

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Vince Leach (R-11)

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Thursday, March 16, 2017 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senate Judiciary Committee Passes Legislation Restoring Integrity to Initiative Process

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Vince Leach (R-11) today applauded the Senate Judiciary Committee for passing legislation (<u>HB 2404</u>) that he's introduced to restore integrity to Arizona's initiative process.

HB 2404 would prohibit the payment of petition circulators per signature and modify the number of days from five calendar days to ten business days within which a challenge to the registration of circulators can occur.

"By removing the incentive for fraud, HB 2404 keeps the initiative process intact as a legislative tool for Arizonans yet restores some badly needed integrity to the system," said Representative Leach. "I thank my colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee for their support and look forward to consideration of the bill by the full Senate."

Former Governor Janet Napolitano first advocated for the reform in 2009, using her State of the State address to ask the legislature to "crack down on signature fraud" by prohibiting the payment of petition circulators per signature.

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