

The Arizona Democratic Party Supports President Biden's Agenda **We Call For An End To The Filibuster**

WHEREAS, The Arizona Democratic Party Platform indicates that the Arizona Democratic Party supports, among other things, the right to vote¹, non-discrimination², the Equal Rights Amendment³, worker rights⁴, immigration reform, living wages, bold action to address climatechange, universal health care, and preventing gun violence⁵; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's Republican state legislators are pursuing an aggressive agenda of voter suppression legislation that, if successful, will require federal legislation like the For the People Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to ensure that all eligible Arizona voters can exercise our right to vote without undue barriers; and

WHEREAS, Republicans in Congress have indicated a near-universal commitment to obstructing the passage of any bills offered in support of the aforementioned policies by, at least in part, utilizing the non-constitutional Senate Filibuster to prevent any debates or votes on bills proposed by Democrats⁶, and there is no indication that any 10 Republican Senators are willing to join with the 50 Democratic Senators to override the Senate filibuster on the aforementioned issues or President Biden's Build Back Better agenda; and

WHEREAS, By empowering an uncompromising minority of obstructionist Republicans to attempt to improve their political standing by loudly opposing broadly popular legislation to address the aforementioned policy issues rather than engaging the legislative process in a truly bipartisan manner, the Senate filibuster eliminates any political incentive that might encourage Republican Senators to support Democratic legislation designed to benefit all Americans⁷; and

WHEREAS, recent polling has shown that over three quarters of Arizona Democrats, two thirds of Arizona independent voters, and nearly half of Arizona Republicans believe that passing major legislation to address the problems we face as a nation is more important than preserving traditional Senate rules like the filibuster⁸; and former President Barack Obama during his eulogy for former Georgia Representative John Lewis⁹ referred to the Senate filibuster as a "Jim Crow relic" and argued that it should be eliminated if necessary to enact voting rights legislation or expand voter access⁹;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arizona Democratic Party does hereby declare and affirm our support for the immediate elimination of the Senate Filibuster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Arizona Democratic Party does hereby call upon Arizona Senator Krysten Sinema and Arizona Senator Mark Kelly to support the comprehensive passage of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda and the Arizona Democratic Party platform by publicly declaring their support for ending the Senate Filibuster and voting to eliminate it from the Senate rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Arizona Democratic Party Chair shall direct the ADP staff to transmit this Resolution as written to Senator Sinema, Senator Kelly, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, the Arizona members of the Democratic National Committee, the Arizona Democratic Congressional Delegation, and, via press release, to both Arizona and National media outlets within 72 hours of approval by the state committee.

¹ "We[, the Arizona Democratic Party,] support the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits states from imposing voting policies, voting qualifications, or other discriminatory practices against United States citizens. Suffrage should be embraced for and by everyone, and voting should not in any way be discouraged or impeded... An individual's civil and voting rights must have complete protection under the laws of our state and nation." - 2020 Arizona Democratic Party Platform (pages 4 & 5)

² "No one should face discrimination on any basis, including race, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. Democrats will continue to lead efforts to facilitate the access by everyone to employment opportunities and the ability to lead full, productive, and satisfying lives." - 2020 Arizona Democratic Party Platform (page 3)

³ "Arizona Democrats support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment guaranteeing women's equality under United States law." - 2020 Arizona Democratic Party Platform (page 5)

⁴ "Arizona Democrats support the right of workers to a safe and secure workplace and to be compensated with a fair, living wage. All workers should be able to organize and negotiate with their employers in collective bargaining to create greater security and greater productivity. Democrats continue to support measures that keep teachers and first responders on the job; put construction workers back to work by investing in our crumbling infrastructure, schools, and water supply; help families refinance their mortgages; cut taxes for small businesses that invest and hire; and put veterans back to work. Arizona Democrats believe in eliminating tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and instead, offering tax breaks to companies that invest here in the U.S., with American workers who are making American products." - 2020 Arizona Democratic Party Platform (page 6)

⁵ 2020 Arizona Democratic Party Platform - azdem.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Revised-2020-ADP-Platform.pdf

⁶ Polus, S. (2021, March 18). [Senator Graham] on PROPOSED return of talking filibuster: 'I would talk 'til I fell over' www.thehill.com/homenews/senate/543863-graham-on-proposed-return-of-talking-filibuster-i-would-talk-til-i-fell-over

⁷ Jacob S. Hacker, P. (2021, March 21). Why McConnell gets away with filibustering. www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/03/how-filibuster-killed-accountability-congress/618346/

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⁸ Data for Progress. Data for Progress Poll. February 2021. https://www.filesforprogress.org/datasets/2021/3/dfp_arizona_polling_feb.pdf

⁹ Foran, C., & Barrett, T. (2020, July 31). Obama calls filibuster 'Jim CROW RELIC' that should be eliminated if necessary to enact voting rights legislation. www.cnn.com/2020/07/30/politics/obama-filibuster-jim-crow-voting-rights/index.html

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