 10 years. This comes at no additional cost to taxpayers. Furthermore, Proposition 123 will put an end to a five-year-old lawsuit that has had an adverse effect on our education system and hit the pocketbooks of Arizona's taxpayers. Failure of Arizona voters to approve this sound compromise means an ongoing, costly lawsuit that lines the pockets of attorneys and takes the focus off of Arizona's foundation for success: our students, teachers and classrooms.

On May 17, 2016, we urge you to vote "yes" on Proposition 123.

John Wolfe, Sr. and Susan Anable
Sponsored by “Cox Communications”

Proposition 123 provides significant resources to our classrooms while preserving the fiscal integrity of Arizona’s budget – all without raising taxes. I commend the work of the Arizona School Boards Association, Arizona Education Association and the larger education community for working with Governor Ducey and the Legislature to resolve the current litigation and put Arizona students first.

Proposition 123 infuses over \$3 billion in additional resources to Arizona schools and moves the state toward a student-centered education system. The board coalition of support at the heart of this compromise provides momentum for continued efforts to streamline and modernize K-12 schools. Quality education is the foundation for a prosperous economy and Proposition 123 sends a message to employers nationwide that Arizona is home to a high-quality education system that is open for business. For these reasons, I enthusiastically support Proposition 123.

Most importantly, I express my thanks to the teachers and engaged parents working to ensure that all Arizona children have access to a world-class education. You are the real heroes that understand that every child matters, every child has something to offer and every child should have the opportunity to become whatever they want to be when they grow up.

Jeff Dial

The Arizona chapter of Americans for Prosperity supports Proposition 123, which aims to put more money in K-12 classrooms without increasing taxes. We also believe that Prop 123 provides adequate safeguards for the future of the State Land Trust.

But passing Prop 123 is only the first step toward reforming education in Arizona. We should not simply throw more money at our dysfunctional K-12 school district system.

According to the latest annual report from the state superintendent, Arizona districts already get an average of more than \$9,000 per pupil from all funding sources (more than tuition at many private schools). Arizona’s school districts already have more than enough money to pay good teachers great salaries – but districts fail to get the money into classrooms.

Past education spending increases (such as Prop 301 passed in 2000) have failed to put more money into classrooms and failed to improve student performance. And nationwide, there is no correlation between increased per-pupil spending and increased student performance.

Increased funding from Arizona’s State Land Trust must be accompanied by these reforms:

- 1) Get more money into school district classrooms, and stop wasting so much on out-of-classroom expenditures.**

- 2) **Give district managers more freedom to fire bad teachers and pay good teachers competitive salaries.**
- 3) **Expand school choice, to give parents and students more options and to put the pressure of market competition on school managers.**

The Arizona chapter of Americans for Prosperity exists to improve the well-being of all Arizonans by informing citizens about economic policy matters and pushing for meaningful reforms. To learn more about school district finance, school choice and other important issues, contact us at infoAZ@afphq.org. And please visit our website at www.afpaz.com.

Tom Jenney and Boaz Witbeck
Sponsored by “Americans for Prosperity”

We fully support Proposition 123. We are very familiar with how public schools in Arizona are funded and we realize that additional dollars for education is certainly needed. Proposition 123 will benefit our students, our teachers, and our public schools. Proposition 123 settles a long standing lawsuit on inflation funding for our schools and will immediately start additional dollars flowing to every school district and charter school in Arizona. Please join us in supporting and voting yes for Proposition 123.

David Lewis and Chuck Essigs

We know from our work with the Gallup Arizona Poll and The Arizona We Want report that Arizonans love this state. We know, also, that they have high expectations for the education they want their children to receive. To accomplish their hopes and expectations, we can't continue to ignore the fact that we face serious challenges beginning with the forces our education system faces every day. Nearly half of our state student population receives free or reduced-priced lunch, which gives us a clear indication of the social and economic backgrounds of our students and the trials we must overcome. While dropout rates are generally improving across the nation, our rates remain unacceptably high, and particularly so among our growing minority populations. Likewise, the college degree attainment rate among adults in Arizona is below national average. All told, we are running the risk of not only failing to produce enough college and career-ready students, we may be forced to watch our skilled and educated adults leave the state to pursue better opportunities that we failed to provide. It is critically important that we remember that our education system and economy are inseparable and will determine the future of our state. Please vote 'yes' on Prop 123 on May 17!

Lattie Coor
Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

As a business owner in Arizona and more importantly, as a father of two school age boys, I am writing in strong support of Prop 123. For many years, factors have lead to some difficult times for the state of Arizona. That is all changing and Arizona is on the rise again. The passage of

Prop 123 will propel Arizona further into a state of recovery by becoming a leader in new spending toward our vital education system. In order to become a long-term economic powerhouse with sustained growth, the state needs to produce our future work force. Prop 123 provides much needed funds to the classroom. Recent published scores on the AzMerit tests show only 34% of all students passing the English part and 35% passing the math part clearly shows that our system needs this investment. Passage of Prop 123 points us strongly in that direction.

David Anderson

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

Education is and will remain the most critical factor for the long-term health and success of our state. Our economy can advance in several ways: We can build successful companies with graduating and skilled adults from within our state or we can strive to create an environment that attracts businesses with high-paying jobs to our state. Ideally, we should recognize that there is no reason we cannot pursue both of these options. Prop 123 provides a critically needed investment in K-12 education and it is a giant neon “Welcome” sign to out-of-state businesses that are first attracted to our climate, our markets and our potential. As a state, we cannot afford to overlook how important a strong education system is to turning the initial interest of a business looking to expand or relocate in Arizona into an affirmative decision to invest in our state. The owners and managers of high-performing businesses cannot ask or expect their employees to relocate themselves and their families to a state that doesn’t take education seriously. And, we can’t expect businesses to make decisions that benefit our state if we aren’t willing to lead by example. On May 17, we have the ability to determine what message we want to send to our children, our schools and our economy. We can show everybody that our priorities are education and our economy. Please join me in voting ‘YES’ for Prop 123.

Robert Calbert

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

There is no question we live in a wonderful and beautiful state, with citizens who care and want the best for each other.

There is also no question, when looking at the data and trajectory regarding the status of our educational system, that we have fallen behind and absolutely must increase the investments we make to ensure the children of Arizona have the best opportunities to learn, grow and be productive members of society.

I’m a single person without children in Arizona, and I am voting “yes” on Proposition 123 because I know the future of our wonderful quality of life in Arizona depends on us not waiting any further to improve education. This proposal makes sense and I hope all of my fellow citizens without children of our own in our schools, and our married with children friends, too, will join me in voting yes. Proposition 123 represents the first step toward the education improvements we need for Arizona.

Neil G. Giuliano

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

Without question, Arizona is a great state. Still, we can't continue to ignore the fact that we face serious challenges beginning with the forces our education system faces every day. Nearly half of our state student population receives free or reduced-priced lunch, which gives us a clear indication of the social and economic backgrounds of our students and the trials we must overcome. While dropout rates are generally improving across the nation, our rates remain unacceptably high, and particularly so among our growing minority populations. Likewise, the college degree attainment rate among adults in Arizona is below national average. All told, we are running the risk of not only failing to produce enough college and career-ready students, we may be forced to watch our skilled and educated adults leave the state to pursue better opportunities that we failed to provide. It is critically important that we remember that our education system and economy are inseparable and will determine the future of our state. Please vote 'yes' on Prop 123 on May 17!

Mark R. Young

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

As one who has been deeply involved with the issue of education in our state, I am firmly in support of Proposition 123. It provides a necessary, hugely important and courageous first step toward restoring the commitment we voters approved in the past. Please vote 'yes' on Prop 123 on May 17!

Donald V. Budinger

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

I am voting 'yes' for the Prop 123 referendum put forward by Governor Ducey and the Legislature for the following reasons:

- 1) I am tired of reading that Arizona ranks near the bottom of all 50 states for per student public school funding.
- 2) I do not believe we can attract or keep qualified teachers when the salaries offered in our state's two largest cities, Phoenix and Tucson, fall far below the national median teacher salary of \$56,000.
- 3) I think that “saving” money on education is hurting, not helping our state.
- 4) I worry that wide educational attainment disparities threaten to create a permanent underclass of citizens in our state.
- 5) I believe that poorly equipped and maintained schools give children the direct impression that they are not cared for or valued.
- 6) I believe it takes only one great teacher or role model to make a lasting difference in a child's life, but I would rather see to it that we have many.

- 7) I believe that workplace morale among all employees is important, and that stagnant wages and career ceilings ensure mediocre performance.
- 8) I believe that low taxes are important to grow the economy, even as I could afford higher taxes. Prop 123 does not raise taxes.
- 9) I know that the quality of a state's education system has a direct impact on the state's ability to attract business.
- 10) I believe that action speaks louder than words and good intentions.

Francie Austin

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

Education is and will remain the most critical factor for the long-term health and success of our state. Our economy can advance in several ways: We can build successful companies with graduating and skilled adults from within our state or we can strive to create an environment that attracts businesses with high-paying jobs to our state. Ideally, we should recognize that there is no reason we cannot pursue both of these options. Prop 123 provides a critically needed investment in K-12 education and it is a giant neon "Welcome" sign to out-of-state businesses that are first attracted to our climate, our markets and our potential. As a state, we cannot afford to overlook how important a strong education system is to turning the initial interest of a business looking to expand or relocate in Arizona into an affirmative decision to invest in our state. The owners and managers of high-performing businesses cannot ask or expect their employees to relocate themselves and their families to a state that doesn't take education seriously. And, we can't expect businesses to make decisions that benefit our state if we aren't willing to lead by example. On May 17, we have the ability to determine what message we want to send to our children, our schools and our economy. We can show everybody that our priorities are education and our economy. Please join me in voting 'YES' for Prop 123.

Reginald M. Ballantyne III

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

As a native Arizonan and business owner for over 30 years, I am convinced we must support Prop 123. We have the opportunity to achieve a landmark \$3.5 billion investment in our public education system without raising taxes or threatening the State trust land fund, or any other sources of education funding. Many of our schools performed admirably under difficult circumstances caused by recession, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that we not only failed to offset inflation, we cut per-student spending. Prop 123 increases K-12 per student funding and provides baseline increases to the education budget. This is money destined for our classrooms and for a generation of students who we need to become leaders in technology, sciences and design – just to name a few critical areas. Many political and policy decisions are difficult. Prop 123, however, is not one of them. Join me in voting 'yes' for Prop 123 on May 17.

Morris A. Stein

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

Education is and will remain the most critical factor for the long-term health and success of our state. Our economy can advance in several ways: We can build successful companies with graduating and skilled adults from within our state or we can strive to create an environment that attracts businesses with high-paying jobs to our state. Ideally, we should recognize that there is no reason we cannot pursue both of these options. Prop 123 provides a critically needed investment in K-12 education and it is a giant neon “Welcome” sign to out-of-state businesses that are first attracted to our climate, our markets and our potential. As a state, we cannot afford to overlook how important a strong education system is to turning the initial interest of a business looking to expand or relocate in Arizona into an affirmative decision to invest in our state. The owners and managers of high-performing businesses cannot ask or expect their employees to relocate themselves and their families to a state that doesn’t take education seriously. And, we can’t expect businesses to make decisions that benefit our state if we aren’t willing to lead by example. On May 17, we have the ability to determine what message we want to send to our children, our schools and our economy. We can show everybody that our priorities are education and our economy. Please join me in voting ‘YES’ for Prop 123.

Andrew Lombard

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

I am voting ‘yes’ for the Prop 123 referendum put forward through a rare and shining example of “across the aisle” effort by Governor Ducey and the Legislature for the following reasons:

1. I am tired of reading that Arizona ranks near the bottom of all 50 states for per student public school funding.
2. I do not believe we can attract or keep qualified teachers when the salaries offered in our state’s two largest cities, Phoenix and Tucson, fall far below the national median teacher salary of \$56,000.
3. I think that “saving” money on education is hurting, not helping our state.
4. I worry that wide educational attainment disparities threaten to create a permanent underclass of citizens in our state.
5. I believe that poorly equipped and maintained schools give children the direct impression that they are not cared for or valued.
6. I believe it takes only one great teacher or role model to make a lasting difference in a child’s life, but I would rather see to it that we have many.
7. I believe that workplace morale among all employees is important, and that stagnant wages and career ceilings ensure mediocre performance.
8. I believe that low taxes are important to grow the economy, even as I could afford higher taxes. Prop 123 does not raise taxes.
9. I know that the quality of a state’s education system has a direct impact on the state’s ability to attract business.
10. I believe that action speaks louder than words and good intentions.

Larry S. Lazarus

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

In co-chairing the Classrooms First Initiative Council with Governor Ducey, I am acutely aware of the challenges faced by our educational system, and take seriously our Council's charge to create a funding model that is guided by Clarity, Transparency and Results. As the leader of a business that employs 850-plus people, I am keenly aware of the importance of a quality, accessible education. We all have a responsibility to advocate for an educational foundation that creates college and career-ready students. I know Arizona is a great place to call home, but it's our job as business leaders, elected leaders and residents to make sure our children all have the benefits of an excellent education. The passage of Proposition 123 is a critical first step toward resolving our education system's funding problems, and represents the first time in recent history that our Governor, education community and the legislature have come to a consensus on an issue of this magnitude. It is a solution that works toward achieving balance in education by infusing a desperately needed \$3.5 billion investment in our schools. This increased funding comes with no impact on taxpayers, nor does it threaten current education funding. With our work on the Classrooms First Council, we know that this is money that will be focused where it should be – in the classroom. Please join me in voting YES on this important proposition.

Jim Swanson

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

Education is and will remain the most critical factor for the long-term health and success of our state. Our economy can advance in several ways: We can build successful companies with graduating and skilled adults from within our state or we can strive to create an environment that attracts businesses with high-paying jobs to our state. Ideally, we should recognize that there is no reason we cannot pursue both of these options. Prop 123 provides a critically needed investment in K-12 education and it is a giant neon "Welcome" sign to out-of-state businesses that are first attracted to our climate, our markets and our potential. As a state, we cannot afford to overlook how important a strong education system is to turning the initial interest of a business looking to expand or relocate in Arizona into an affirmative decision to invest in our state. The owners and managers of high-performing businesses cannot ask or expect their employees to relocate themselves and their families to a state that doesn't take education seriously. And, we can't expect businesses to make decisions that benefit our state if we aren't willing to lead by example. On May 17, we have the ability to determine what message we want to send to our children, our schools and our economy. We can show everybody that our priorities are education and our economy. Please join me in voting 'YES' for Prop 123.

Joe Gysel

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

Without question, Arizona is a great state. Still, we can't continue to ignore the fact that we face serious challenges beginning with the forces our education system faces every day. Nearly half of our state student population receives free or reduced-priced lunch, which gives us a clear indication of the social and economic backgrounds of our students and the trials we must overcome. While dropout rates are generally improving across the nation, our rates remain unacceptably high, and particularly so among our growing minority populations. Likewise, the

college degree attainment rate among adults in Arizona is below national average. All told, we are running the risk of not only failing to produce enough college and career-ready students, we may be forced to watch our skilled and educated adults leave the state to pursue better opportunities that we failed to provide. It is critically important that we remember that our education system and economy are inseparable and will determine the future of our state. Please vote 'yes' on Prop 123 on May 17!

Kevin E. O'Malley

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

I support Prop 123 because as the leader of a nonprofit biomedical institute, I recognize the value of an educated workforce. Nothing inspires our younger generation more than to offer quality learning experiences that will prepare them for meaningful jobs in their communities. As the leader of a scientific organization, a fundamental part of our mission is to train young scientists to lead the future of healthcare and academia. I am very proud of Arizona students whom aspire to become the doctors, researchers, professors and teachers of the future. Without a quality K-12 education, these students are challenged to meet the demands of higher education and face barriers to find skilled jobs to support their families. Prop 123 is a needed investment and I hope Arizona citizens will consider a vote of support because it will be up to all of us to invest in the education and future of Arizona's younger generation.

Jeffrey Trent

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

Without question, Arizona is a great state. Still, we can't continue to ignore the fact that we face serious challenges beginning with the forces our education system faces every day. Nearly half of our state student population receives free or reduced-priced lunch, which gives us a clear indication of the social and economic backgrounds of our students and the trials we must overcome. While dropout rates are generally improving across the nation, our rates remain unacceptably high, and particularly so among our growing minority populations. Likewise, the college degree attainment rate among adults in Arizona is below national average. All told, we are running the risk of not only failing to produce enough college and career-ready students, we may be forced to watch our skilled and educated adults leave the state to pursue better opportunities that we failed to provide. It is critically important that we remember that our education system and economy are inseparable and will determine the future of our state. Please vote 'yes' on Prop 123 on May 17!

John Graham and Philip Francis

Sponsored by "Greater Phoenix Leadership"

As a state business leader, I cannot come up with a single convincing reason to not support Prop 123. We have the opportunity to support a massive \$3.5 billion investment in our public education system without raising taxes or threatening the state trust land fund or any other

sources of education funding. Many of our schools performed admirably under difficult circumstances caused by recession, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that we not only failed to offset inflation, we cut per-student spending. Prop 123 increases K-12 per student funding and provides baseline increases to the education budget. This is money destined for our classrooms and for a generation of students who we need to become leaders in technology, research and healthcare – just to name a few critical areas. Many political and policy decisions are difficult. Prop 123, however, is not one of them. Join me in voting ‘yes’ for Prop 123 on May 17.

Adam Goodman

Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Leadership”

I find that parents are often surprised when they get a clear understanding of what it takes to run a school and attract and keep talented teachers in classrooms equipped; even basic modern tools like reliable internet connection that we take for granted, are essential to bring classrooms into the 22nd century. When parents and the community find out that a school cannot add curriculum that many took for granted – things like sports, music, art, and language instruction – to their child’s school experience, then they realize we are approaching the point of no return. Prop 123 isn’t every last thing parents or schools could possibly ask for, but it’s a start in an essential conversation that we as Arizonans have been needing to have if we are to ever make public education a priority. We have been given the choice to decide whether or not we want to add billions of dollars to help our children succeed. I’m siding with our children, teachers, parents and policy leaders like Governor Ducey who made this happen. Vote YES on Prop 123!

Beth Simek

The Governor has promoted this lawsuit settlement as a plan that solves all of Arizona’s education funding problems. It doesn’t.

Our legislature has been cutting public school funding nearly continually since 2008. The budget for capital expenditures has been cut by nearly 85%. These expenses include computers, building maintenance, library books, etc. Some schools, especially those with older buildings, have to spend at least a portion of the “new” settlement funds on maintenance and repair because there are no other funds. Last year, for example, Corona Foothills Elementary did not have enough money in their yearly capital budget allocation from the state to replace ONE computer that broke.

One third of all teachers in Arizona are not working as teachers. Seventy-five percent of teachers graduating from UofA are leaving the state to make a living wage. If every dime from this settlement could go to increasing teacher salaries, salaries could theoretically increase by an average of almost \$5,800 per year, which is great. However, Arizona teachers are paid more than \$12,000 less than the national average after adjustment for cost of living. Arizona currently has a shortage of nearly 500 teachers across the state and 24% of Arizona teachers are eligible for retirement in the next 4 years. Without a more extensive plan to fund education, our children will be the ones paying the price. Additionally, Arizona districts are near last in the nation in

spending on administration and spend almost \$1000 less per student than the national average on all non-classroom items per US Census Bureau, 2013, so districts are not spending “far too much” on anything.

The bottom line is that Arizona schools need money to continue to educate our children. Prop 123 is just the start.

Heather Morzinski

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce supports the passage of Proposition 123 to continue moving the state’s educational system on an upward trajectory.

This proposition, which is the result of compromise between education groups and state leaders, settles a long-running lawsuit against the state. Settling this lawsuit allows the education community to focus on what’s most important – delivering a highly effective educational product to Arizona students.

Under the plan before you, K-12 schools can expect to receive an additional \$3.5 billion over 10 years. Upon voter approval, classrooms will start seeing the increased funding in the current fiscal year. Part of this proposal relies on increased distributions from the state’s land trust, which was created at statehood largely to help fund K-12 education. The trust has performed well recently and is on strong financial footing, although the proposition also contains safeguards to ensure the state land trust maintains its financial strength.

Economic development and prosperity is of great importance to the business community and benefits the entire state. However, these endeavors cannot exist without a strong and adequately funded educational system. Businesses looking to expand operations or relocate to Arizona consider the educational system and workforce availability as key factors of the strength or weakness of our economy prior to making those decisions.

The passage of this proposition will greatly strengthen Arizona’s educational system and allow the state to invest needed resources into other key areas. We ask you to help set the state on path to educational and economic prosperity and vote yes on Proposition 123.

Todd Sanders and Michael Huckins
Sponsored by “Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce”

Arizona Voters,

Please join me in voting YES for Proposition 123! Your vote is needed to ratify the Inflation Funding Lawsuit Settlement agreed upon between Governor Ducey, the Legislature, and the Arizona School Boards Association, the Arizona Education Association, and the Arizona Association of School Business Officials.

Proposition 123 benefits students and schools by:

- Putting \$3.5 billion into our schools over the next 10 years.
- Raising the student base amount to \$3,600 this year.
- Providing an additional \$50 million annually for 5 years and then \$75 million annually for the next 5 years.
- Allowing locally elected school boards to determine the best use of these funds to meet the needs of their students and staff.
- Making permanent the voter-approved mandate for inflation adjustment to K-12 public education funding.
- Ensuring schools retain their buying power to provide highly qualified staff, rigorous academic programming, and effective co-curricular activities for Arizona students.

As a member of the Gilbert Public Schools Governing Board, I have seen the effect of state budget cuts in increased class sizes, teacher and staff vacancies, outdated textbooks, reduced building maintenance, and struggling programs. As a private citizen, I support Proposition 123 as a beginning step in addressing the needs of our Arizona children for a globally competitive public education.

Please join me in voting YES for Proposition 123!

Jill Humpherys

Passage of Prop 123 will settle a long-term legal dispute between schools and the state and will enable both parties to move forward with more clarity about the future of K-12 funding.

Prop 123 is a good first step toward solving issues of funding, performance, and accountability.

Please vote YES on Prop 123.

Rebecca Gau

The Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce strongly supports a YES on Prop 123. We support Governor Ducey's K-12 education plan to allow for additional and sustainable funding that our schools do not currently have.

The plan provides \$3.5 billion in additional education funding over 10 years without raising taxes by utilizing funds from the Arizona State Land Trust. Distributions from the trust have been below the minimum requirement for private charitable trusts. The plan involves tapping in to the trust providing an increase of \$300 per student per year to help close the achievement gap in Arizona.

The future of our state is dependent on the next generation being well educated and the business community is in need of high skilled workers. This plan is a good step in the right direction.

Never before in Arizona has this level of education funding been proposed and approved. It provides a long term solution and recognizes the importance of education by investing in education. It is time to take action to secure our children's and Arizona's future.

Julie Pastrick

Sponsored by "Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce"

Providing our K-12 education system with additional resources without raising taxes is a good thing. It is also imperative that we protect the principal assets in the Land Trust Fund for future generations. I believe Prop. 123 strikes an appropriate balance in accomplishing these two overarching goals. During the time I was Senate President, we were able to put more new money into K-12 education than at any other time in the state's history. I applaud the governor, legislature and educational leaders' commitment to continue finding ways to invest in our children's future. Prop 123 is a step in the right direction, not only for our schools but for Arizona's place in the 21st century economy.

Ken Bennett

Few aspects of a community's profile have the direct impact and importance on the quality of life as the education of the children of our State. The commitment and priority we place on that effort says much about us as a society and as Arizonans. Proposition 123 addresses this issue directly. Voter approval of this proposition will reverse the current trend of under-funding education in our state, and at the same time will assure that education will be sufficiently funded for the next decade...without increasing taxes. For these reasons, Arizona Ombudsman Charter Schools are pleased to add our voice to those supporting approval of Proposition 123. It is imperative that residents of Arizona send a clear and urgent message to all decision makers that nothing less than honoring our commitment to fully fund and implement a first class educational experience for our young people will suffice.

Ronald Grimsley

Properly funding our schools, offering our students every opportunity to prepare and succeed in life, and valuing our teachers ought to be non-partisan goals.

Proposition 123 will increase funding for K-12 schools by immediately adding \$299 million this current fiscal year as part of a total of \$3.5 billion over the next ten years. These funds are desperately needed to help make up for the draconian and harmful cuts to public education since 2008. This is only the first but critical step toward addressing the major education funding crisis in our state. The governor and legislature must put together additional steps to further fund and support public education.

As stated by the respected and non-partisan Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the value of the State Land Trust K-12 Permanent Fund balance will still increase significantly by \$1.4 billion

over the ten year span of this proposal to \$6.2 billion from today's \$4.8 billion. The proposed \$3.5 billion increase as part of Proposition 123 is a greater amount than any projected lesser growth rate in the principal of the fund.

The alternative to this proposition is no additional funding for our schools for the foreseeable future. I urge my fellow Arizonans to support Proposition 123.

Bruce Wheeler

Valley of the Sun United Way, together with our 90,000 individual donors, 700 business supporters, volunteers and partners, is committed to ensuring all children succeed. A quality K-12 education is a crucial component of this goal.

Education is and will remain the most critical factor for the long-term health and success of our state. We applaud the effort of Governor Ducey, members of the state legislature, education leaders, and education advocacy groups to find a fiscally responsible solution that provides much-needed dollars to our schools.

United Way supports this education compromise and appreciates the leadership demonstrated by all those working to fund the education plan for Arizona K-12 schools to benefit our students. The compromise will allow Arizona to move forward in its discussions about how to adequately fund our education system. We must continue to prepare our young people to be college and career ready to build a stronger community for all.

Our state is committed to the continued improvement of our schools because Arizona's children and families deserve nothing less.

Join us in voting 'yes' for Prop 123 on May 17.

Meri Waschler and Donald A. Smith Jr.

Sponsored by "Valley of the Sun United Way"

Small Business Owners Urge YES Vote on Proposition 123

Arizona's small business job creators overwhelmingly support passage of Proposition 123, Governor Doug Ducey's K-12 education plan to allow additional and sustainable funding that our schools currently do not have.

The over 6,000 Arizona members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) are proud to add our voices to the chorus of business, community and education leaders urging you to **Vote YES on Proposition 123** on the March 17th special election ballot.

Arizona's entrepreneurs know first-hand the importance of a strong public education system and support Proposition 123 as our best opportunity to prepare the next generation for the jobs that will power Arizona's economy in the 21st Century.

Looking at the bottom line, Proposition 123 provides \$3.5 billion in additional K-12 classroom funding over the next 10 years and sends a strong message about the value of education in Arizona – all **WITHOUT A TAX HIKE**.

By passing Proposition 123, Arizona voters will better utilize dollars in the state's Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund which have been specifically set aside for the benefit of our school children.

Proposition 123 will secure billions of new dollars flowing to our kids and teachers all the while protecting our state's balanced budget and rejecting the need to raise so much as one penny in new taxes.

NFIB, the Voice of Small Business in Arizona, urges you to vote YES on Proposition 123.

Farrell Quinlan and Mark Giebelhaus

Sponsored by "National Federation of Independent Business/Arizona"

Passage of Prop 123 will settle a long-term legal dispute between schools and the state and will enable both parties to move forward with more clarity about the future of K-12 funding. Prop 123 is a good first step toward solving issues of funding, performance, and accountability.

A nonprofit education advocacy organization, Stand for Children Arizona believes all children deserve access to an excellent education that prepares them for college and careers in the 21st century.

On behalf of the parents, educators, and dedicated community volunteers at Stand for Children Arizona – and the students for whom we work tirelessly – please vote YES on Prop 123.

Rebecca Gau and Shannon Champion

Sponsored by "Stand for Children Arizona"

As elected officials who represent Legislative District 28, we proudly support Prop 123. This measure provides the commonsense problem solving approach our constituents have demanded for public education. It ends a vexing and expensive lawsuit that has persisted for five long years. All parties of the lawsuit negotiated and agreed to this settlement and we were eager to ratify their good faith efforts. Now we ask you, the voters of our great state, to vote yes in support of this beneficial settlement.

The settlement will bring \$3.5 billion new dollars to our K-12 system without raising taxes. The settlement also confirms that Arizona will fund inflation in perpetuity. If passed by voters on May 17, we can look forward to 10 years of stable and much needed funding for every student.

The plan includes an increase in distributions from the state lands trust fund, which was established more than 100 years ago to fund education. Even with the increased distributions, the plan will leave the state trust fund with more money in 10 years than it holds today.

As state lawmakers and representatives of the teachers, students and families of our district, we didn't hesitate when given the chance to vote to put Prop 123 on the ballot. We know firsthand that Arizona's schools and 1.1 million K-12 public school students need help right now and cannot afford to wait any longer. On May 17 please join us in voting YES on Prop 123. Thank you!

Adam Driggs and Kate Brophy McGee

Legacy Traditional School supports Prop 123

As educators representing public, charter schools in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties, we ask you to vote YES for Proposition 123.

More than 10,000 students are educated across our nine Legacy Traditional School campuses, which are among the highest-performing charter schools in Arizona. Our teachers, administrators and families work together every day to ensure Legacy Traditional School students not only achieve in the classroom, but also learn what it means to be engaged, responsible citizen of our great Republic.

But the fact is that a quality public education requires resources. Public schools like ours sustained significant budget cuts during the economic downturn.

That's why we are enthusiastically supporting Proposition 123. This measure will:

- Provide \$3.5 billion to benefit K-12 classrooms, and without raising taxes;
- Assist students and teacher across Arizona, including both districts and charters;
- End the lawsuit that has prevented real education reform from moving forward in Arizona.

At Legacy Traditional School, we know that Proposition 123 will result in real dollars to benefit classroom learning. And without raising taxes! This is a win for Arizona students, teachers and families.

Please join us in voting YES for Proposition 123.

Aaron Hale and Bill Gregory
Sponsored by "Legacy Traditional School"