



ARIZONA CENTER FOR LAW
— IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST —



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Sedona Residents Secure Pro Bono Legal Representation to Defend Voter Initiative

City Spending Taxpayer Dollars to Challenge Ballot Measure on Public Land Preservation

Sedona, AZ — April 10, 2026 — The Save Sedona Committee announced today that it has secured legal representation from the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest at no cost to the organization or local taxpayers. The nonprofit law firm will represent the Committee in response to the City of Sedona’s lawsuit seeking to block a voter initiative from appearing on the ballot.

The initiative, supported by more than 1,400 Sedona residents, aims to preserve the Sedona Cultural Park as public land for future generations.

In contrast, the City of Sedona has retained outside legal counsel from a Phoenix-based law firm to pursue its challenge—using taxpayer funds to do so.

“This situation raises serious concerns,” said Bill Noonan, Treasurer of the PAC. “On one hand, a nonprofit public interest law firm has stepped in to defend the constitutional rights of voters at no cost. On the other, the City is spending taxpayer dollars to prevent those same taxpayers from having a voice at the ballot box.”

The lawsuit filed by the City seeks to prevent the initiative from going before voters, despite meeting all legal requirements for ballot qualification.

“At its core, this is about whether residents have the right to vote on an issue of clear public interest,” Noonan added. “It is difficult to ignore the irony that public funds are being used in an effort to stop a public vote on the future of public land.”

“This Center has long defended Arizonans’ constitutional rights to use the initiative and referenda processes against government attempts to curtail direct democracy. Here, that is exactly what the City of Sedona is trying to do: limit the people’s ability to have a meaningful voice in the future of the Sedona Cultural Park,” said Nick Ansel, a staff attorney at the Center. The Center for Law in the Public Interest (www.aclpi.org) is a non-profit law firm that provides pro bono legal representation in important issues affecting all Arizonans.

The Sedona Cultural Park property has long been the subject of community interest, with residents advocating for its preservation and the restoration of its amphitheater as a cultural and arts venue.

Recent media coverage of the Cultural Park and Amphitheater has generated significant public attention, with news stories gaining widespread traction across social media platforms and prompting an outpouring of support from individuals both within and beyond Sedona.

The case is scheduled for an initial hearing on April 13.

Media Contact for The Save Sedona Committee:

Bill Noonan
Treasurer, Save Sedona Committee
503-789-3853
Bill.noonan@proton.me

Media Contacts for the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest:

Nick Ansel, Staff Attorney
Nick@aclpi.org

Jared Keenan, Executive Director
Jkeenan@aclpi.org