

REFERENCE TITLE: elections; July primary; curing; observers

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

HB 2022

Introduced by
Representative Kolodin

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-201, 16-204, 16-206, 16-550, 16-558.02 AND 16-590,
ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 16-201, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-201. Primary elections

5 A primary election shall be held on the ~~first~~ LAST Tuesday in ~~August~~
6 JULY in any year in which a general election or special election is held
7 and at which candidates for public office are to be elected.

8 Sec. 2. Section 16-204, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
9 read:

10 16-204. Declaration of statewide concern: consolidated
11 election dates; definition

12 A. The legislature finds and determines that for the purposes of
13 increasing voter participation and for decreasing the costs to the
14 taxpayers it is a matter of statewide concern that all elections in this
15 state be conducted on a limited number of days and, therefore, the
16 legislature finds and declares that the holding of all elections on
17 certain specific consolidated days is a matter of statewide concern. This
18 section preempts all local laws, ordinances and charter provisions to the
19 contrary.

20 B. For elections held before 2014 and notwithstanding any other law
21 or any charter or ordinance of any county, city or town to the contrary,
22 an election held for or on behalf of a county, city or town, a school
23 district, a community college district or special districts organized
24 pursuant to title 48, chapters 5, 6, 8, 10, 13 through 16 and 33 may only
25 be held on the following dates:

26 1. Except for regular elections for candidates in a city or town
27 with a population of one hundred seventy-five thousand or more persons,
28 all elections, including recall elections and special elections to fill
29 vacancies, shall be held on:

30 (a) The second Tuesday in March.

31 (b) The third Tuesday in May.

32 (c) The tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first
33 Monday in November.

34 (d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
35 Notwithstanding any other law, an election must be held on this date for
36 the approval of an obligation or other authorization requiring or
37 authorizing the assessment of secondary property taxes by a county, city,
38 town, school district, community college district or special taxing
39 district, except as provided by title 48.

40 2. For regular elections that are only for candidates in a city or
41 town with a population of one hundred seventy-five thousand or more
42 persons and not including recall elections and special elections to fill
43 vacancies in those cities or towns, elections shall be held on:

44 (a) The tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first
45 Monday in November.

1 (b) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

2 C. For elections held before 2014, for any city or town, including
3 a charter city, that holds its regularly scheduled candidate elections in
4 even-numbered years pursuant to subsection B, paragraph 2 of this section,
5 the term of office for a member of the city council or for the office of
6 mayor begins on or after the second Tuesday in January in the year
7 following the election.

8 D. Subsections B and C of this section do not apply to an election
9 regarding a county or city charter committee or county or city charter
10 proposal that is conducted pursuant to article XIII, section 2 or 3 or
11 article XII, section 5, Constitution of Arizona.

12 E. Beginning with elections held in 2014 and later and
13 notwithstanding any other law or any charter or ordinance to the contrary,
14 a candidate election held for or on behalf of any political subdivision of
15 this state other than a special election to fill a vacancy or a recall
16 election may only be held on the following dates and only in even-numbered
17 years:

18 1. ~~Through 2019, the tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after~~
19 ~~the first Monday in November.~~ Beginning in ~~2020~~ 2026 and later, the
20 ~~election shall be held on the first~~ LAST Tuesday in ~~August~~ JULY. If the
21 political subdivision holds a primary or first election and a general or
22 runoff election is either required or optional for that political
23 subdivision, the first election shall be held on this date, without regard
24 to whether the political subdivision designates the election a primary
25 election, a first election, a preliminary election or any other
26 descriptive term.

27 2. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. If the
28 political subdivision holds a general election or a runoff election, the
29 second election held shall be held on this date. If the political
30 subdivision holds only a single election and no preliminary or primary or
31 other election is ever held for the purpose of reducing the number of
32 candidates, or receiving a partisan nomination or designation or for any
33 other purpose for that political subdivision, the single election shall be
34 held on this date.

35 F. Beginning with elections held in 2014 and later that are not
36 candidate elections, an election held for or on behalf of any political
37 subdivision of this state, and including a special election to fill a
38 vacancy or a recall election, may only be held on the following dates:

39 1. The second Tuesday in March.

40 2. The third Tuesday in May.

41 3. ~~Through 2019, the tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after~~
42 ~~the first Monday in November.~~ Beginning in ~~2020~~ 2026 and later, the
43 ~~election shall be held on the first~~ LAST Tuesday in ~~August~~ JULY.

44 4. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
45 Notwithstanding any other law, an election must be held on this date for

1 the approval of an obligation or other authorization requiring or
2 authorizing the assessment of secondary property taxes by a county, city,
3 town, school district, community college district or special taxing
4 district, except as provided by title 48. Notwithstanding any other law,
5 an election must be held on the date specified in this paragraph and only
6 in even-numbered years for the approval of or authorizing the assessment
7 of transaction privilege taxes by a county, city or town.

8 G. Notwithstanding any other law, for an election administered by a
9 county recorder or other officer in charge of elections on behalf of a
10 city, town or school district and that is an all mail ballot election for
11 that city, town or school district, the county recorder or other officer
12 in charge of elections may use a unified ballot format that combines all
13 of the issues applicable to the voters in the city, town or school
14 district requesting the all mail ballot election.

15 H. For the purposes of this section, "political subdivision" means
16 any governmental entity operating under the authority of this state and
17 governed by an elected body, including a city, town, county, school
18 district or community college district or any other district organized
19 under state law but not including a special taxing district.

20 Sec. 3. Section 16-206, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
21 read:

22 16-206. Election day

23 A. The biennial primary election day on the ~~first~~ LAST Tuesday in
24 ~~August~~ JULY in the year the general election is held and the biennial
25 general election day on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in
26 November of every even-numbered year are not legal holidays.

27 B. Every public officer or employee is entitled to absence from
28 service or employment for the purpose of voting pursuant to section 16-402
29 on the biennial primary and general election days.

30 Sec. 4. Section 16-550, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
31 read:

32 16-550. Receipt of voter's ballot; cure period; tracking
33 system

34 A. Except for early ballots tabulated as prescribed in section
35 16-579.02 or, beginning in 2026, received at a voting location after a
36 voter's identification is confirmed as prescribed by section 16-579,
37 subsection A, paragraph 4, on receipt of the envelope containing the early
38 ballot and the mail affidavit, the county recorder or other officer in
39 charge of elections shall compare the signature on the envelope with the
40 signature of the elector on the elector's registration record as
41 prescribed by section 16-550.01. If the signature is inconsistent with
42 the elector's signature on the elector's registration record, the county
43 recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall make reasonable
44 efforts to contact the voter, advise the voter of the inconsistent
45 signature and allow the voter to correct or the county to confirm the

1 inconsistent signature. The county recorder or other officer in charge of
2 elections shall allow signatures to be corrected not later than the fifth
3 ~~business~~ CALENDAR day after a primary, general or special election that
4 includes a federal office or the third business day after any other
5 election. If the election is a primary, general or special election that
6 includes a federal office and there are outstanding ballots that require
7 identification or ballot signatures to be corrected or confirmed, in
8 addition to the office's regular business hours, the county recorder's and
9 any city or town clerks' offices that have an agreement with a county to
10 be used as locations at which a voter may submit proof of identification
11 shall be open during regular business hours to allow for curing signatures
12 during the Friday and weekend before and the Friday and weekend after the
13 election. Regular business hours include at a minimum 8:00 a.m. until
14 5:00 p.m. If there are no ballots remaining that require identification
15 or signatures to be cured, the county recorder and city and town clerks
16 are not required to be open during the weekend. If the signature is
17 missing, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
18 make reasonable efforts to contact the elector, advise the elector of the
19 missing signature and allow the elector to add the elector's signature not
20 later than 7:00 p.m. on election day. If satisfied that the signatures
21 correspond, the recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
22 hold the envelope containing the early ballot and the completed mail
23 affidavit unopened in accordance with the rules of the secretary of state.
24 Signatures that cannot be verified pursuant to section 16-550.01 or cured
25 pursuant to this section shall be rejected. If the ballot is a
26 conditional provisional ballot, the voter shall provide proof of
27 identification to the county recorder or other officer in charge of
28 elections not later than the fifth business day after a primary, general
29 or special election that includes a federal office or the third business
30 day after any other election. Beginning with the first missing or
31 mismatched signature that is identified after the period of early voting
32 begins through the Monday immediately preceding the election, the county
33 recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall submit daily to the
34 political parties that are qualified for continued representation on the
35 state ballot an updated list of all voters whose signatures are missing or
36 inconsistent with the voter's signature on the voter's registration
37 record. Beginning on the Wednesday immediately following the election
38 through the end of the signature cure period after a primary, general or
39 special election that includes a federal office, or the third business day
40 after the election for any other election, the county recorder or other
41 officer in charge of elections shall submit daily to the political parties
42 that are qualified for continued representation on the state ballot an
43 updated list of all voters whose signatures are inconsistent with the
44 voter's signature on the voter's registration record and all voters who
45 voted with a conditional provisional ballot. This list of voters whose

1 signatures require curing shall include for those voters all voter
2 information that is provided to the political parties that are qualified
3 for continued representation on the state ballot as prescribed by section
4 16-168.

5 B. The recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
6 thereafter safely keep the mail affidavits and early ballots in the
7 recorder's or other officer's office and may deliver them for tallying
8 pursuant to section 16-551.

9 C. Processing and tabulation of individual ballots may begin
10 immediately after the envelope and completed mail affidavit are processed
11 pursuant to this section and delivered to the early election board and
12 shall continue without delay until completed. Until election day, the
13 early election board and the county recorder or other officer in charge of
14 elections shall:

15 1. Not access an aggregated complete results file of early voting
16 and vote by mail ballots that were processed and tabulated by the end of
17 the early voting period.

18 2. Not produce for internal or external use an aggregated results
19 report or associated files of complete results.

20 3. Only produce a partial results report or associated files if it
21 is part of the internal preparation for the hand count pursuant to section
22 16-602 or for the logic and accuracy testing required pursuant to section
23 16-449.

24 4. Not publicly release complete or partial results, whether for
25 internal or external use, until all precincts have reported or one hour
26 after the closing of the polls on election day, whichever is earlier.

27 D. The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections
28 shall post on its website within forty-eight hours after all ballot
29 tabulation is complete all system log files and other similar files from
30 the election management system that verify compliance with subsection C of
31 this section.

32 E. The county recorder shall send a list of all voters who were
33 issued early ballots to the election board of the precinct in which the
34 voter is registered.

35 F. For a county that uses early ballots, the county recorder or
36 other officer in charge of elections shall provide an early ballot
37 tracking system that indicates whether the voter's early ballot has been
38 received and whether the early ballot has been verified and sent to be
39 tabulated or rejected. The county recorder or other officer in charge of
40 elections shall provide voters with access to the early ballot tracking
41 system on the county's website.

42 G. This section does not apply to:

43 1. A special taxing district that is authorized pursuant to section
44 16-191 to conduct its own elections.

1 2. A special district mail ballot election that is conducted
2 pursuant to article 8.1 of this chapter.

3 Sec. 5. Section 16-558.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
4 read:

5 16-558.02. Replacement ballots; observers

6 A. The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections
7 shall determine a central location in the district and shall provide for a
8 ballot replacement center that is as near to that location as is
9 practicable for electors to obtain a replacement ballot or for an elector
10 who is listed as inactive to confirm or revise the elector's voter
11 registration information and receive a ballot. The location shall be open
12 from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. of the day of the election. An elector may
13 obtain a replacement ballot until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election on
14 presenting a signed, sworn statement that the ballot was lost, spoiled,
15 destroyed or not received.

16 B. The recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall keep
17 a record of each replacement ballot provided pursuant to this section.

18 C. If an elector to whom a replacement ballot is issued votes more
19 than once, only the first ballot received shall be counted.

20 D. FOR EACH BALLOT REPLACEMENT LOCATION, THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OF
21 EACH PARTY MAY DESIGNATE BY WRITTEN APPOINTMENT ADDRESSED TO THE ELECTION
22 BOARD A PARTY REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATES TO SERVE AS OBSERVERS. A
23 PARTY REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AND REGISTERED TO
24 VOTE IN THIS STATE.

25 Sec. 6. Section 16-590, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
26 read:

27 16-590. Appointment of challengers and party representatives

28 A. The county chairman of each party may ~~DESIGNATE~~, for each
29 precinct ~~OR LOCATION~~, by written appointment addressed to the election
30 board, ~~designate~~ a party agent or representative and alternates for a
31 polling place in the precinct ~~AND AT ANY VOTING CENTER, INCLUDING AN IN-~~
32 ~~PERSON EARLY VOTING LOCATION AND AN EMERGENCY VOTING LOCATION~~, who may act
33 as challengers for the party which appointed him.

34 B. At each voting place, one challenger for each political party
35 may be present and act, but ~~no~~ A challenger may ~~NOT~~ enter a voting booth
36 except to mark his ballot.

37 C. Not more than the number of party representatives for each party
38 ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ were mutually agreed ~~upon~~ ~~ON~~ by each political party
39 represented on the ballot shall be in the ~~polling place~~ ~~VOTING PLACE~~ at
40 one time. If such agreement cannot be reached, the number of
41 representatives shall be limited to one in the ~~polling place~~ ~~VOTING PLACE~~
42 at one time for each political party.

43 D. A challenger or party representative shall be a resident of this
44 state and registered to vote in this state.

1 Sec. 7. 2026 primary election; nomination petition forms;
2 local initiative petition forms; previous primary
3 election date

4 A. A person who desires to become a candidate at the 2026 primary
5 election, who collects signatures on a nomination petition form before the
6 effective date of this act and who has used a petition form that includes
7 the former primary election date of August 4, 2026 may lawfully submit
8 those signatures for the 2026 primary election to be held on July 28,
9 2026. Signatures that are collected with the August 4, 2026 primary
10 election date, that are submitted as prescribed in this subsection and
11 that otherwise comply with the requirements provided by law are deemed to
12 be as valid as signatures collected on a nomination petition form that
13 complies with the newly designated primary election date of July 28, 2026
14 and shall not be ruled invalid due solely to the changed date of the
15 primary election.

16 B. Any city, town or county initiative petition that is circulated
17 before the effective date of this act and that is on a petition form that
18 includes the former 2026 primary election date of August 4, 2026 may
19 lawfully submit those petitions and signatures for the primary election to
20 be held on July 28, 2026. Signatures that are collected with the August
21 4, 2026 primary election date, that are submitted as prescribed in this
22 subsection and that otherwise comply with the requirements provided by law
23 are deemed to be as valid as signatures collected on an initiative
24 petition form that complies with the newly designated primary election
25 date of July 28, 2026 and shall not be ruled invalid due solely to the
26 changed date of the primary election.

27 Sec. 8. Emergency

28 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
29 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
30 law.