

House Engrossed

school districts; elections; term limits

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE BILL 2318

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-424, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-424, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-424. Election of governing board members; terms; reduction
5 of membership; statement of contributions and
6 expenditures; term limits

7 A. A regular election shall be held for each school district at the
8 time and place, and in the manner, of general elections as provided in
9 title 16.

10 B. Except as provided in subsection C of this section and sections
11 15-429 and 15-430, the term of office for each member shall be four years
12 from January 1 next following the member's election.

13 C. At the first general election held for a newly formed district,
14 three members shall be elected. The candidate receiving the highest
15 number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term, and the candidates
16 having the second and third highest number of votes shall be elected to
17 two-year terms. A district increasing its governing board to five members
18 shall elect at the next general election members in the following manner:

19 1. If one of the previous three offices is to be filled, the three
20 candidates receiving the highest, the second highest and the third highest
21 number of votes shall be elected to four-year terms.

22 2. If two of the previous three offices are to be filled, the
23 candidates receiving the highest, the second highest and the third highest
24 number of votes shall be elected to four-year terms. The candidate
25 receiving the fourth highest number of votes shall be elected to a
26 two-year term. Thereafter, all such offices shall have four-year terms.

27 D. A member who is serving on a governing board for a district that
28 reduces the number of its governing board members to three pursuant to
29 section 15-425.01 shall continue to serve as a member of the governing
30 board until expiration of the member's current term of office. A district
31 that reduces the number of its governing board members to three pursuant
32 to section 15-425.01 shall reduce the number of its members as follows:

33 1. If two of the previous five offices are expiring at the first
34 general election held after the general election in which a district
35 reduces the number of its governing board members to three pursuant to
36 section 15-425.01:

37 (a) At the first general election held after the general election
38 in which a district reduces the number of its governing board members to
39 three pursuant to section 15-425.01, the candidate receiving the highest
40 number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term.

41 (b) At the second general election held after the general election
42 in which a district reduces the number of its governing board members to
43 three pursuant to section 15-425.01, the candidates receiving the highest
44 and second highest number of votes shall be elected to four-year terms.

1 2. If three of the previous five offices are expiring at the first
2 general election held after the general election in which a district
3 reduces the number of its governing board members to three pursuant to
4 section 15-425.01, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes
5 shall be elected to a four-year term at the election.

6 E. If only one person files a nominating petition or nomination
7 paper for a write-in candidate for an election to fill a district office,
8 the board of supervisors, not earlier than one hundred five days before
9 the election, may cancel the election for the position and appoint the
10 person who filed the nominating petition or nomination paper to fill the
11 position. If no person files a nominating petition or nomination paper
12 for an election to fill a district office, the board of supervisors, not
13 earlier than one hundred five days before the election, may cancel the
14 election for that office and that office is deemed vacant and shall be
15 filled as provided in section 15-302. A person who is appointed pursuant
16 to this subsection is fully vested with the powers and duties of the
17 office as if elected to that office.

18 F. If two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes for
19 the same office, and a higher number than any other candidate for that
20 office, whether on the tally by the school election board or canvass of
21 returns by the board of supervisors, or on recount by a court, the officer
22 or board whose duty it is to declare the result shall determine by lot and
23 in the presence of the candidates which candidate shall be declared
24 elected.

25 G. THE position of the names of candidates for each office shall be
26 rotated so that each candidate occupies each position on the ballot an
27 equal number of times, insofar as is possible, for each ballot style. For
28 candidates seeking election to fill a vacancy on the governing board, the
29 ballot shall be designated as provided in section 16-502.

30 H. This section does not require that a school election at which no
31 member is to be elected be held on a general election day.

32 I. All candidates for the office of school district governing board
33 member shall file with the county school superintendent a statement of
34 contributions and expenditures as provided in section 16-926.

35 J. A PERSON IS INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION OR
36 ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT
37 THAT HAS A STUDENT COUNT OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY IF BOTH OF THE
38 FOLLOWING APPLY:

39 1. THE PERSON WILL HAVE SERVED AT LEAST EIGHT CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS
40 A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE
41 TERM OF OFFICE FOR WHICH THE PERSON SEEKS ELECTION.

42 2. FEWER THAN FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE LAST DAY OF THE
43 PERSON'S MOST RECENT TERM OF OFFICE AS A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER FOR THE
44 SCHOOL DISTRICT.

1 K. A PERSON WHO IS INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION OR
2 ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION J
3 OF THIS SECTION IS ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE
4 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-302, SUBSECTION A,
5 PARAGRAPH 3.

6 Sec. 2. Retention of members

7 Notwithstanding section 15-424, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended
8 by this act, all persons serving as members of a school district governing
9 board on the effective date of this act may continue to serve until the
10 expiration of their current terms. Any school district governing board
11 member who is a candidate for nomination or election after the effective
12 date of this act is subject to the term limits prescribed by statute.