

AZ

TORS

HANDBOOK

Organize
Participate
Educate
Celebrate

OUR GOVERNMENT HAS NO POWER EXCEPT THAT GRANTED BY THE PEOPLE. - REAGAN

2026

The Official



Handbook

2026

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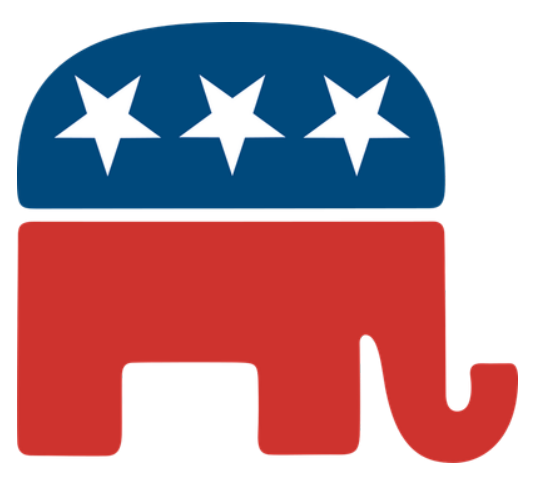
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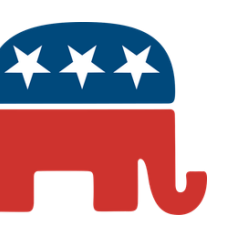
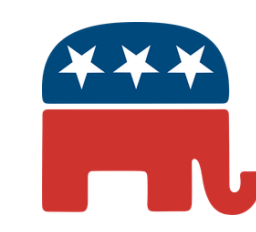
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INTRODUCTION

Read about who we are, what we stand for, and forewords from leadership.



WHAT ARE THE TEENAGE REPUBLICANS?

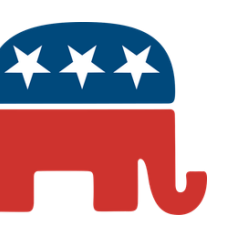
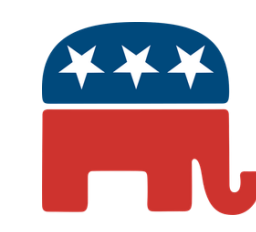
The Arizona Teenage Republicans (TARS for short) is a dynamic, youth-led organization dedicated to engaging and empowering conservative teenagers in civic and political life. Founded in 1970 by Lois Fitch, a dedicated teacher at Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, the club began as a local initiative to inspire young people with Republican principles and active participation in democracy. Under her leadership, it quickly grew in membership and influence, expanding beyond the school to become a vibrant force for conservative youth across the state. Today, decades later, the Arizona Teenage Republicans continues this proud legacy, uniting like-minded teens in meaningful activities, leadership development, and grassroots activism to shape the future of our communities and nation.

WHO CAN JOIN TARS?

Teens aged 13 to 19* are free to join. You don't need any special political or campaign experience. TARs will help you learn all that. It doesn't matter if you go to a traditional public school, a charter school, or are home schooled.

Teenage Republicans is an organization designed for teens and ran by teens dedicated to youth civic engagement. You'll connect with like-minded individuals, hear from and meet influential political leaders, and gain a deeper understanding of how American politics works. Most importantly, you'll actively support the principles of responsible and effective government.

**Youth under 13 may be eligible for Associate Member status upon parent approval.*

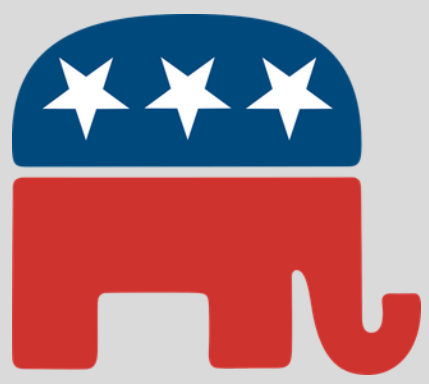


OUR VALUES

To empower and unite the next generation of Republican leaders, the Arizona Teenage Republicans envision an active community driven by principled values, intellectual discourse, and civic engagement. We strive to cultivate a culture of innovation and patriotism, shaping the future of Arizona and our nation through proactive advocacy, impactful initiatives, and unwavering dedication to liberty, prosperity, and opportunity for all.

As Teenage Republicans, we proudly uphold core conservative values that champion personal freedom, individual responsibility, self-reliance, and limited government that safeguards liberties rather than restricts them. We defend free enterprise and a strong economy built on initiative and fiscal responsibility, while ensuring equal rights, justice, and opportunity for all, regardless of background. Government's primary role is to protect constitutional freedoms, maintain the rule of law, support those truly in need toward independence, and achieve lasting peace through strength.

These are the principles that we as leaders actively promote as the bold next generation of leaders committed to responsible, effective governance.



LEADERSHIP

Testimonials



CHAIRMAN
YIDI CHEN

I have greatly cherished the opportunity in leading this organization for the past year. Being a part of the Teenage Republicans has taught me so many life skills that I never knew I could obtain as a high schooler. I've become a much more confident public speaker, organizer, and most importantly I've learned that politics isn't just for adults. It starts with right now, with us. I hope this handbook can be a comprehensive guide for your journey in politics! Dream big, the sky is the limit. Your voice matters more than you think.



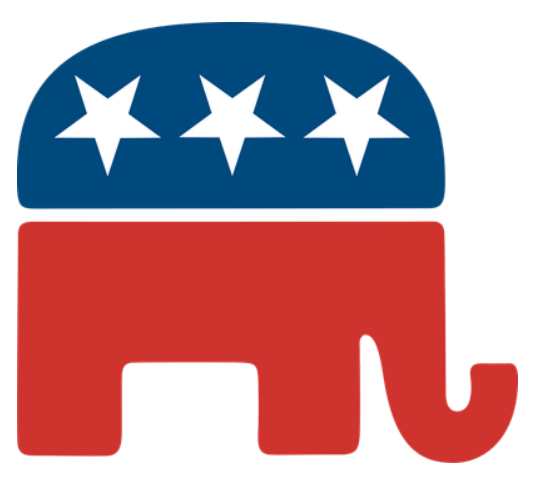
VICE CHAIRMAN
HAYDEN RUSH

I'm passionate about politics, leadership, and conservative values, and I've been involved in learning and supporting causes and candidates I believe in. I joined Arizona Teen Republicans because I wanted to connect with other young conservatives, become more involved in the political process, and help make a difference in my community and state. I'm excited to learn, grow as a leader, and work alongside others who share similar goals and values.



CHIEF ADVISOR
SANDY MONEY

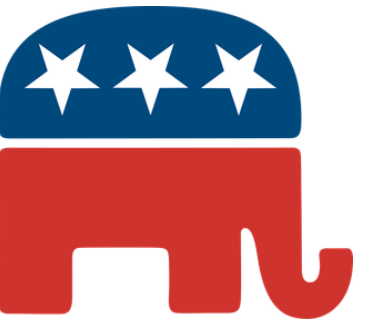
In January 2018, as I sat in my seat at the Arizona Maricopa County Republican Committee Convention as a Precinct Committeewomen, I found myself totally enthralled by two young high schoolers who took the stage. Yibo and Faith were their names, and they shared a message to the attendees. That very day, I made a call to the Chief Advisor at the time, Julie Lind, and I've been a mentor and sponsor ever since. These teens are the next leaders of the Republican Party.



POLITICS TODAY

The political landscape our generation inherited is louder, more divided, and more exhausting than anything that came before it. Understanding how that happened is the first step to changing it.

Politics Still Matters.



And it should still matter to you

Politics feels broken. Constant outrage, extreme headlines, cancel culture, and social media fights have made it easier to tune out than to engage. Most people your age already have.

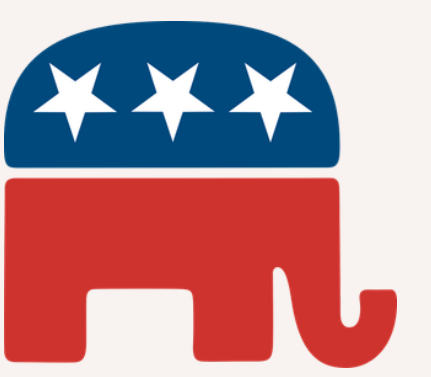
But here is the **truth**: politics is not just about politicians on TV. It is about the decisions that shape your daily life; what you learn in school, how much freedom you have, how safe your community is, how expensive life becomes, and what kind of Arizona you want your future family to live in.

This section is not here to make you angry or push you toward one extreme. It is here to help you understand what is actually happening in American politics today, why it got this way, and how you can engage as a thoughtful young Republican without losing yourself in the noise.

America still has great ideals. Our Republic was built on debate, compromise, and shared principles. Those things are worth fighting for. Your generation has the power to reject the worst trends in modern politics and help build a civic culture worth passing on.

The next few pages will give you the big picture: honestly and factually. Then we will talk about what the Republican Party actually stands for and how you can participate without becoming part of the problem.

How Did We Get Here?



American politics used to be intense but more civil. For decades after World War II, Republicans and Democrats often disagreed on policy while still sharing basic assumptions about America, democracy, and the Constitution. Both parties had strong moderate wings, and compromise was normal. That started changing in the late 20th century and accelerated in the 2000s and 2010s. **Both parties have moved toward their ideological extremes:**

- Democrats have shifted further left on the size of government, cultural policy, and economic regulation.
- Republicans have shifted further right on immigration, national sovereignty, government power, and social values.

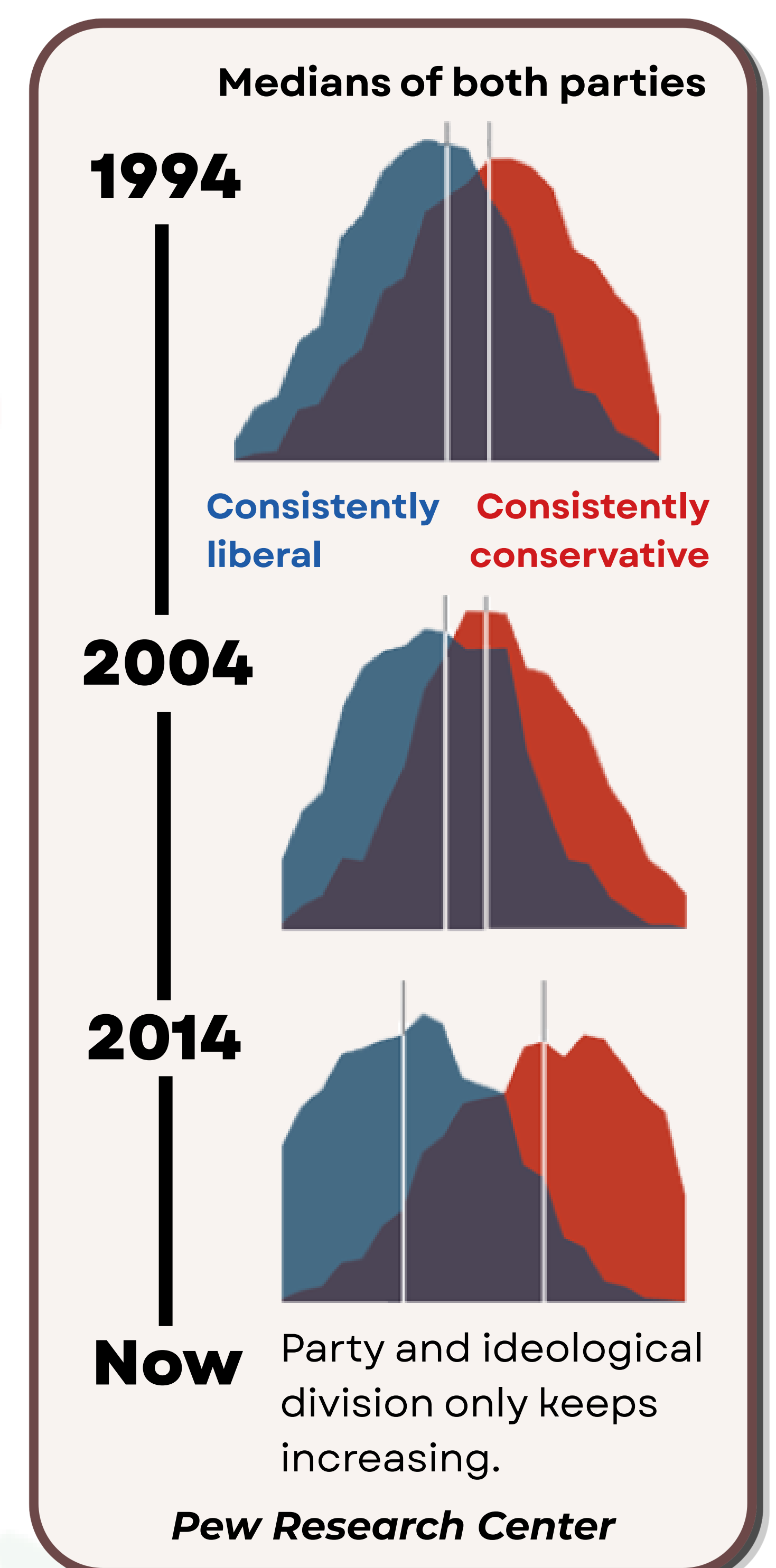
Several trends contributed to this shift:

- The rise of cable news and social media, which reward strong emotions and outrage.
- Americans sorting themselves into politically similar neighborhoods and online communities.
- Major national crises and institutional failure – from 9/11 to the 2008 financial crash to COVID-19

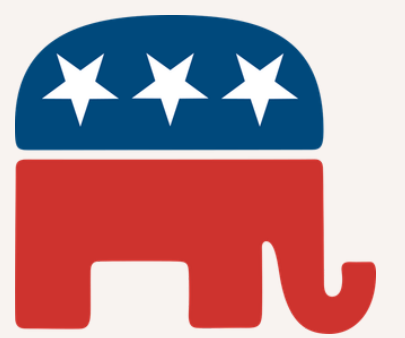
The result is a politics that often feels more like tribal conflict than principled debate. Many people now view the other party not just as wrong, but as a threat. This polarization makes compromise harder and raises the emotional temperature of everyday disagreements.

Understanding this history helps explain why politics feels so intense today. It is not new for Americans to disagree, but the scale and personal nature of today's divisions are relatively recent.

The good news? Our constitutional system was built to handle disagreement. The challenge for your generation is to engage without letting the worst parts of modern politics define you.



The Polarization Problem



America is more politically divided today than it has been in decades. The gap between Republicans and Democrats is not just about policy. It often feels personal and emotional.

Social media and partisan news outlets make this worse. Algorithms push emotionally charged content because it keeps users engaged.

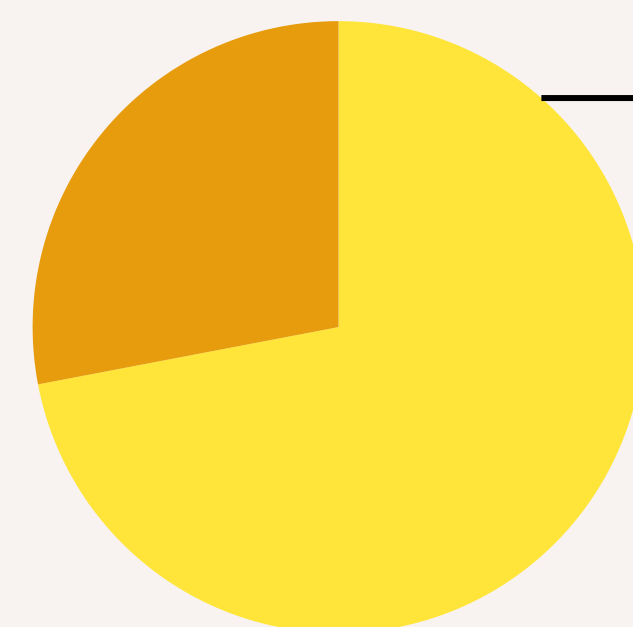
This creates **echo chambers**: digital bubbles where people mostly see information that confirms their existing beliefs and rarely encounter opposing views.

How This Hits Gen-Z the Most

Your generation is growing up directly inside this environment. Gen-Z spends more time on the internet than any previous generation, with political content almost impossible to avoid.

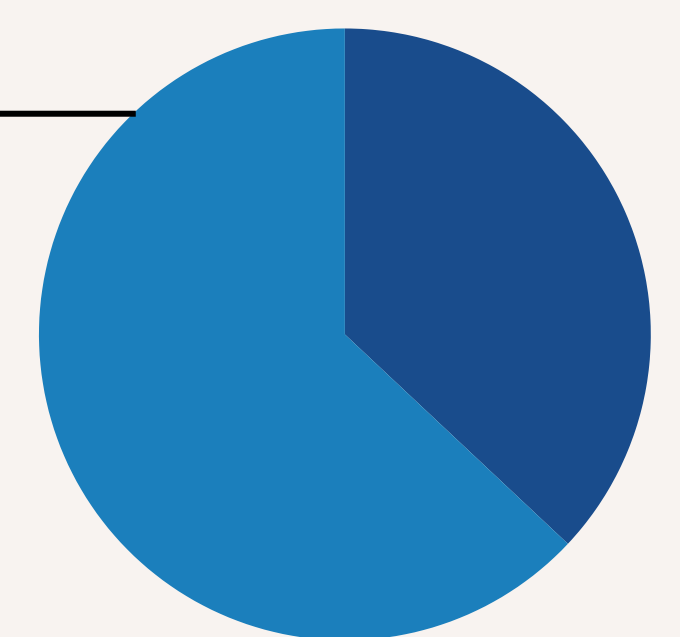
- Heavy political content consumption is linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, and feeling overwhelmed among teens and young adults.

This leaves Gen-Z split between two traps: radicalization toward the extreme, or total disengagement from politics altogether. Neither one serves you, your community, or your country.



72% of Republicans viewed the opposing party as more immoral than other Americans

63% of Democrats viewed the opposing party as more immoral than other Americans



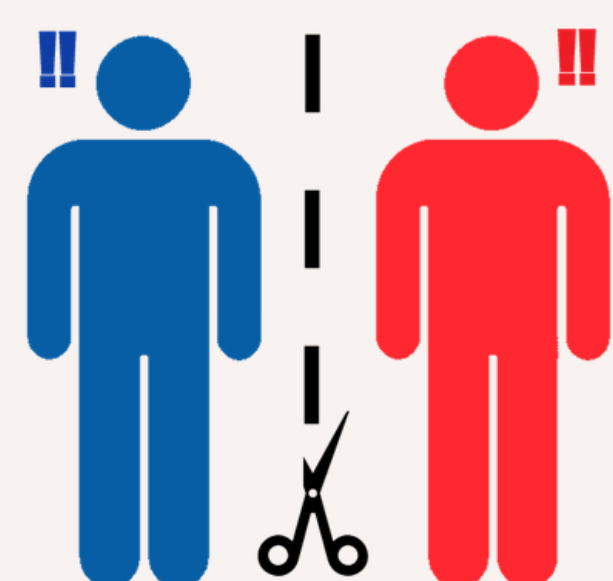
Up from roughly half just a decade earlier.

Pew Research | 2022

How Our Republic Weakens

When Americans begin attacking each other's character, dismissing opposing views outright, or treating fellow citizens as enemies

instead of opponents, compromise becomes nearly impossible and trust collapses.



The good news: our generation has a unique opportunity to reject these trends and model something better. Understanding the problem already puts you ahead of most adults. You can't fix what you can't name, so keep reading.

What the **Republican Party** Stands For Today

Limited Gov & Individual Liberty

Republicans believe government should be as small and local as possible. Its role is to protect rights and provide basic services, not to run people's lives or control the economy. They believe that when government expands beyond its core functions, it risks becoming less efficient and more intrusive in people's lives.

Individual Liberty is at the heart of this: every American is born with natural rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Republicans support the idea that individuals (not government) should make decisions about their education, healthcare, career, and values.

Individuals, not government, are best equipped to make decisions about their own lives.



The Constitution was designed to limit gov, not expand it.



Republicans support free enterprise because competition and economic freedom create innovation, jobs, and rising living standards. When people are allowed to keep more of what they earn and pursue opportunities without excessive rules, society as a whole benefits.

Think of it like this: when someone starts a small business – whether it's a lawn care service, a tech app, or a food truck – free markets give them the chance to succeed (or fail) based on how well they serve customers. Free markets reward hard work, creativity, and good ideas because success depends on serving customers well.

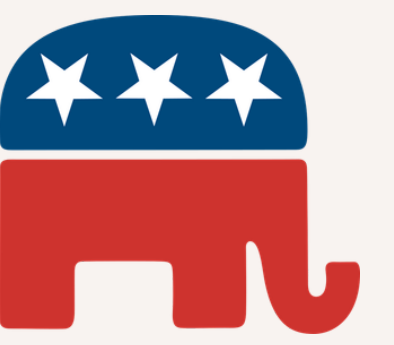


America's free-market system lifted more people out of poverty more than any other system in history.

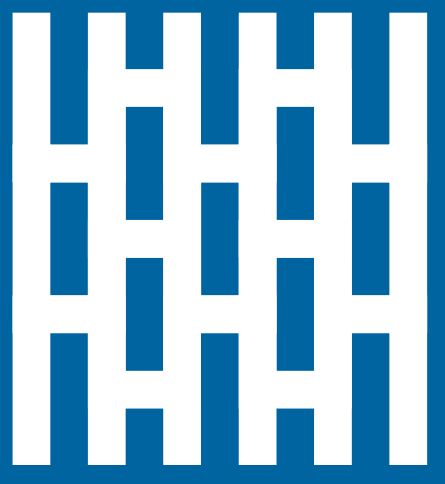


Free Markets & Opportunity

The Republican Party is rooted in principles that emphasize **freedom, responsibility, and limited government**. These ideas have helped create one of the most prosperous and free societies in history.



Strong National Defense & Secure Borders



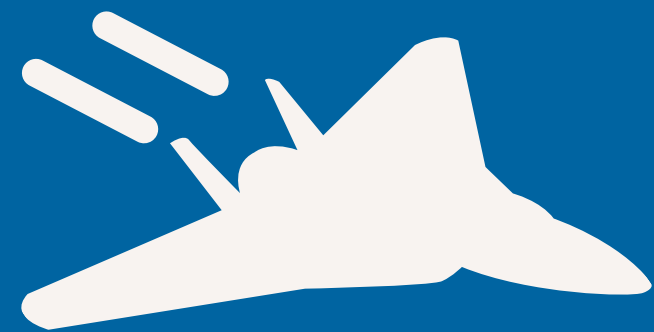
Enforcing immigration law respects those who pursue citizenship through proper channels.



Republicans believe America must have a strong military to deter enemies and protect our national interests. A capable and well funded military helps prevent wars by making sure no country wants to challenge the United States.

Equally important is securing our borders. This means controlling who enters the country, stopping illegal immigration, human trafficking, and the flow of deadly drugs like fentanyl that kill tens of thousands of Americans every year.

A secure nation allows peaceful citizens to thrive without fear, living safely in their own communities.



No one is above the law, even the President.



Republicans recognize that strong families and local communities are the true foundation of a healthy society. Government should support – not replace or undermine – parents, faith, communities, and local institutions that build character.

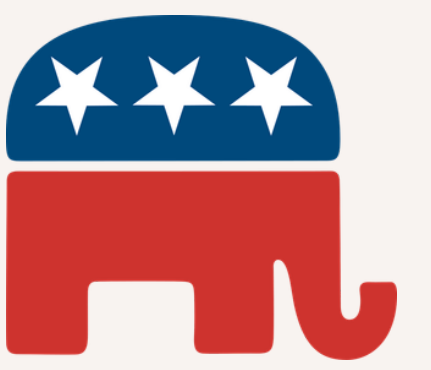


The government does not impede in individual rights to practice religion

Rule of Law means everyone, including politicians and government officials, must follow the same laws. Republicans generally support originalism, the idea that the Constitution should be interpreted according to the meaning it held when the Founding Fathers wrote it. Others favor a living constitutionalism approach, which holds that interpretation should adapt to evolving social conditions.

Strong Communities, Families & Rule of Law

How to Engage Without Losing Yourself



You can care deeply about politics without letting it consume or define you. Here are practical skills to stay grounded:

Consume News Critically

- Use multiple sources from different perspectives.
- Ask: What is the source? What facts are they leaving out? Is this designed to make me angry?
- Take breaks from political content.

Build your Own Informed Worldview

- Study the Constitution and American history directly.
- Think long-term: What kind of country do you want to live in 20 years from now?
- Focus on principles, not just parties or personalities.

The next generation of Republican leaders will be defined not just by what they believe, but by how well they listen, think, and engage. That starts here.

Have Better Conversations

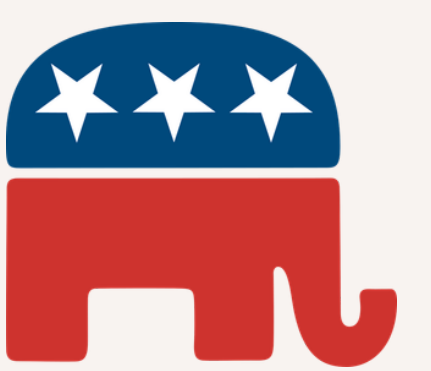
- Listen first. Try to understand the other person's concerns instead of immediately attacking their position.
- Stick to ideas and evidence rather than labels
- Know that it is okay to disagree – you don't have to win every argument.

Protect your Mental Health

Politics is important, but it is not everything. Give yourself permission to step back. Separate your sense of self from political outcomes.

Family members, close friends, and mentors may hold different political views. Learning to hold those relationships with care while still standing by your own convictions is one of the most important social skills politics can teach you.

Your Role as a Gen-Z Republican



Your generation has a unique opportunity. You are inheriting a polarized country, but you do not have to repeat the same patterns.

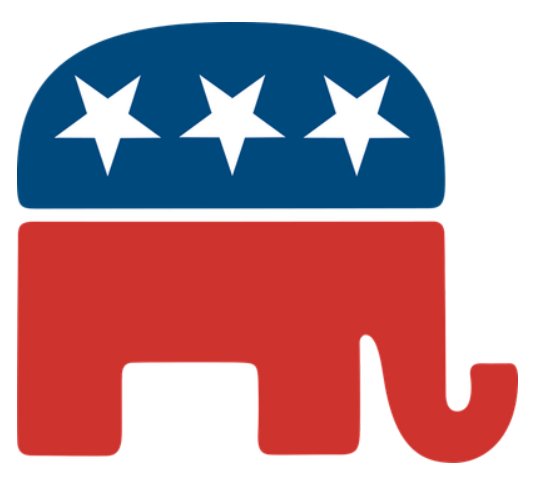
Gen-Z Republicans can model something better: principled conservatism combined with civility, critical thinking, and real-world action. You can show that it is possible to disagree strongly with someone without hating them.

The future of Arizona and America will be shaped by those who show up, stay informed, and lead with character. That can be you.

Ready to start climbing? The next section walks you through everything you need to join a chapter, find your role, and begin making your mark as a young Republican in Arizona.

The Leadership Ladder

- 1 Build Your Foundation**
Study the fundamentals of our Republic, follow local issues, and know what you believe and why.
- 2 Get Involved**
Join or start a chapter, attend meetings, serve on a committee.
- 3 Get Active**
Volunteer on campaigns, attend town halls, and represent Teen Republicans in your community.
- 4 Get Leading**
Lead chapter operations, practice public speaking, and build others up as you grow.
- 5 Go Further**
Carry conservative values into college and your professional career. Seek elected office and serve your community directly.



GETTING INVOLVED

Learn about our club structure, communications, and the perks of being a member or advisor of the Arizona Teen Republicans.



ONLINE APPLICATION

To become an official member or advisor, simply fill out our google forms at arizonatars.com/join

PERKS OF BEING A MEMBER

- Participate actively in club governance: Vote in elections and run for **state and chapter level leadership positions** during club conventions.
- Access mentorship and professional opportunities: Receive guidance from experienced mentors, along with priority access to internships, role in political campaigns, and the potential to earn competitive **scholarships and grants** to support your education and future career.
- Build an elite network and connecting with influential political figures, elected officials, and industry leaders, opportunities **rarely available to teenagers** outside of this organization.
- Attend leadership conventions (RNC – Republican National Convention, Washington D.C.) that teach you **core leadership and life skills**, while also building lasting friendships.

PERKS OF BEING AN ADVISOR

- Serve as a **role model** and shape the future: Inspire and guide the next generation of conservative leaders who will carry forward the party's values.
- **Amplify your impact** within the Republican Party by mentoring emerging talent, helping strengthen the party's grassroots foundation and long-term vitality.
- Gain **exclusive access** to major events such as the RNC.



THE STATE BOARD

- Statewide Elected Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer
- All Chartered-Club Chairs
- Chief Advisor + Assistant Advisors

THE CHAPTER BOARD

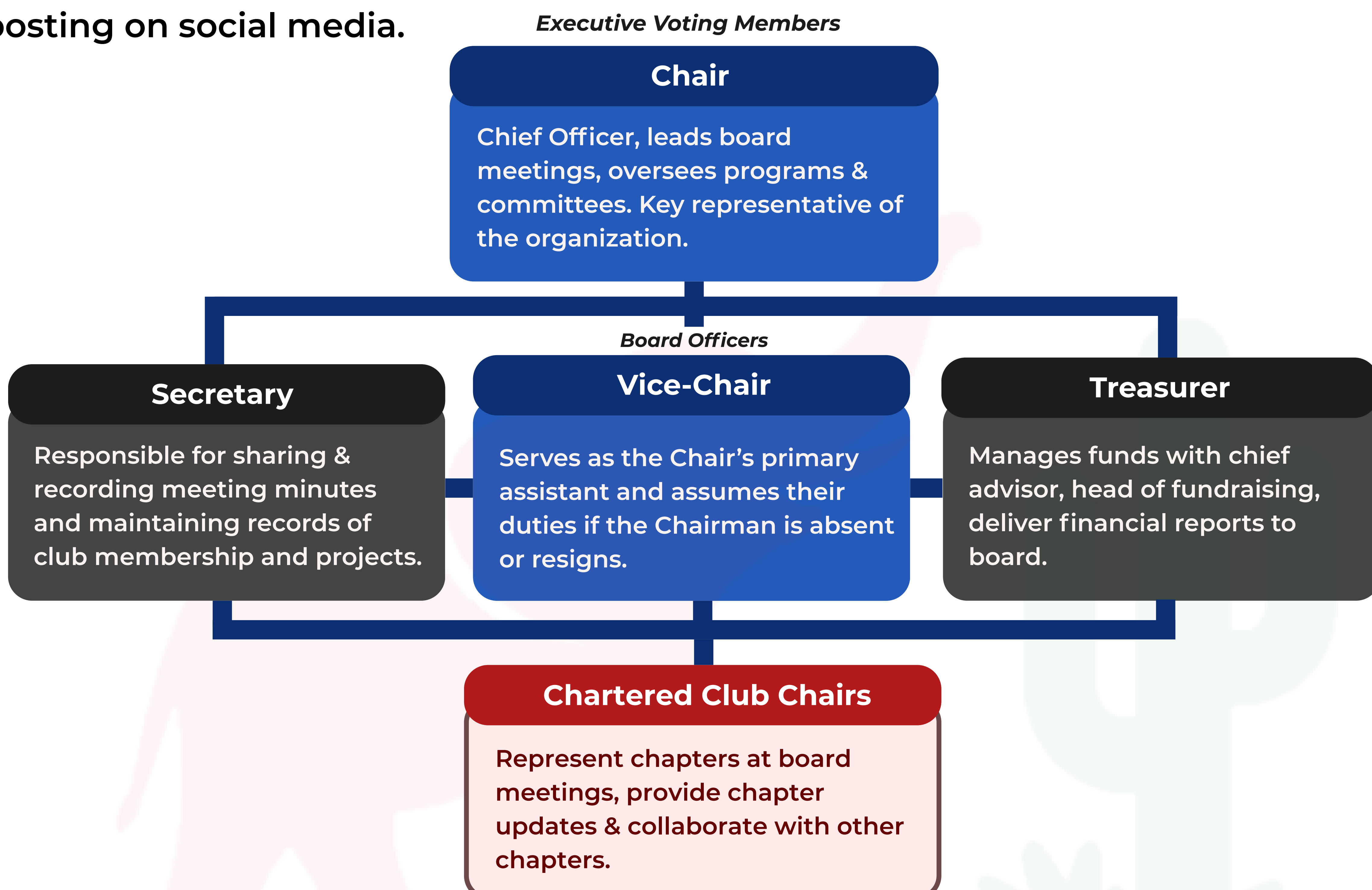
- Chapter Elected Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer
- Chief Chapter Advisor + Assistant Chapter Advisors

COMMITTEES

The club maintains several specialized groups:

- Membership / Recruitment
- Event Committees
- Social Media / Publicity

Each committee has a leader or leaders that are responsible in leading and achieving goals in their domains, such as fundraising, membership drives, and posting on social media.





CHAPTERS

Head to arizonatars.com/chapters to see our current chapters and their location, leadership, and contact.

If you are in an area not served by an existing chapter, you may follow the guide starting on page 32 to start a chapter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Every month, the executive board releases a digital newsletter, featuring, monthly leaders and chapter updates. We have a google calendar on our website as well!

The newsletter can be found at arizonatars.com/newsletter

We also have a digital information pamphlet, **Teens in Action**, with upcoming events and civic opportunities that is updated every few weeks with registration.

Teens in Action can be found at arizonatars.com/teens-in-action

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow all our social media, where we post event and updates!



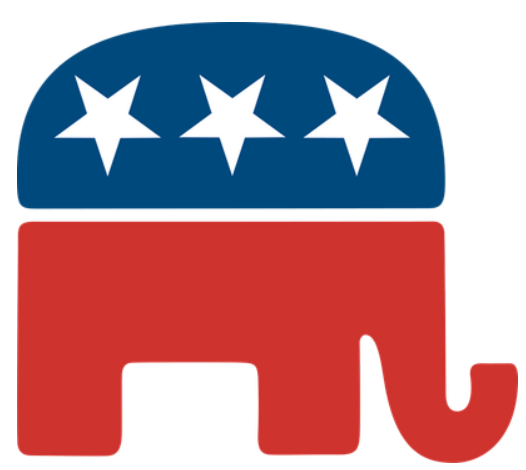
[@azteengop](https://www.instagram.com/azteengop)



[@azteenreps](https://twitter.com/azteenreps)



facebook.com/groups/azteenreps



UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT

Learn how government works at the Arizona state and federal levels, and why our Founding Fathers designed the systems we still rely on today.



KEY FACTS

State Capitol:

Phoenix, AZ

First Session:

January 21, 1901

Bicameral Structure

- Senate – 30 members
- House – 60 members
- **8 Year (4 terms)**

Limit, can switch chambers to continue

Salary:

\$24,000/yr



Senate Political Groups

- **17 Republican***
- **13 Democrat***

President: Warren Petersen, R

House Political Groups

- **33 Republican***
- **27 Democrat***

Speaker: Steve Montenegro, R

When one party holds more seats than the other in the Senate or House, it gains significant power to shape laws and the legislative process.

*as of 3/21/2026



azleg.gov

The **Arizona State Legislature** makes laws for our state. It's part of our democratic government and meets in the chambers at the state capitol.

There are 30 legislative districts (LD) in Arizona. Each district elects 1 Senator and 2 Representatives, called *nesting*.

Leadership

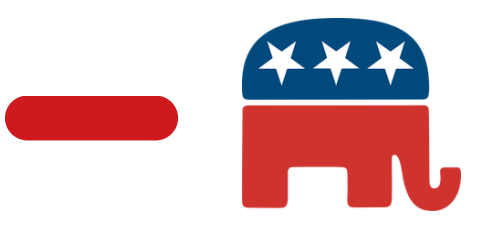
- Senate President – Leads the Senate
- House Speaker – Leads the House
- Other key roles: Majority/Minority Leaders, committee chairs.

Sessions begin on the **second Monday in January**. They are scheduled to last about 100 days, with a target adjournment around late April. However, the session often extends beyond 100 days due to complex issues like the state budget (*which must pass by June 30 for the next fiscal year*) or other policies.

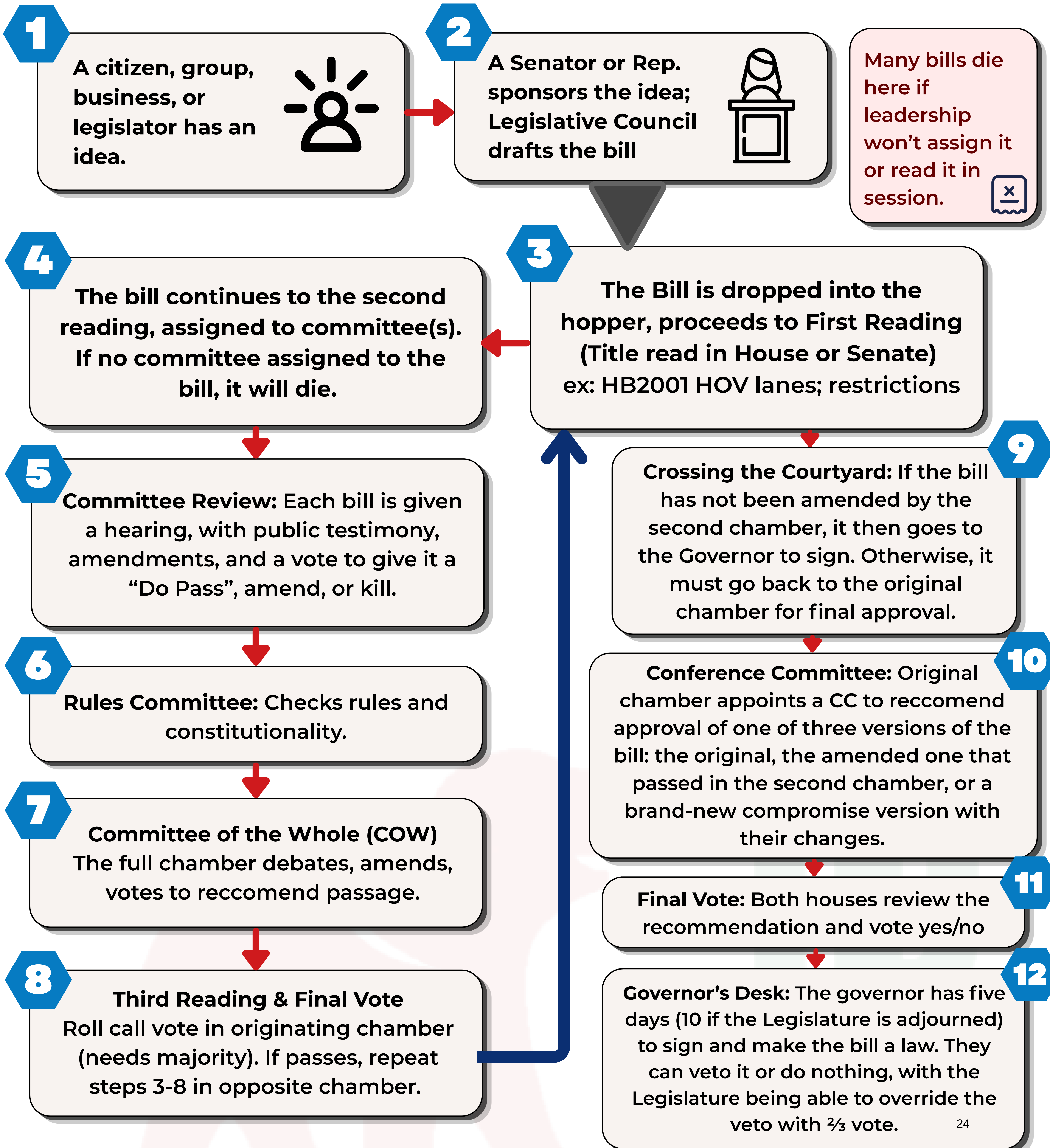
Arizona's legislature is part-time; many members have other jobs. No pay raise since 1998 (\$24,000 base), though a 2026 ballot measure may ask voters to adjust for inflation.

Arizona allows citizens to propose laws directly through **ballot initiatives** (propositions) and **referendums**, bypassing the legislature if signatures are gathered. This "direct democracy" tool makes Arizona one of the most citizen-driven states.

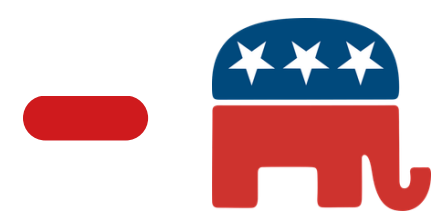
How a Bill Becomes a Law



Here is a step-by-step guide on how an idea can be turned into a law.



Constitutional Foundation



Why the Framers Built a Republic to Protect Liberty

The Founding Fathers deliberately created a constitutional federal representative republic, not a pure democracy. They had extensively studied the history of ancient Athens and other direct democracies, and believed those systems were vulnerable to instability and faction. In their view, when passions ran high, majorities could trample the rights of minorities or make hasty decisions.

James Madison argued in Federalist No. 10 that factions were the greatest threat to self-government, and that a large republic was the best defense against them.

A pure democracy... can admit of no cure for the mischiefs of faction... [It has] ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention... and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.

In a republic, the people elect representatives to make laws. The Framers believed this added layers of deliberation and helped filter impulsive decisions. Madison identified two key advantages of a republic over a direct democracy:

- **Delegation** — Government is handed to elected officials rather than decided by direct vote on every issue.
- **Scale** — A large republic dilutes factions and protects liberty better than a small one.

“A republic, if you can keep it.”

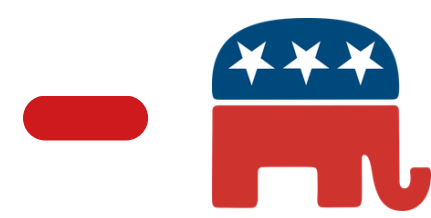
**Benjamin Franklin
(1787, exiting the
Constitutional
Convention)**

THE PREAMBLE: Why the Constitution was created

We the People of the United States



to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America



The Constitution's first three articles set up the three branches of government. Each one gets specific, limited powers. Nothing more.

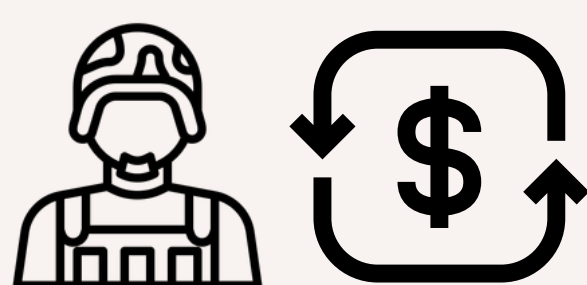
Article I: The Legislative Branch (Congress)

Congress makes the laws. It consists of the House and Senate. The House represents people based on population; the Senate gives every state equal say. Congress only has the 18 powers listed in Section 8. Everything else is off limits. These powers include taxing, declaring war, regulating trade between states, and more.

How Article I Section 8 affects Arizona

Arizona's Economy and Defense:

The Nogales port of entry handles billions in annual trade under federal commerce authority. Luke AFB, Fort Huachuca, and Davis-Monthan are all funded through Congress's military and taxing powers, making Arizona one of the most federally active states in the country.



Naturalization and Commerce:

Arizona shares 370 miles of border with Mexico. Federal naturalization law, not state law, governs immigration. Federal tax revenue also funds Arizona's highways, tribal programs, and national parks including the Grand canyon.



Article II: The Executive Branch (President)

The President enforces the laws. He commands the military, makes treaties (with Senate approval), appoints judges and officials (with Senate consent), and can veto bills. The term is four years. The office is strong enough to act fast but checked by Congress and the courts.

Article III: The Judicial Branch (Supreme Court and lower courts)

Federal judges interpret laws and the Constitution. They serve for life during good behavior so they stay independent from political pressure. Their primary role is to determine whether laws follow the Constitution — not to rewrite it.

The 10th Amendment

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Continue reading to see how state and local power is where real change happens.

Power Divided

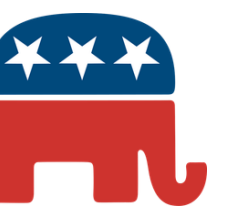
Day-to-day issues like schools, police, marriage laws, and business rules belong to states or local governments, not the federal government in Washington D.C.

Laboratories of Democracy

Justice Louis Brandeis observed that states can try new ideas, in healthcare, education, or tax policy. If it works, others follow. If it fails, the damage stays local.

Seperation of Powers

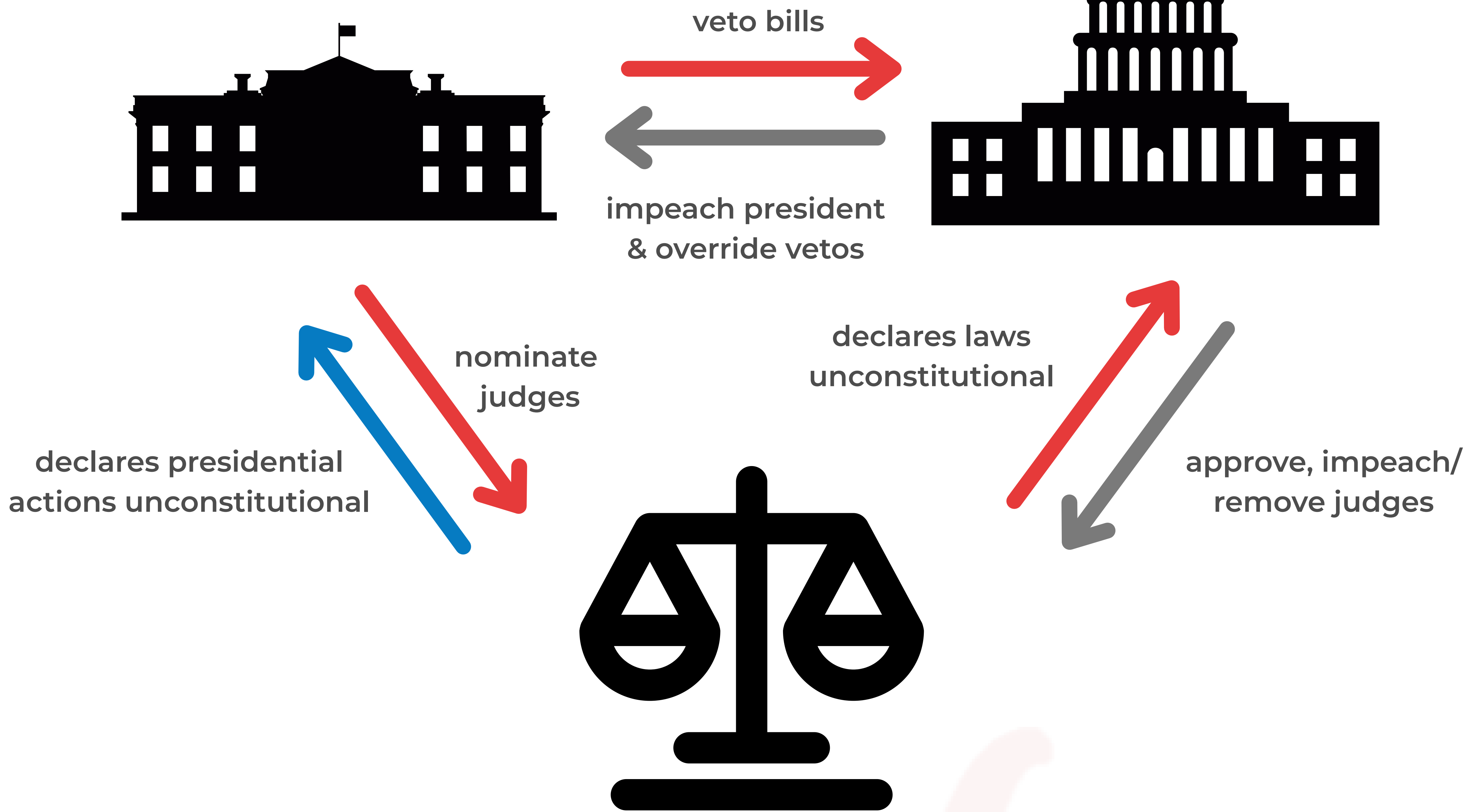
Checks and Balances



Checks and Balances

The separation of power to avoid one entity or body wielding too much power.

The Framers built the Constitution to prevent any one part of government from getting **too powerful**. They split authority into three equal branches and gave each ways to check (limit or block) the others. This is the heart of our republic.



Deliberate by Design

The Framers want a government to move carefully, not fast. They believed quick majorities could trample individual rights or rush through poorly considered laws.

The Cost of this Gridlock

When branches disagree, progress slows. This forces debate and protects against overreach. Critics argue it can prevent necessary action on urgent problems.

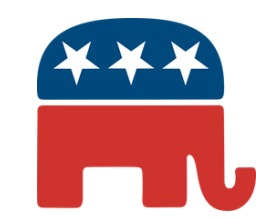
Madison's argument was simple: rather than relying on the virtue of those in power, the system itself should make it difficult for any one branch to dominate. Structure, not trust, protects liberty.

**James Madison
Federalist No. 51**

"Ambition must be made to counteract ambition."

This system prioritizes deliberation over speed. The Framers believed decisions made carefully are more likely to protect everyone's rights in the long run.

The Electoral College



Why It Still Matters

The Electoral College is one of the most discussed features of the U.S. Constitution. The Framers designed it as a compromise between election by Congress and a direct national popular vote, aiming to balance the influence of *large* and *small* states.

538

Total Electoral votes equal to House seats + 2 Senators per state

48

States using winner-take-all system
Only Maine and Nebraska split electoral votes

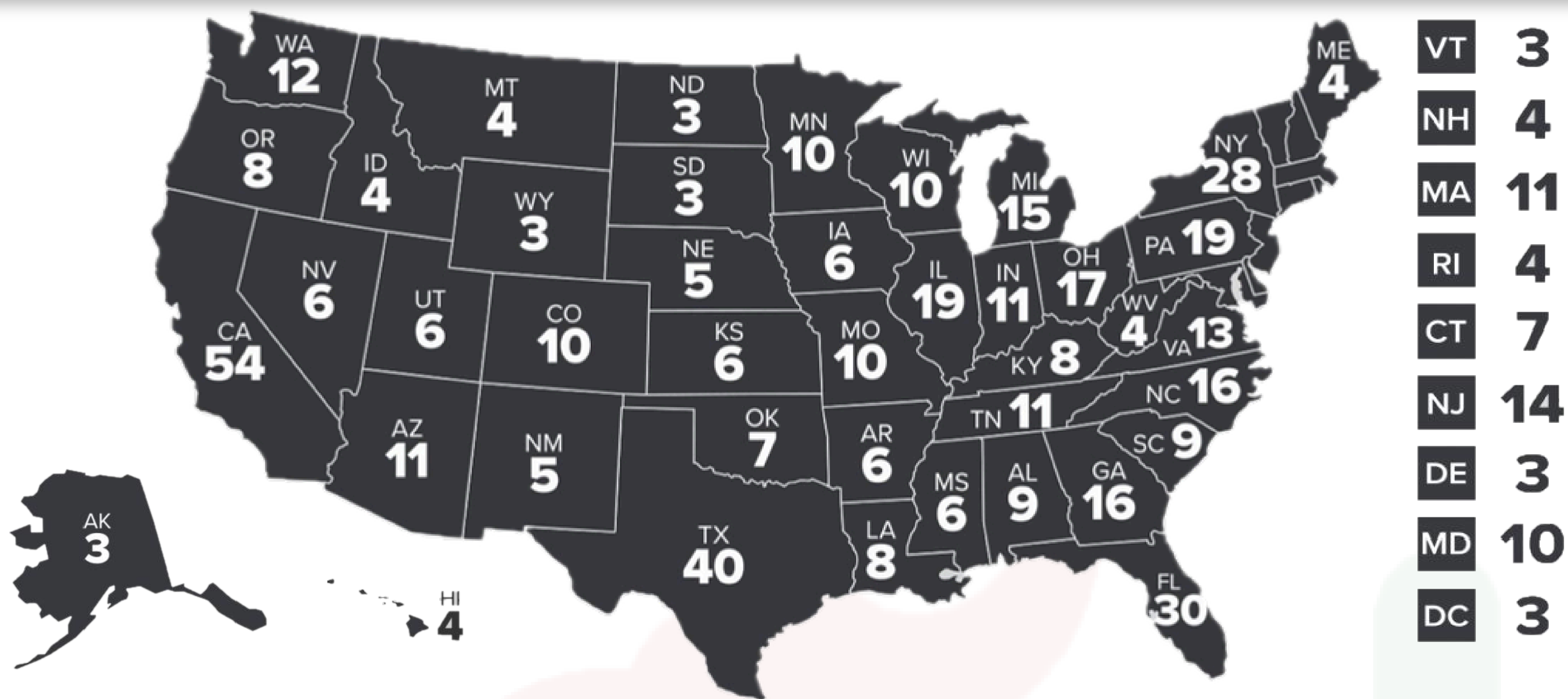
270

Votes to win the presidency, a majority of the total

Tie?

The House of Representatives decides the winner
One State, One Vote

Supporters argue the Electoral College ensures smaller states are not completely overshadowed by high-population urban centers. Critics argue it allows a candidate to win a presidency without winning the most votes nationally. Both perspectives reflect genuine disagreements about how democratic representation should work.



2000

Electoral College

Gore (D) - 266

Bush (R) - 271 ✓

Popular Vote

Gore - 50,999,897 ✓

Bush - 50,456,002

One of the most contested elections in American history. Bush won after Court halted Florida's recount.

1960

Electoral College

Kennedy (D) - 303 ✓

Nixon (R) - 219

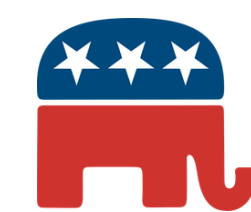
Popular Vote

Kennedy - 34,220,984 ✓

Nixon - 34,108,157

The election of 1960 shows how the two can align even in highly contested races.

Understanding the Electoral College means understanding why every state — including Arizona — plays a role in deciding the presidency. Know your state, know your vote.



The Supreme Court is the final interpreter of the Constitution and federal laws. It's primary function is not to make laws. The Court decides if laws and actions *actually* follow the Constitution. Justices serve for life (during good behavior) to stay independent from politics.

There are two main ways judges interpret the Constitution today.

Originalism

The Constitution means what its words meant when written and ratified. Changes should come through amendments or elections, not court decisions.

Promotes predictability and limits judicial power. Associated with Justices like Scalia, Thomas, and Barrett.

Critics argue it can be difficult to apply 18th century language to modern situations the founders never anticipated.

"Living Constitution"

The Constitution is a flexible document that evolves with society and modern needs. Judges can update meanings based on current values and precedents.

This allows courts to address issues not explicitly covered by the text. Associated with justices like Sotomayor, Kagan, and Jackson.

Critics deem it undemocratic; unelected judges can rewrite the law to match their own personal or political biases.

Marbury V. Madison (1803)

Est. Judicial Review

Chief Justice John Marshall established judicial review, the Court's power to strike down laws that violate the Constitution – making it a true check on Congress and the President.

D.C. v. Heller (2008)

Second Amendment Rights

The Court ruled 5-4 that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms for self-defense in the home, not just militia service.

Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)

Free Speech in Schools

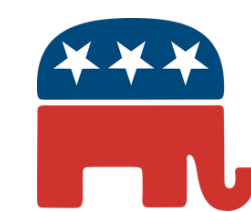
The Court ruled that neither students nor teachers "shed their constitutional rights to free speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." Emphasized individual liberty and schools being able to impose reasonable rules.

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

Equal Protection Under the Law

The Court unanimously ruled that racial segregation in public schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, overturning Plessy v. Ferguson and reshaping American civil rights law for generations.

State and Local Power



Where Real Change Happens First

As discussed previously, the Constitution gives most power to states and local governments. Washington handles national issues like defense and trade, but everyday life — schools, crime, roads, family laws — belongs closer to home and lets states experiment as "*laboratories of democracy*."

Key Areas of State & Local Power

- **School boards** — Control curriculum, books, policies on parental rights, and school safety. Parents vote directly or influence through elections.
- **State legislatures** — Pass laws on education, taxes, elections, abortion, gun rights, and more. They can push back against federal overreach.
- **Governors** — Enforce state laws, declare emergencies, and lead on issues like border security or economic policy.

Case Study: Arizona (2022)

Universal School Choice Expansion

Under Governor Doug Ducey, Arizona expanded Empowerment Scholarship Accounts to every K-12 student in the state, one of the broadest school choice programs in the country. Families can use funds for private school tuition, homeschooling, tutoring, and other educational expenses.

100,000+

Students enrolled in
ESA program

#1

Arizona leads
the nation
in ESA scope

~\$7,000

Average annual grant
per student



Case Study: Arizona (2021)

Flat Income Tax Form

Arizona passed legislation transitioning from a multi-bracket income tax system to a single flat rate. Supporters argued it simplifies the tax code, prioritizes free-market, and makes Arizona more competitive for business and residents. Critics raised concerns about its impact on state revenue and public services funding.

Before

4 Brackets

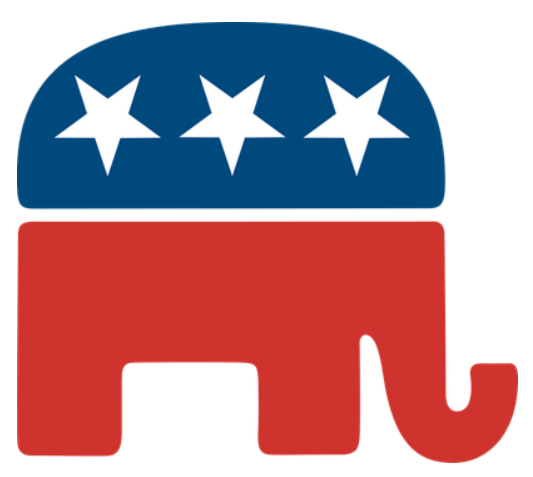
2.59% → 4.5%
depending
on income
level

After

2.5% Flat

Single rate for
all taxpayers,
fully phased in
by 2023

Both reforms were done at the state level, proving that local change matters. Get involved locally first: run for school board, attend town halls, or volunteer in state campaigns.



BUILDING LEADERSHIP

Leadership isn't just granted to you. It is earned through courage and hard work. Learn more about core principles and the thinking process of a strong leader.

The Four Pillars of Leadership

The Essentials You Should Know



Great leaders aren't born. They're built through character and daily choices. These four pillars aren't just conservative values, they're the foundation of anyone worth following. Study them, live them, and lead like it matters.

1. Moral Courage: Standing When It's Unpopular

Moral courage means doing what is right even when it costs you friends, popularity, or comfort. It is about being *steady* when everyone else is folding.

History is full of leaders who took unpopular stands that time proved right. Reagan calling out the Soviet Union, Lincoln holding the Union together against impossible odds, Washington refusing a third term when power was his to keep, they all chose principle over convenience. That's the standard we hold.

In your own life, moral courage looks quieter but it's just as real, it is defending a position calmly when pushed back on, refusing to go along with something that violates your values, or simply being the one person in the room willing to say what everyone else is thinking but won't say.

Action Steps

- The next time you feel pressure to stay quiet or go along, pause and ask: "Will I respect this decision tomorrow?" If not, act. Speak calmly, clearly, and without apology.
- Agree to disagree with others, listen and nod to what others have to say as well.

2. Intellectual Honesty: Knowing What You Actually Believe and Why

Intellectual honesty means seeking the truth over feelings. It means being willing to know your own beliefs deeply enough to defend them, and humble enough to update them when the facts demand it.

A leader who skips this risks getting exposed the moment someone asks a hard question. Opinion isn't enough. You need to know why you believe what you believe, and where that belief comes from, and what the strongest counterargument is.

That means going to primary sources, reading the actual words, not just the summary. It means being honest when you don't know something, rather than bluffing. The leaders who last are the ones who do the homework.

Action Steps

- Pick one topic your chapter cares about, and spend 20 minutes this week reading a primary source, whether it's an original document, a full speech, a Supreme Court ruling. Then try to explain it in your own words to someone else. If you can't explain it simply, you don't know it well enough yet.



3. Servant Mindset: Lead by Serving Your Chapter First

Real leadership isn't about the title, it's about what you do when nobody's watching. A servant leader puts the chapter's mission and members ahead of personal recognition, and earns respect through action, not position.

Jesus taught that the greatest among you shall be servant of all.

In our club, this could mean showing up early, staying late, and doing the work that doesn't get applause. It means making newer members feel like they belong from day one, and never considering yourself too important for the small things. Because the truth is, if you can't handle the small things well, you're not ready for the big ones.

Action Steps

- Before every meeting, find one task nobody asked you to do and do it without mentioning it. At the end of the month, ask yourself: "Did I lead for them, or for me?"
- Arrive early to set up and greet people at an event, stay late to help clean.

4. Strategic Vision: Thinking Ahead

Strategic vision means building something that lasts longer than your time in the spotlight. A great leader doesn't just act upon what's in front of them, they ask *why* and *where* is this going?

Ask: What does this chapter look like in 3 years? What kind of leaders am I helping grow right now, and will they carry this forward when I'm gone?

The greatest leaders in business, politics, and activism, all shared one trait: they made decisions based on principles and long-term outcomes, not just what looked good in the moment.

Your chapter deserves that same kind of intentional leadership.

Action Steps

- Mentor younger members and give them opportunities to take initiative. Great leaders build the next leader, not just the next event.
- Study one leader you admire, at any level, and identify one long-term decision they made that paid off. Bring it up at a meeting.

Character is the starting point, but not the finish line. Now it's time to build the skills that turn who you are into what you actually accomplish.



Running a meeting is a skill. Running an efficient one is what separates good officers from great ones.

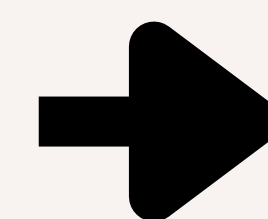
How to Run a Meeting

Open Strong



Start on time, always. Have your agenda ready and visible so everyone knows what's coming. Kick off with a quick icebreaker question to get people talking and make newer members feel welcome before diving into business.

Keep it on Track



Stick to listed agenda items & keep track of time. When productive but off-topic ideas arise, validate them, write them in notes, and promise to address them offline. Always keep minutes, and if the secretary is absent, the Vice Chair steps in.

Close with Clarity

Ensure decisions are made. End with a clear plan of action, who is doing what, and by when. Never leave without planning the next meeting, make sure it is scheduled before adjourning.

How to Conduct Yourself in a Meeting

Arrive prepared

Read the agenda before you walk in. Know your updates and your stance on key items.

Preparation is a form of respect.

Disagree respectfully

Challenge ideas, not people. Stay professional even when the conversation gets tense. We'll explain more about this on the next page.

Encourage Participation

Actively invite quieter voices. Ask them what they think about the item being discussed. Don't let the loudest person speak for the whole room. Great ideas come from everyone.

Let the minority speak, majority decide.

Follow through

If you're assigned an action item, own it. Your chapter is counting on you to deliver.

Online Template: arizonatars.com/club-documents



Public Speaking Formula

1 Open Strong

Start with a hook – a short story, a surprising fact, or a question that makes people lean in. Then introduce yourself briefly and state the one thing you want your audience to walk away knowing.

2 Make your Case

Present your main points one at a time, each backed by a concrete example, story, or piece of evidence. Speak to what the audience actually cares about, not just what you know.

3 Land It

Now bring it home with a sharp summary of your key point, not a laundry list. Then close with a call to action or a line that sticks. End with intention, not just “thanks for listening to my speech.”

Practice speaking in front of a mirror, a small crowd, or record yourself on your phone. Speak clearly and with conviction: **passion** beats perfection.

Leading Your Board by Example

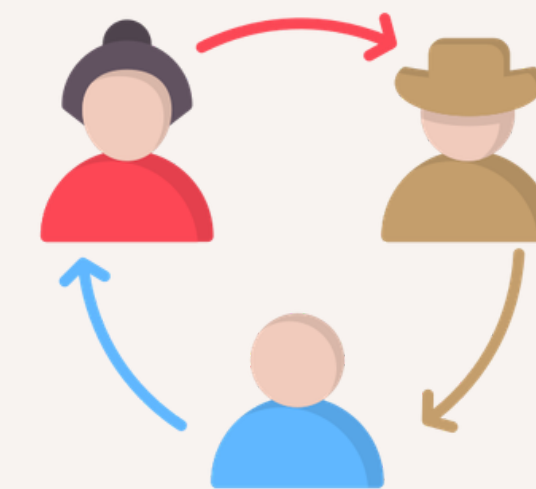
1 Show Up & Follow Through

Be on time for meetings, do what you say you will do, and never ask others to do what you wouldn't do yourself. The small things you do sets the tone for everyone watching.



2 Set the Standard

Your attitude and effort become the bar everyone else measures themselves against. When things get hard, how you respond tells your chapter everything about what's expected of them.



3 Stay Connected

Know your members and board personally, not just as names on a roster. Check up on them regularly, connect with them on social media.

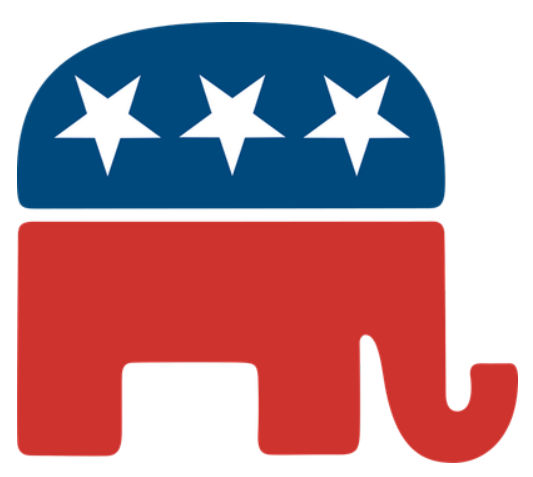
4 Keep People Motivated

A leader who leads by example creates a chapter that actually wants to show up. Motivation isn't something you demand, it's something you inspire.

Resolving Conflicts

It's okay to disagree with others. But handle disagreements with maturity:

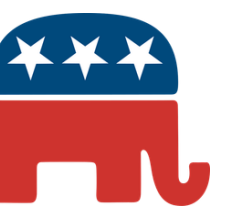
- Speak directly to the person privately first.
- Stick to facts and principles, not personal attacks.
- Focus on the mission: “How does this help us advance the mission of our club?”
- If needed, bring in an advisor to mediate.
- Forgive quickly and move forward together.



ENGAGING IN CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

Now that you know how to lead, it's time to put your principles in action. Learn about many ways to get involved in your community and state election processes.

Legislative vs Congressional District



Who Represents You?

Before you can effectively engage in politics, you need to know exactly who represents you. Every Arizona voter lives in one **Congressional District** (for U.S. House) and one **Legislative District** (for state government). These districts decide which elections you vote in and who you contact when you want to influence policy.

Why Districts Matter

- Your state legislative district controls **local** issues such as schools, taxes, infrastructure, public safety, and zoning.
- Your congressional district elects your U.S. Representative who votes on **national** issues like immigration, spending, and national defense. Knowing your districts lets you focus your time and energy on the right races and the right elected officials.

Arizona has 30 legislative districts and 9 congressional districts.

- Both districts are redistricted after every U.S. Census. Arizona has an Independent Redistricting Commission
- arizonatars.com/az-districts

Write your district numbers in the space below and keep them handy. You can also save screenshots of the results.

Legislative District: _____

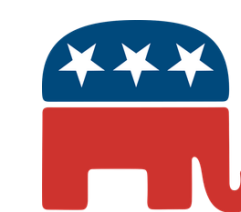
My State Senator: _____

My State Representatives: _____

Congressional District: _____

My U.S. Representative: _____

Primaries vs General Election



Why the Primaries May Decide An Election Outcome

Elections have two main stages in Arizona: the primary and the general election. Understanding the difference is **critical** if you want a candidate that align with your views to actually win.

The Primary election

Held in late July, before the General election. Republicans vote only against other Republicans, it's an intra-party contest to decide who represents the party in November.

Arizona uses a open primary system for major parties in most cases, meaning independents may choose to participate in one party's primary if they request a ballot.

Why Primaries matter for Republicans

Primary outcomes shape the kind of representation a district gets. A more conservative nominee will prioritize different issues than a more moderate one, such as how they approach taxes, education, and local issues. The primary is the best time to compare candidates' records, endorsements, and positions before the general election. Encourage eligible voters around you to learn about the primary candidates, and make sure registration is up to date well before July.

The General election

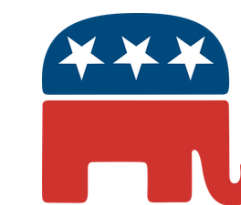
Held in November. All voters (Rep, Dem, and Indep) choose between the winners of each party's primary.

Statewide and urban races in Arizona have become increasingly competitive in recent cycles, making both elections important to watch.

“In many Arizona legislative districts, the primary is the most competitive race. For Republicans, it is often the most direct point of influence over who represents your district, and which policy direction they take.”

Arizona's Primary will be held on July 21st, 2026.

On average, only 1 in 4 eligible voters participate in primary elections.



Free and fair elections are the foundation of our republic. Conservatives must understand how the system works and how to help protect it.



What Poll Watchers Do

Poll watchers are trained volunteers who observe voting and counting to ensure rules are followed. Arizona law allows campaigns and parties to have poll watchers at every polling location.

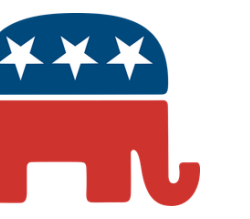
What Every Poll Watcher Must Know

- Arizona requires identification for most voters (photo ID or two pieces of non-photo ID).
- Only authorized election workers may handle ballots.
- Ballots must maintain a clear chain of custody from voter to counting machine.
- No one should be allowed to vote if they are not properly registered.
- Watch for signs of ballot harvesting (people collecting and delivering large numbers of ballots for others).

Key Rules for Poll Watchers

- You must be officially appointed by a campaign or political party.
- Stay calm, professional, and respectful at all times.
- You can observe, but you cannot interfere with voters or election workers.
- Document any concerns with clear notes: time, location, what you saw, and names if possible.
- Take photos or videos only when legally allowed (check current rules with the campaign).
- Report serious problems immediately to the campaign's attorney or party representative, do not argue on site.

Ask your local Party and county website to become and learn how to be a poll watcher for the next election. In Maricopa County, check out their website: elections.maricopa.gov



You do not have to wait until you are older to make a difference. Many successful Republican leaders started at the local level while they were young. Running for office builds leadership skills and name recognition, while also letting you directly shape policies that affect your community, city, and state.

Age Requirements in Arizona

Office	Min Age	Other Requirements
School Board / Local Office	18	Must live in the district
AZ House of Representatives	25	Arizona resident for at least 3 years
AZ State Senate	25	Arizona resident for at least 5 years
U.S. House of Reps	25	U.S. Citizen for 7 years, Arizona resident
U.S. Senate	30	U.S. Citizen for 9 years, Arizona resident

Where Do I Start?

School board races are one of the best entry points for young Republicans. You can have a direct impact on curriculum, academic standards, school safety, and budgets — and you can run the moment you turn 18. Many current state legislators began exactly here.

Next Steps

1

Gain experience. Volunteer with your LD and help on a local campaign.

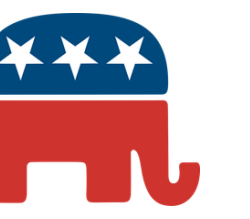
2

Attend city & school board meetings to learn the issues and watch local government in action.

3

Consider running for local office at 18, it is never too early to start building experience.

Whether you volunteer, watch the polls, or run for office yourself, Gen-Z has the power to shape Arizona's future. Start today in your own district.



In Arizona, campaign signs are permitted on private property with owner consent and in public rights-of-way, provided they do not pose safety hazards or block traffic visibility. Be sure to respect local city or county ordinances, which may have additional restrictions.

Arizona Sign Rules at a Glance

Display Window

71 Days

Before the primary until 15 days after the general election

Residential Max

16 sq ft

Max sign size in residential areas under Arizona Law

Commercial Max

32 sq ft

Max sign size in commercial areas under Arizona Law

Who Needs These Campaign Signs?

Campaign signs are most commonly used during both primary and general elections. Candidates use them to increase name recognition and voter retention, especially in dense urban areas like Phoenix and Tucson where it is harder to reach every voter in person.

How to Get Involved

Work in Teams

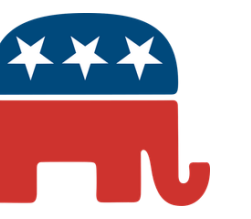
Coordinate with your local LD, campaign, or chapter. Putting up signs as a group is faster, safer, and more effective.

Know the rules locally

City and county ordinances can be stricter than state law. Always check before placing signs in a new area.

Pro Tip:

Well-placed signs in key neighborhoods can make a real difference in turnout and visibility. Think strategically where you place signs.



Two of the most effective ways to help candidates win are door knocking and phone banking. In Arizona's fast-growing state, direct voter contact in primaries and general elections can decide close races, and both build real public speaking experience.

Door Knocking

The most personal form of campaigning. Going house-to-house builds real connections with voters in a way no ad or mailer can.

Use a provided walk list of likely voters in your area.

Listen and acknowledge concerns, don't just talk at people.

Offer to leave campaign literature or answer questions.

Record responses – support, undecided, or not home – on the app or list provided

Phone Banking

Make calls from home, school, or campaign headquarters to identify supporters and encourage them to vote.

Smile while you speak, people can hear the energy in your voice.

Be prepared to answer basic questions about the candidate's positions.

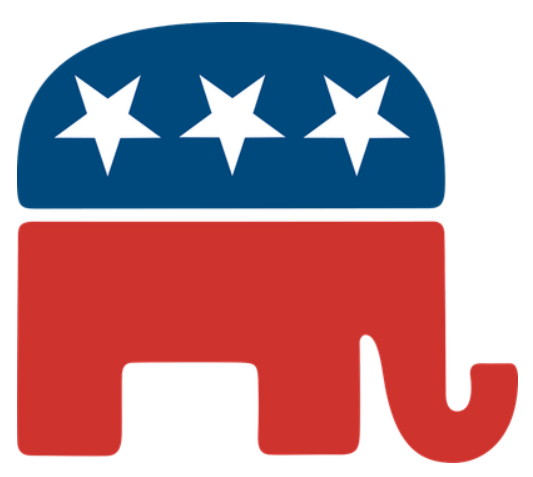
Always respect "Do Not Call" requests and never argue.

Set a goal and track your results so campaigns can follow up effectively.

Sample Introduction Script

"Hi, my name is [Your Name] and I'm a volunteer with [Candidate's Name]'s campaign. We're working hard to support [Candidate's] policies. Can we count on your support this election?"

Research online and ask your local advisor about door knocking and phone banking drives hosted by organizations like the AZGOP, MCRC, TPAAction during elections.



BUILDING STRONG CHAPTERS

Learn about our chapter guidelines and how to build strong chapters that recruit, mentor, and build leaders.



A political movement is only as strong as its people. And its people are only as strong as the organizations that bring them together. A well-run TARs chapter acts as a pivotal training ground for the next generation of leaders.

Every meeting you hold, every member you recruit, every door you knock, every voter you register sends a message: young conservatives in Arizona are organized, engaged, and serious.

Chapters that operate consistently and professionally attract more members, earn respect from adult Republican organizations, and give their members real-world skills they carry for life. Chapters that run poorly lose members quickly, miss opportunities, and leave their officers feeling burned out and unsupported. The difference between the two comes down to structure, preparation, and leadership, all of which this section covers.

What a Strong Chapter Can Accomplish

In Your School A visible, active chapter changes the political climate of school, creating a space where students who hold conservative values feel represented and welcome. It demonstrates that civic participation is something young people take seriously.

In Your Community Chapters that engage in community service, voter registration drives, and local GOP events build credibility with adult Republican organizations. That credibility opens doors to guest speakers, internships, sponsorships, and leadership opportunities most teenagers never access.

For You Personally Being an officer lets you gain skills in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, event planning, financial management, and team leadership. These are not abstract benefits. They are resume-worthy experiences that set you apart in college applications, job interviews, and future political involvement.

Personal Impact



Chapter Impact

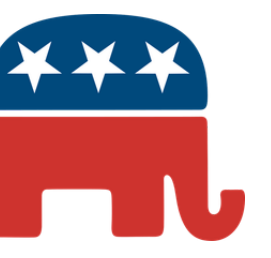


- Member growth
- Consistent meetings
- Fundraising

Community Impact

- Service projects
- Voter registration
- Candidate forums
- GOP partnerships





Starting a new TARs chapter requires more preparation than enthusiasm alone. The chapters that survive past their first few meetings are the ones that take the time to build a proper foundation before recruiting widely. These two pages walk through the six essential phases of launching a chapter that lasts, and what a successful team should have.

Step 1: Secure Your Advisors

Every chapter requires at least one adult advisor, but two is strongly recommended. Parent advisors tend to be the most reliable because they have a personal stake in the chapter's success. Advisors handle tasks that require adult authority, such as signing bank accounts, complying with school requirements, and providing transportation when needed. Without a committed advisor, a chapter cannot function sustainably. Identify your advisors before you do anything else.

Step 2: Understand the Bylaws and Constitution

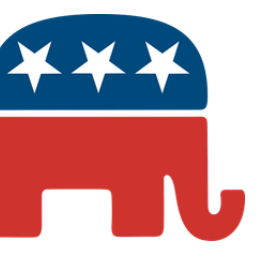
Before your first meeting, every founding member should read and understand the State TARs Bylaws & Constitution. These documents define how your chapter should operate, how a chapter is represented at the state level, how officers are elected, and what rules govern your proceedings. Reference bylaws from other established chapters are available at arizonatars.com/club-documents if your group needs a starting template.

Step 3: Form a Temporary Board

Elect a temporary board of up to five individuals to facilitate your first meeting. These positions are: Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. This temporary structure gives your founding meeting order and ensures that decisions made in the early sessions are properly documented.

Step 4: Plan Your First Meeting Carefully

Your first meeting sets the tone for everything that follows. Plan the location, agenda, program, and refreshments in advance. Keep the meeting to one hour. If you can, try to invite a brief speaker on political involvement and make sure every attendee is assigned to a committee, so that no one leaves feeling like a passive observer. Collect contact information from everyone present.



Step 5: Establish Your Committees Early

Three committees should be formed at or before the second meeting: the Membership Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Nominating Committee. Distributing responsibilities across committees prevents leadership burnout and keeps members invested in the chapter's success. The goal is driving members to take initiative on tasks.

Step 6: Elect Your Permanent Officers

Hold your formal officer elections at the second meeting, after the Constitution and Bylaws have been reviewed and approved. If your chapter is in a high-school, encourage officer terms that run from spring to spring, so that incoming officers have the summer to prepare before the school year begins.

Characteristics of a Successful Team

Psychological Safety (The Foundation)

Team members feel safe to take risks, speak up, asks questions, admit mistakes and share ideas without fear of embarrassment, blame or punishment.

Trust & Dependability

Team members trust one another and reliably deliver high-quality work on time. They follow through on commitments and hold themselves accountable.

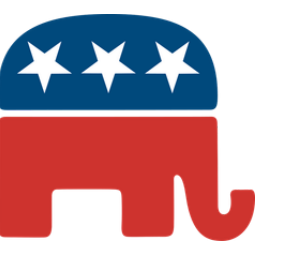
Clear Goals, Roles & Communication

The team has shared, well-defined goals, clear roles and responsibilities, and open, consistent communication. Ambiguity can kill momentum. If everyone has a clear vision, execution becomes much faster and more effective.

Commitment & Accountability

Team members are fully committed to decisions and goals, and they hold each other accountable in a respectful way. They focus on collective results over individual ego or status.

Credit: Google Project Aristotle



CHAPTER OBLIGATIONS

In order to be an officially established TARs chapter, the club must:

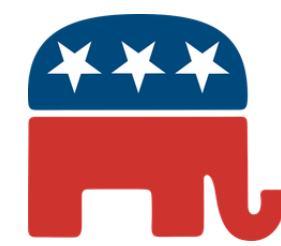
1. Maintain an active board with at least four positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. Maintain at least one active adult advisor, i.e. parent.
3. Meeting once a month or more often.
4. Remaining in communication with the State Board on a regular basis.
5. Submitting a Chapter Agreement to State Chief Advisor
6. Adhering to AZTAR's Constitution and Bylaws.

CHAPTER CODE OF CONDUCT

A TARS chapter must abide by the following conduct:

1. Chapters **may not endorse any candidate** before the Republican primary or nominating convention has concluded.
 - Support for a candidate may only be applicable if they are the sole Republican in a general election.
2. Meetings and proceedings are governed by **Robert's Rules of Order Revised**, unless they conflict with the club's specific bylaws. If there are ample advisors, consider assigning one advisor to be in charge of Parliamentary procedure.
3. The constitution can be changed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote at an annual or special meeting approved by the chapter board. Members must receive **at least 10 days notice** regarding the intent to amend (this will vary depending on chapter bylaws/constitution).

Chapter Leadership & Roles



Core Officer Positions

A chapter is only as effective as its leadership team. Each officer position carries specific responsibilities that, when fulfilled consistently, keep the chapter running smoothly. When one officer neglects their duties, the burden falls on others, and members notice. These two pages defines what each role requires and what advisors contribute to the team.

Chairman (Chief Executive Officer)

The Chair is the chapter's most visible leader. This officer conducts every meeting, assigns committee roles, supervises all programs, and builds relationships with local GOP leaders and officials. They represent the chapter at public events and drive recruitment efforts. Strong chairs lead by example, arrive prepared, and treat every member with professionalism and respect.

Vice Chair

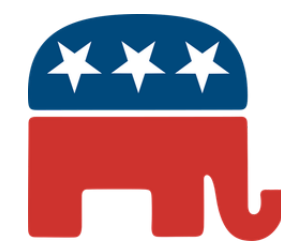
The Vice Chair is the Chairman's primary assistant and steps in to lead whenever the Chair is absent. This officer often manages specific programs, coordinates event planning, and supports membership recruitment efforts. A reliable Vice Chair is the chapter's insurance policy against disruption.

Secretary

The Secretary handles both official record-keeping and member communication. This includes taking accurate meeting minutes, maintaining chapter records and paperwork, and managing announcements, flyers, and social media to keep members informed and engaged.

Treasurer

The Treasurer works with advisor(s) on tracking bank balance and income and expenditures. They ensure financial reports are transparent and accessible to any member who requests them. Two advisors must be cosigners on the chapter's bank account at all times.



Committee Chairpersons

Committee Chairs lead focused areas such as Membership, Publicity, Finance, Campaigns, and Programs. They are responsible for achieving measurable goals within their domain (such as running membership drives, producing newsletters, organizing service projects) and coordinating with other committees to ensure the chapter's operations run without conflict.

Bank Account Setup

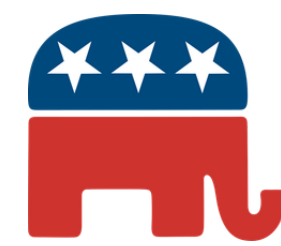
Every chapter should establish both a savings and checking account. Two advisors must be listed as signers on the account. The Treasurer reports the balance and all deposits at each board meeting. Clubs cannot qualify as tax-exempt and cannot donate funds to political campaigns.

The Role of Advisors

Advisors are not passengers. They are essential partners who handle responsibilities that teen officers legally or practically cannot. Their primary duties include:

- Contacting parents when new members join & maintaining regular parent communication
- Serving as cosigners on the chapter bank account and reconciling it monthly
- Handling compliance with school or legal requirements
- Assigning specific advisor roles (Leadership, Parliamentarian, Photography, etc)
- Studying the Bylaws regularly so they can guide officers when questions arise
- Mentoring officers without taking over meetings & operations.

The most effective advisor relationships are built on trust. Advisors give officers the freedom to lead while ensuring the chapter operates safely and responsibly.



Committees are the engine of a chapter. They distribute responsibility across the membership so that no single officer carries all the work, and they give every member a sense of ownership over the chapter's success. Strong programming gives members reasons to show up, and reasons to bring their friends. Here are countless ideas for committees, be creative:

Membership Committee Handles recruitment drives, manages the new member onboarding process, secures meeting locations, welcomes new attendees, and arranges refreshments for meetings. This committee is directly responsible for chapter growth.

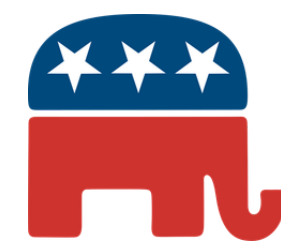
Program Committee Schedules monthly activities and manages all speaker logistics from initial invitation through thank-you notes. This is the committee most directly responsible for whether meetings are engaging or forgettable. It should be led by an energetic, organized officer.

Publicity Committee Promotes events through press releases, social media posts, and community outreach. Keeps the public informed of the chapter's activities and political stance. This committee also manages the chapter's visual identity, including branded merchandise and flyers.

Communications and Newsletter Committee Manages the chapter's internal contact network and produces regular updates (whether through a newsletter, the Teens in Action bulletin, or social media reminders) to keep members informed of upcoming projects and events.

Fundraising and Finance Committee Works alongside the Treasurer to develop the chapter's financial plan and execute fundraising strategies. This committee is responsible for ensuring the chapter has the resources it needs to operate.

Campaign and Elections Committee Acts as the chapter's primary connection to the local GOP. Tracks races, coordinates campaign volunteers, and organizes voter registration drives. This committee is most active during election cycles.



Community Service Committee Serves as a liaison to local charities and nonprofits. Designs service projects that build character, meet community needs, and help members earn graduation-required service hours.

Social Committee Plans social events (both political and nonpolitical) to help members build relationships beyond the formal structure of meetings. Strong social bonds are what keep members coming back during slow periods.

Programming Balance

The most successful chapters do not run as single-purpose organizations. They balance three types of programming throughout the year.

Social Programs attract and retain members by making participation enjoyable. Examples include bowling/game nights, ice cream socials, holiday parties, or hosting bake sales as fundraisers. These events remind members that political engagement can also be fun.

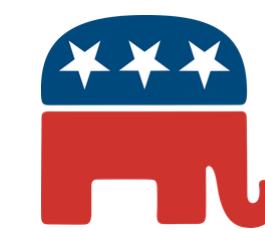
Educational Programs build civic knowledge and sharpen political thinking. Examples include hosting structured debates, touring the Arizona State Capitol, inviting GOP officials or policy experts to speak, or studying the differences between major political ideologies.

Service Programs build the chapter's reputation in the broader community and give members tangible accomplishments to point to. Examples include food bank volunteering, care package drives for military members, nursing home visits, neighborhood cleanup projects, and voter registration assistance.

A chapter that runs only political programming will struggle to recruit broadly. A chapter that balances all three types will attract students who are curious, socially motivated, and civically minded, and it will keep them.

Chapter Growth & Recruitment

Strategic Outreach



Recruitment is not a one-time event. It is a responsibility that is shared by every officer and every member of the chapter. The chapters that grow consistently are the ones that make recruitment a part of their culture.

Start Broad, Then Get Personal The first step in recruitment is visibility. Use every available channel: whether it's school announcements, bulletin boards, social media, flyers in teen-frequented spaces, and word of mouth. The second step is personal contacts. Research consistently shows that the most effective recruitment tool is a personal invitation from a peer. Assign a dedicated Membership Chair whose sole focus is recruitment outreach and following up with new members.

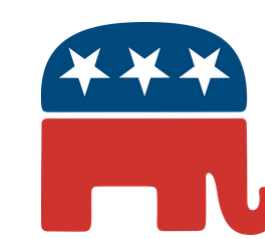
Use Non-Partisan Entry Points Not every student who would make a great TARs member identifies as a Republican on day one. Consider conducting short, non-partisan civic surveys that identify students who care about local issues, free enterprise, or community service. Invite those students to a meeting before asking them to commit to membership. Let the chapter sell itself.

Leverage Existing Republican Networks Connect with local Republican Women's Federation clubs, Young Republicans chapters, and Legislative District (LD) organizations. These groups often have family networks that include teenagers who are already politically aware but have not yet found a youth organization to join. Send formal invitations to Republican families in the area and coordinate with parent advisors to spread the word through their networks.

Make Meetings Open and Welcoming Emphasize in all publicity that meetings are open to any interested teenager. First-time attendees should be personally welcomed by the Membership Chair or a club officer, introduced to at least two other members, and assigned a temporary role before they leave. A visitor who leaves feeling seen and useful is far more likely to return than one who sat in the back and watched.

Chapter Growth & Recruitment

Member Retention



Recruiting members is the first challenge. Keeping them is the second, and it is harder. Members leave chapters when they feel unneeded, uninspired, or disconnected from the group socially.

Give Everyone a Job Members who have no defined role have no reason to show up. Assign every member a committee position, even a small one, and make it clear that their contribution matters to the chapter's success.

Recognize Effort Publicly Acknowledge members who recruit peers, complete service hours, or go above and beyond in their committee work. Public recognition at meetings, even briefly, builds loyalty and sets a standard others want to meet.

Balance Business with Fun Keep formal business discussions brief during general meetings. Use the first third of a meeting for business, the middle third for an educational or political program, and close with a social element. Members who dread meetings do not stay members for long.

Plan for the Next Generation Accept younger associate members early. A ninth-grader who joins your chapter has four years of potential involvement ahead. Invest in them now, and they become your strongest officers in two or three years.

The Recruitment Funnel

Awareness: posters, social media, school announcements, club fairs

Interest: open & friendly meetings, civic surveys, peer invitations

Involvement: committee assignment, first event, personal welcome

Membership: application submitted, voting rights, officer eligibility



Every chapter activity costs something: printing flyers, renting a venue, purchasing supplies for a service project, or covering transportation to an event. Fundraising is not optional for a well-run chapter. It is an ongoing responsibility that requires planning, creativity, and financial accountability. The goal is not to raise as much money as possible. The goal is to raise what you need, spend it wisely, and account for every dollar.

Bake Sales A reliable, low-cost entry point for new chapters. Organize members to contribute homemade goods and sell them at school or community gatherings. Easy to execute, easy to repeat.

Tournament Concessions Partner with your school, LD, or Republican Women's chapter to work a concession stand during a sporting event in exchange for a percentage of the profits. This approach requires coordination with an outside organization but can generate significant revenue with relatively little upfront cost.

Branded Merchandise Create and sell TAR-branded items: pins, stickers, T-shirts, or cards. Merchandise doubles as a fundraiser and a visibility tool. Members wearing chapter gear in public generate organic interest and recognition.

Themed Raffles Sell raffle tickets for a desirable prize. Bucket raffles where attendees donate small amounts into themed buckets to enter work particularly well as event closers, generating a final burst of donations before an evening ends.

Dances and Parties Host an event that charges admission and includes refreshments. These work best when tied to a candidate, a cause, or a celebration, so attendees feel their admission fee is contributing to something meaningful.

Guest Speaker Volunteer Events Have chapter members volunteer at other organizations' events and share their experiences publicly. These appearances can generate donations from attendees who want to support engaged young Republicans.



Assign a Committee Lead Every fundraiser should have a dedicated committee head responsible for logistics, communication, volunteer coordination, and reporting. Running multiple fundraisers without clear leadership ownership leads to confusion and missed revenue.

Account for Overhead Your fundraising goal should reflect the total amount you need after expenses, not before. Include the cost of materials, printing, venue fees, and any other logistics in your budget before setting a target.

Establish Benchmarks Set specific, individual targets for each fundraiser. Knowing that your bake sale needs to raise \$200 to cover the cost of the spring event gives volunteers a concrete goal to work toward.

Express Gratitude Send written thank-you notes to every donor, volunteer, and supporter. This is a simple practice that most organizations skip, and it builds loyalty that pays off in future fundraisers.

Centralize Accounting Appoint one individual, ideally the Treasurer, to work with the advisor in monitoring and reporting total funds collected throughout each campaign. All donations and proceeds must be reported to the advisor on the bank account for deposit. Clubs cannot donate funds to political campaigns and are not eligible for tax-exempt status.

Repeat What Works If a specific fundraiser has been successful in the past, use it again. Consistency in fundraising builds community familiarity and expectation. Do not reinvent the wheel every cycle.

Fundraising Quick Guide



Assign a Leader

Every event needs one owner



Budget First

Always calculate costs before setting goals

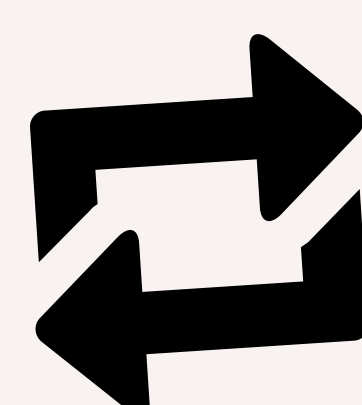


Set clear targets

Specific dollar goals

Track Everything

Monitor & document the process & money made



Repeat Winners

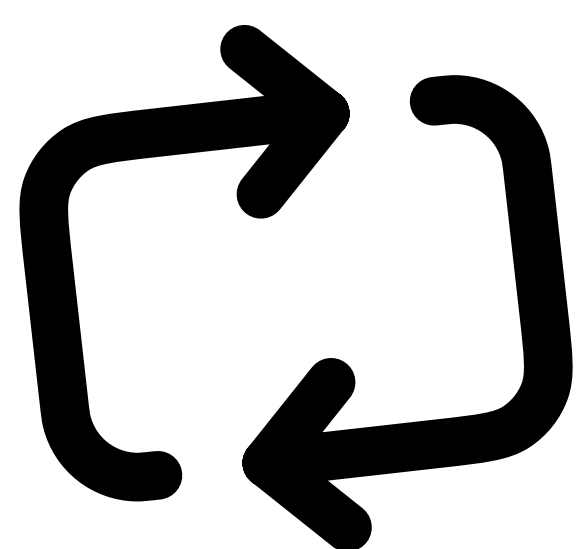
Double down on what works



A chapter that depends entirely on the energy and talent of its current officers is one graduation ceremony away from collapse. The strongest chapters are the ones that have systems, not just stars. They document everything, plan far ahead, and deliberately develop the next generation of leaders before they need them. Sustainability is not about working harder. It is about building smart.

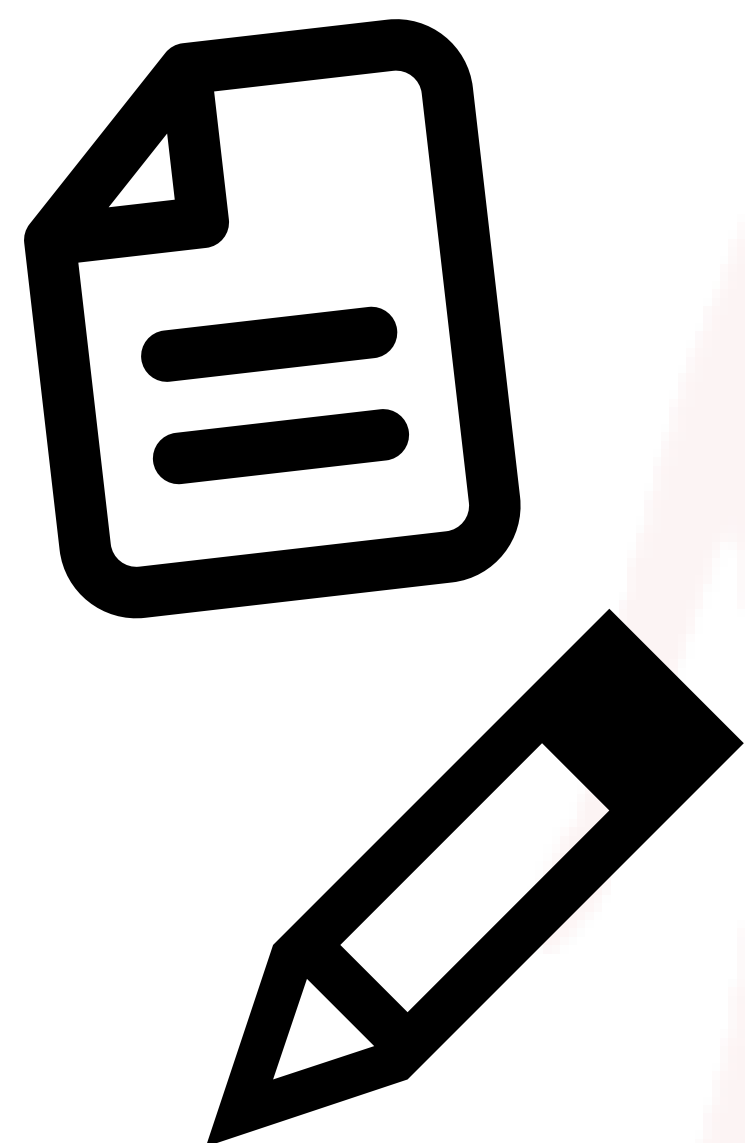
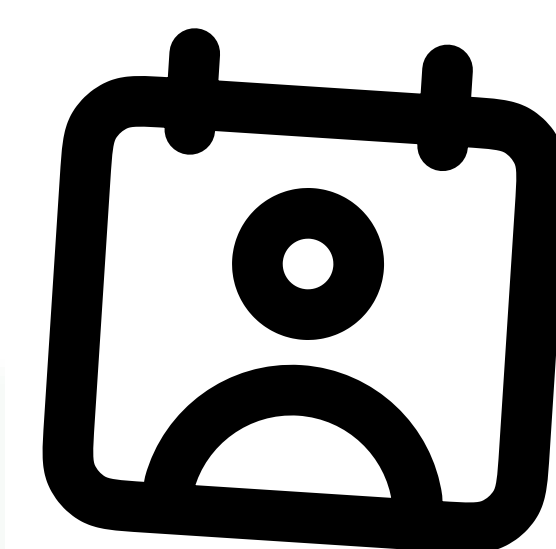
Officer Continuity

The single greatest threat to a chapter's long-term health is poor officer transition. When outgoing officers leave without training their successors, the incoming board must rebuild institutional knowledge from scratch, and the chapter loses months of momentum in the process.



Elect Officers in the Spring Hold officer elections in the spring semester rather than the fall. This gives incoming officers the summer months to meet with their predecessors, study the bylaws, build relationships with the advisor team, and plan the chapter's calendar before the school year begins.

Mandate a Transition Period Require outgoing officers to serve in an advisory capacity to their successors for at least the first four weeks of the new term. A formal transition meeting where outgoing officers walk their replacements through active projects, ongoing relationships, and unfinished business, is strongly recommended.



Document Everything The Secretary's minutes are not administrative paperwork. They are the chapter's institutional memory. Well-kept minutes allow future officers to understand what decisions were made, why they were made, and what commitments the chapter has made to outside organizations. Maintain a complete record of every meeting, every financial transaction, and every official correspondence.



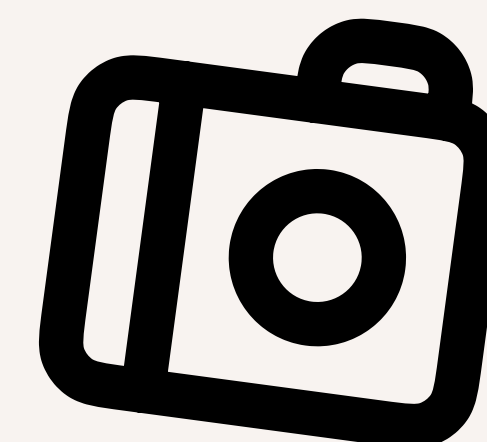
Plan Three Months Ahead, Always At any given time, your chapter should have a confirmed calendar of events for the next three months. Work three months out consistently, and you will never find yourself scrambling to fill a meeting or cancel an event for lack of preparation. Contact the chapter webmaster regularly to ensure events are posted to the website and Google calendar.

Build a Chapter Calendar Around Key Dates Structure your annual program around predictable civic and seasonal anchors:



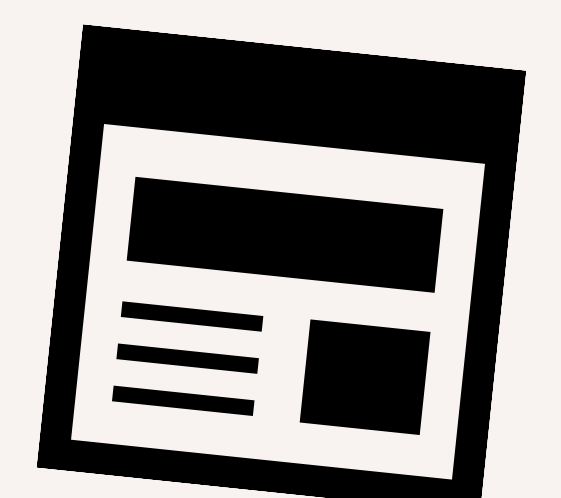
- July-September: Back-to-school recruitment push, 9/11 memorial service project
- October/November: Voter registration drives, Election Day get-out-the-vote activity
- December: Holiday service project (food drives, toy drives, nursing home visits)
- January/February: Start of new legislative session, visiting the Arizona State Capitol
- March/April: Spring fundraiser, officer election planning
- May: Officer elections, transition meetings, summer planning

Maintain a Chapter History Keep a physical or digital scrapbook of chapter activities: whether its photos, press clippings, event programs, and award recognitions. This history serves multiple purposes: it gives longtime members a sense of pride, it helps recruit new members by showing what the chapter has accomplished, and it demonstrates the chapter's impact to adult GOP organizations when seeking partnerships or resources.



Share Photos & Videos to your chapter via Google Drive

Reach out to local news to write a spotlight about your chapter





A chapter's strength is not built only at meetings. It is built in the spaces between them.

Regular Communication The Corresponding Secretary and Communications Committee should maintain consistent contact with members between meetings through newsletters, social media posts, and direct reminders about upcoming events. Members who feel informed feel connected. Members who feel disconnected stop showing up.

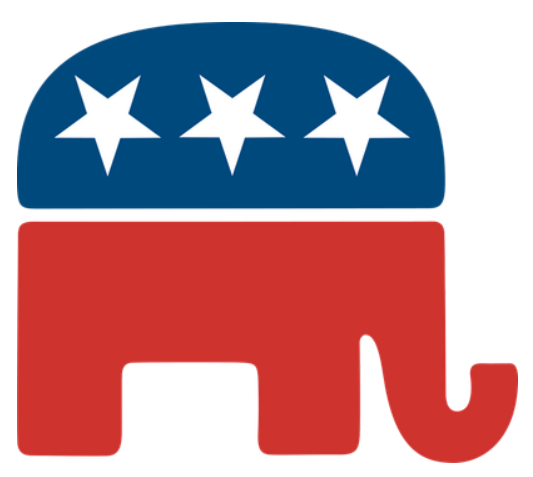
Digital Presence Maintain an active presence on Instagram, Facebook, and other platforms relevant to your member base. Post consistently, not just when you have an event to promote. Share member spotlights, civic education content, community service photos, and relevant political news that relates to Arizona and the chapter's mission.

Advisor-Member Relationship Advisors should check in with individual officers between meetings, not just during them. A quick message asking how a committee project is progressing, or acknowledging a member's effort publicly, goes further than any formal recognition program.

Chapter Health Checklist – Review each semester. (4-5 checks = Strong)

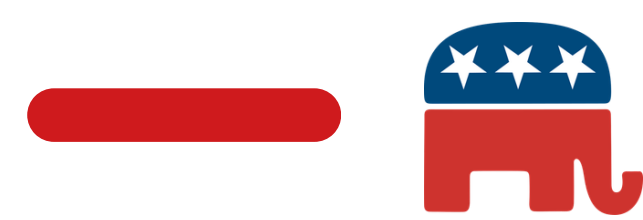
- Leadership: officers elected, bylaws updated, transition plan in place
- Financial Stability: accounts reconciled, advisor oversight active
- Organization: minutes maintained, records/history preserved
- Programming: balanced chapter events planned, social media active
- Growth: active recruitment, future leaders mentored

The chapter you build this year is the foundation that the members who come after you will stand on. Officers who lead with integrity, plan with discipline, and invest in their successors do not just run a good chapter, they leave a legacy. That is the standard AZTARs holds itself to, and it is the standard we ask every chapter to meet.



THE ROAD AHEAD

Graduating from high school and leaving TARs does not have to be the end of your involvement in the Arizona Republican Party, it is the beginning of an even greater opportunity to make a lasting impact.

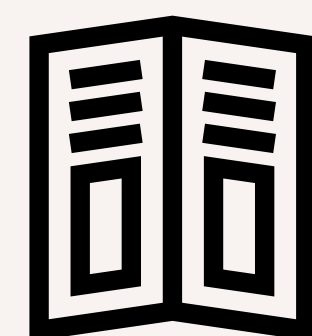


As you move into college, the workforce, or the military, you have many ways to stay engaged and grow as a leader. The skills and principles you learned by getting involved early will serve you well in the next phase of life.

Ways to Stay Involved After Graduation

- **College & Young Republicans** Get involved with a College Republican chapter at ASU, UoA, NAU, or any college you attend. Young Republicans offers membership from the ages of 18 to 40. These groups offer leadership roles, networking, and campaign experience at a higher level.
- **Internships & Fellowships** Apply for internships with state legislators, the AZGOP, congressional offices, or conservative policy organizations. Hands-on experience in Phoenix or Washington, D.C. can accelerate your growth.
- **Professional Paths with Purpose** Whether you pursue a career in business, education, law, medicine, or trades, you can continue advocating for Republican values in your community and workplace.
- **Mentorship** Stay connected with the Arizona Teen Republicans as an advisor. Help guide the next generation of young Republicans.

What is a Precinct Committeeman?



A Precinct Committeeman, short for PC, is a grassroots elected or appointed position within the Republican Party. PCs serve as the official link between voters in their neighborhood (precinct) and the party. They help with voter outreach, candidate support, and party operations at the most local level.

**Register
as Republican
to vote**



**Contact your LD
Chair through MCRC**
maricopagop.org

**Submit a PC
Application**



You can either be appointed by the party (most common path) or run for election during the Primary Election.

YOUR LEGACY AS A TEEN REPUBLICAN

You now have the knowledge, principles, and practical tools to engage meaningfully as a young leader in Arizona. This handbook was designed to do more than inform, it was written to equip. You are better prepared to serve your community and your state.

Arizona faces real challenges in the years ahead: in education, individual liberty, fiscal responsibility, and the role of government in everyday life. Meeting those challenges will require informed, principled, and courageous leaders who are willing to do the work.

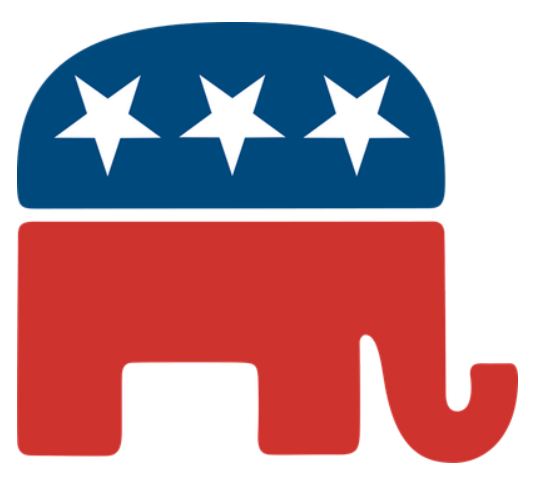
GEN-Z's Moment

The future of the Arizona Republican party depends on young people like you who are willing to show up, speak up, and lead with integrity. Whether you become a teacher shaping young minds, a business owner creating jobs, a legislator writing laws, or a community leader, your commitment to principled leadership will leave a lasting legacy.

Never underestimate the power of consistent, principled action. Do not wait for permission. Do not wait for the “perfect” time. Start leading today in your school, your neighborhood, your city, and your state.

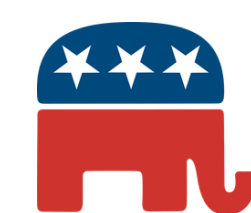
Arizona's best days are still ahead, and you have a vital role to play in building them.

The next generation of Arizona's leaders isn't waiting to be discovered, it starts with the choices you make today.



Appendix

Congrats! You made it to the end. Here are some additional documents for your chapter.



Color Palette

#E81B23
Republican Red

#0B2F72
Liberty Blue

#FFEAEA
Pastel Red

#067BC2
Azure

#F8F3F0
Cream

#EBE8E8
Light Gray

Typography

CINZEL DECORATIVE

LIBER BASKERVILLE

**Small Title
Elements**

MONTSERRAT (BLACK)
MONTSERRAT (Bold)

**Headlines &
Descriptions**

Logo Usage

Both the acronym & full name logo are approved for promotional flyers and formal chapter use.

Flyers ✓

Formal ✓

AZT  RS

ARIZONA
TEENAGE REPUBLICANS

AZT  RS

ARIZONA
TEENAGE REPUBLICANS

