

Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2015

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Business Leader Elected to Head Clean Elections

PHOENIX— The Citizens Clean Elections Commission announced that Commissioner Mitchell C. Laird was selected to serve as the Commission's Chairman.

Laird, a Phoenix attorney and Grand Canyon University graduate, was appointed to a five-year term by Governor Jan Brewer in 2012. "I look forward to leading the Commission in 2016," Laird said. "With four statewide elections next year, it is an exciting time as we look to build upon our successful 2015 education program. Allowing voters access to more information so they may be better informed is a key component of the Clean Elections Act, and one that I strongly support."

Laird, a Republican, is on the board of directors of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce. He previously served as Chairman of the National Franchisee Association and owned thirty one Burger King restaurants throughout the state. He has served as president of the Grand Canyon University Alumni Association and is an attorney in private practice. Laird is also a graduate of the Arizona State University College of Law.

Voters passed the Citizens Clean Elections Act in 1998 to promote participation in the political process and to ensure Arizona's politics are free from corruption. The act includes administration of voter education and campaign finance programs.

The commission is an independent state body made up of individuals who have sworn to faithfully administer the Clean Elections Act. Commissioners are appointed alternatively by the governor and the highest ranking official of the opposite party. Commissioners must not have served in, or run for, public office for five years, nor have been an officer of a political party. No more than two members of the commission may be from any one party or county. Currently, in addition to Commissioner Laird, the Commission is made up of two independents and two Democrats.

To learn more about the role of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission, visit www.azcleelections.gov.