

REFERENCE TITLE: military poll workers; party representatives

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HB 2585

Introduced by
Representatives Gillette: Biasiucci

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-531 AND 16-590, 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 16-531, 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 of the two political parties that cast the highest number
17 of votes in the state at the last preceding general election, they shall
18 be divided equally between these two parties. There shall be an equal
19 number of inspectors in the various precincts in the county who are
20 members of the two largest political parties. In each precinct where the
21 inspector is a member of one of the two largest political parties, the
22 marshal in that precinct shall be a member of the other of the two largest
23 political parties. Whenever possible, any person appointed as an
24 inspector shall have had previous experience as an inspector, judge,
25 marshal or clerk of elections. If there is no qualified person in a given
26 precinct, the appointment of an inspector may be made from names provided
27 by the county party chairman. If not less than ninety days before the
28 election the chairman of the county committee of either of the parties
29 designates qualified voters of the precinct, or of another precinct if
30 there are not sufficient members of that party available in the precinct
31 to provide the necessary representation on the election board as judge,
32 such designated qualified voters shall be appointed. The judges, together
33 with the inspector, shall constitute the board of elections. Any
34 registered voter in the election precinct, or in another election precinct
35 if there are not sufficient persons available in the election precinct for
36 which the clerks are being appointed, may be appointed as clerk.

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

43 H. A school district or charter school shall not count any pupil's
44 absence from one or more instructional programs as a result of the pupil's

1 service on an election board pursuant to subsection F of this section
2 against any mandatory attendance requirements for the pupil.

3 I. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY
4 APPOINT TO AN ELECTION BOARD ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WITHOUT REGARD
5 TO WHETHER THEY ARE REGISTERED VOTERS IN THIS STATE:

6 1. AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBER WITH ASSIGNMENT ORDERS TO A POST
7 OF DUTY IN THIS STATE.

8 2. A FAMILY MEMBER OF AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBER WITH
9 ASSIGNMENT ORDERS TO A POST OF DUTY IN THIS STATE AND WHO HAS
10 IDENTIFICATION AS A MILITARY DEPENDENT.

11 ~~I.~~ J. This section does not prevent the board of supervisors or
12 governing body from refusing for cause to reappoint, or from removing for
13 cause, an election board member.

14 Sec. 2. Section 16-590, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
15 read:

16 16-590. Appointment of challengers and party representatives

17 A. The county chairman of each party ~~may~~, for each precinct, by
18 written appointment addressed to the election board, MAY designate a party
19 agent or representative and alternates for a polling place in the precinct
20 who may act as challengers for the party which appointed ~~him~~ THE
21 CHALLENGERS.

22 B. At each voting place, one challenger for each political party
23 may be present and act, but ~~no~~ A challenger may NOT enter a voting booth
24 except to mark ~~his~~ THE CHALLENGER'S ballot.

25 C. Not more than the number of party representatives for each party
26 ~~which~~ WHO were mutually agreed ~~upon~~ ON by each political party represented
27 on the ballot shall be in the polling place at one time. If such
28 agreement cannot be reached, the number of representatives shall be
29 limited to one in the polling place at one time for each political party.

30 D. A challenger or party representative shall be a resident of this
31 state and registered to vote in this state, EXCEPT THAT THE COUNTY
32 CHAIRMEN MAY APPOINT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AS CHALLENGERS OR PARTY
33 REPRESENTATIVES WITHOUT REGARD TO WHETHER THEY ARE REGISTERED VOTERS IN
34 THIS STATE:

35 1. AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBER WITH ASSIGNMENT ORDERS TO A POST
36 OF DUTY IN THIS STATE.

37 2. A FAMILY MEMBER OF AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBER WITH
38 ASSIGNMENT ORDERS TO A POST OF DUTY IN THIS STATE AND WHO HAS
39 IDENTIFICATION AS A MILITARY DEPENDENT.