



STATE OF ARIZONA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Bob Burns
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: SB 1022; political signs; tampering

Dear President Burns,

Today, I vetoed Senate Bill 1022 which would have prohibited the removal of political signs that support or oppose candidates for public office or ballot measures from public rights-of-way.

The bill states that if the state, city, town or county deems that the placement of a political sign constitutes an emergency, the jurisdiction may immediately relocate the sign. A government worker relocating a political sign is against other state laws that prohibit a city or county from expending public monies to influence the outcome of an election.

The bill also allows the removal of a sign 24 hours after a notification is made to a candidate. This would prohibit the state, a city or county from removing a sign that is clearly a traffic hazard in order to contact a candidate.

While this bill was amended to specify size limitations and prohibit an attachment to traffic signal poles, campaign signs placed in public rights-of-way are a constant challenge to citizens, counties, cities and the state.

This bill is a preemption of local citizens' preferences to regulate such signage in their own communities and allows a political candidate to post signs virtually anywhere.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Kirk Adams
The Honorable Jim Waring
The Honorable Ken Bennett