



Summary of Significant Changes in the Final 2019 Elections Procedures Manual from Oct. 1, 2019 draft

This summary is not exhaustive, but highlights significant substantive changes from the Oct. 1 draft submitted to the Attorney General and Governor's Office.

Arizona Secretary of State

CHAPTER 1: VOTER REGISTRATION

- Clarified that registrants who will be 18 years old by the next general election, but will not be 18 by the next election (that is not a general election), must be placed in “suspense” status until they turn 18.
- Added sample forms for notifying under-18 registrants of the status of their registration.

CHAPTER 2: EARLY VOTING

- Requires that ballot drop-boxes and drop-off locations must be approved by the Board of Supervisors (or designee) and specifies security requirements and procedures for ballot drop-off locations and drop-boxes.
- Removed post-election cure period for early ballots returned without a signature (procedures for curing missing signatures before close of the polls remain).
- Added procedures for County Recorder handling of rejected early ballots and incorrect ballots sent to voters.

CHAPTER 3: BALLOT-BY-MAIL ELECTIONS

- Removed procedures for how to handle pre-election notices and unaffiliated/independent voters who do not designate a political party or nonpartisan ballot to receive by mail when an all ballot-by-mail election is on the same date as a partisan primary election.

CHAPTER 4: VOTING EQUIPMENT

- Specified procedures to be implemented in the event errors are discovered during L&A testing.

CHAPTER 8: PRE-ELECTION PROCEDURES

- Specified that an observer at a voting location shall not offer to assist any voter in the process of voting at a voting location. If a voter specifically requests an observer’s assistance in voting, the observer may only assist the voter after relinquishing the observer’s formal status as an observer.

- Added procedures to be followed if a ballot box needs to be removed from a voting location prior to the close of the polls due to an emergency per A.R.S. § 16-564(A)-(E), (G).
- Removed express references to specific circumstances in which an election board may issue regular rather than provision ballots when they have access to real-time updates to voter records.
- Added procedures for issuing provisional ballots to out-of-precinct voters and procedures for allowing out-of-precinct voters to cast regular ballots on accessible voting equipment capable of allowing the voter to vote the correct ballot style.

CHAPTER 9: CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS/ ELECTION DAY OPERATIONS

- Revised election board procedures for closing the voting location.

CHAPTER 10: CENTRAL COUNTING PLACE PROCEDURES

- Removed authorization for counties to use a certified electronic adjudication program (in lieu of manual duplication of ballots) to adjudicate, and, if voter intent is clear, count, votes on ballots initially read by tabulation equipment as blank or over-voted (authorization to use electronic adjudication program to electronically tally write-in votes remains).

CHAPTER 15: POLITICAL PARTY RECOGNITION

- Specified standards per A.R.S. § 16-803(E) for County Recorder processing of signatures on new party petitions.

CHAPTER 16: CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- Removed guidance regarding handling potential conflicts of interest in adjudicating third-party campaign finance complaints.
- Updated sample committee campaign finance report to include treasurer's certification.

Arizona Secretary of State
December 23, 2019