

REFERENCE TITLE: election board workers; political party

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SB 1068

Introduced by
Senator Kavanagh

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 16-531, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO ELECTION
BOARDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 16-531, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-531. Appointment of election boards; qualifications

5 A. When an election is ordered, and not less than twenty days
6 before a general or primary election, the board of supervisors shall
7 appoint for each election precinct, voting center or other voting location
8 one inspector, one marshal, two judges and as many clerks of election as
9 deemed necessary. The inspector, marshal, judges and clerks shall be
10 qualified voters of the precinct for which appointed, except if there is
11 not a sufficient number of persons available to provide the number of
12 appointments required, the inspector, marshal, judges and clerks shall be
13 qualified voters of this state. The inspector, marshal and judges shall
14 not have changed their political party affiliation or their no party
15 preference affiliation since the last preceding general election, and ~~if~~
16 ~~they are members~~ EACH PRECINCT SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF EACH
17 OF the two political parties that cast the highest number of votes in the
18 state at the last preceding general election, ~~they shall be divided~~
19 ~~equally between these two parties~~. There shall be an equal number of
20 inspectors in the various precincts in the county who are members of the
21 two largest political parties. In each precinct where the inspector is a
22 member of one of the two largest political parties, the marshal in that
23 precinct shall be a member of the other of the two largest political
24 parties. Whenever possible, any person appointed as an inspector shall
25 have had previous experience as an inspector, judge, marshal or clerk of
26 elections. If there is no qualified person in a given precinct, the
27 appointment of an inspector may be made from names provided by the county
28 party chairman. If not less than ninety days before the election the
29 chairman of the county committee of either of the parties designates
30 qualified voters of the precinct, or of another precinct if there are not
31 sufficient members of that party available in the precinct to provide the
32 necessary representation on the election board as judge, such designated
33 qualified voters shall be appointed. The judges, together with the
34 inspector, shall constitute the board of elections. Any registered voter
35 in the election precinct, or in another election precinct if there are not
36 sufficient persons available in the election precinct for which the clerks
37 are being appointed, may be appointed as clerk.

38 B. If the election precinct consists of fewer than three hundred
39 qualified electors, the board of supervisors may appoint not fewer than
40 one inspector and two judges. The board of supervisors shall give notice
41 of election precincts consisting of fewer than three hundred qualified
42 electors to the county chairmen of the two largest political parties not
43 later than thirty days before the election. The inspector and judges
44 shall be appointed in the same manner by party as provided in subsection A
45 of this section.

1 C. If a nonpartisan election is ordered, not less than twenty days
2 before the election the governing board holding the election shall
3 appoint, without consideration for political party, ~~a minimum of~~ AT LEAST
4 three election workers for each polling place. The election workers shall
5 consist of at least one inspector and two judges. Whenever possible, they
6 shall be qualified electors of the precinct located within the district,
7 without consideration for political party.

8 D. For election boards established pursuant to subsection B of this
9 section, the inspector and two judges shall be appointed to provide as
10 equal as practicable representation of members of the two largest
11 political parties on the board in the same manner as provided for the
12 election boards prescribed by subsection A of this section. Any
13 registered voter in the election precinct, or in another election precinct
14 if there are not sufficient persons available in the election precinct for
15 which the clerks are being appointed, may be appointed as clerk. No
16 United States, state, county or precinct officer, nor a candidate for
17 office at the election, other than a precinct committeeman or a candidate
18 for the office of precinct committeeman, is qualified to act as judge,
19 inspector, marshal or clerk.

20 E. If an electronic voting system is in use the write-in ballots
21 shall be tallied by a board of elections consisting of one inspector and
22 two judges who are appointed in the same manner by party as provided in
23 subsection A of this section.

24 F. Notwithstanding any other law, the board of supervisors may
25 appoint to an election board to serve as a clerk of election a person who
26 is not eligible to vote if all of the following conditions are met:

27 1. The person is a minor who will be at least sixteen years of age
28 at the time of the election for which the person is named to the election
29 board.

30 2. The person is a citizen of the United States at the time of the
31 election for which the person is named to the election board.

32 3. The person is supervised by an adult who has been trained as an
33 elections officer.

34 4. The person has received training provided by the officer in
35 charge of elections.

36 5. The parent or guardian of the person has provided written
37 permission for the person to serve.

38 G. A school district or charter school shall not be required to
39 reduce its average daily membership, as defined in section 15-901, for any
40 pupil who is absent from one or more instructional programs as a result of
41 the pupil's service on an election board pursuant to subsection F of this
42 section.

1 H. A school district or charter school shall not count any pupil's
2 absence from one or more instructional programs as a result of the pupil's
3 service on an election board pursuant to subsection F of this section
4 against any mandatory attendance requirements for the pupil.

5 I. This section does not prevent the board of supervisors or
6 governing body from refusing for cause to reappoint, or from removing for
7 cause, an election board member.