

C-03-2012

(open top two primary)

ANALYSIS BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

[CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT]

1 Beginning with the 2014 elections, Proposition ___ would amend the Arizona
2 Constitution by eliminating the longstanding primary election that allows registered
3 independent and party voters to select general election candidates. In its place would be a
4 primary election system in which registered voters may vote for candidates regardless of
5 political affiliation. Additionally, the number of candidates who appear on the general
6 election ballot would be limited to only the two who receive the most votes and any
7 qualified write-in candidates. Currently, all candidates who receive the most votes in
8 their party primary appear on the general election ballot. This often results in more than
9 two candidates appearing on the general election ballot.

10 Proposition ___ would not apply to the election of United States President, nor to
11 any office for which political party affiliation may not appear on the ballot.

12 Under Proposition ___, the signature requirement for candidates wishing to run in
13 the open primary election for an office would be based on the total votes cast for all
14 candidates for that office at the previous general election and would be the same for all
15 candidates regardless of party affiliation or lack of affiliation. Each candidate who
16 declared a party preference on their voter registration form would have that preference
17 listed, up to twenty characters, on the nominating petition and on the primary and general
18 election ballots. If no party preference is declared on a candidate's registration form, no
19 preference would be listed on the petition and ballots. All government-issued voter
20 education materials and ballots would contain a notice that any political party registration
21 listed for a candidate is not an indication that the candidate has been nominated or
22 endorsed by that political party.

23 Proposition ___ provides that individuals may organize or join political parties
24 and that political parties may elect party officers, support or oppose candidates and
25 otherwise participate in all elections, if the party activity is not paid for or subsidized
26 using public funds. All voters, candidates and political parties must be treated equally,
27 regardless of party affiliation or lack of affiliation. When registering to vote, voters
28 would be allowed to state any party preference in their own words and would not be
29 limited to selecting from a list of recognized political parties or affiliations.