

REFERENCE TITLE: school elections; county administration; recorder

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

## **SB 1668**

Introduced by  
Senator Gowan

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 15-408; AMENDING SECTION 16-311, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;  
RELATING TO SCHOOL ELECTIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 4, article 1, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-408, to read:

4 15-408. County recorder; county officer in charge of  
5 elections; filing officer

6 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, FOR ALL ELECTIONS PRESCRIBED BY THIS  
7 TITLE:

8 1. THE COUNTY RECORDER SHALL ASSUME AND MAINTAIN THE VOTER  
9 REGISTRATION ROLLS.

10 2. THE COUNTY RECORDER AND THE COUNTY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF  
11 ELECTIONS SHALL CONDUCT AND CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES FOR ALL SCHOOL  
12 ELECTIONS IN THE SAME MANNER PRESCRIBED FOR COUNTY ELECTIONS PURSUANT TO  
13 TITLES 16 AND 19, AND AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.

14 3. THE COUNTY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS IS THE FILING OFFICER  
15 FOR ALL SCHOOL ELECTIONS.

16 Sec. 2. Section 16-311, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
17 read:

18 16-311. Nomination papers; statement of interest; filing;  
19 definitions

20 A. Any person desiring to become a candidate at a primary election  
21 for a political party and to have the person's name printed on the  
22 official ballot shall be a qualified elector of the party and, not less  
23 than one hundred twenty nor more than one hundred fifty days before the  
24 primary election, shall sign and cause to be filed a nomination paper  
25 giving the person's actual residence address or, if the person does not  
26 have an actual residence address, a description of place of residence and  
27 post office address, or, if the person's actual residence address is  
28 protected pursuant to section 16-153, a post office box or private mailbox  
29 address in the candidate's district or precinct, as applicable for a  
30 district or precinct office, naming the party of which the person desires  
31 to become a candidate, stating the office and district or precinct, if  
32 any, for which the person offers the person's candidacy, stating the exact  
33 manner in which the person desires to have the person's name printed on  
34 the official ballot pursuant to subsection G of this section, and giving  
35 the date of the primary election and, if nominated, the date of the  
36 general election at which the person desires to become a candidate.  
37 Except for a candidate for United States senator or representative in  
38 Congress, a candidate for public office shall be a qualified elector at  
39 the time of filing and shall reside in the county, district or precinct  
40 that the person proposes to represent. A candidate for partisan public  
41 office shall be continuously registered with the political party of which  
42 the person desires to be a candidate beginning ~~no~~ NOT later than the date  
43 of the first petition signature on the candidate's petition through the  
44 date of the general election at which the person is a candidate.

1           B. Any person desiring to become a candidate at any nonpartisan  
2 election and to have the person's name printed on the official ballot  
3 shall be at the time of filing a qualified elector of the county, city,  
4 town, SCHOOL DISTRICT or OTHER district and, not less than one hundred  
5 twenty nor more than one hundred fifty days before the election, shall  
6 sign and cause to be filed a nomination paper giving the person's actual  
7 residence address or, if the person does not have an actual residence  
8 address, a description of place of residence and post office address, or,  
9 if the person's actual residence address is protected pursuant to section  
10 16-153, a post office box or private mailbox address in the candidate's  
11 county, city, town, SCHOOL DISTRICT or OTHER district and ward or  
12 precinct, as applicable for a county, city, town or district and ward or  
13 precinct office, stating the office and county, city, town, SCHOOL  
14 DISTRICT or OTHER district and ward or precinct, if any, for which the  
15 person offers the person's candidacy, stating the exact manner in which  
16 the person desires to have the person's name printed on the official  
17 ballot pursuant to subsection G of this section and giving the date of the  
18 election. A candidate for office shall reside at the time of filing in  
19 the county, city, town, SCHOOL DISTRICT OR OTHER district, ward or  
20 precinct that the person proposes to represent.

21           C. Notwithstanding subsection B of this section, any city or town  
22 may adopt by ordinance for its elections the time frame provided in  
23 subsection A of this section for filing nomination petitions. The  
24 ordinance shall be adopted not less than one hundred fifty days before the  
25 first election to which it applies.

26           D. All persons desiring to become a candidate shall file with the  
27 nomination paper provided for in subsection A of this section a  
28 declaration, which shall be printed in a form prescribed by the secretary  
29 of state. The declaration shall include facts sufficient to show that,  
30 other than the residency requirement provided in subsection A of this  
31 section and the satisfaction of any monetary penalties, fines or judgments  
32 as prescribed in subsection J of this section, the candidate will be  
33 qualified at the time of election to hold the office the person seeks, and  
34 that for any monetary penalties, fines or judgments as prescribed in  
35 subsection J of this section, the candidate has made complete payment  
36 before the time of filing.

37           E. The nomination paper of a candidate for the office of United  
38 States senator or representative in Congress, for the office of  
39 presidential elector or for a state office, including a member of the  
40 legislature, or for any other office for which the electors of the entire  
41 state or a subdivision of the state greater than a county are entitled to  
42 vote, shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than 5:00 p.m.  
43 on the last date for filing.

44           F. The nomination paper of a candidate for superior court judge or  
45 for a county, district and precinct office for which the electors of a

1 county or a subdivision of a county other than an incorporated city or  
2 town are entitled to vote, **INCLUDING A CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
3 **OFFICE**, shall be filed with the county elections officer ~~no~~ NOT later than  
4 5:00 p.m. on the last date for filing as prescribed by subsection A of  
5 this section. The nomination paper of a candidate for a city or town  
6 office shall be filed with the city or town clerk ~~no~~ NOT later than 5:00  
7 p.m. on the last date for filing. ~~The nomination paper of a candidate for~~  
8 ~~school district office shall be filed with the county school~~  
9 ~~superintendent no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last date for filing.~~

10 G. The nomination paper shall include the exact manner in which the  
11 candidate desires to have the person's name printed on the official ballot  
12 and shall be limited to the candidate's surname and given name or names,  
13 an abbreviated version of such names or appropriate initials such as "Bob"  
14 for "Robert", "Jim" for "James", "Wm." for "William" or "S." for "Samuel".  
15 Nicknames are permissible, but nicknames, abbreviated versions or initials  
16 of given names may not suggest reference to professional, fraternal,  
17 religious or military titles and may not include a slogan, a promotional  
18 word or phrase or any word that does not actually constitute a  
19 nickname. No other descriptive name or names shall be printed on the  
20 official ballot, except as provided in this section. Candidates'  
21 abbreviated names or nicknames may be printed within quotation marks. The  
22 candidate's surname shall be printed first, followed by the given name or  
23 names.

24 H. Not later than the date of the first petition signature on a  
25 nomination petition, a person who may be a candidate for office pursuant  
26 to this section shall file a statement of interest with the appropriate  
27 filing officer for that office. The statement of interest shall contain  
28 the name of the person, the political party, if any, and the name of the  
29 office that may be sought. Any nomination petition signatures collected  
30 before the date the statement of interest is filed are invalid and subject  
31 to challenge. This subsection does not apply to:

32 1. Candidates for elected office for special taxing districts that  
33 are established pursuant to title 48.

34 2. Candidates for precinct committeeman.

35 3. Candidates for president or vice president of the United States.

36 I. A person who does not file a timely nomination paper that  
37 complies with this section is not eligible to have the person's name  
38 printed on the official ballot for that office. The filing officer shall  
39 not accept the nomination paper of a candidate for state or local office  
40 unless the person provides or has provided all of the following:

41 1. The financial disclosure statement as prescribed for candidates  
42 for that office.

43 2. The declaration of qualification and eligibility as prescribed  
44 in subsection D of this section.

1 J. Except in cases where the liability is being appealed, the  
2 filing officer shall not accept the nomination paper of a candidate for  
3 state or local office if the person is liable for an aggregation of \$1,000  
4 or more in fines, penalties, late fees or administrative or civil  
5 judgments, including any interest or costs, in any combination, that have  
6 not been fully satisfied at the time of the attempted filing of the  
7 nomination paper and the liability arose from failure to comply with or  
8 enforcement of chapter 6 of this title.

9 K. For the purposes of this title:

10 1. "Election district" means this state, any county, city, town,  
11 precinct, SCHOOL DISTRICT or other political subdivision or a special  
12 district that is not a political subdivision, that is authorized by  
13 statute to conduct an election and that is authorized or required to  
14 conduct its election in accordance with this title.

15 2. "Nomination paper" means the form filed with the appropriate  
16 office by a person wishing to declare the person's intent to become a  
17 candidate for a particular political office.

18 Sec. 3. Applicability

19 This act applies to elections conducted from and after December 31,  
20 2024.

21 Sec. 4. Conforming legislation

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