

REFERENCE TITLE: polling places; drop boxes; campuses

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

SB 1540

Introduced by
Senators Mendez: Alston, Bravo, Burch, Diaz, Gabaldón, Hatathlie,
Hernandez, Marsh, Sundareshan

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 16-411, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO ELECTION
PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 16-411, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-411. Designation of election precincts and polling places;
5 voting centers; electioneering; wait times

6 A. The board of supervisors of each county, on or before October 1
7 of each year preceding the year of a general election, by an order, shall
8 establish a convenient number of election precincts in the county and
9 define the boundaries of the precincts as follows:

10 1. The election precinct boundaries shall be established so as to
11 be included within election districts prescribed by law for elected
12 officers of the state and its political subdivisions, including community
13 college district precincts, except those elected officers provided for in
14 titles 30 and 48.

15 2. If after October 1 of the year preceding the year of a general
16 election the board of supervisors must further adjust precinct boundaries
17 due to the redistricting of election districts as prescribed by law and to
18 comply with this subsection, the board of supervisors shall adjust these
19 precinct boundaries as soon as is practicable.

20 B. At least twenty days before a general or primary election, and
21 at least ten days before a special election, the board shall designate one
22 polling place within each precinct where the election shall be held,
23 except that:

24 1. On a specific finding of the board, included in the order or
25 resolution designating polling places pursuant to this subsection, that no
26 suitable polling place is available within a precinct, a polling place for
27 that precinct may be designated within an adjacent precinct.

28 2. Adjacent precincts may be combined if boundaries so established
29 are included in election districts prescribed by law for state elected
30 officials and political subdivisions including community college districts
31 but not including elected officials prescribed by titles 30 and 48. The
32 officer in charge of elections may also split a precinct for
33 administrative purposes. The polling places shall be listed in separate
34 sections of the order or resolution.

35 3. On a specific finding of the board that the number of persons
36 who are listed as early voters pursuant to section 16-544 and who are not
37 expected to have their ballots tabulated at the polling place as
38 prescribed in section 16-579.02 is likely to substantially reduce the
39 number of voters appearing at one or more specific polling places at that
40 election, adjacent precincts may be consolidated by combining polling
41 places and precinct boards for that election. The board of supervisors
42 shall ensure that a reasonable and adequate number of polling places will
43 be designated for that election. Any consolidated polling places shall be
44 listed in separate sections of the order or resolution of the board.

1 4. On a specific resolution of the board, the board may authorize
2 the use of voting centers in place of or in addition to specifically
3 designated polling places. A voting center shall allow any voter in that
4 county to receive the appropriate ballot for that voter on election day
5 after presenting identification as prescribed in section 16-579 and to
6 lawfully cast the ballot. Voting centers may be established in
7 coordination and consultation with the county recorder, at other county
8 offices or at other locations in the county deemed appropriate.

9 5. On a specific resolution of the board of supervisors that is
10 limited to a specific election date and that is voted on by a recorded
11 vote, the board may authorize the county recorder or other officer in
12 charge of elections to use emergency voting centers as follows:

13 (a) The board shall specify in the resolution the location and the
14 hours of operation of the emergency voting centers.

15 (b) A qualified elector voting at an emergency voting center shall
16 provide identification as prescribed in section 16-579, except that
17 notwithstanding section 16-579, subsection A, paragraph 2, for any voting
18 at an emergency voting center, the county recorder or other officer in
19 charge of elections may allow a qualified elector to update the elector's
20 voter registration information as provided for in the secretary of state's
21 instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452.

22 (c) If an emergency voting center established pursuant to this
23 section becomes unavailable and there is not sufficient time for the board
24 of supervisors to convene to approve an alternate location for that
25 emergency voting center, the county recorder or other officer in charge of
26 elections may make changes to the approved emergency voting center
27 location and shall notify the public and the board of supervisors
28 regarding that change as soon as practicable. The alternate emergency
29 voting center shall be as close in proximity to the approved emergency
30 voting center location as possible.

31 C. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD OF
32 SUPERVISORS OF EACH COUNTY SHALL DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE POLLING PLACE OR
33 VOTING CENTER ON THE MAIN CAMPUS OF EACH STATE UNIVERSITY IN THAT COUNTY
34 AND SHALL PROVIDE FOR AT LEAST ONE EARLY BALLOT DROPBOX AT EACH STATE
35 UNIVERSITY SATELLITE LOCATION AND EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS AND
36 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SATELLITE LOCATION IN THAT COUNTY.

37 D. If the board fails to designate the place for holding the
38 election, or if it cannot be held at or about the place designated, the
39 justice of the peace in the precinct, two days before the election, by an
40 order, copies of which the justice of the peace shall immediately post in
41 three public places in the precinct, shall designate the place within the
42 precinct for holding the election. If there is no justice of the peace in
43 the precinct, or if the justice of the peace fails to do so, the election
44 board of the precinct shall designate and give notice of the place within
45 the precinct of holding the election. For any election in which there are

1 no candidates for elected office appearing on the ballot, the board may
2 consolidate polling places and precinct boards and may consolidate the
3 tabulation of results for that election if all of the following apply:

4 1. All affected voters are notified by mail of the change at least
5 thirty-three days before the election.

6 2. Notice of the change in polling places includes notice of the
7 new voting location, notice of the hours for voting on election day and
8 notice of the telephone number to call for voter assistance.

9 3. All affected voters receive information on early voting that
10 includes the application used to request an early voting ballot.

11 ~~D.~~ E. The board is not required to designate a polling place for
12 special district mail ballot elections held pursuant to article 8.1 of
13 this chapter, but the board may designate one or more sites for voters to
14 deposit marked ballots until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

15 ~~E.~~ F. Except as provided in subsection ~~F.~~ G of this section, a
16 public school shall provide sufficient space for use as a polling place
17 for any city, county or state election when requested by the officer in
18 charge of elections.

19 ~~F.~~ G. The principal of the school may deny a request to provide
20 space for use as a polling place for any city, county or state election
21 if, within two weeks after a request has been made, the principal provides
22 a written statement indicating a reason the election cannot be held in the
23 school, including any of the following:

24 1. Space is not available at the school.

25 2. The safety or welfare of the children would be jeopardized.

26 ~~G.~~ H. The board shall make available to the public as a public
27 record a list of the polling places for all precincts in which the
28 election is to be held.

29 ~~H.~~ I. Except in the case of an emergency, any facility that is
30 used as a polling place on election day or that is used as an early voting
31 site during the period of early voting shall allow persons to electioneer
32 and engage in other political activity outside of the seventy-five foot
33 limit prescribed by section 16-515 in public areas and parking lots used
34 by voters. This subsection does not allow the temporary or permanent
35 construction of structures in public areas and parking lots or the
36 blocking or other impairment of access to parking spaces for voters. The
37 county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall post on its
38 website at least two weeks before election day a list of those polling
39 places in which emergency conditions prevent electioneering and shall
40 specify the reason the emergency designation was granted and the number of
41 attempts that were made to find a polling place before granting an
42 emergency designation. If the polling place is not on the website list of
43 polling places with emergency designations, electioneering and other
44 political activity shall be allowed outside of the seventy-five foot
45 limit. If an emergency arises after the county recorder or other officer

1 in charge of elections' initial website posting, the county recorder or
2 other officer in charge of elections shall update the website as soon as
3 is practicable to include any new polling places, shall highlight the
4 polling place location on the website and shall specify the reason the
5 emergency designation was granted and the number of attempts that were
6 made to find a polling place before granting an emergency designation.

7 ~~+~~ J. For the purposes of this section, a county recorder or other
8 officer in charge of elections shall designate a polling place as an
9 emergency polling place and thus prohibit persons from electioneering and
10 engaging in other political activity outside of the seventy-five foot
11 limit prescribed by section 16-515 but inside the property of the facility
12 that is hosting the polling place if any of the following occurs:

13 1. An act of God renders a previously set polling place as
14 unusable.

15 2. A county recorder or other officer in charge of elections has
16 exhausted all options and there are no suitable facilities in a precinct
17 that are willing to be a polling place unless a facility can be given an
18 emergency designation.

19 ~~+~~ K. The secretary of state shall provide through the
20 instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452 the
21 maximum allowable wait time for any election that is subject to section
22 16-204 and provide for a method to reduce voter wait time at the polls in
23 the primary and general elections. The method shall consider at least all
24 of the following for primary and general elections in each precinct:

25 1. The number of ballots voted in the prior primary and general
26 elections.

27 2. The number of registered voters who voted early in the prior
28 primary and general elections.

29 3. The number of registered voters and the number of registered
30 voters who cast an early ballot for the current primary or general
31 election.

32 4. The number of registered voters whose early ballots were
33 tabulated on-site as prescribed in section 16-579.02 in the prior primary
34 and general elections.

35 5. The number of election board members and clerks and the number
36 of rosters that will reduce voter wait time at the polls.