



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 9, 2021

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: House Bill 2569 (elections; private funding; prohibition)

Dear Secretary Hobbs:

Today, I signed H.B. 2569.

2020 was an extraordinary year that brought with it unprecedented challenges. Through it all, our election workers pushed forward — ensuring that we continued to prioritize access to the ballot — by mail and in person at a polling place. I'm so grateful for their work.

With unprecedented challenges came an unprecedented demand for resources. I was proud to partner with you on the AZ Vote Safe Program — allocating more than \$9 million in discretionary federal relief dollars to state and county agencies in support of the 2020 primary and general election to prioritize the safety of poll workers and voters. When private monies were offered, our election officials used these dollars with the integrity for which they've become known.

This may not have been the first time election officials relied upon private monies to conduct elections, but it should be the last. With public confidence in our elections in peril, it's clear that elections must be pristine and above reproach — and the sole purview of government. If third party groups want to engage in advocacy and encourage people to vote, that's great. But the mechanics of elections cannot be in question, and therefore all third party money must be excluded going forward to avoid any possible allegations of wrongdoing. And, going forward, the legislative and executive branches must continue to invest adequate resources to ensure you and county election officials have the resources you need to effectively and securely administer elections.

We are grateful for the assistance we received in 2020, and nothing in this law should be interpreted as us being unappreciative. However, to preserve the integrity of and voter confidence in our elections, it is important that election officials avoid any perception of outside influence.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Jake Hoffman