

REFERENCE TITLE: elections; July primary; cure; petitions

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

SB 1425

Introduced by
Senators Rogers: Finchem

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-135, 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 16-135, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-135. Change of residence from one address to another

5 A. An elector who is correcting the residence address shown on the
6 elector's voter registration record shall reregister with the new
7 residence address or correct the voter registration record as prescribed
8 by this section.

9 B. An elector who moves from the address at which the elector is
10 registered to another address within the same county and who fails to
11 notify the county recorder of the change of address before the date of an
12 election shall be allowed to correct the voter registration records at the
13 appropriate polling place for the voter's new address. The voter shall
14 present a form of identification that includes the voter's given name and
15 surname and the voter's complete residence address that is located within
16 the precinct for the voter's new residence address. The voter shall
17 affirm in writing the new residence address and shall be allowed to vote a
18 provisional ballot.

19 C. When an elector completes voting a provisional ballot, the
20 election official shall place the ballot in an envelope for provisional
21 ballots and shall deposit the envelope in the ballot box designated for
22 provisional ballots.

23 D. Within ~~ten~~ SIX calendar days after a general election that
24 includes an election for a federal office and within five ~~business~~
25 CALENDAR days after any other election, a provisional ballot shall be
26 compared to the signature roster for the precinct in which the voter was
27 listed and if the voter's signature does not appear on the signature
28 roster for that election and if there is no record of that voter having
29 voted early for that election, the provisional ballot shall be processed.
30 If the signature roster or early ballot information indicates that the
31 person did vote in that election, the provisional ballot for that person
32 shall remain unopened and shall not be counted.

33 E. An elector may also correct the residence address on the
34 elector's voter registration record by requesting the address change on a
35 written request for an early ballot that is submitted pursuant to section
36 16-542 and that contains all of the following:

- 37 1. A request to change the voter registration record.
- 38 2. The elector's new residence address.
- 39 3. An affirmation that the information is true and correct.
- 40 4. The elector's signature.

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

3 16-201. Primary elections

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

7 Sec. 3. Section 16-204, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
8 read:

9 16-204. Declaration of statewide concern; consolidated
10 election dates; definition

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

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

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

29 ~~(a) The second Tuesday in March.~~

30 ~~(b) The third Tuesday in May.~~

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

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

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

43 ~~(a) The tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first~~
44 ~~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.~~ B. Subsections ~~B and C~~ AND D of this section do not apply to an
9 election regarding a county or city charter committee or county or city
10 charter proposal that is conducted pursuant to article XIII, section 2 or
11 3 or article XII, section 5, Constitution of Arizona.
12 ~~E.~~ C. 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.~~ D. 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.

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

1 political parties that are qualified for continued representation on the
2 state ballot an updated list of all voters whose signatures are
3 inconsistent with the voter's signature on the voter's registration record
4 and all voters who voted with a conditional provisional ballot. This list
5 of voters whose signatures require curing shall include for those voters
6 all voter information that is provided to the political parties that are
7 qualified for continued representation on the state ballot as prescribed
8 by section 16-168.

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

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

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

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

24 3. Only produce a partial results report or associated files if it
25 is part of the internal preparation for the hand count pursuant to section
26 16-602 or for the logic and accuracy testing required pursuant to section
27 16-449.

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

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

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

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

1 elections shall provide voters with access to the early ballot tracking
2 system on the county's website.

3 G. This section does not apply to:

4 1. A special taxing district that is authorized pursuant to section
5 16-191 to conduct its own elections.

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

8 Sec. 6. Section 16-558.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
9 read:

10 16-558.02. Replacement ballots

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

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

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

25 D. FOR EACH BALLOT REPLACEMENT LOCATION, THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OF
26 EACH PARTY MAY DESIGNATE BY WRITTEN APPOINTMENT ADDRESSED TO THE ELECTION
27 BOARD A PARTY REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATES TO SERVE AS OBSERVERS. A
28 PARTY REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AND REGISTERED TO
29 VOTE IN THIS STATE.

30 Sec. 7. Section 16-590, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
31 read:

32 16-590. Appointment of challengers and party representatives

33 A. The county chairman of each party may **DESIGNATE**, for each
34 precinct **OR LOCATION**, by written appointment addressed to the election
35 board, **designmate** a party agent or representative and alternates for a
36 polling place in the precinct **AND AT ANY VOTING CENTER, INCLUDING AN**
37 **IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING LOCATION AND AN EMERGENCY VOTING LOCATION**, who may
38 act as challengers for the party which appointed him.

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

42 C. Not more than the number of party representatives for each party
43 ~~which~~ **THAT** were mutually agreed ~~upon~~ **ON** by each political party
44 represented on the ballot shall be in the ~~polling place~~ **VOTING PLACE** at

1 one time. If such agreement cannot be reached, the number of
2 representatives shall be limited to one in the ~~polling place~~ VOTING PLACE
3 at one time for each political party.

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

6 Sec. 8. 2026 primary election; nomination petition forms;
7 nomination papers; local initiative petition forms;
8 previous primary election date

9 A. A person who desires to become a candidate at the 2026 primary
10 election, who collects signatures on a nomination petition or nomination
11 paper form, including an electronic petition with signatures as prescribed
12 by section 16-316, 16-317 or 16-318, Arizona Revised Statutes, before, on
13 or after the effective date of this section and who has used a petition
14 form that includes the former primary election date of August 4, 2026 may
15 lawfully submit those signatures for the 2026 primary election to be held
16 on July 28, 2026. Signatures that are collected with the August 4, 2026
17 primary election date, that are submitted as prescribed in this subsection
18 and that otherwise comply with the requirements provided by law are deemed
19 to be as valid as signatures collected on a nomination petition or
20 nomination paper form, including an electronic petition with signatures as
21 prescribed by section 16-316, 16-317 or 16-318, Arizona Revised Statutes,
22 that complies with the newly designated primary election date of July 28,
23 2026 and shall not be ruled invalid due solely to the changed date of the
24 primary election or for any clerical error by an election official in the
25 preparation of the electronic petition. The filing officer shall not
26 reject those nomination petitions, nomination papers or signatures based
27 solely on the date of the primary election. This subsection applies to
28 and includes nomination petitions, nomination papers and signatures that
29 are submitted through the secure online signature collection system
30 provided by the secretary of state.

31 B. Any city, town or county initiative or referendum petition that
32 is circulated before, on or after the effective date of this section and
33 that is on a petition form that includes the former 2026 primary election
34 date of August 4, 2026 may lawfully submit those petitions and signatures
35 for the primary election to be held on July 28, 2026. Signatures that are
36 collected with the August 4, 2026 primary election date, that are
37 submitted as prescribed in this subsection and that otherwise comply with
38 the requirements provided by law are deemed to be as valid as signatures
39 collected on an initiative or referendum petition form that complies with
40 the newly designated primary election date of July 28, 2026 and shall not
41 be ruled invalid due solely to the changed date of the primary election.
42 The filing officer shall not reject those petitions or signatures based
43 solely on the date of the primary election.

1 C. This section does not require a person to file a new or amended
2 statement of interest based solely on the change in the 2026 primary
3 election date.

4 Sec. 9. 2026 primary election date; city, town and county
5 matters

6 Any election item that was duly called by a city, town or county
7 pursuant to section 16-226, Arizona Revised Statutes, for the August 4,
8 2026 primary election date shall be placed on the ballot for the newly
9 designated primary election date of July 28, 2026.

10 Sec. 10. Emergency

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