



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1597

early ballot on-site tabulation; requirement

Purpose

Requires, for a county with a population of 500,000 persons or more, every county recorder to provide for a method for an elector to have the elector's completed early ballot tabulated on site at a minimum of one polling place in each legislative district by the 2024 general election.

Background

Any election called pursuant to Arizona law must provide for any qualified elector to vote by early ballot ([A.R.S. § 16-541](#)). A county recorder or officer in charge of elections may allow a qualified elector who appears with the elector's voted early ballot and required identification at the elector's designated voting location on election day to have the voted early ballot tabulated on site. For a voting location that offers the on-site tabulation of early ballots, a county recorder or officer in charge of elections must: 1) designate an area within a precinct or voting center for processing electors with voted early ballots that is physically separate from the area for voters who are voting standard ballots on site; 2) provide adequate poll workers, election officials and equipment necessary to conduct early ballot on-site tabulation; 3) categorize and separately tally by precinct, in the official canvass and other reports, electors whose voted early ballots that are tabulated on site at the precinct or voting center; and 4) reconcile the number of electors who appear on the signature roster or electronic pollbook with the number of completed early ballot affidavits and early ballots tabulated on site for a polling place or voting center ([A.R.S. § 16-579.01](#)).

An elector who appears with the elector's voted early ballot at a voting location that allows for on-site tabulation of early ballots and who does not present valid identification must either: 1) deposit the elector's voted early ballot in the affidavit envelope in an official drop box; or 2) proceed to the area designated for election day voting to surrender the early ballot to the election board for retention. An elector that surrenders the elector's early ballot to an election board may vote a provisional ballot. For the on-site tabulation of early ballots under the observation of an election official, an elector must: 1) remove the early ballot from the completed affidavit envelope; 2) deposit the empty, completed affidavit envelope in the secured and labeled drop box; and 3) insert the early ballot into the tabulating machine ([A.R.S. § 16-579.02](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires, for a county with a population of 500,000 persons or more, every county recorder to provide for a method for an elector to have the elector's completed early ballot tabulated on site at a minimum of one polling place in each legislative district by the 2024 general election.

2. Makes technical changes.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Subjects only counties with a population of 500,000 persons or more to the on-site tabulation requirements.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. The committee amendment was withdrawn.
2. Requires the county recorder and other officer in charge of elections to provide for on-site tabulation of an early ballot at a minimum of one polling location in each legislative district, rather than every polling location.
3. Subjects only counties with a population of 500,000 persons or more to the on-site tabulation requirements.

Senate Action

ELEC 2/13/23 DPA 5-3-0

Prepared by Senate Research

March 7, 2023

AN/slp