



PROP 208 COALITION ANNOUNCES IT WILL NOT APPEAL

FINAL JUDGEMENT RELEASED THIS WEEK

Judge Hannah entered a final judgment this week in Prop 208 – Invest in Ed, but the die was cast long ago by a partisan State Supreme Court when it directed Judge Hannah to enjoin Prop 208 to benefit the ultra-rich in Arizona. The Invest in Arizona Coalition will not appeal the final judgment because, as already signaled by the Supreme Court, they will not side with Arizona voters. Our attention and resources are better spent focusing on reversing decades of underfunding our public schools once and for all.

[PHOENIX, ARIZONA] In March 2022, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge John Hannah was forced to rule in accordance with a confusing, heavy-handed, and overtly political ruling issued last year by the Arizona Supreme Court. Judge Hannah had no choice but to implement the Supreme Court’s directive, but he made a point to acknowledge that the Supreme Court turned the rule of law “on its head.”

The Invest in Arizona Coalition recognizes that the final judgment entered this week was a direct result of the Supreme Court’s partisan and legally infirm ruling and that an appeal to the Supreme Court is futile. A court that bends over backward to kill a proposition passed by a majority of Arizonans once will surely do so again if given the chance.

In the meantime, the Coalition has been working with the Arizona Legislature to find a solution to finally honor the will of the voters by securing \$1 billion in new education funding in the state budget, which passed in June. The Coalition hopes that with the final judgment entered this week, all interested parties can move forward to ensure that Arizona’s schools can use the funding passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Ducey by addressing the outdated Aggregate Expenditure Limit as soon as possible. Without this fix, schools cannot secure much-needed teaching staff, school building improvements, and updated curriculum.

Rebecca Gau, Executive Director of Stand for Children Arizona, said, “This fight comes down to the fact that our state’s highest court sided with a disastrous political agenda over the voters. Our team, the volunteers that got this on the ballot, and the 1.7 million that passed this measure are hopeful that with this final judgment, the plaintiffs will accept this outcome and allow the state to take the next step to ensure a bright future for our students, and our economy.”

David Lujan, CEO of Children’s Action Alliance, also said, “This movement has given so many in Arizona a voice and in November we must work to elect a legislature that will not hesitate to make our public schools a priority. If our schools’ needs are ignored again with political games over the Aggregate Expenditure Limit, it will be up to the voters to remove failed leadership at the ballot box.”

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The Prop 208 – Invest in Education campaign, which accomplished a historic election win at the ballot box last November, is now Invest in Arizona. The new coalition includes the original members – Arizona Education Association, Stand for Children Arizona, Children’s Action Alliance, Arizona Center for Economic Progress,

Arizona Interfaith Network, and is now joined by Save Our Schools Arizona, and Friends of the Arizona School Boards Association.