

REFERENCE TITLE: party organization; precinct committeemen; meetings

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-second Legislature
First Regular Session
2015

SB 1309

Introduced by
Senators Allen, Burges: Griffin, Ward

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-822, 16-823, 16-824, 16-826 AND 16-828, ARIZONA REVISED
STATUTES; RELATING TO POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 16-822, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-822. Precinct committeemen; eligibility; vacancy; duties

5 A. Any member of a recognized political party who is a registered
6 voter in the precinct is eligible to seek the office of precinct committeeman
7 of his party in that precinct.

8 B. If the number of persons who file nominating petitions for an
9 election to fill precinct committeeman positions is less than or equal to the
10 number of precinct committeeman positions, the county board of supervisors
11 may cancel the election for those positions not sooner than seventy-five days
12 before the election and appoint the person who filed the nominating petition
13 to fill the position. If no person has filed a nominating petition to fill a
14 position, the position is deemed vacant and shall be filled as otherwise
15 provided by law. A precinct committeeman who is appointed pursuant to this
16 subsection after filing a nominating petition shall be deemed and elected
17 precinct committeeman.

18 C. If the number of persons who file nominating petitions for an
19 election to fill precinct committeeman positions is more than the number of
20 precinct committeeman positions for a recognized political party in a
21 precinct, a separate ballot shall be prepared for the election of precinct
22 committeemen for the political party in that precinct. The ballot shall
23 conform as nearly as practicable to ballot requirements in this title, and to
24 the official ballot prepared for that party in the primary election, but
25 shall be designated as the "official ballot for electing precinct
26 committeemen of the _____ party, primary election (date), _____
27 precinct, _____ county, state of Arizona." Only persons who are
28 registered as members of that political party in that precinct may vote that
29 precinct committeeman ballot. The election board or official shall provide
30 the partisan precinct committeeman ballot to voters who are registered with
31 that party in addition to the official ballot prepared for that party in the
32 primary election.

33 D. In addition to other provisions of law regarding removal from
34 office, a vacancy shall exist in the office of precinct committeeman when the
35 precinct committeeman moves from the precinct from which elected or changes
36 his political party from the party in which he was elected.

37 E. The minimum duties of a precinct committeeman shall be to assist
38 his political party in voter registration and to assist the voters of his
39 political party to vote on election days. Additional duties shall be as
40 provided for in the state committee bylaws of the party of which he is a
41 member.

42 F. THE TERM OF OFFICE OF A PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN BEGINS ON THE DATE ON
43 WHICH THE OFFICIAL COUNTY CANVASS OF THE ELECTION IS ENTERED INTO THE RECORD
44 AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-646 FOR THE ELECTION AT WHICH THE PRECINCT
45 COMMITTEEMAN WAS ELECTED. THE TERM OF OFFICE CONTINUES UNTIL THE NEXT

1 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OFFICIAL COUNTY CANVASS OF ELECTION IS ENTERED INTO THE
2 RECORD FOR THAT OFFICE OF PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN.

3 Sec. 2. Section 16-823, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

4 16-823. Legislative district committee; organization; boundary
5 change; reorganization

6 A. A political party entitled, pursuant to section 16-801 or 16-804,
7 to representation on the ballot may establish a district party committee for
8 any legislative district as prescribed by law.

9 B. A district party committee established pursuant to subsection A of
10 this section shall consist of the precinct committeemen residing in the
11 district and elected pursuant to section 16-821.

12 C. Each district party committee established pursuant to subsection A
13 of this section shall meet no earlier than the second Saturday after the
14 general election provided for in section 16-211 and no later than the first
15 Saturday in the following December and organize by electing from its
16 membership a chairman, two vice-chairmen, a secretary and a treasurer. The
17 latter two offices may be filled by the same person. The chairman of the
18 district committee is ex officio a member of the county committee of the
19 county in which a plurality of the district's registered voters resides.

20 D. Each district party committee established pursuant to subsection A
21 of this section shall meet after the effective date of reapportionment
22 legislation that realigns or changes legislative district boundaries and
23 organize according to the new boundaries, electing from its membership a
24 chairman, two vice-chairmen, a secretary and a treasurer. The latter two
25 offices may be filled by the same person. The chairman of the district
26 committee is ex officio a member of the county committee of the county in
27 which a plurality of the district's registered voters resides. The effective
28 date for reapportionment legislation as provided in this subsection shall be
29 as provided in article IV, part 1, section 1, Constitution of Arizona.

30 E. In the event the reapportionment legislation is challenged in court
31 or by the United States justice department, the district organizations in
32 effect before the passage of the reapportionment legislation shall continue
33 to function along with the new district organizations created in accordance
34 with subsection D of this section until the final settlement or adjudication
35 of any legal challenge to the reapportionment legislation. ~~Upon~~ ON the final
36 settlement or adjudication of any legal challenge to the reapportionment
37 legislation the district organizations in effect before the enactment of the
38 reapportionment legislation are considered dissolved.

39 F. If the boundaries of any district are changed as a result of legal
40 action, each district party committee in that district shall meet as soon as
41 possible and organize according to the boundaries that result from the legal
42 action. ~~Upon~~ ON organization pursuant to this subsection all prior district
43 organizations are dissolved.

1 G. For THE purposes of the election prescribed in subsection D of this
2 section the district committee shall consist of all precinct committeemen
3 residing in the district who were serving in ~~such~~ THAT position at least
4 thirty days ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the enactment of reapportionment legislation.

5 H. ALL MEETINGS OF A DISTRICT COMMITTEE SHALL BE OPEN TO REGISTERED
6 MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT IS HOLDING THE MEETING.

7 Sec. 3. Section 16-824, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
8 16-824. Meeting, organization and officers of county committee

9 A. The county committee shall meet for the purpose of organizing no
10 earlier than ten days after the last organizing meeting of the legislative
11 districts ~~which~~ THAT are part of the county, and in any event no later than
12 the second Saturday in January of the year following a general election. The
13 county committee shall elect from its membership a chairman, a first
14 vice-chairman, a second vice-chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. The
15 latter two offices may be filled by the same person. The chairman of the
16 county committee shall be ex officio a member of the state committee.

17 B. The chairman of the county committee shall give notice of the time
18 and place of such meeting by mail to each precinct committeeman at least ten
19 days ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the date of ~~such~~ THE meeting.

20 C. ALL MEETINGS OF A COUNTY COMMITTEE SHALL BE OPEN TO REGISTERED
21 MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT IS HOLDING THE MEETING.

22 Sec. 4. Section 16-826, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
23 16-826. Meeting, organization and officers of state committee

24 A. The state committee shall meet no earlier than ten days after the
25 last county meeting of the party and in any event no later than the fourth
26 Saturday in January following a general election and organize by electing
27 from its membership a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer.

28 B. The chairman of the state committee shall cause notice of the time
29 and place of the meeting to be mailed to each state committeeman at least ten
30 days before the date of the meeting.

31 C. ALL MEETINGS OF A STATE COMMITTEE SHALL BE OPEN TO REGISTERED
32 MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY THAT IS HOLDING THE MEETING.

33 Sec. 5. Section 16-828, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
34 16-828. Proxies

35 A. A political party may choose, through its bylaws, to allow the use
36 of proxies at its meetings, ~~in which event the following shall be minimum~~
37 ~~regulations~~ TO WHICH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

38 1. No proxy shall be given by a member of the state committee for use
39 at a meeting of the STATE committee except to a ~~qualified elector of the~~
40 ~~county of the county where the member resides~~ MEMBER OF THE SAME POLITICAL
41 PARTY AS THE MEMBER OF THE STATE COMMITTEE. A PERSON MAY NOT CARRY MORE THAN
42 TEN PROXIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE TO A MEETING OF THE STATE
43 COMMITTEE.

1 2. No proxy shall be given by a member of the county committee for use
2 at a meeting of the COUNTY committee except to a PERSON WHO IS A qualified
3 elector of the precinct where the member resides AND WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE
4 SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS THE MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE. A PERSON MAY NOT
5 CARRY MORE THAN FOUR PROXIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE TO A
6 MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE.

7 3. NO PROXY SHALL BE GIVEN BY A MEMBER OF A LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
8 COMMITTEE FOR USE AT A MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE EXCEPT
9 TO A PERSON WHO IS A QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF THE PRECINCT WHERE THE MEMBER
10 RESIDES AND WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS THE MEMBER OF THE
11 DISTRICT COMMITTEE. A PERSON MAY NOT CARRY MORE THAN FOUR PROXIES FROM
12 MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO A MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE
13 DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

14 B. The duration of any proxy so given shall extend only for the length
15 of the meeting for which it is given.

16 C. Every proxy shall be attested by a notary public or two witnesses.