



DAVID D. WEINZWEIG
VICE CHIEF JUDGE

Court of Appeals

STATE OF ARIZONA
DIVISION ONE
STATE COURTS BUILDING
1501 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

Phone (602) 452-6731

September 21, 2026

Peter Gentala, Esq.
President, Center for Arizona Policy
surveys@azpolicy.org

Dear Mr. Gentala:

Thanks for your September 10 letter and for offering this chance to explain how I approach my role as an appellate judge.

I approach my job with humility and an open mind, treating all parties with fairness and respect. My role is to resolve each case on its merits under the law, weighing the parties' arguments and record closely.

I have great respect for the separation of powers and understand the limited role of judges in our constitutional democracy. When the legislature passes a law or the people pass an initiative, it is a judge's job to enforce their words as written without regard to personal beliefs or preferences—that is what the constitution asks of judges, and I take that seriously. Arguments about what makes good public policy are best directed to the legislature, not the judiciary.

A judge's decisions must also conform to the mandates of our Arizona and federal constitutions. Our founding fathers directed that government should be held to its constitutional limits, even when that may be unpopular. Even a well-meaning law can offend the constitution, and judges must be free to say so. Judicial independence is necessary to safeguard our constitutional liberties in a system of checks and balances.

My service on the Arizona Court of Appeals has been the honor of a lifetime. I can think of no better job than to serve the people of Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David D. Weinzwieg". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "D" and a cursive "W".

David D. Weinzwieg,
Vice Chief Judge
Court of Appeals, Division I