



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Regular Session*

**VETOED**

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1001

early ballots; identification; tabulation

Purpose

Requires early ballots to be returned to the county recorder or a designated location by 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day, after which a voter must present prescribed identification, in order for the ballot to be counted and valid. Allows county recorders to provide for on-site tabulation of early ballots at any time during the period of early voting, rather than only on election day. Eliminates emergency voting that occurs between 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day and 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before election day.

Background

Any election called pursuant to Arizona law must provide for early voting, including accessible voting by U.S. mail for persons who are blind or have a visual impairment. Any qualified elector may vote by early ballot by making a request for a one-time early ballot as provided by statute or by requesting to be on the Active Early Voter List (AEVL) which allows a voter to vote by early mail ballot until the voter fails to vote an early ballot for two consecutive election cycles (A.R.S. §§ [16-541](#) and [16-544](#)). Statute requires early voters to secure their ballot in a provided envelope, together with the prescribed affidavit, and either deliver or mail the secured ballot to the appropriate county recorder or deposit the secured ballot at any polling place in the county. In order to be counted and valid, the ballot must be received by the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day, or deposited by the voter or the voter's agent at any polling place in the county no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day ([A.R.S. § 16-548](#)). A voter may also choose to vote early in-person at any on-site early voting location up to 27 days before the election and until 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election ([A.R.S. § 16-542](#)). Before receiving a ballot at any on-site early voting location, a voter must provide identification as prescribed by statute ([A.R.S. § 16-579](#)).

Upon receipt of a voted early ballot and completed affidavit, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections must compare the signature on the affidavit with the voter's signature in the voter's registration record. If satisfied that the signatures were made by the same person, the county recorder must place a distinguishing mark on the unopened affidavit envelope to indicate that the signature is sufficient, and the ballot is ready for further processing and tabulation ([A.R.S. § 16-550](#)). Beginning in 2026, an early voter may also present their voted ballot along with prescribed forms of voter identification and, upon confirming that the name and address on the voter's identification appear to match the information shown on the voter's registration record, the election official must stamp the signed affidavit with a stamp that reads ID verified, thereby allowing the ballot to bypass additional signature verification ([A.R.S. § 16-579](#)).

Statute delegates the authority to establish emergency voting centers to the county board of supervisors ([A.R.S. § 16-411](#)). If a voter experiences an emergency between 7:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election and 5:00 p.m. on the Monday preceding the election, the voter may request to vote at an emergency voting center. The voter must present valid voter identification and sign a statement under penalty of perjury that the person is experiencing an emergency that would prevent the person from voting at the polls ([A.R.S. § 16-542](#)).

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

#### Provisions

1. Requires a voted early ballot to be deposited at a designated location, including the county recorder, by 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day, after which the voter must present identification as prescribed and sign the signature roster or electronic pollbook prior to depositing the ballot.
2. Requires a ballot that is mailed to the county recorder to be received no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day in order to be valid and counted.
3. Requires a voted early ballot delivered to an early voting location that provides for on-site tabulation, or delivered after 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day, to be tabulated according to prescribed procedures.
4. Requires a voter, if their ballot is delivered by the voter's agent to any location in the county after 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day, to present identification in order for their ballot to be valid and counted.
5. Requires a person who appears personally at an early voting location during the period of early voting including the Saturday, Sunday and Monday before election day, with a ballot that was mailed to them, to present identification, sign the early voter affidavit, appropriately mark the ballot and return it to the election official.
6. Stipulates that any voter whose ballot is dropped off by the voter or the voter's agent after the 7:00 p.m. Friday deadline will be removed from the Active Early Voting List if they do not present sufficient identification.
7. Modifies instructions that must be provided to early voters to reflect these new deadlines.
8. Specifies that these new voter instructions go into effect on the general effective date, rather than January 1, 2026.
9. Expands in-person early voting to include the Saturday, Sunday and Monday before election day.
10. Eliminates emergency voting between 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day and 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before election day and repeals the statute delegating the authority to establish emergency voting centers to the county board of supervisors.

11. Requires all government-owned buildings or facilities of a county, city, town, or a school district office, to be made available as voting locations when requested by the officer in charge of elections.
12. Requires a school that serves grades 7 through 12 to provide sufficient space for use as a voting location if the officer in charge of elections is unable to obtain sufficient voting places from all other prescribed locations.
13. Removes the ability of a school principal to deny a request from the officer in charge of elections to use the school as a voting location.
14. Stipulates that if the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections is not able to revise precinct registers and other elections materials in a timely manner to indicate which voters have requested an early ballot, which have already voted, and which are on the inactive list, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections may not operate an on-site early voting location after 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election.
15. Specifies that the signature cure period consists of five calendar days after the election, rather than five business days.
16. Exempts county recorders from early ballot hard count requirements if the county provides for on-site tabulation of early ballots.
17. Requires the county board of supervisors or other officer in charge of elections in a county that provides for on-site tabulation to test electronic ballot tabulating equipment for logic and accuracy within 50 days before the election day.
18. Specifies that this 50-day deadline does not impact deadlines for performing logic and accuracy testing on other equipment.
19. Provides that voted early ballots returned to voting locations may be removed before the polls close if the ballot has been signature verified and if the ballot is removed by two authorized election workers who:
  - a) are members of differing political parties;
  - b) have completed a chain of custody log maintained at the voting location that includes the total count of early ballots being transported; and
  - c) deliver the ballots to a designated receiving site that is an official elections facility and not a third-party vendor.
20. Requires the chain of custody log for early ballots returned at voting locations on election day to be available for inspection by the public, the political parties, committees representing ballot measures and the candidates on the ballot within 48 hours after election day.
21. Requires election officials at voting locations to maintain a tally of the number of ballots that have been deposited in the secured ballot box that is designated for verified early ballots.
22. Requires the statement issued by an election official relating to ballot chain of custody to:
  - a) affirm that the election official required every voter to present prescribed identification;

- b) confirm the name and address on the identification presented by each voter reasonably appeared to be the same name and address on each voter's early mail affidavit; and
  - c) for any completed early mail affidavit that is deposited in the secured ballot box designated for verified early ballots and that is not stamped *ID Verified*, process that ballot as prescribed.
23. Requires each polling location that is open for early voting or on election day to include a minimum of at least one secure ballot box for a voter to deposit the voter's completed early ballot and at least one secure ballot box for a voter who presents identification along with their ballot for signature verification and stamping.
24. Requires each type of ballot box to be physically separated and clearly labeled.
25. Requires the election official in charge of the polling location to ensure that a voter who does not present identification is not able to deposit the voter's completed early ballot in the ballot box designated for verified early ballots.
26. Modifies language referring to *drop boxes* to instead refer to them as *secured containers*.
27. Makes technical and conforming changes.
28. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Beginning on the general effective date, modifies procedures that must be followed in order for a voted early ballot to be valid and counted by:
  - a) specifying that a ballot must be deposited at a designated location, including the county recorder if applicable, rather than any polling place, by 7:00 p.m. the Friday before the election, after which the voter must present identification;
  - b) specifying that if a voter's agent delivers a voter's ballot to any location in the county after the 7:00 p.m. Friday deadline, the voter must present identification; and
  - c) requiring a person who appears personally at an early voting location during the period of early voting with a ballot that was mailed to them to present identification and follow instructions to have the ballot processed accordingly.
2. Stipulates that for counties that provide for on-site tabulation, a person who appears personally at an on-site tabulation location after the 7:00 p.m. Friday deadline must submit their early ballot and affidavit to the election official to allow the ballot to be tabulated as prescribed.
3. Stipulates that any voter whose ballot is dropped off by the voter or the voter's agent after the 7:00 p.m. Friday deadline will be removed from the Active Early Voting List if they do not present sufficient identification.
4. Modifies early ballot instructions to reflect new procedures and requirements for dropping off early ballots.
5. Requires all government-owned buildings or facilities of a county, city, town, or a school district office, to be made available as voting locations when requested by the officer in charge of elections.

6. Requires a school that serves grades 7 through 12 to provide sufficient space for use as a voting location if the officer in charge of elections is unable to obtain sufficient voting places from all other prescribed locations.
7. Removes the ability of a school principal to deny a request from the officer in charge of elections to use the school as a voting location.
8. Eliminates emergency voting between 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day and 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before election day and repeals the statute delegating the authority to establish emergency voting centers to the county board of supervisors.
9. Extends on-site early voting from the Friday before election day to the Saturday, Sunday and Monday before election day.
10. Specifies that the signature cure period consists of five calendar days after the election, rather than five business days.
11. Exempts county recorders from early ballot hard count requirements if the county provides for on-site tabulation of early ballots.
12. Requires the county board of supervisors or other officer in charge of elections in a county that provides for on-site tabulation to test electronic ballot tabulating equipment for logic and accuracy within 50 days before the election day.
13. Specifies that this 50-day deadline does not impact deadlines for performing logic and accuracy testing on other equipment.
14. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Governor's Veto Message

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that S.B. 1001 presents unacceptable challenges for voters who must rely on family members or caregivers to drop off their ballot and that speed of counting votes must be balanced with accessibility, accuracy and security.

Senate Action

JUDE            2/19/25    DP    4-3-0  
3<sup>rd</sup> Read        3/17/25            17-10-2-1

House Action

FMAE            3/26/25    DP            4-2-0-1  
3<sup>rd</sup> Read        6/24/25            29-26-5  
3<sup>rd</sup> Read\*       6/24/25            31-25-4  
*\*on reconsideration*

Vetoed by the Governor 7/1/25

Prepared by Senate Research

July 7, 2025

ZD/ci