ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session

HB 2839: candidate nominations; signatures; redistricting.
Sponsor: Representative Bowers (with permission of committee on Rules), LD 25
Caucus & COW

Overview
Modifies the number of signatures required for nominating petitions for the 2022 election cycle.

History
For various elective candidates, nomination petitions are to be signed by a specified number of qualified signers that is equal to the requirements detailed in statute. If new boundaries for congressional, legislative or supervisorial districts or justice or election precincts are established and effective subsequent to January 2 of the year of a general election and before the date for filing of nomination petitions, the required number of signatures is modified. The basis for determining the required number of nomination petition signatures in that case is the number of qualified signers in the elective office, district or precinct that was effective on January 2 of the year of a general election (A.R.S. § 16-322).

Provisions
1. Maintains the required number of signatures if new boundaries for congressional or legislative districts are established and effective before the *first* date for filing of nomination petitions. (Sec. 1)

2. Stipulates that the basis for determining the required number of nomination petition signatures is the number of qualified signers in the elective district, office or precinct on the effective date of the new district or precinct if new boundaries for supervisorial districts, justice precincts or election precincts are adopted after January 2 of the year of a general election and before the last date for filing of nomination petitions. (Sec. 1)

3. States that the number of signatures required for a 2022 legislative or congressional candidate's nomination petition must be the lesser of the following:
   a) The average of the number of qualified signers needed for all 2020 legislative or congressional districts for that candidate's political party, using the voter registration report for January 2, 2022 to determine the number of statutorily required qualified signers for each 2020 legislative or congressional district.
   b) The statutorily required number of signatures, except that the basis of the percentage is the number of qualified signers in the voter registration report for January 2, 2022 in the 2020 numbered legislative or congressional district with the same numeral as the numbered legislative district that the candidate proposes to represent as declared in the 2022 nomination paper. (Sec. 2)

4. Specifies that the following apply for candidates for election in 2022 to a county and local office immediately following redistricting, except for candidates for a federal, statewide or legislative office:
   a) If the candidate statement of interest, nomination paper and petition are in compliance with law, the filing officer must accept as a valid filing the nomination paper and petition of

a person that designate a district for that person's candidacy and that use any or all of the following:

    i. The candidate's district as used in the election for that office immediately preceding the redistricting;

    ii. The candidate's district as designated as a result of a redistricting plan adopted for the upcoming election; or

    iii. The candidate's district as designated as a result of a redistricting plan that is ordered for use in the upcoming election by a court of competent jurisdiction.

b) If the candidate nomination paper and petition are in compliance with law, the filing officer must accept and petition signers are valid if the petition signers are registered voters who are residents of any or all of the following districts that the candidate proposes to represent:

    i. The candidate's district as used in the election for that office immediately preceding the redistricting;

    ii. The candidate's district as designated as a result of a redistricting plan adopted for the upcoming election; or

    iii. The candidate's district as designated as a result of a redistricting plan that is ordered for use in the upcoming election by a court of competent jurisdiction. (Sec. 3)

5. Specifies that the nomination paper and petition signature requirements do not apply to a special election to fill a vacancy in any county and local office, except federal, statewide or legislative offices. (Sec. 3)

6. Prescribes that the following apply for the 2022 election for political party precinct committeemen:

a) Candidates must submit to their county political party committee a nomination paper or other similar written statement of candidacy no later than April 18, 2022 and are not required to submit a nomination petition or file other documents with a filing officer.

b) The county political party committee must verify the potential candidate's eligibility based on the April 1 voter registration totals prescribed in statute.

c) No later than May 2, 2022, the county political party committee must submit to the county board of supervisors one precinct committeeman candidate's name for each election precinct in the county for appointment. The county political party committee is the sole determiner of the single political party precinct committeeman candidate whose name is submitted.

d) The county board of supervisors must appoint the political party precinct committeemen from the names submitted and those appointed for the 2022 term of office are deemed elected precinct committeemen for all purposes.

e) For any vacancies in the office of precinct committeeman that occur during the 2022 term of office, the county political party committee must appoint eligible people to fill the vacancies and must maintain a current roster of precinct committeemen for the remainder of the 2022 term, and no further action regarding vacancies is required by the county board of supervisors. (Sec. 4)

7. Makes technical and conforming changes. (Sec. 1, 2)

8. Contains an emergency clause. (Sec. 5)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes)   ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes)   ☒ Emergency (40 votes)   ☐ Fiscal Note