

Senate Engrossed

elections; July primary; curing; observers.

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

SENATE BILL 1425

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-135, 16-201, 16-204, 16-206, 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~~ SEVEN 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~~ SECOND TO LAST Tuesday
5 in ~~August~~ JULY in any year in which a general election or special election
6 is held 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 1. The second Tuesday in March.

39 2. The third Tuesday in May.

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

43 4. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
44 Notwithstanding any other law, an election must be held on this date for
45 the approval of an obligation or other authorization requiring or

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

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

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

19 Sec. 4. Section 16-206, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
20 read:

21 16-206. Election day

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

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

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

31 16-558.02. Replacement ballots; observers

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

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

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

1 D. FOR EACH BALLOT REPLACEMENT LOCATION, THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OF
2 EACH PARTY MAY DESIGNATE BY WRITTEN APPOINTMENT ADDRESSED TO THE ELECTION
3 BOARD A PARTY REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATES TO SERVE AS OBSERVERS. A
4 PARTY REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AND REGISTERED TO
5 VOTE IN THIS STATE.

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

8 16-590. Appointment of challengers and party representatives

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

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

18 C. Not more than the number of party representatives for each party
19 ~~which~~ THAT were mutually agreed ~~upon~~ ON by each political party
20 represented on the ballot shall be in the ~~polling place~~ VOTING PLACE at
21 one time. If such agreement cannot be reached, the number of
22 representatives shall be limited to one in the ~~polling place~~ VOTING PLACE
23 at one time for each political party.

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

26 Sec. 7. 2026 primary election; nomination petition forms;
27 local initiative petition forms; previous primary
28 election date

29 A. A person who desires to become a candidate at the 2026 primary
30 election, who collects signatures on a nomination petition or nomination
31 paper form, including an electronic petition with signatures as prescribed
32 by section 16-316, 16-317 or 16-318, Arizona Revised Statutes, before, on
33 or after the effective date of this act and who has used a petition form
34 that includes the former primary election date of August 4, 2026 may
35 lawfully submit those signatures for the 2026 primary election to be held
36 on July 21, 2026. Signatures that are collected with the August 4, 2026
37 primary election date, that are submitted as prescribed in this subsection
38 and that otherwise comply with the requirements provided by law are deemed
39 to be as valid as signatures collected on a nomination petition or
40 nomination paper form, including an electronic petition with signatures as
41 prescribed by section 16-316, 16-317 or 16-318, Arizona Revised Statutes,
42 that complies with the newly designated primary election date of July 21,
43 2026 and shall not be ruled invalid due solely to the changed date of the
44 primary election or for any clerical error by an election official in the
45 preparation of the electronic petition. The filing officer shall not

1 reject those nomination petitions, nomination papers or signatures based
2 solely on the date of the primary election. This subsection applies to
3 and includes nomination petitions, nomination papers and signatures that
4 are submitted through the secure online signature collection system
5 provided by the secretary of state.

6 B. Any city, town or county initiative petition that is circulated
7 before, on or after the effective date of this act and that is on a
8 petition form that includes the former 2026 primary election date of
9 August 4, 2026 may lawfully submit those petitions and signatures for the
10 primary election to be held on July 21, 2026. Signatures that are
11 collected with the August 4, 2026 primary election date, that are
12 submitted as prescribed in this subsection and that otherwise comply with
13 the requirements provided by law are deemed to be as valid as signatures
14 collected on an initiative petition form that complies with the newly
15 designated primary election date of July 21, 2026 and shall not be ruled
16 invalid due solely to the changed date of the primary election. The
17 filing officer shall not reject those signatures or petitions based solely
18 on the date of the primary election.

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

22 Sec. 8. 2026 primary election date; city, town and county
23 matters

24 Any election item that was duly called by a city, town or county
25 pursuant to section 16-226, Arizona Revised Statutes, for the August 4,
26 2026 primary election date shall be placed on the ballot for the newly
27 designated primary election date of July 21, 2026.

28 Sec. 9. Legislative intent

29 The legislature intends and finds that this act does not make
30 changes to the length of time during which voter signatures are allowed to
31 be cured and conditional provisional ballot voters are allowed to provide
32 proof of identification, and that Laws 2024, chapter 1, section 22, as
33 amended by Laws 2024, chapter 2, section 4, continues to apply to all
34 primary, general or special elections that include a federal office in
35 2026.

36 Sec. 10. Emergency

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