

REFERENCE TITLE: elections; signature matching requirements

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HB 2491

Introduced by
Representatives Hoffman: Martinez, Parker

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 16-550, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO 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 16-550, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-550. Receipt of voter's ballot; cure period; violation;
5 classification

6 A. On receipt of the envelope containing the early ballot and the
7 ballot affidavit, the county recorder or other officer in charge of
8 elections shall compare the signatures thereon with the signature of the
9 elector on the elector's registration record. If the signature is
10 inconsistent with the elector's signature on the elector's registration
11 record, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
12 make reasonable efforts to contact the voter, advise the voter of the
13 inconsistent signature and allow the voter to correct or the county to
14 confirm the inconsistent signature. The county recorder or other officer
15 in charge of elections shall allow signatures to be corrected not later
16 than the fifth business day after a primary, general or special election
17 that includes a federal office or the third business day after any other
18 election. If the signature is missing, the county recorder or other
19 officer in charge of elections shall make reasonable efforts to contact
20 the elector, advise the elector of the missing signature and allow the
21 elector to add the elector's signature not later than 7:00 p.m. on
22 election day. If satisfied that the signatures correspond, the recorder
23 or other officer in charge of elections shall hold the envelope containing
24 the early ballot and the completed affidavit unopened in accordance with
25 the rules of the secretary of state. **THE RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER IN
26 CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL APPLY A _____ FACTOR SIGNATURE VERIFICATION
27 PROCESS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S INSTRUCTIONS AND
28 PROCEDURES MANUAL ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-452, AND A PERSON WHO
29 VIOLATES THIS REQUIREMENT IS GUILTY OF A CLASS 5 FELONY.**

30 B. The recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
31 thereafter safely keep the affidavits and early ballots in the recorder's
32 or other officer's office and may deliver them for tallying pursuant to
33 section 16-551. Tallying of ballots may begin immediately after the
34 envelope and completed affidavit are processed pursuant to this section
35 and delivered to the early election board.

36 C. 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 D. This section does not apply to:

40 1. A special taxing district that is authorized pursuant to section
41 16-191 to conduct its own elections.

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