

1 GINA M. D’ANDREA (*pro hac vice*)
2 CHRISTOPHER J. HAJEC (DC Bar No 492551)
3 IMMIGRATION REFORM LAW INSTITUTE
4 25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 335
5 Washington, DC 20001
6 202-232-5590
7 gdandrea@irli.org
8 *Attorneys for amicus curiae Immigration Reform Law Institute*

9
10 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
12

13 Mi Familia Vota, et al.,

14 *Plaintiffs,*

15 vs.

16 Adrian Fontes, et al.,

17 *Defendants.*

Case No.: 2:22-cv-00509-PHX-SRB (Lead)

**IMMIGRATION REFORM LAW
INSTITUTE’S BRIEF OF
AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF
INTERVENOR DEFENDANTS’
MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

- No. 2:22-cv-00519-PHX-SRB
- No. 2:22-cv-01003-PHX-SRB
- No. 2:22-cv-01124-PHX-SRB
- No. 2:22-cv-01369-PHX-SRB
- No. 2:22-cv-01381-PHX-SRB
- No. 2:22-cv-01602-PHX-SRB
- No. 2:22-cv-01901-PHX-SRB

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22 **AND CONSOLIDATED CASES.**
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INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE

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2 The Immigration Reform Law Institute (“IRLI”) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public
3 interest law firm dedicated to litigating immigration-related cases on behalf of, and in the
4 interests of, United States citizens, and to assisting courts in understanding and accurately
5 applying federal immigration law. For more than twenty years the Board of Immigration
6 Appeals has solicited supplementary briefing, drafted by IRLI staff, from the Federation for
7 American Immigration Reform, of which IRLI is a supporting organization. IRLI has litigated
8 or filed amicus curiae briefs in a wide variety of cases, including *Trump v. Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct.
9 2392 (2018); *United States v. Texas*, 579 U.S. 547 (2016); *Save Jobs USA v. U.S. Dep’t of*
10 *Homeland Sec.*, 942 F.3d 504 (D.C. Cir. 2019); *Ariz. Dream Act Coalition v. Brewer*, 855
11 F.3d 957 (9th Cir. 2017); *Washington All. of Tech. Workers v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*,
12 74 F. Supp. 3d 247 (D.D.C. 2014); *Matter of Silva-Trevino*, 26 I. & N. Dec. 826 (B.I.A.
13 2016); and *Matter of C-T-L-*, 25 I. & N. Dec. 341 (B.I.A. 2010).
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CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 7.1 of the FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, *amicus curiae* Immigration Reform Law Institute makes the following disclosures:

- 1) For non-governmental corporate parties please list all parent corporations: None.
- 2) For non-governmental corporate parties please list all publicly held companies that hold 10% or more of the party's stock: None.

DATED: May 23, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gina M. D'Andrea

Gina M. D'Andrea
Immigration Reform Law Institute
25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 335
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 232-5590

Attorney for *Amicus Curiae*

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BACKGROUND

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2 At issue in this case are two laws, HB 2243 and HB 2492 (the “AZ Laws”), which
3 were passed as part of Arizona’s efforts to improve election integrity by ensuring that voter
4 qualifications are enforced and that voter rolls are accurate. HB 2492 updates voter
5 qualifications to require proof of citizenship, A.R.S. § 16-101(A)(1), and proof of residence,
6 A.R.S. § 16-579(A)(1). HB 2492 further provides that failure to include proof of citizenship
7 on a state voter registration form is grounds for the application to be rejected by the county
8 recorder. A.R.S. §16-121.01(C). In accordance with *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of*
9 *Arizona, Inc.*, 570 U.S. 1, 7 (2013), these new documentary proofs are not required for
10 applicants using the Federal Form to register to vote in congressional elections.
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14 HB 2243 enumerates the reasons why a voter’s registration may be cancelled. It also
15 provides that, before a registration can be cancelled, the election official must provide written
16 notice of the impending cancellation with instructions for the voter to remedy their
17 registration. A.R.S. § 16-165. The notice must “include a list of documents the person may
18 provide” to establish his or her citizenship as well as “a postage prepaid preaddressed return
19 envelope.” *Id.* Registration will thus only be cancelled following written notice and an
20 opportunity to establish eligibility. Furthermore, once a registration is cancelled, written
21 notice is again provided to the person explaining the cancellation and including instructions
22 on how to register to vote if and when the person is qualified. A.R.S. § 16-165(K).
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25 Following Defendants’ Consolidated Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 127, “Motion to
26 Dismiss”), this Court denied dismissal on all but one of Plaintiffs’ claims, finding Plaintiffs’
27 allegations sufficiently “plausible” to survive Defendants’ Motion. Now before the Court are
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1 Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Doc. 364, "Defendants' Motion") and
2 Intervenor Defendants' Partial Motion for Summary Judgment (Doc. 367, "Intervenor
3 Defendants' Motion). IRLI writes in support of Intervenor Defendants' SJ.

4 LEGAL STANDARD

5
6 "A party is entitled to summary judgment when the 'pleadings, depositions, answers to
7 interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with affidavits, if any, show that there is no
8 genuine issue as to any material fact and the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a
9 matter of law.'" *Borjas-Calix v. Sessions*, No. CV-16-00685-TUC-DCB, 2018 U.S. Dist.
10 LEXIS 47289, at *6-7 (D. Ariz. Mar. 22, 2018) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)). "A genuine
11 issue of material facts exists if 'the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a
12 verdict for the nonmoving party,' and material facts are those 'that might affect the outcome
13 of the suit under the governing law.'" *Decor Team LLC v. McAleenan*, 520 F. Supp. 3d 1212,
14 1217 (D. Ariz. 2021) (quoting *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986)).
15 Where, as here, the "parties file cross-motions for summary judgment[,] the court must apply
16 the same standard and rule on each motion independently because the granting of one motion
17 does not necessarily translate into denial of the other unless . . . the parties rely on the same
18 legal theories and same set of material facts." *We Are Am. v. Maricopa Cty. Bd. of*
19 *Supervisors*, 297 F.R.D. 373, 381 (D. Ariz. 2013) (quotation marks and citation omitted).

20 ARGUMENT

21
22 The right to vote has long been recognized as a fundamental right of U.S. citizens. *See,*
23 *e.g., Illinois Bd. of Elections v. Socialist Workers Party*, 440 U.S. 173, 184 (1979) ("[V]oting
24 is of the most fundamental significance under our constitutional structure"); *Wesberry v.*

1 *Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 17 (1964) (explaining that “[o]ther rights, even the most basic, are
2 illusory if the right to vote is undermined.”); *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886)
3 (describing the right to vote as “preservative of all rights.”); *see also Foley v. Connelie*, 435
4 U.S. 291, 296 (1978) (recognizing the “right[] of the people to be governed by their citizen
5 peers”). The fundamental nature of the right to vote requires rules and regulations to ensure
6 fairness and faith in elections. *See Storer v. Brown*, 415 U.S. 724, 730 (1974) (explaining that
7 “as a practical matter, there must be a substantial regulation of elections if they are to be fair
8 and honest and if some sort of order, rather than chaos, is to accompany the democratic
9 processes.”); *Buckley v. Am. Constitutional Law Found.*, 525 U.S. 182, 206 (1999) (“States,
10 of course, must regulate their elections to ensure that they are conducted in a fair and orderly
11 fashion.”); *Crawford v. Marion County Elec. Bd.*, 553 U.S. 181, 189 (2008) (explaining that
12 “public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process . . . encourages citizen
13 participation in the democratic process.”).

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18 The Constitution vests the authority to set voter qualifications and rules for the
19 conduct of elections primarily in the states. Article I of the Constitution contains the
20 guidelines for congressional elections, providing that “[t]he House of Representatives¹ shall
21 be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and
22 the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most
23 numerous Branch of the State Legislature.” U.S. Const. Art. I, § 2, cl. 1 (the “Qualifications
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27 ¹ The election of Senators is covered by the Seventeenth Amendment, which provides that
28 “[t]he Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected
by the people thereof, The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for
electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.”

1 Clause”). Article I also authorizes state legislatures to determine “[t]he times, places and
2 manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives.” U.S. Const., Art. I, § 4.
3 Unlike voter qualifications, the Times, Places and Manner authority is not solely reserved to
4 the states. The Constitution grants Congress the authority to “make or alter such [state
5 enacted] regulations.” U.S. Const. art. 1, § 4, cl. 1 (the “Elections Clause”).
6

7 The authority over presidential elections is also primarily delegated to the states.
8 Article II provides that the states “shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof
9 may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and
10 Representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress: but no Senator or
11 Representative . . . shall be appointed an Elector.” U.S. Const., Art. II, § 1, cl. 4 (the
12 “Presidential Electors Clause”). Unlike Congress’s “Time, Place and Manner” authority over
13 congressional elections, the constitution only authorizes Congress to determine “the *Time* of
14 choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes.” *Id.* (emphasis
15 added). Congress therefore has no say in the “manner” or “qualifications” for presidential
16 elections. *See Oregon v. Mitchell*, 400 U.S. 112, 210 (1970) (Harlan, J., concurring in part
17 and dissenting in part) (“It is difficult to see how words could be clearer in stating what
18 Congress can control and what it cannot control. Surely nothing in these provisions lends
19 itself to the view that voting qualifications in federal elections are to be set by Congress.”).
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24 Thus, while Congress’s authority under the Elections Clause to enact “Time, Place and
25 Manner” laws is broad, it is limited to congressional elections and does not include voter
26 qualifications. *See Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Inst.*, 138 S. Ct. 1833, 1859 (2018)
27 (explaining that Congress’s authority “over the ‘Times, Places and Manner’ of congressional
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1 elections is paramount, and may be exercised at any time, and to any extent which it deems
2 expedient; and so far as it is exercised . . . the regulations effected supersede” any conflicting
3 state laws.). *See also ITAC*, 570 U.S. at 16 (explaining that Congress has the constitutional
4 authority “to regulate *how* federal elections are held, but not *who* may vote in them.”)
5 (emphases in original). Accordingly, the AZ Laws, which regulate voter qualifications and
6 their verification, are within the state’s constitutional authority and its responsibility to ensure
7 the integrity of its elections.
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10 **I. THE AZ LAWS DO NOT VIOLATE THE NATIONAL VOTER**
11 **REGISTRATION ACT.**

12 Neither *ITAC* nor the NVRA should be read to infringe states’ constitutional authority
13 over voter qualifications in federal elections, nor to bar states from performing their
14 constitutional duty to safeguard election integrity. Nothing in these authorities makes states
15 presume the truth of any assertion an applicant makes on the Federal Form, forbids states to
16 verify assertions made on that form, compels states to accept assertions that cannot be
17 verified, or precludes states from establishing their own election procedures or purging their
18 voter rolls of ineligible voters.
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21 **A. The AZ Laws do not conflict with the NVRA’s requirement that states**
22 **accept and use the Federal Form.**

23 The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (“NVRA”), 52 U.S.C. § 20501 *et seq.*,
24 was passed to “increase the number of *eligible* citizens who register to vote for Federal
25 office,” and “protect the integrity of the electoral process.” 52 U.S.C. § 20501(b)(3)
26 (emphasis added). *See also Husted*, 138 S. Ct. at 1838 (“The Act has two main objectives:
27 increasing voter registration and removing ineligible persons from the States’ voter
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1 registration rolls.”). The NVRA accomplishes these objectives by “requir[ing] States to
2 provide simplified systems for registering to vote in *federal* elections.” *ITAC*, 570 U.S. at 6
3 (quoting *Young v. Fordice*, 520 U.S. 273, 275 (1997)).
4

5 A key part of this “simplified system” is what is commonly known as the “Federal
6 Form.” 52 U.S.C. § 20505. The Supreme Court confirmed in *ITAC* that the NVRA
7 requirement that “[e]ach State accept and use the” Federal Form for voter registration
8 precludes states from requiring applicants using the Federal Form to provide information
9 beyond that required within the Form itself. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 20505(a)(1), *ITAC*, 570 U.S. at
10 15 (explaining that “a state-imposed requirement of evidence of citizenship not required by
11 the Federal Form is inconsistent with the NVRA’s mandate that States ‘accept and use’ the
12 Federal Form”). This “accept and use” requirement, however, “does not preclude States from
13 deny[ing] registration based on information in their possession establishing the applicant’s
14 ineligibility. The NVRA clearly contemplates that not every submitted Federal Form will
15 result in registration.” *Id.*
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19 The AZ Laws are in compliance with the NVRA and *ITAC* because they do not
20 interfere with Arizona’s acceptance and use of the Federal Form. First, Arizona does not
21 require Federal Form applicants to submit evidence of citizenship or residence with the
22 Federal Form; such requirements are only applicable to the state registration form. While
23 true that HB 2492 requires automatic rejection of applications submitted without evidence of
24 citizenship, such requirement is not applicable to Federal Form applicants. *See* A.R.S. § 16-
25 121.01(C) (requiring rejection where proof of citizenship is lacking “[e]xcept for
26 [applications submitted via] a form produced by the United States Election Assistance
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1 Commission.”). With respect to the Federal Form, election officials are instructed to “use all
2 available resources to verify the citizenship status of the [Federal Form] applicant.” *Id.* Such
3 resources include but are not limited to databases for the Department of Transportation,
4 Social Security Administration, and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service
5 Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program. *Id.* If citizenship cannot be verified
6 based on this information, the election official must provide written notice that “the applicant
7 will not be qualified to vote in a presidential election or by mail with an early ballot in any
8 election until satisfactory evidence of citizenship is provided.” A.R.S. § 16-121.01(E).

11 These citizenship verification procedures do not conflict with the mandate that states
12 “accept and use” the Federal Form. If that mandate forbade states to verify assertions made
13 on the Federal Form, it would require states to *presume the truth* of those assertions. Any
14 such presumption would be nonsensical, and trench on states’ powers to establish and
15 maintain voter qualifications. And no such presumption of truth is required by the “accept
16 and use” mandate, since states retain the ability not to register applicants who are found
17 ineligible based on information not submitted with the Federal Form. *ITAC*, 570 U.S. at 15.

20 Furthermore, if states may verify assertions made on the form, and not register
21 applicants whose assertions are found false, the “accept and use” mandate also does not
22 forbid states to act on their *inability* to verify an applicant’s assertions by not registering that
23 applicant. If states had to register voters whose qualifications could not be verified, their
24 constitutional powers over voter qualifications would be severely compromised. *See ITAC*,
25 570 U.S. at 16 (explaining that states, not Congress, have the constitutional authority “to
26 regulate . . . *who* may vote in” federal elections) (emphasis in original).

1 **B. States retain the power to create and use their own mail-in voter**
2 **registration forms under the NVRA.**

3 As the Supreme Court has explained, “[a] State has a compelling interest in preserving
4 the integrity of the election process.” *Purcell v. Gonzalez*, 549 U.S. 1, 4 (2006) (quoting *Eu v.*
5 *San Francisco County Democratic Central Comm.*, 489 U.S. 214, 231 (1989)). The Court
6 went on to state that “[c]onfidence in the integrity of our electoral processes is essential to the
7 functioning of our participatory democracy. Voter fraud drives honest citizens out of the
8 democratic process and breeds distrust of our government. Voters who fear their legitimate
9 votes will be outweighed by fraudulent ones will feel disenfranchised.” *Id.* The AZ Laws
10 serve this purpose by ensuring that only eligible voters are registered to participate in the
11 electoral process.
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14 While it is true that Arizona must “accept and use” the Federal Form, the NVRA
15 permits states to “develop and use a mail voter registration form that meets all of the criteria
16 stated in section 9(b)[.]” 52 U.S.C. § 20505 (a)(2). As noted by the Supreme Court, while
17 “the NVRA imposes certain mandates on states, describing those mandates in detail[.]” it
18 “still leaves [the states] room for policy choice.” *Young v. Fordice*, 520 U.S. 273, 286 (1997).
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21 Arizona’s “policy choice” to require evidence of citizenship on its state mail voter
22 registration form is within the bounds of the NVRA. First, the NVRA provides what a mail
23 registration form “*may* require . . . to assess the eligibility of the applicant.” 52 U.S.C. §
24 20508(b)(1) (emphasis added). But “[t]he NVRA does not list, for example, all other
25 information the State may—or may not—provide or request.” *Young*, 520 U.S. at 286.
26 Because Section 9(b) does not contain any prohibitions on requiring that documentary
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1 evidence be submitted in conjunction with a mail voter registration, states are free to require
2 such information. Accordingly, the fact that the Federal Form does not require documentary
3 proof of citizenship does not preclude states from requiring such information on their own
4 forms.
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6 Next the NVRA indicates what mail registration forms must contain. It provides that
7 the registration form “*shall* include a statement that specifies each eligibility requirement
8 (*including citizenship*); contains an attestation that the applicant meets such requirement; and
9 requires the signature of the applicant, under penalty of perjury.” 52 U.S.C. § 20508(b)(2)
10 (emphases added). The only prohibition is found in subsection (b)(3), which provides that the
11 registration form “*may not* include any requirement for notarization or other formal
12 authentication.” 52 U.S.C. § 20508(b)(3). The Arizona mail voter registration form does not
13 violate any of these provisions.
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16 Additionally, the Supreme Court was clear in *ITAC* that “state-developed forms may
17 require information the Federal Form does not.” *ITAC*, 570 U.S. at 12. Therefore, under the
18 NVRA, “States retain the flexibility to design and use their own registration forms.” *Id.* Thus,
19 Arizona is free to require more information on and documentary evidence with its own mail
20 registration form than is required by the Federal Form. *Id.* The purpose of the Federal Form is
21 to provide a simple, streamlined method for voter registration, not to interfere with the states’
22 authority to conduct elections.
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1 **C. The NVRA does not prevent the states from purging ineligible voters**
2 **from the voter rolls.**

3 The NVRA requires that states “conduct a general program that makes a reasonable
4 effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters by
5 reason of the death of the registrant; or a change in address of the registrant.” 52 U.S.C. §
6 20507(a)(4). It further provides examples of how states may conduct these programs,
7 including the requirement that such programs to be completed “not later than 90 days prior to
8 the date of a primary or general election for Federal office.” 52 U.S.C. § 20507(c). Finally,
9 names are not to be removed for change of residence reasons absent written confirmation of
10 an address change or failure to respond to written notice combined with failure to vote. 52
11 U.S.C. § 20507(d).

12 HB 2243 complies with these requirements. Because the NVRA does not prohibit the
13 states from removing voters based on ineligibility, Arizona is free to remove persons it has
14 determined are not U.S. citizens.

15 **II. PLAINTIFFS’ CONSTITUTIONAL CLAIMS SHOULD BE DISMISSED**
16 **BECAUSE THEY FAIL THE ANDERSON-BURDICK TEST.**

17 As explained above, the right of citizens to vote is fundamental. This fundamental right
18 encompasses more than just the ability to cast one’s vote; equal participation among citizens
19 is also guaranteed. *See Dunn v. Blumstein*, 405 U.S. 330, 336 (1972) (explaining that “a
20 citizen has a constitutionally protected right to participate in elections on an equal basis with
21 other citizens in the jurisdiction.”); *Bush v. Gore*, 531 U.S. 98, 104 (2000) (“The right to vote
22 is protected in more than the initial allocation of the franchise. Equal protection applies as
23 well to the manner of exercise.”). *See also Wesberry*, 376 U.S. at 17 (explaining that “[o]ur

1 constitution leaves no room for classification of people in a way that unnecessarily abridges
2 this right.”). Although the States have broad constitutional authority to regulate who may vote
3 and how they may do so, “the State may not, by later arbitrary and disparate treatment, value
4 one person’s vote over that of another.” *Bush*, 531 U.S. at 104-05.

6 The Supreme Court applies what is known as the *Anderson-Burdick* framework when
7 analyzing whether a state’s election law violates due process or equal protection. *See Dudum*
8 *v. Arntz*, 640 F.3d 1098, 1106 n.15 (9th Cir. 2011) (explaining that “[t]he Supreme Court has
9 addressed such claims collectively using a single analytic framework.”). The Ninth Circuit
10 explained that “[w]hen the burdens on voting imposed by the government are severe, strict
11 scrutiny applies But voting regulations are rarely subjected to strict scrutiny.” *Id.* at
12 1106. Such “non-severe lesser burdens on voting” are subject to “less exacting review, and a
13 State’s important regulatory interest will usually be enough to justify reasonable,
14 nondiscriminatory restrictions.” *Id.*

15 Because “[e]lection laws will invariably impose some burden upon individual voters,”
16 the standard of review is “flexible.” *Burdick v. Takushi*, 504 U.S. 428, 433-34 (1992).
17 Accordingly, the reviewing court “must weigh the character and magnitude of the asserted
18 injury to the rights protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments that the plaintiff seeks
19 to vindicate against the precise interests put forward by the State as justifications for the
20 burden imposed by its rule, taking into consideration the extent to which those interests make
21 it necessary to burden the plaintiff’s rights.” *Id.* at 434 (citation and internal quotation marks
22 omitted). *See also Crawford*, 553 U.S. at 190 (“We reaffirmed *Anderson*’s requirement that a
23 court evaluating a constitutional challenge to an election regulation weigh the asserted injury
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1 to the right to vote against the precise interests put forward by the State as justifications for
2 the burden imposed by this rule.”) (citation omitted).

3 The key question is whether the burden is “severe” or “reasonable [and]
4 nondiscriminatory.” *Burdick*, 504 U.S. at 434. Where the burden imposed by a state election
5 law is severe, strict scrutiny applies. *See Short v. Brown*, 893 F.3d 671, 677 (9th Cir. 2018)
6 (explaining that “the Constitution permits states to impose some burdens on voters through
7 election regulations, and it requires strict scrutiny of those regulations only where the burden
8 imposed is severe.”). As the Supreme Court has explained, “because a government has such a
9 compelling interest in securing the right to vote freely and effectively, this Court never has
10 held a State ‘to the burden of demonstrating empirically the objective effects on political
11 stability that [are] produced’ by the voting regulation in question.” *Burson v. Freeman*, 504
12 U.S. 191, 210 (1992) (quoting *Munro v. Socialist Workers Party*, 479 U.S. 189, 195 (1986)).

13 The AZ Laws contain burdens for applicants that are minimal and thus do not warrant
14 strict scrutiny. *See Crawford*, 553 U.S. at 205 (Scalia, J., concurring) (“Ordinary and
15 widespread burdens, such as those requiring nominal effort of everyone, are not severe.”).
16 The *Crawford* court held that voter ID requirements for in person voting survived *Anderson-*
17 *Burdick* review, explaining that the “inconvenience” of obtaining the required documents
18 “surely does not qualify as a substantial burden.” *Id.* at 198. HB 2492 provides applicants
19 with several options to establish residency and citizenship, including but not limited to state
20 identification cards, utility bills, and tribal enrollment cards. HB 2243 does the same
21 regarding proof of residence.

1 Because the burdens imposed by the AZ Laws are not severe, the court need only
2 determine whether the state’s interest is sufficient to justify the regulation. *Timmons v. Twin*
3 *Cities Area New Party*, 520 U.S. 351, 358 (1997) (“Lesser burdens . . . trigger less exacting
4 review, and a State’s important regulatory interest will usually be enough to justify
5 reasonable, nondiscriminatory restrictions.”). *See also, Obama for Am. v. Husted*, 697 F.3d
6 423, 428-30 (6th Cir. 2012) (explaining that the “courts must weigh the burden on voters
7 against the state’s asserted justifications and make the hard judgment that our adversary
8 system demands.”) (citation omitted). The Supreme Court has recognized that “[a] State
9 indisputably has a compelling interest in preserving the integrity of its election process.”
10 *Purcell*, 549 U.S. at 4. *See also Brnovich v. Democratic Nat’l Comm.*, 141 S. Ct. 2321, 2340
11 (2021) (listing “prevention of fraud” and “[e]nsuring every vote is cast freely” as important
12 state interests). The *Anderson-Burdick* standard is satisfied because the AZ Laws are
13 “reasonably related” to Arizona’s interests in securing free and fair elections in the state.
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18 Additionally, the AZ Laws would survive even if the Court determined that traditional
19 equal protection analysis should be applied instead of the *Anderson-Burdick* test. There is no
20 equal protection violation where a law “is neutral on its face and rationally may be said to
21 serve a purpose the Government is constitutionally empowered to pursue.” *Washington v.*
22 *Davis*, 426 U.S. 229, 246 (1976). The AZ Laws were enacted to advance the important state
23 interest of protecting the integrity of state and federal elections. News Release, Rep. Jake
24 Hoffman (Mar. 30, 2022),
25 <https://www.azleg.gov/press/house/55LEG/2R/220330HOFFMANHB2492.pdf> (describing
26 HB 2492 as “a giant step toward ensuring elections are easy, convenient, and secure in our
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1 state.”). *See also Democratic Nat’l Comm. v. Reagan*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 77690, at *58
2 (D. Ariz. May 8, 2018) (“Fraud prevention and preserving public confidence in election
3 integrity are facially important state regulatory interests.”). As the Supreme Court explained,
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5 [t]here is no question about the legitimacy or importance of the
6 State’s interest in counting only the votes of eligible voters.
7 Moreover, the interest in orderly administration and accurate
8 recordkeeping provides a sufficient justification for carefully
9 identifying all voters participating in the election process. While
the most effective method of preventing election fraud may well
be debatable, the propriety of doing so is perfectly clear.

10 *Crawford*, 553 U.S. at 196.

11 In fact, a recent study by the Public Interest Legal Foundation underscores the
12 importance of Arizona’s interest in election integrity. According to the study, over two-
13 hundred noncitizens, some of whom actually voted in federal elections, have been removed
14 from the voter rolls in a single county since 2015. Public Interest Legal Foundation,
15 *Maricopa County Report: 222 Foreign Nationals Removed From Voter Rolls Since 2015*
16 (Apr. 26, 2023), [https://publicinterestlegal.org/reports/maricopa-county-report-222-foreign-](https://publicinterestlegal.org/reports/maricopa-county-report-222-foreign-nationals-removed-from-voter-roll-since-2015/)
17 [nationals-removed-from-voter-roll-since-2015/](https://publicinterestlegal.org/reports/maricopa-county-report-222-foreign-nationals-removed-from-voter-roll-since-2015/).
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20 Finally, Plaintiffs’ discriminatory purpose equal protection claims also must fail.
21 While true that “[a] facially neutral law . . . warrants strict scrutiny . . . if it can be proved that
22 the law was motivated by a racial purpose or object[,]” *Hunt v. Cromartie*, 526 U.S. 541, 546
23 (1999) (internal quotation marks omitted), there is no evidence of improper racial motivation.
24 Under the *Arlington Heights* standard, “[d]etermining whether invidious discriminatory
25 purpose was a motivating factor demands a sensitive inquiry into such circumstantial and
26 direct evidence as may be available.” *Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro Hous. Dev. Corp.*,
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1 429 U.S. 252, 266) (1977). While “[d]isproportionate impact is not irrelevant . . . it is not the
2 sole touchstone of an invidious racial discrimination. Proof of racially discriminatory intent
3 or purpose is required to show a violation of the Equal Protection Clause.” *Id.* at 264-65
4 (internal citation and quotation marks omitted). Here, “the absence of proof of discriminatory
5 intent forecloses any claim that the official action challenged in this case violates the Equal
6 Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.” *Memphis v. Greene*, 451 U.S. 100, 119
7 (1981).
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10 According to the Supreme Court, “[d]iscriminatory purpose . . . implies that the
11 decisionmaker . . . selected . . . a particular course of action at least in part ‘because of,’ of,
12 not merely ‘in spite of,’ its adverse effects upon an identifiable group.” *Hernandez v. New*
13 *York*, 500 U.S. 352, 360 (1991) (quoting *Personnel Administrator of Mass. v. Feeney*, 442
14 U.S. 256, 279 (1979)). Indeed, the bill had the opposite intent, to ensure fairness to all
15 Arizona residents and prevent election fraud. News Release, Office of the Governor, Mar. 30,
16 2022, [https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2022/03/governor-ducey-signs-legislation-](https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2022/03/governor-ducey-signs-legislation-furthering-arizonas-position-leader-election)
17 [furthering-arizonas-position-leader-election](https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2022/03/governor-ducey-signs-legislation-furthering-arizonas-position-leader-election) (stating that “[e]lection integrity means counting
18 every lawful vote and prohibiting any attempt to illegally cast a vote.”).
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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Intervenor Defendants’ motion for partial summary judgment should be granted.

May 23, 2023

/s/ Gina M. D’Andrea
Gina M. D’Andrea, *pro hac vice*

Christopher J. Hajec (DC Bar No 492551)
Immigration Reform Law Institute
25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 335
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 202-232-5590
Email: gdandrea@irli.org

*Attorneys for amicus curiae Immigration Reform
Law Institute*

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- 2 1. This brief has been prepared using 13-point font, proportionally spaced, serif
- 3 typeface, in Microsoft Word.
- 4
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- 6 contains 4263 words, excluding material not counted under Rule 32(f).

7 Dated: May 23, 2023

/s/ Gina M. D'Andrea
GINA M. D'ANDREA, *pro hac vice*
Immigration Reform Law Institute
25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 335
Washington, DC 20001
202.232.5590
gdandrea@irli.org

*Attorney for amicus curiae Immigration Reform
Law Institute*

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