

REFERENCE TITLE: candidate committees; posthumous closure

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SB 1029

Introduced by
Senator Kavanagh

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-933, 16-934 AND 16-937, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 16-933, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-933. Transfer and disposal of committee monies;
5 limitations

6 A. A committee that intends to terminate shall dispose of surplus
7 monies as follows:

8 1. Return surplus monies to the contributor.

9 2. Contribute surplus monies pursuant to and within the limits
10 prescribed in article 1.2 of this chapter.

11 3. In the case of a candidate committee, contribute surplus monies
12 to a candidate committee for another candidate under the following
13 conditions:

14 (a) The candidate committee makes the contribution after the time
15 period for filing a nomination paper pursuant to section 16-311,
16 subsection A.

17 (b) The candidate associated with the candidate committee that
18 makes the contribution did not file a nomination paper to run for election
19 in the current election cycle.

20 (c) In the case of a candidate committee for legislative office,
21 the candidate committee makes the contribution when the legislature is not
22 in regular legislative session.

23 (d) The candidate committee makes the contribution within the
24 limits prescribed for individuals in section 16-912.

25 4. Donate surplus monies to a nonprofit organization that has tax
26 exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code.

27 5. In the case of a statewide or legislative candidate committee
28 and subject to section 41-133, transfer surplus monies to the candidate's
29 officeholder expense account.

30 B. Surplus monies shall not be used for or converted to personal
31 use.

32 C. This section does not preclude the repayment of a loan to a
33 committee.

34 D. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, ON THE DEATH OF A CANDIDATE,
35 THAT CANDIDATE'S CANDIDATE COMMITTEE IS DEEMED TO HAVE THE INTENTION TO
36 TERMINATE THE COMMITTEE.

37 Sec. 2. Section 16-934, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
38 read:

39 16-934. Termination statement; filing; contents

40 A. A committee may terminate only when the committee treasurer
41 files a termination statement with the filing officer with whom the
42 committee's statement of organization was filed.

43 B. In the termination statement, the committee treasurer shall
44 certify under penalty of perjury that all of the following apply:

1 1. The committee will no longer receive any contributions or make
2 any disbursements.

3 2. The committee either:

4 (a) Has no outstanding debts or obligations.

5 (b) Has outstanding debts or obligations, or both, that are all
6 more than five years old, and that the committee's creditors have agreed
7 to discharge the debts and obligations and have agreed to the termination
8 of the committee.

9 3. Any surplus monies have been disposed of and that the committee
10 has no cash on hand.

11 4. All contributions and expenditures have been reported, including
12 any disposal of surplus monies.

13 C. A filing officer may reject the termination statement if it
14 appears to the filing officer that the requirements in subsection B of
15 this section have not been satisfied.

16 D. After a termination statement is filed, a committee:

17 1. Is not required to file any subsequent campaign finance reports.

18 2. Shall have no further receipts or disbursements without filing a
19 new statement of organization.

20 E. A standing committee may terminate its activities in a
21 particular reporting jurisdiction, and remain active in other reporting
22 jurisdictions, by filing a statement of that intent with the filing
23 officer in each reporting jurisdiction.

24 F. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, IF A DECEASED CANDIDATE WAS
25 SERVING AS THE TREASURER FOR THAT CANDIDATE'S OWN CANDIDATE COMMITTEE, THE
26 FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER OF PRIORITY ARE AUTHORIZED TO
27 ACT AS THE TREASURER FOR THAT COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION
28 AND SECTION 16-933 AFTER THE CANDIDATE'S DEATH UNLESS AN ALTERNATE
29 TREASURER WAS PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED BY THE DECEASED CANDIDATE:

30 1. IF THE CANDIDATE PROVIDED FOR ALLOCATION OF AN UNEXPENDED
31 BALANCE THROUGH A WILL OR TRUST, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WILL
32 OR THE TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST.

33 2. THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE DECEASED CANDIDATE.

34 3. THE NEXT OF KIN OF THE DECEASED CANDIDATE.

35 4. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE COURT.

36 G. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS THE TREASURER PURSUANT TO
37 SUBSECTION F OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOTE ON THE TERMINATION STATEMENT THAT
38 THE CANDIDATE IS DECEASED AND SHALL PROVIDE THE FILING OFFICER WITH
39 DOCUMENTATION THAT VERIFIES THE CANDIDATE'S DEATH.

40 Sec. 3. Section 16-937, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
41 read:

42 16-937. Failure to file; penalties; notice; suspension;
43 waiver

44 A. If a committee fails to timely file a complete report as
45 prescribed by articles 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 of this chapter,

1 the filing officer shall send a written notice by ~~e-mail~~ EMAIL to the
2 committee within five days after the filing deadline that identifies the
3 late report, describes how fines accrue and identifies methods of payment.

4 B. A committee that fails to timely file a report shall pay the
5 filing officer a penalty of ~~ten dollars~~ \$10 for each day that the filing
6 is late during the first fifteen days after the filing deadline and
7 ~~twenty-five dollars~~ \$25 for each subsequent day that the filing is late.
8 Penalties accrue until the late report is filed.

9 C. If a committee fails to file a complete report within thirty
10 days after the filing deadline and after providing notice pursuant to
11 subsection A of this section, the filing officer may notify the
12 appropriate enforcement officer prescribed in this article.

13 D. For any political action committee or political party that fails
14 to file three consecutive complete reports, the filing officer shall send
15 by ~~e-mail~~ EMAIL to the committee a notice of temporary suspension and the
16 following apply:

17 1. On receipt, the committee's authority to operate in the
18 jurisdiction is temporarily suspended.

19 2. The notice shall state that failure to comply with all filing
20 and payment requirements within thirty days after the date of the notice
21 shall result in permanent suspension of the committee's authority to
22 operate in that jurisdiction.

23 E. After compliance with subsection D of this section, the filing
24 officer may permanently suspend the committee and shall notify the
25 committee by ~~e-mail~~ EMAIL and is not required to provide any further
26 notice. Permanent or temporary suspension does not eliminate a
27 committee's continuing obligation to file reports and pay any outstanding
28 and accruing penalties provided by law.

29 F. ON COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 16-934, A FILING OFFICER MAY WAIVE
30 ANY PENALTIES ACCRUED UNDER THIS SECTION FROM A CANDIDATE COMMITTEE'S
31 FAILURE TO FILE A REPORT IF THE REPORT WAS DUE AFTER THAT CANDIDATE'S
32 DEATH.