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## MEMO

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**TO:** INTERESTED PARTIES

**FROM:** MARA MELLSTROM

**SUBJECT:** BALLOT INITIATIVE REFORM SURVEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

**DATE:** MAY 7, 2019

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A new poll commissioned by the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry shows that 86 percent of Arizonans believe that anyone who is paid to collect signatures for ballot propositions should be registered with the State to do so and should sign an affidavit to ensure they've not committed crimes related to identity theft, fraud, or forgery.

The telephone survey was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies among 600 registered Arizona voters on March 12-14, 2019.

The requirement to register signature gatherers is supported by 80 percent of Democrats, 82 percent of Independents, and 92 percent of Republicans.

Arizonans believe changes to the initiative system are necessary – four out of five voters (80%) believe that the process needs at least some adjustment.

One of the primary areas of concern about the process is the deep-pocketed out-of-state special interests that have gained influence in helping initiatives make their way onto the ballot. It is a concern that is shared across political party.

“Look no further than to 2018 to see evidence of tens of millions of dollars flowing into Arizona from out of state,” Director of Public Affairs Mara Mellstrom said. “There is broad support for adjustments to the process to ensure that Arizona’s ballot is not for sale.”

A number of reforms tested yielded solid support and bipartisan consensus. Reforms included: requirements for signature gatherers related to criminal histories (86% support), increasing the percentage of votes required to pass a constitutional amendment (70% support), and geographic distribution of signature gathering efforts to give rural Arizona a voice in the process (67% support).