REFERENCE TITLE: ballots; categories; count; identification number

State of Arizona Senate Fifty-sixth Legislature Second Regular Session 2024

SB 1375

Introduced by Senators Bolick: Bennett, Borrelli, Farnsworth, Gowan, Hoffman, Kavanagh; Representatives Jones, McGarr, Montenegro, Parker J, Wilmeth

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-502, 16-602 AND 16-663, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 16-502, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

16-502. Form and contents of ballot

- A. Ballots shall be printed with black ink on white paper of sufficient thickness to prevent the printing thereon from being discernible from the back, and the same type shall be used for the names of all candidates. The ballots shall be headed "official ballot" in bold-faced plain letters, with a heavy rule above and below the heading. Immediately below shall be placed the words "type of election, (date of election)" and the name of the county and state in which the election is held. The name or number of the precinct in which the election is held shall be placed on the ballot in a uniform location for all ballots. No other matter shall be placed or printed at the head of any ballot. Instructions to the voter on marking the ballot may be printed below the heading as follows:
 - 1. Put a mark according to the instructions next to the name of each candidate for each office for whom you wish to vote.
 - 2. If you wish to vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write such name in the blank space provided on the ballot and put a mark according to the instructions next to the name so written.
 - 3. Put a mark according to the instructions next to the word "yes" or "for" for each proposition or question you wish to be adopted. Put a mark according to the instructions next to the word "no" or "against" for each proposition or question you wish not to be adopted.

Section One Partisan Ballot

- C. Immediately below the heading for section one there shall be placed in columns the names of the candidates of the several political parties. Next to each candidate's name there shall be printed in bold-faced letters the name of the political party. At the head of each column shall be printed the names of the offices to be filled with the name of each office being of uniform type size. At the head of each column shall be printed in the following order the names of candidates for:
- 1. Presidential electors, which shall be in a list and next to the list shall be printed in bold type the surname of the presidential candidate, and the surname of the vice presidential candidate who is seeking election jointly with the presidential candidate shall be listed directly below the name of the presidential candidate. The indicator for

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 the selection of the presidential and vice presidential candidates shall be directly next to the surname of the presidential candidate, and one mark directly next to a presidential candidate's surname shall be counted as a vote for each elector in the list next to the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

- 2. United States senator.
- 3. Representatives in Congress.
- 4. The several state offices.
- 5. The several county and precinct offices.
- D. The names of candidates for the offices of state senator and state representative along with the district number shall be placed within the heading of each column to the right of the office name for state offices and immediately below the candidates for the office of governor. The number of the supervisorial district of which a candidate is a nominee shall be printed within the heading of each column to the right of the name of the office.
- E. The lists of the candidates of the several parties shall be arranged with the names of the parties in descending order according to the votes cast for governor for that county in the most recent general election for the office of governor, commencing with the left-hand column. In the case of political parties that did not have candidates on the ballot in the last general election, such parties shall be listed in alphabetical order below the parties that did have candidates on the ballot in the last general election. The names of all candidates nominated under section 16-341 shall be placed in a single column below that of the recognized parties. Next to the name of each candidate, in parentheses, shall be printed a three-letter abbreviation that is taken from the three words prescribed in the candidate's certificate of nomination.
- F. Immediately below the designation of the office to be voted for shall appear the words: "Vote for not more than $___$ " (insert the number to be elected).
- G. In each column at the right or left of the name of each candidate and on the same line there shall be a place for the voter to put a mark. Below the name of the last named candidate for each office there shall be as many blank lines as there are offices of the same title to be filled, with a place for the voter to put a mark. On the blank line the voter may write the name of any person for whom the voter desires to vote whose name is not printed, and next to the name so written the voter shall designate his choice by a mark as in the case of printed names.
- H. When there are two or more candidates of the same political party for the same office, or more than one candidate for a judicial office, the names of all such candidates shall be so alternated on the ballots used in each election district that the name of each candidate shall appear substantially an equal number of times in each possible

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location. If there are fewer or the same number of candidates seeking office than the number to be elected, the rotation of names is not required and the names shall be placed in alphabetical order.

I. Immediately below section one of the ballot shall be placed the following:

Section Two

Nonpartisan Ballot

- J. Immediately below the heading for section two shall be placed the names of the candidates for justices of the supreme court, judges of the court of appeals, judges of the superior court standing for retention or rejection pursuant to article VI, section 38, Constitution of Arizona, judges of the superior court standing for election pursuant to article VI, section 12, Constitution of Arizona, school district officials and other nonpartisan officials in a column or in columns without partisan or other designation except the title of office in an order determined by the officer in charge of the election.
- K. Immediately below the offices listed in subsection J of this section, the ballot shall contain a separate heading of any nonpartisan office for a vacant unexpired term and shall include the expiration date of the term of the vacated office.
- L. All proposed constitutional amendments and other propositions or questions to be submitted to the voters shall be printed immediately below the names of candidates for nonpartisan positions in such order as the secretary of state, or if a city or town election, the city or town clerk, designates. Placement οf county and local charter propositions or questions shall be determined by the officer in charge of the election. Except as provided by section 19-125, each proposition or question shall be followed by the words "yes" and "no" or "for _____" and "against _____" as the nature of the proposition or question requires, and at the right or left of and next to each of such words shall be a place for the voter to put a mark according to the instructions that is similar in size to those places appearing opposite the names of the candidates, in which the voter may indicate his vote for or against such proposition or question by a mark as defined in section 16-400.
- M. Instead of printing the official and descriptive titles or the full text of each measure or question on the official ballot, the officer in charge of elections may print phrases on the official ballot that contain all of the following:
- 1. The number of the measure in reverse type and at least twelve point TWELVE-POINT type.
- 2. The designation of the measure as prescribed by section 19-125, subsection C or as a question, proposition or charter amendment, followed by the words "relating to..." and inserting the subject.

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- 3. Either the statement prescribed by section 19-125, subsection D that describes the effects of a "yes" vote and a "no" vote or, for other measures, the text of the question or proposition.
- 4. The words "yes" and "no" or "for" and "against", as may be appropriate and a place for the voter to put a mark.
- N. For any ballot printed pursuant to subsection M of this section, the instructions on the official ballot shall direct the voter to the full text of the official and descriptive titles and the questions and propositions as printed on the sample ballot and posted in the polling place.
- O. EACH BALLOT SHALL BEAR A UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER OR OTHER UNIQUE DESIGNATION AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-602.
- Sec. 2. Section 16-602, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

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16-602. Removal of ballots from ballot boxes; ballot designation methods; designated margin; hand counts; vote count verification committee
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- A. For any primary, special or general election in which the votes are cast EITHER :
- 1. On an electronic voting machine or tabulator, the election judge shall compare the number of votes cast as indicated on the machine or tabulator with the number of votes cast as indicated on the poll list and the number of provisional ballots cast and that information shall be noted in a written report prepared and submitted to the officer in charge of elections along with other tally reports.
- 2. WITHOUT REGARD TO THE SYSTEM OR METHOD USED TO PRODUCE OR TABULATE BALLOTS, THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL MAINTAIN A COUNT OF THE NUMBER OF PHYSICAL BALLOTS THAT ARE PRINTED AND THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS THAT ARE OTHERWISE GENERATED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT OF ANY OVERLAP IN THOSE CATEGORIES, AND, AS EARLY BALLOTS ARE ORDERED, PRINTED, SPOILED AND CAST PROVISIONALLY, SHALL POST THAT INFORMATION ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE IN REAL TIME:
 - (a) EARLY BALLOTS.
 - (b) REGULAR BALLOTS.
 - (c) PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.
 - (d) FEDERAL-ONLY BALLOTS.
- (e) BALLOTS GENERATED IN AN ELECTRONIC FORM, ITEMIZED BY THE CATEGORIES PRESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH.
- B. BALLOTS THAT ARE USED IN AN ELECTION IN THIS STATE SHALL COMPLY WITH EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:
- 1. THE BALLOTS SHALL BE INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED CONSECUTIVELY, BEGINNING WITH THE NUMERAL 1, AND SHALL BE NUMBERED AND USED IN A MANNER THAT ALLOWS A SPECIFIC NUMERIC RANGE OF BALLOTS TO BE LINKED TO A SPECIFIC

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44 45 VOTING LOCATION. THESE BALLOTS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VOTERS NONSEQUENTIALLY TO PRESERVE BALLOT SECRECY.

- 2. THE BALLOTS SHALL BE PRENUMBERED AND SHALL BE DIVIDED INTO BATCHES OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED BALLOTS EACH FOR EACH ELECTION. EACH BATCH OF BALLOTS SHALL BE ASSIGNED TO AN ELECTION AND, WITHIN THAT ELECTION, ASSIGNED TO A VOTING LOCATION. THE RANGE OF BALLOTS USED FOR AN ELECTION SHALL BE RECORDED ON A MASTER LOG, WHICH SHALL BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, AND THE JURISDICTION SHALL TRACK WHICH BALLOTS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH VOTING LOCATION.
- C. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE ELECTION SHALL CHOOSE WHICH BALLOT DESIGNATION METHOD TO USE AND SHALL EITHER USE BLANK BALLOT STOCK WITH PREPRINTED NUMBERS OR USE A METHOD OF INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERING THE BALLOTS DURING THE PRINTING PROCESS.
- D. SUBSECTIONS A, B AND C OF THIS SECTION DO NOT AUTHORIZE A METHOD FOR PRINTING OR OTHERWISE GENERATING BALLOTS THAT IS NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR BY LAW.
- primary, countywide B. For each special. general presidential preference election, the county officer in charge of the election shall conduct a hand count at one or more secure facilities. hand count shall be conducted as prescribed by this section and in accordance with hand count procedures established by the secretary of state in the official instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452. The hand count is not subject to the live video requirements of section 16-621, subsection D, but representatives who are observing the hand count may bring their own video cameras in order to record the hand count. The recording shall not interfere with the conduct of the hand count and the officer in charge of the election may prohibit from recording or remove from the facility persons who are taking actions to disrupt the count. The sole act of recording the hand count does not constitute sufficient grounds for the officer in charge of the election to prohibit observers from recording or to remove them from the facility. The hand count shall be conducted in the following order:
- 1. At least two percent of the precincts in that county, or two precincts, whichever is greater, shall be selected at random from a pool consisting of every precinct in that county. The county political party chairman CHAIRPERSON for each political party that is entitled to continued representation on the state ballot or the chairman's CHAIRPERSON'S designee shall conduct the selection of the precincts to be hand counted. The precincts shall be selected by lot without the use of a computer, and the order of selection by the county political party thairmen CHAIRPERSONS shall also be by lot. The selection of the precincts shall not begin until all ballots voted in the precinct polling places have been delivered to the central counting center. The unofficial vote totals from all precincts shall be made public before selecting the

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precincts to be hand counted. Only the ballots cast in the polling places and ballots from direct recording electronic machines shall be included in the hand counts conducted pursuant to this section. Provisional ballots, conditional provisional ballots and write-in votes shall not be included in the hand counts and the early ballots shall be grouped separately by the officer in charge of elections for purposes of a separate manual audit pursuant to subsection \vdash I of this section.

- 2. The races to be counted on the ballots from the precincts that were selected pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection for each primary, special and general election shall include up to five contested races. After the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections separates the primary ballots by political party, the races to be counted shall be determined by selecting by lot without the use of a computer from those ballots as follows:
- (a) For a general election, one statewide ballot measure, unless there are no measures on the ballot.
 - (b) One contested statewide race for statewide office.
- (c) One contested race for federal office, either United States senate or United States house of representatives. If the United States house of representatives race is selected, the names of the candidates may vary among the sampled precincts.
- (d) One contested race for state legislative office, either state house of representatives or state senate. In either case, the names of the candidates may vary among the sampled precincts.
- (e) If there are fewer than four contested races resulting from the selections made pursuant to subdivisions (a) through (d) of this section PARAGRAPH and if there are additional contested federal, statewide or legislative races or ballot measures, additional contested races shall be selected by lot not using a computer until four races have been selected or until no additional contested federal, statewide or legislative races or ballot measures are available for selection.
- (f) If there are no contested races as prescribed by this paragraph, a hand count shall not be conducted for that precinct for that election.
- 3. For the presidential preference election, select by lot two percent of the polling places designated and used pursuant to section 16-248 and perform the hand count of those ballots.
- 4. For the purposes of this section, a write-in candidacy in a race does not constitute a contested race.
- 5. In elections in which there are candidates for president, the presidential race shall be added to the four categories of hand counted races.
- 6. Each county chairman CHAIRPERSON of a political party that is entitled to continued representation on the state ballot or the chairman's

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CHAIRPERSON'S designee shall select by lot the individual races to be hand counted pursuant to this section.

7. The county chairman CHAIRPERSON of each political party shall designate and provide the number of election board members as designated by the county officer in charge of elections who shall perform the hand count under the supervision of the county officer in charge of elections. For each precinct that is to be audited, the county chairmen CHAIRPERSONS shall designate at least two board workers who are registered members of any or no political party to assist with the audit. qualified elector from this state may be a board worker without regard to party designation. The county election officer shall compensation for those board workers, not to include travel, meal or lodging expenses. If there are less than two persons for each audited precinct available to participate on behalf of each recognized political party, the recorder or officer in charge of elections, with the approval of at least two county party chairpersons in the county in which the shortfall occurs, shall substitute additional individual electors who are provided by any political party from anywhere in the state without regard to party designation to conduct the hand count. A county party chairman CHAIRPERSON shall approve only those substitute electors who are provided by the county chairman's CHAIRPERSON'S political party. The political parties shall provide to the recorder or officer in charge of elections in writing the names of those persons intending to participate in the hand count at the audited precincts not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the election. If the total number of board workers provided by all parties is less than four times the number of precincts to be audited, the recorder or officer in charge of elections shall notify the parties of the shortage by 9:00 a.m. on the Wednesday preceding the election. The hand count shall not proceed unless the political parties provide the recorder or officer in charge of elections, in writing, a sufficient number of persons by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the election and a sufficient number of persons, pursuant to this paragraph, arrive to perform the hand count. The recorder or officer in charge of elections may prohibit persons from participating in the hand count if they are taking actions to disrupt the count or are unable to perform the duties as assigned. For the hand count to proceed, not more than seventy-five percent of the persons performing the hand count shall be from the same political party.

8. If a political party is not represented by a designated chairperson within a county, the state chairperson for that political party, or a person designated by the state chairperson, may perform the actions required by the county chairperson as specified in this section.

c. F. If the randomly selected races result in a difference in any race that is less than the designated margin when compared to the electronic tabulation of those same ballots, the results of the electronic

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 tabulation constitute the official count for that race. If the randomly selected races result in a difference in any race that is equal to or greater than the designated margin when compared to the electronic tabulation of those same ballots, a second hand count of those same ballots and races shall be performed. If the second hand count results in a difference in any race that is less than the designated margin when compared to the electronic tabulation for those same ballots, the electronic tabulation constitutes the official count for that race. If the second hand count results in a difference in any race that is equal to or greater than the designated margin when compared to the electronic tabulation for those same ballots, the hand count shall be expanded to include a total of twice the original number of randomly selected precincts. Those additional precincts shall be selected by lot without the use of a computer.

p. G. In any expanded count of randomly selected precincts, if the randomly selected precinct hand counts result in a difference in any race that is equal to or greater than the designated margin when compared to the electronic tabulation of those same ballots, the final hand count shall be extended to include the entire jurisdiction for that race. If the jurisdictional boundary for that race would include any portion of more than one county, the final hand count shall not be extended into the precincts of that race that are outside of the county that is conducting the expanded hand count. If the expanded hand count results in a difference in that race that is less than the designated margin when compared to the electronic tabulation of those same ballots, the electronic tabulation constitutes the official count for that race.

E. H. If a final hand count is performed for an entire jurisdiction for a race, the final hand count shall be repeated for that race until a hand count for that race for the entire jurisdiction results in a count that is identical to one other hand count for that race for the entire jurisdiction and that hand count constitutes the official count for that race.

or more times selected by the chairman CHAIRPERSON of the political parties entitled to continued representation on the ballot or the chairman's CHAIRPERSON'S designee, the chairmen CHAIRPERSONS or the chairmen's CHAIRPERSONS' designees shall randomly select one or more batches of early ballots that have been tabulated to include at least one batch from each machine used for tabulating early ballots and those ballots shall be securely sequestered by the county recorder or officer in charge of elections along with their unofficial tally reports for a postelection manual audit. The chairmen CHAIRPERSONS or the chairmen's CHAIRPERSONS' designees shall randomly select from those sequestered early ballots a number equal to one percent of the total number of early ballots cast or five thousand early ballots, whichever is less. From those

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44 45 randomly selected early ballots, the county officer in charge of elections shall conduct a manual audit of the same races that are being hand counted pursuant to subsection 🖰 E of this section. If the manual audit of the early ballots results in a difference in any race that is equal to or greater than the designated margin when compared to the electronically tabulated results for those same early ballots, the manual audit shall be repeated for those same early ballots. If the second manual audit results in a difference in that race that is equal to or greater than the designated margin when compared to the electronically tabulated results for those same early ballots, the manual audit shall be expanded only for that race to a number of additional early ballots equal to one percent of the total early ballots cast or an additional five thousand ballots, whichever is less, to be randomly selected from the batch or batches of sequestered early ballots. If the expanded early ballot manual audit results in a difference for that race that is equal to or greater than the designated margin when compared to any of the earlier manual counts for that race, the manual counts shall be repeated for that race until a manual count results in a difference in that race that is less than the designated margin. If at any point in the manual audit of early ballots the difference between any manual count of early ballots is less than the designated margin when compared to the electronic tabulation of those ballots, the electronic tabulation shall be included in the canvass and no further manual audit of the early ballots shall be conducted.

G. J. During any hand count of early ballots, the county officer in charge of elections and election board workers shall attempt to determine the intent of the voter in casting the ballot.

H. K. Notwithstanding any other law, the county officer in charge of elections shall retain custody of the ballots for purposes of performing any required hand counts and the officer shall provide for security for those ballots.

F. L. The hand counts prescribed by this section shall begin within twenty-four hours after the closing of the polls and shall be completed before the canvassing of the election for that county. The results of those hand counts shall be provided to the secretary of state, who shall make those results publicly available on the secretary of state's website.

J. M. For any county in which a hand count has been expanded to all precincts in the jurisdiction, the secretary of state shall make available the escrowed source code for that county to the superior court. The superior court shall appoint a special master to review the computer software. The special master shall have expertise in software engineering, shall not be affiliated with an election software vendor nor with a candidate, shall sign and be bound by a nondisclosure agreement regarding the source code itself and shall issue a public report to the court and to the secretary of state regarding the special master's

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 findings on the reasons for the discrepancies. The secretary of state shall consider the reports for purposes of reviewing the certification of that equipment and software for use in this state.

K. N. The vote count verification committee is established in the office of the secretary of state and all of the following apply:

- 1. At least thirty days before the 2006 primary election, The secretary of state shall appoint seven persons to the committee, not more than three of whom are members of the same political party.
- 2. Members of the committee shall have expertise in any two or more of the areas of advanced mathematics, statistics, random selection methods, systems operations or voting systems.
- 3. A person is not eligible to be a committee member if that person has been affiliated with or received any income in the preceding five years from any person or entity that provides election equipment or services in this state.
- 4. The vote count verification committee shall meet and establish one or more designated margins to be used in reviewing the hand counting of votes as required pursuant to this section. The committee shall review and consider revising the designated margins every two years for use in the applicable elections. The committee shall provide the designated margins to the secretary of state at least ten days before the primary election and at least ten days before the general election, and the secretary of state shall make that information publicly available on the secretary of state's website.
- 5. Members of the vote count verification committee are not eligible to receive compensation but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses pursuant to title 38, chapter 4, article 2. The committee is a public body and its meetings are subject to title 38, chapter 3, article 3.1 and its reports and records are subject to title 39, chapter 1.
- Sec. 3. Section 16-663, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

16-663. Recount of votes: method

- A. The superior court to which the facts requiring a recount are certified shall forthwith PROMPTLY make and enter an order requiring a recount of the votes cast for such office, measure or proposal. The recount shall be conducted in accordance with the laws pertaining to contests of elections.
- B. When the court orders A COURT-ORDERED recount of votes which THAT were cast and tabulated on electronic voting equipment, such recount shall be pursuant to section 16-664. On completion of the recount, and for legislative, statewide and federal candidate races only, the county chairmen CHAIRPERSON of the political parties entitled to continued representation on the ballot or the chairman's A CHAIRPERSON'S designee shall select at random without the use of a computer five per cent PERCENT of the precincts for the recounted race for a hand count, and if the

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results of that hand count when compared to the electronic tabulation of that same race are less than the designated margins calculated pursuant to section 16-602, the recount is complete and the electronic tabulation is the official result. If the hand count results in a difference that is equal to or greater than the designated margin for that race, the procedure PROCEDURES established in section 16-602, subsections C, D, E, and F, applies G, H AND I APPLY.

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