

REFERENCE TITLE: **municipal; county measures; filings; actions**

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

## **HB 2512**

Introduced by  
Representatives Stahl Hamilton: Abeytia, Caverro, Connolly, Contreras P,  
Crews, Garcia, Gutierrez, Liguori, Sandoval, Simacek, Travers, Villegas

**AN ACT**

**AMENDING SECTION 19-141, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO INITIATIVE  
AND REFERENDUM IN CITIES, TOWNS AND COUNTIES.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 19-141, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 19-141. Initiative and referendum in counties, cities and  
5 towns; challenges

6 A. This chapter applies to the legislation of cities, towns and  
7 counties, except as specifically provided to the contrary in this  
8 article. The duties required of the secretary of state as to state  
9 legislation shall be performed in connection with such legislation by the  
10 city or town clerk, county officer in charge of elections or person  
11 performing the duties ~~as such~~ OF THAT OFFICE. THE CITY OR TOWN CLERK,  
12 COUNTY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS OR PERSON PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF  
13 THAT OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY  
14 OF THE PROPOSED MEASURE AND MAY NOT REJECT AN INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM  
15 FILING ON THOSE GROUNDS. The duties required of the governor shall be  
16 performed by the mayor or the chairman of the board of supervisors, the  
17 duties required of the attorney general shall be performed by the city,  
18 town or county attorney, and the printing and binding of measures and  
19 arguments shall be paid for by the city, town or county in like manner as  
20 payment is provided for by the state with respect to state  
21 legislation. The provisions of section 19-124 with respect to the  
22 legislative council analysis do not apply in connection with initiatives  
23 and referenda in cities, towns and counties. The printing shall be done  
24 in the same manner as other municipal or county printing is done.

25 B. Distribution of pamphlets shall be made to every household  
26 containing a registered voter in the city, town or county by the city or  
27 town clerk or by the county officer in charge of elections by mail before  
28 the earliest date for receipt by registered voters of any requested early  
29 ballot for the election at which the measures are to be voted on. If the  
30 pamphlet is not mailed before the earliest date for receipt of a requested  
31 early ballot, the officer in charge of elections shall provide a notice  
32 with the early ballots stating when the pamphlets will be mailed and where  
33 and when the pamphlets may be accessed or viewed. Any contract for  
34 pamphlet publication or mailing, or both, shall provide for the contractor  
35 to pay a penalty for each day of mailing that occurs on or after the  
36 earliest date for receipt of requested early ballots. The penalty shall  
37 be ~~one cent~~ \$.01 for each household with a registered voter for each day  
38 of late mailing, and the monies shall be paid to the office of the officer  
39 in charge of elections. Pamphlets shall not be mailed or carried less  
40 than ten days before the election at which the measures are to be voted  
41 ~~upon~~ ON.

42 C. Arguments supporting or opposing municipal or county initiative  
43 and referendum measures shall be filed with the city or town clerk or the  
44 county officer in charge of elections not less than ninety days before the  
45 election at which they are to be voted ~~upon~~ ON.

1           D. The procedure with respect to municipal and county legislation  
2 shall be as nearly as practicable the same as the procedure relating to  
3 initiative and referendum provided for the state at large, except the  
4 procedure for verifying signatures on initiative or referendum petitions  
5 may be established by a city or town by charter or ordinance.

6           E. References in this section to duties to be performed by city or  
7 town officers apply only with respect to municipal legislation, and  
8 references to duties to be performed by county officers apply only with  
9 respect to county legislation.

10          F. The duties required of the county recorder with respect to state  
11 legislation shall also be performed by the county recorder with respect to  
12 municipal or county legislation.

13          G. AN ACTION THAT CONTESTS THE VALIDITY OF AN INITIATIVE OR  
14 REFERENDUM BASED ON THE ACTIONS OF THE CITY OR TOWN CLERK, COUNTY OFFICER  
15 IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS OR COUNTY RECORDER MUST BE FILED WITHIN FIVE  
16 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE DISPUTED ACTION. ANY PERSON MAY CONTEST THE  
17 VALIDITY OF AN INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM. IN ADDITION TO CONTESTING THE  
18 VALIDITY OF AN INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM, ANY PERSON MAY SEEK TO ENJOIN THE  
19 CITY OR TOWN CLERK OR COUNTY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS OR OTHER  
20 OFFICER FROM CERTIFYING OR PRINTING THE OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION  
21 THAT WILL INCLUDE THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM MEASURE AND TO  
22 ENJOIN THE CERTIFICATION OR PRINTING OF THE BALLOT.

23          H. WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER FILING AN ACTION AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS  
24 SECTION, THE SUPERIOR COURT SHALL HEAR AND RENDER A DECISION ON THE  
25 MATTER. EITHER PARTY MAY APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT WITHIN FIVE CALENDAR  
26 DAYS AFTER JUDGMENT AND THE SUPREME COURT SHALL HEAR AND RENDER A DECISION  
27 ON THE MATTER WITHIN FIVE CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE FILING OF THE NOTICE OF  
28 APPEAL.

29          I. IN ALL INSTANCES, THE PARTIES AND THE COURT SHALL EXPEDITE THE  
30 FILING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ACTION FILED AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION  
31 IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL LITIGATION, INCLUDING APPEALS, IS COMPLETED IN  
32 SUFFICIENT TIME TO ALLOW FOR THE PRINTING OF ANY REQUIRED PUBLICITY  
33 PAMPHLET AND THE PRINTING, ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY OF BALLOTS, INCLUDING  
34 EARLY BALLOTS, AND RELATED ELECTION MATERIALS.