

REFERENCE TITLE: **division; Maricopa county; new counties**

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

HCR 2025

Introduced by
Representatives Kolodin: Chaplik, Gillette, Jones, Parker B

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

**ENACTING AND ORDERING THE SUBMISSION TO THE PEOPLE OF A MEASURE RELATING
TO LOCATION OF COUNTIES.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
2 the Senate concurring:

3 1. Under the power of the referendum, as vested in the Legislature,
4 the following measure, relating to location of counties, is enacted to
5 become valid as a law if approved by the voters and on proclamation of the
6 Governor:

7 AN ACT

8 AMENDING SECTION 11-109, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING
9 TITLE 11, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
10 ADDING SECTIONS 11-118 AND 11-119; RELATING TO LOCATION OF
11 COUNTIES.

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

13 Section 1. Section 11-109, Arizona Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read:

15 11-109. Maricopa county

16 Maricopa county, the county seat of which is Phoenix, is
17 bounded as follows:

18 ~~Commencing at a point where the meridian line one~~
19 ~~hundred thirteen degrees twenty minutes west longitude, as~~
20 ~~defined by the Atwood survey of 1918, intersects the second~~
21 ~~standard parallel south, being the northwest corner of Pima~~
22 ~~county; thence north on such survey line and along the east~~
23 ~~boundaries of Yuma and La Paz counties to the point where the~~
24 ~~meridian line one hundred thirteen degrees twenty minutes west~~
25 ~~longitude, as surveyed, intersects the thirty-fourth parallel~~
26 ~~north latitude, as defined by the Thompson survey of 1924;~~
27 ~~thence east on the thirty-fourth parallel north latitude, as~~
28 ~~defined, and along the southern boundary of Yavapai county to~~
29 ~~the point where the Hassayampa river intersects such parallel;~~
30 ~~thence southeast in a direct line following the Thompson~~
31 ~~survey of 1924 to a point in the Agua Fria river two miles~~
32 ~~southerly and below the mouth of Humbug creek; thence~~
33 ~~northerly up the Agua Fria river to a point two miles~~
34 ~~southerly and below the place where the residence of J. W.~~
35 ~~Swilling stood on January 31, 1877; thence easterly in a~~
36 ~~direct line following the Thompson survey of 1924 to the point~~
37 ~~where the thirty-fourth parallel north latitude, as defined by~~
38 ~~such survey, intersects the Verde river; thence east on such~~
39 ~~parallel to the point where the parallel as surveyed~~
40 ~~intersects the summit of the Mazatzal range of mountains;~~
41 ~~thence southerly along the summit of the Mazatzal range of~~
42 ~~mountains to the point where such range of mountains~~
43 ~~intersects the centerline of the Salt river; thence easterly~~
44 ~~up the Salt river to the mouth of Tonto creek; thence~~
45 ~~southerly in a direct line toward a mountain known as the~~

1 ~~"Water Shed," and along the western boundary of Gila county to~~
2 ~~the point where such line and boundary intersects the north~~
3 ~~line of township one north; thence west on the north line of~~
4 ~~township one north and along the northern boundary of Pinal~~
5 ~~county to the point where such line intersects the eastern~~
6 ~~line of range seven east; thence south on the eastern line of~~
7 ~~range seven east to the point where such line intersects the~~
8 ~~southern line of township two south; thence west on such line~~
9 ~~to the point where such line intersects the Gila river; thence~~
10 ~~northerly and westerly down the Gila river to the point where~~
11 ~~the river intersects the eastern line of range one east, being~~
12 ~~the northwest corner of Pinal county; thence south on such~~
13 ~~line to the point where such line intersects the second~~
14 ~~standard parallel south, being the southwest corner of Pinal~~
15 ~~county; thence west on such parallel to the point where it~~
16 ~~intersects the meridian line one hundred thirteen degrees~~
17 ~~twenty minutes west longitude, as defined by the Atwood survey~~
18 ~~of 1918, being the place of beginning. COMMENCING AT THE~~
19 ~~NORTHWESTERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE AT 75TH AVENUE AND~~
20 ~~PINNACLE PEAK ROAD, THENCE EAST ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY~~
21 ~~OF GLENDALE; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF~~
22 ~~GLENDALE TO THE POINT WHERE THE BOUNDARY INTERSECTS~~
23 ~~THUNDERBIRD ROAD; THENCE EAST ALONG THUNDERBIRD ROAD TO THE~~
24 ~~POINT WHERE THUNDERBIRD ROAD INTERSECTS CAVE CREEK ROAD;~~
25 ~~THENCE EAST FOLLOWING ALONG CACTUS ROAD TO THE POINT WHERE~~
26 ~~CACTUS ROAD INTERSECTS TATUM BOULEVARD; THENCE SOUTH ALONG~~
27 ~~TATUM BOULEVARD TO THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY OF THE TOWN OF~~
28 ~~PARADISE VALLEY; THENCE SOUTH FOLLOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE~~
29 ~~CITY OF PHOENIX TO THE POINT WHERE THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF~~
30 ~~PHOENIX INTERSECTS THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF TEMPE ON~~
31 ~~MCDOWELL ROAD, THENCE SOUTH AND THENCE EAST FOLLOWING THE~~
32 ~~BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF TEMPE CONTINUING TO THE POINT WHERE~~
33 ~~THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF TEMPE INTERSECTS THE BOUNDARY OF~~
34 ~~THE CITY OF PHOENIX; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER OF~~
35 ~~THE CITY OF CHANDLER; THENCE EAST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF~~
36 ~~THE CITY OF CHANDLER; THENCE SOUTH TO WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE~~
37 ~~MERIDIAN LINE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN DEGREES TWENTY MINUTES WEST~~
38 ~~LONGITUDE; THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF PINAL~~
39 ~~COUNTY TO THE POINT WHERE SUCH LINE INTERSECTS THE EASTERN~~
40 ~~LINE OF RANGE SEVEN EAST; THENCE SOUTH ON THE EASTERN LINE OF~~
41 ~~RANGE SEVEN EAST TO THE POINT WHERE SUCH LINE INTERSECTS THE~~
42 ~~SOUTHERN LINE OF TOWNSHIP TWO SOUTH; THENCE WEST ON SUCH LINE~~
43 ~~TO THE POINT WHERE SUCH LINE INTERSECTS THE GILA RIVER; THENCE~~
44 ~~NORTHERLY AND WESTERLY DOWN THE GILA RIVER TO THE POINT WHERE~~
45 ~~THE RIVER INTERSECTS THE EASTERN LINE OF RANGE ONE EAST, BEING~~

1 THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF PINAL COUNTY; THENCE SOUTH TO THE
2 THIRTY-THIRD PARALLEL FOLLOWING A DIRECT LINE ALONG THE
3 SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION; THENCE
4 NORTH ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF GOODYEAR;
5 THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF
6 AVONDALE TO WHERE INTERSECTS THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF
7 GLENDALE; THENCE FOLLOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF
8 GLENDALE TO THE NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE,
9 WHICH IS THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

10 Sec. 2. Title 11, chapter 1, article 1, Arizona Revised
11 Statutes, is amended by adding sections 11-118 and 11-119 to
12 read:

13 11-118. Mesquite county

14 MESQUITE COUNTY IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:

15 COMMENCING AT THE AGUA FRIA RIVER TWO MILES SOUTHERLY
16 AND BELOW THE MOUTH OF HUMBUG CREEK; THENCE NORTHERLY UP THE
17 AGUA FRIA RIVER TO A POINT TWO MILES SOUTHERLY AND BELOW THE
18 PLACE WHERE THE RESIDENCE OF J.W. SWILLING STOOD ON JANUARY
19 31, 1877; THENCE EASTERLY IN A DIRECT LINE FOLLOWING THE
20 THOMPSON SURVEY OF 1924 TO THE POINT WHERE THE THIRTY-FOURTH
21 PARALLEL NORTH LATITUDE, AS DEFINED BY SUCH SURVEY, INTERSECTS
22 THE VERDE RIVER; THENCE EAST ON SUCH PARALLEL TO THE POINT
23 WHERE THE PARALLEL, AS SURVEYED, INTERSECTS THE SUMMIT OF THE
24 MAZATZAL RANGE OF MOUNTAINS; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE SUMMIT
25 OF THE MAZATZAL RANGE OF MOUNTAINS TO THE POINT WHERE SUCH
26 RANGE OF MOUNTAINS INTERSECTS THE CENTERLINE OF THE SALT
27 RIVER; THENCE EASTERLY UP THE SALT RIVER TO THE MOUTH OF TONTO
28 CREEK; THENCE SOUTHERLY IN A DIRECT LINE TOWARD A MOUNTAIN
29 KNOWN AS THE "WATER SHED" AND ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF
30 GILA COUNTY TO THE POINT WHERE SUCH LINE AND BOUNDARY
31 INTERSECTS THE NORTH LINE OF TOWNSHIP ONE NORTH; THENCE WEST
32 TO THE BOUNDARY OF MERIDIAN DRIVE; THENCE SOUTH ON THE
33 NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY OF PINAL COUNTY TO THE POINT WHERE SUCH
34 LINE INTERSECTS THE SECOND STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH, EMPIRE
35 BOULEVARD BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF PINAL COUNTY; THENCE
36 WEST ON SUCH PARALLEL TO THE POINT WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE
37 MERIDIAN LINE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN DEGREES TWENTY MINUTES WEST
38 LONGITUDE TO THE WESTERN BORDER OF SUN LAKES AT PRICE ROAD;
39 THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER;
40 THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER;
41 THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER;
42 THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTHERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER;
43 THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF MESA
44 CONTINUING TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE;
45 THENCE TO THE NORTHWEST ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE CITY

1 OF SCOTTSDALE; THENCE TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE TOWN OF
2 PARADISE VALLEY CONTINUING NORTHWARD TO THE NORTHWESTERN
3 BOUNDARY OF THE TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY AT SHEA BOULEVARD AND
4 TATUM BOULEVARD; THENCE NORTH FOLLOWING TATUM BOULEVARD TO
5 CACTUS ROAD; THENCE WEST FOLLOWING CACTUS ROAD TO THE POINT
6 WHERE CACTUS ROAD INTERSECTS CAVE CREEK ROAD; THENCE WEST
7 FOLLOWING THUNDERBIRD ROAD TO THE POINT WHERE THUNDERBIRD ROAD
8 INTERSECTS THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE; THENCE NORTH
9 FOLLOWING THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE; THENCE
10 NORTH FOLLOWING THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF PHOENIX;
11 THENCE WEST FOLLOWING THE NORTHERN BORDER OF THE CITY OF
12 PEORIA TO THE POINT ON THE AGUA FRIA RIVER, WHICH IS THE PLACE
13 OF BEGINNING.

14 11-119. Saguaro county

15 SAGUARO COUNTY IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:

16 COMMENCING AT A POINT WHERE THE MERIDIAN LINE ONE
17 HUNDRED THIRTEEN DEGREES TWENTY MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE, AS
18 DEFINED BY THE ATWOOD SURVEY OF 1918, INTERSECTS THE SECOND
19 STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH, BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF PIMA
20 COUNTY; THENCE NORTH ON SUCH SURVEY LINE AND ALONG THE EAST
21 BOUNDARIES OF YUMA AND LA PAZ COUNTIES TO THE POINT WHERE THE
22 MERIDIAN LINE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN DEGREES TWENTY MINUTES WEST
23 LONGITUDE, AS SURVEYED, INTERSECTS THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARALLEL
24 NORTH LATITUDE, AS DEFINED BY THE THOMPSON SURVEY OF 1924;
25 THENCE EAST ON THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARALLEL NORTH LATITUDE, AS
26 DEFINED, AND ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF YAVAPAI COUNTY TO
27 THE POINT WHERE THE HASSAYAMPA RIVER INTERSECTS SUCH PARALLEL;
28 THENCE SOUTHEAST IN A DIRECT LINE FOLLOWING THE THOMPSON
29 SURVEY OF 1924 TO THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARALLEL NORTH LATITUDE
30 WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE BORDER OF THE CITY OF PEORIA
31 BOUNDARIES; THENCE EAST FOLLOWING THE BORDER OF THE CITY OF
32 PEORIA AND SOUTH FOLLOWING THE BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF PEORIA
33 AND WEST ALONG NORTHERN AVENUE CONTINUING ALONG THE SOUTHERN
34 BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE
35 BOUNDARY OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE TO THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF
36 THE CITY OF SURPRISE TO THE NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE CITY
37 OF GLENDALE; THENCE SOUTH FOLLOWING THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF
38 THE CITY OF GOODYEAR TO THE THIRTY-THIRD PARALLEL NORTH
39 LATITUDE IN A DIRECT LINE TO THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE GILA
40 RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION TO WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE BORDER OF
41 PINAL COUNTY; THENCE SOUTH FOLLOWING THE BORDER OF PINAL
42 COUNTY TO WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE BORDER OF PIMA COUNTY;
43 THENCE WEST FOLLOWING THE NORTHERN BORDER OF PIMA COUNTY TO
44 THE COMMENCEMENT POINT, WHICH IS THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

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Sec. 3. Maricopa county division; procedures

A. Maricopa county operations shall continue in their existing form through a transition period of not more than three years after the effective date of this act. On the election of the boards of supervisors in Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties, the existing Maricopa county operations shall continue under the supervision of the intercounty oversight and accountability board for the duration of the transition period. The current Maricopa county board of supervisors shall retain authority over the operation of Maricopa county during the transition period until the boards of supervisors in Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties are sworn into office. The swearing in shall take place not later than June 15, 2025.

B. The boards of supervisors in Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties shall be elected at a special election within one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this act. The supervisors shall be elected to staggered, abbreviated terms to serve until the next presidential election. Supervisors shall be elected at large for their initial terms and shall be elected by supervisorial district at subsequent elections. The board of supervisors shall approve supervisorial districts within one hundred eighty days after being sworn in.

C. Currently elected Maricopa county supervisors will continue in their elected capacities for the remainder of their terms. If a currently elected Maricopa county supervisor's supervisory district is located within Mesquite or Saguaro county, that supervisor will continue the supervisor's currently elected term in the new county in which the supervisory district is located.

D. The chairperson of each county's board of supervisors shall serve on an intercounty oversight and accountability board during the three-year transition period. The intercounty oversight and accountability board shall make intercounty decisions and enter into mutually beneficial shared use or intergovernmental agreements for the continuation of services for Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties. The intercounty oversight and accountability board will terminate at the end of the transition period. The intercounty oversight and accountability board may be continued if approved by a majority of the members of each board of supervisors of Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties.

1 E. Control of existing special districts will be
2 assumed by the county in which the special district is
3 located. If a special district is located within more than
4 one county, the counties shall enter into an intergovernmental
5 agreement regarding control of the special district within one
6 year after the election of the county board of supervisors.

7 F. The elected boards of supervisors in Mesquite and
8 Saguaro counties will determine an application process for
9 municipalities to apply to be the county seat. The county
10 seat shall be determined at a special election to take place
11 not more than one hundred twenty days after the election of
12 the boards of supervisors in Mesquite and Saguaro counties.

13 G. Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties may enter
14 into a ten-year shared use agreement for the use of existing
15 shared capital assets. The counties shall divide furniture,
16 fixtures and equipment on a pro-rata basis based on the
17 furniture, fixtures and equipment located in each county.

18 H. The election of unfilled elected county seats in
19 Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties shall take place at
20 the same time as the election of the boards of supervisors in
21 Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties. Current elected
22 officials shall finish their current terms in the county in
23 which they reside.

24 I. Maricopa, Mesquite and Saguaro counties shall enter
25 into an intergovernmental agreement for the continued
26 operation of community colleges for a period of not less than
27 ten years after the effective date of this act.

28 Sec. 4. Conforming legislation

29 The legislative council staff shall prepare proposed
30 legislation conforming the Arizona Revised Statutes to the
31 provisions of this act for consideration in the fifty-seventh
32 legislature, first regular session.

33 2. The Secretary of State shall submit this proposition to the
34 voters at the next general election as provided by article IV, part 1,
35 section 1, Constitution of Arizona.