



KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Steve Montenegro
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: House Bill 2703: early voting; tabulation; ballot deadlines

Speaker Montenegro,

Today, I vetoed HB 2703. While I too want faster election results, the solution should not needlessly restrict Arizona citizens' freedom to vote, or undermine the learning and safety of students in public school districts. This legislation effectively ends the Active Early Voting List, something that has nothing to do with faster election results, but disenfranchises voters by adding additional steps for the hundreds of thousands of Arizona voters who prefer to vote by mail. Making it less convenient to vote is something I have consistently said I cannot support. Arizonans are relying on us to work together and put their rights ahead of any partisan agenda.

Compromises I proposed would increase voter freedom while speeding up election results. Proposed changes included Friday early ballot drop off restrictions, while protecting the Active Early Voting List and some combination of same day voter registration, cross-county portability of voter registration, and expanded assistance for eligible voters to return their ballots in a timely manner. A negotiated bill that included some of these provisions would have shown Arizonans that it is possible to both speed up counting and expand voter access.

Unfortunately, any potential compromise was rejected, leading me to believe the focus of this legislation is disenfranchising eligible voters, not delivering faster election results for Arizonans.

Any bill on this issue must reflect the efforts of good-faith negotiations and uphold Arizona citizens' access to the ballot box.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' and 'H' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona

cc:

The Honorable Warren Petersen
The Honorable Laurin Hendrix
The Honorable Adrian Fontes