



# PRESS RELEASE

Arizona State Senate

1700 W Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Senator Steve Gallardo, LD29**  
*Senate Democratic Whip*

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January 27, 2014

### **Gallardo introduces bill to reform elected officials' conflict of interest laws**

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Senator Steve Gallardo introduced a bill today that would change conflict of interest laws for Arizona elected officials.

#### Background

Currently, public officials are prohibited from acting on a measure before the body on which they serve when they have a *substantial interest* in the result of the vote. An official is allowed to vote on such a measure when they have a *remote interest*; when more than ten other people, including the official, would financially benefit from the decision. Violation of our conflict of interest statutes results in a Class 6 felony and forfeiture of the office held.

#### SB1234

- Changes the definition of *remote interest* from ten or more people to 100 or more people.
- Clarifies that the act of voting for a measure in which the official has a substantial interest is a violation.

"Arizona voters elect their leaders to represent the interests of the people, not the leaders themselves. After the ethics scandals of recent years and the influx of dark money in elections, it's harder than ever for the public to trust their elected officials," said Sen. Gallardo.

"SB1234 brings our conflict of interest law into the 21st century by requiring full disclosure and recusal if an official has financial interest in a vote. The rule of ten may have been sufficient in 1912, but it isn't now. The people of Arizona should trust that their leaders are working to enrich the lives of every one of their constituents, not just their own."

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