

# Sneaky Bills

*A list of harmful ballot initiatives that bad faith actors may be hoping go unnoticed or get misinterpreted by voters.*

## Arizona

- **Arizona Proposition 135:** [Emergency Declarations](#) (LR)
  - **What It Does:** Allows the legislature to modify or end a state of emergency and the governor's emergency powers. State of emergency and governor's emergency powers would automatically terminate 30 days after they're declared, unless legislature allows for an extension. Governor would be prohibited from proclaiming a new state of emergency over the same reasons as the first.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** GOP-backed LRCA strips the Democratic governor of powers.
- **Arizona Proposition 138:** [Lower Tipped Worker Wages](#) (LR)
  - **What It Does:** Allows tipped workers to be paid 25% less per hour than the minimum wage, provided their total tips plus wages are not less than the minimum wage plus \$2 for all hours worked.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** It's branded as the 'Tipped Workers Protection Act', which workers advocates have argued is intentionally deceptive.
- **Arizona Proposition 312:** [Property Tax Refund for Non-Enforcement of Public Nuisance Laws](#)
  - **What It Does:** Allows for property owners to apply for a property tax refund if they feel their city hasn't enforced laws intended to target homeless communities such as policies regarding panhandling, loitering, public urination or defecation, and more.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** Who's to say whether the municipality has 'enforced' anti-homeless laws? Or how the property owner is 'mitigating' the issue? If the city rejects a refund claim, the property owner can take them to the county's superior court where [they will not be responsible for the city's attorneys fees no matter the outcome](#) but will be awarded attorneys fees if the person wins. The city/county cannot require the property owner to submit a claim ahead of requesting their refund (e.g. "If you don't address XYZ, I'll buy ABC, and file for a property tax refund")
- **Arizona Proposition 315:** [Legislative Ratification of State Agency Rules that Increase Regulatory Costs](#)
  - **What It Does:** Requires that the legislature approve any proposed rule estimated to increase regulatory costs by more than \$500,000 within five years after implementation.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** Further consolidates power in the hands of the GOP-majority legislature under the guise of fiscal responsibility.

## Colorado

- **Colorado Amendment 80:** [School Choice in K-12 Education](#) (CI)
  - **What It Does:** Amends the state constitution to say each child has the right to 'school choice' and provides for schooling options including neighborhood, charter, private, and home schools.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** Manipulatively branded as 'school choice', these are tactics to defund the public school system.
- **Colorado Proposition 130:** [Funding for Law Enforcement](#) (CI)
  - **What It Does:** This "Back the Blue" measure requires the State to allocate \$350 million to support law enforcement agencies to finance the hiring, training, and retention of new officers. Would also provide a one-time \$1 million death benefit to families of first responders killed in the line of duty, including police officers, sheriff's deputies, and firefighters.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** Since the measure prohibits raising taxes to fund it, the money would come from the state's general budget, potentially reducing funding for other departments.

## Florida

- **Florida Amendment 6:** [Repeal Public Funding for Candidates for Elected Statewide Office](#) (LR)
  - **What It Does:** Would end public financing for campaigns.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** Florida Democrats and other left-of-center advocates say that [ending the state's public financing law puts Democrats at a disadvantage](#): "Without access to public funds, only the wealthy and the well-connected would be able to afford to run," Libby Livette with the League Of Women Voters

## Kentucky

- **Kentucky Amendment 2:** [Allow State Funding for Non-Public Education](#) (LR)
  - **What It Does:** Aims to allow for state funding for non-public education. Although charter schools have been legally allowed in Kentucky since 2017, they currently do not receive funding.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** Manipulatively branded as 'school choice', these are tactics to defund the public school system. The Kentucky Center for Economic Policy (KyPolicy) has estimated that passing the amendment could end up costing the state [an estimated \\$1.19 billion annually](#) should the General Assembly then go on to adopt a voucher system. That cost is equal to employing nearly 10,000 public school teachers and staff.

## Nebraska

- **Nebraska Initiative 434:** [12-week Abortion Ban](#) (CI)

- **What It Does:** Bans abortions starting in the second trimester – typically around 12 weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for medical emergencies and sexual assault or incest.
- **Why It's Sneaky:** Titled the "Protect Women and Children Constitutional Amendment" despite the fact that it does not protect women or children. The campaign has also been accused of using branding similar to the proactive abortion rights campaign in order to confuse voters. [More than 300 affidavits](#) were filed by Nebraskans saying they were misled into sighting the countermeasure's petition.

## Oklahoma

- **Oklahoma State Question 833:** [Public Infrastructure Districts](#)
  - **What It Does:** Allows for the creation of public infrastructure districts.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** It requires petition signatures from all surface property owners within the proposed district in order to be created.

## Utah

- **Utah Amendment A:** [Remove Constitutional Requirements for Education Funding](#) (LR)
  - **What It Does:** Removes from Utah's constitution the requirement directing income and intangible property tax revenues solely towards education, children, and individuals with disabilities. Proponents claim it would allow for more flexibility by outlining a framework where tax revenue from income and intangible property would first ensure adequate public education funding, addressing factors like student enrollment changes and inflation. Once these funding requirements are met, the amendment permits the use of these tax revenues for other purposes as well.
  - **Why It's Sneaky:** The Utah Education Association says that public education has never been fully funded in the state and that removing constitutional protections for it only puts it on the chopping block in the future. In a manipulative quid pro quo, lawmakers are saying that if voters pass Amendment A in 2024, the legislature [will repeal the state tax on food in 2025](#).