

On November 2, 2010 Arizona voters will select a new Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2 Corporation Commissioners, the State Mine Inspector and a new Arizona legislature. At the federal level Arizona voters will also vote for a United States Senator and eight United States Congressmen. The leadership selected on November 2, 2010 will shape the future of Arizona. With the Arizona budget challenges, the economic uncertainty and the tough problems confronting our state and nation, this is a very important election. As professional educators who work with children who are the future for our state and nation, we need to be engaged in this process.

The first step is to know the important deadlines for voting in the **November 2, 2010 election**: **Voter Registration** closes on **October 4, 2010**. **Early voting** begins on **October 7, 2010**. What is early voting? In Arizona registered voters can request to be on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL). This means you will be mailed an early ballot for every election. Requests for the PEVL are available through every Arizona County Recorder and on the websites for the major political parties. Here are some important websites:

For an overview of all candidates:

<http://azcapitoltimes.com/2010-general-election-matchups/>

The Arizona Secretary of State's website also contains valuable information on elections:

<http://www.azsos.gov/>

The major political party websites are:

<http://www.azdem.org/> Democratic Party

<http://www.azgop.org/> Republican Party

There are also 10 ballot propositions that will appear on the November 2, 2010 that affect early childhood education, state trust lands and the use of medical marijuana, among other issues. There are many advocacy organizations that publish information for Arizonans so we can make informed decisions. These include:

The Children's Action Alliance <http://www.azchildren.org/>

CAA publishes information on the 2010 General Election Ballot Measures and an informative 2010 Legislative Wrap-Up titled "Who's For Kids and Who's Just Kidding?"

Expect More Arizona <http://www.expectmorearizona.org/>

This organization whose motto is "Ready Kids – Ready Graduates – Ready Workforce" has a "Vote 4 Education" section that gives information on selecting candidates who value public education in Arizona.

Please do some research and when you find a candidate or candidates who support your values and goals for Arizona's future, you can volunteer in some way to help the candidate. Candidates need monetary contributions and volunteers to get their message in front of voters. Volunteer efforts can include making telephone calls, distributing literature, distributing signs and holding a house party. Despite the negative campaigning that often turns us off to the political process, political candidates are usually decent and devoted citizens who want to make Arizona a better place. The pathway to the future may be very different and that is why we all need to participate in this process by at least becoming an informed voter.

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