



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BETTER BALLOT ARIZONA LAUNCHES CITIZENS' INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN TO BRING
RANKED-CHOICE VOTING TO TEMPE**

Kickoff celebration with volunteers and community supporters held at Bottle Shop 48.

Phoenix – On June 16, 2026, Better Ballot Arizona, joined by dedicated volunteers and local supporters, launched a historic campaign to bring ranked-choice voting to Tempe, and has begun collecting signatures to get on the ballot.

The citizen-led initiative follows a lengthy, costly election cycle that has exposed challenges within the city's current voting system. While turnout in the recent Tempe City Council election was high by municipal standards, city council elections, and especially runoffs, historically attract significantly fewer voters than state and federal contests. Tempe's latest runoff extended the municipal election cycle and increased the cost to taxpayers by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Ranked-choice voting would allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference, ensuring that winning candidates earn broad community support while eliminating the need for costly runoff elections. By consolidating elections into a single contest, the reform would reduce election expenses, shorten the campaign season, and increase efficiency for voters, candidates, and election administrators. Ranked-choice voting has also been credited with encouraging more positive, issue-focused campaigns and fostering a more constructive political environment.

"Tempe voters have made it clear they want competitive elections, meaningful choices, and accountable leadership," said Kazz Fernandes, Executive Director of Better Ballot Arizona. "Ranked-choice voting allows voters to fully express their preferences in a single election, eliminating the need for costly runoff elections while ensuring winners have broad community support."

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