

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TOWNHALL MEETING ON EDUCATION ISSUES**

The Democrats of the Red Rocks will host a town hall style meeting to discuss issues facing public education on Thursday, March 2, 5:30 PM at the Cottonwood Recreation Center, 150 S. 6th Street, Cottonwood. A panel of speakers, including

Dr. David Garcia, education professor at ASU (and a potential future candidate for Arizona’s Superintendent of Public Instruction), Chris Thomas, legal counsel for the Arizona School Board Association, and representatives from the Arizona Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, and others will participate.

The Arizona Legislature is considering a number of bills that would expand the Empowerment Savings Account (Vouchers) program and potentially transfer some public school funding to private schools and home school programs. The panel will discuss propsed legislation and how that may affect public education policy. The audience will have an oportunity to ask questions. Local elected representatives have also been invited to attend.

Empowerment Savings Accounts are a controversial topic as they pay taxpayer funds directly to families for a variety of education expenses. Arizona was the first state to offer ESAs. The program began in 2011 as an option for parents of children with special needs and has since been expanded. The panel will outline the history of ESAs and explain how they work.

The event is being sponsored by the Democrats of the Red Rocks as part of a series on vital issues for voters. The event is free and the public is invited to attend.

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