

Senate Engrossed  
election board workers; political party

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

# SENATE BILL 1068

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 BOARD WORKERS WHO ARE MEMBERS  
17 of EACH OF the two political parties that cast the highest number of votes  
18 in the 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.