

Senate Engrossed House Bill

JPs; constables; signatures

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

HOUSE BILL 2391

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 16-322, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO NOMINATING PROCEDURES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 16-322, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-322. Number of signatures required on nomination petitions

5 A. Nomination petitions shall be signed by a number of qualified
6 signers equal to:

7 1. If for a candidate for the office of United States senator or
8 for a state office, excepting members of the legislature and superior
9 court judges, at least one-fourth of one percent but not more than ten
10 percent of the total number of qualified signers in the state.

11 2. If for a candidate for the office of representative in Congress,
12 at least one-half of one percent but not more than ten percent of the
13 total number of qualified signers in the district from which the
14 representative shall be elected except that if for a candidate for a
15 special election to fill a vacancy in the office of representative in
16 Congress, at least one-fourth of one percent but not more than ten percent
17 of the total number of qualified signers in the district from which the
18 representative shall be elected.

19 3. If for a candidate for the office of member of the legislature,
20 at least one-half of one percent but not more than three percent of the
21 total number of qualified signers in the district from which the member of
22 the legislature may be elected.

23 4. If for a candidate for a county office or superior court judge,
24 at least one percent but not more than ten percent of the total number of
25 qualified signers in the county or district, except that if for a
26 candidate from a county with a population of two hundred thousand persons
27 or more, at least one-fourth of one percent but not more than ten percent
28 of the total number of qualified signers in the county or district.

29 5. If for a candidate for a community college district, at least
30 one-quarter of one percent but not more than ten percent of the total
31 voter registration in the precinct as established pursuant to section
32 15-1441. Notwithstanding the total voter registration in the community
33 college district, the maximum number of signatures required by this
34 paragraph is one thousand.

35 6. If for a candidate for county precinct committeeman, at least
36 two percent but not more than ten percent of the party voter registration
37 in the precinct or ten signatures, whichever is less.

38 7. If for a candidate for justice of the peace or constable IN A
39 COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION PERSONS OR MORE, at least one
40 percent but not more than ten percent of the number of qualified signers
41 in the precinct.

1 8. IF FOR A CANDIDATE FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OR CONSTABLE IN A
2 COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN ONE MILLION PERSONS, AT LEAST ONE
3 PERCENT BUT NOT MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED SIGNERS
4 IN THE PRECINCT OR THREE HUNDRED SIGNATURES, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

5 ~~8.~~ 9. If for a candidate for mayor or other office nominated by a
6 city at large, at least five percent and not more than ten percent of the
7 designated party vote in the city, except that a city that chooses to hold
8 nonpartisan elections may provide by ordinance that the minimum number of
9 signatures required for the candidate be one thousand signatures or five
10 percent of the vote in the city, whichever is less, but not more than ten
11 percent of the vote in the city.

12 ~~9.~~ 10. If for an office nominated by ward, precinct or other
13 district of a city, at least five percent and not more than ten percent of
14 the designated party vote in the ward, precinct or other district, except
15 that a city that chooses to hold nonpartisan elections may provide by
16 ordinance that the minimum number of signatures required for the candidate
17 be two hundred fifty signatures or five percent of the vote in the
18 district, whichever is less, but not more than ten percent of the vote in
19 the district.

20 ~~10.~~ 11. If for a candidate for an office nominated by a town at
21 large, by a number of qualified electors who are qualified to vote for the
22 candidate whose nomination petition they are signing equal to at least
23 five percent and not more than ten percent of the vote in the town, except
24 that a town that chooses to hold nonpartisan elections may provide by
25 ordinance that the minimum number of signatures required for the candidate
26 be one thousand signatures or five percent of the vote in the town,
27 whichever is less, but not more than ten percent of the vote in the town.

28 ~~11.~~ 12. If for a candidate for a governing board of a school
29 district or a career technical education district, at least one-half of
30 one percent of the total voter registration in the school district or
31 career technical education district if the board members are elected at
32 large or one percent of the total voter registration in the single member
33 district if governing board members are elected from single member
34 districts or one-half of one percent of the total voter registration in
35 the single member district if career technical education district board
36 members are elected from single member districts. Notwithstanding the
37 total voter registration in the school district, career technical
38 education district or single member district of the school district or
39 career technical education district, the maximum number of signatures
40 required by this paragraph is four hundred.

41 ~~12.~~ 13. If for a candidate for a governing body of a special
42 district as described in title 48, at least one-half of one percent of the
43 vote in the special district but not more than two hundred fifty and not
44 fewer than five signatures.

1 B. The basis of percentage in each instance referred to in
2 subsection A of this section, except in cities, towns and school
3 districts, shall be the number of qualified signers as determined from the
4 voter registration totals as reported pursuant to section 16-168,
5 subsection ~~G~~ H on January 2 of the year in which the general election is
6 held. In cities, the basis of percentage shall be the vote of the party
7 for mayor at the last preceding election at which a mayor was elected. In
8 towns, the basis of percentage shall be the highest vote cast for an
9 elected official of the town at the last preceding election at which an
10 official of the town was elected. In school districts or career technical
11 education districts, the basis of percentage shall be the total number of
12 active registered voters in the school district or career technical
13 education district or single member district, whichever applies. The
14 total number of active registered voters for school districts or career
15 technical education districts shall be calculated using the periodic
16 reports prepared by the county recorder pursuant to section 16-168,
17 subsection ~~G~~ H. The count that is reported on January 2 of the year in
18 which the general election is held shall be the basis for the calculation
19 of total voter registration for school districts or career technical
20 education districts.

21 C. In primary elections the signature requirement for party
22 nominees, other than nominees of the parties entitled to continued
23 representation pursuant to section 16-804, is at least one-tenth of one
24 percent of the total vote for the winning candidate or candidates for
25 governor or presidential electors at the last general election within the
26 district. Signatures must be obtained from qualified electors who are
27 qualified to vote for the candidate whose nomination petition they are
28 signing.

29 D. If new boundaries for congressional districts or legislative
30 districts are established and effective subsequent to January 2 of the
31 year of a general election and before the first date for filing of
32 nomination petitions, the basis for determining the required number of
33 nomination petition signatures is the number of qualified signers in the
34 elective office or district that was effective on January 2 of the year of
35 a general election. If new boundaries for supervisorial districts,
36 justice precincts or election precincts are adopted after January 2 of the
37 year of a general election and before the last date for filing of
38 nomination petitions for the elective office, district or precinct, the
39 basis for determining the required number of nomination petition
40 signatures is the number of qualified signers in the elective office,
41 district or precinct on the effective date of the new district or
42 precinct.

1 Sec. 2. Petition signature requirements: justice of the
2 peace; constable; publicity; notice

3 The filing officer for candidates for county offices in a county
4 with a population of less than one million persons shall:

5 1. Publicize the revised petition signature requirements prescribed
6 by section 16-322, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, for
7 candidates for justice of the peace and constable for 2026.

8 2. Provide notice of the revised petition signature requirements to
9 every candidate who files or has filed a statement of interest for justice
10 of the peace or constable for 2026 and to every person who requests or has
11 requested a candidate information packet for justice of the peace or
12 constable for 2026.