

Senate Engrossed

ballot measures; description; legislative council

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SENATE BILL 1534

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 19-125, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO INITIATIVES
AND REFERENDUMS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 19-125, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 19-125. Form of ballot

5 A. The secretary of state, at the time the secretary of state
6 transmits to the clerks of the boards of supervisors a certified copy of
7 the name of each candidate for public office, shall transmit to each clerk
8 a certified copy of the official title, the descriptive title and the
9 number of each measure and proposed amendment to the constitution to be
10 voted on at the ensuing regular general election.

11 B. Proposed constitutional amendments shall be numbered
12 consecutively beginning with the number one hundred, proposed initiative
13 measures shall be numbered consecutively beginning with the number two
14 hundred, measures submitted under the referendum shall be numbered
15 consecutively beginning with the number three hundred, and county and
16 local issues shall be numbered consecutively beginning with the number
17 four hundred. Numbering shall be consecutive based on the order in which
18 the initiative or referendum petitions are filed with the secretary of
19 state. Individual numbering shall continue from the last number used in
20 the previous election and shall not be repeated until all one hundred
21 numbers in that series have been used. Proposed constitutional amendments
22 shall be placed by themselves at the head of the ballot column, followed
23 by initiated and referred measures in that order. The number assigned to
24 the measure by the secretary of state constitutes the official title of
25 the measure and shall be used for identification of the measure by the
26 state and the county in all subsequent official election materials,
27 including the publicity pamphlet.

28 C. The officer in charge of elections shall print the official
29 title and the descriptive title of each measure on the official ballot in
30 the order presented to him by the secretary of state unless otherwise
31 provided by law. The number of the measure shall be in reverse type and
32 at least twelve point type. A proposed constitutional amendment shall be
33 designated "proposed amendment to the constitution by the legislature", or
34 "proposed amendment to the constitution by the initiative", as the case
35 may be. A measure referred by the legislature shall be designated
36 "referred to the people by the legislature", a measure referred by
37 petition shall be designated "referendum ordered by petition of the
38 people" and a measure proposed by initiative petition shall be designated
39 "proposed by initiative petition".

40 D. A descriptive title shall be printed on the official ballot
41 immediately below the number of the measure and the official title of each
42 measure. The descriptive title shall contain a summary of the principal
43 provisions of the measure, not to exceed fifty words, which shall be
44 prepared by the ~~secretary of state and approved by the attorney general~~
45 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OR, FOR CITY, TOWN OR COUNTY MEASURES, BY THE CITY OR

1 TOWN CLERK OR COUNTY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS AND THE CITY, TOWN OR
2 COUNTY ATTORNEY, and shall include the following or the ballot shall
3 comply with subsection F of this section:

4 A "yes" vote shall have the effect of _____.

5 A "no" vote shall have the effect of _____.

6 The blank spaces shall be filled with a brief phrase, ~~approved by the~~
7 ~~attorney general~~ PREPARED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OR, FOR CITY, TOWN OR
8 COUNTY MEASURES, BY THE CITY OR TOWN CLERK OR COUNTY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF
9 ELECTIONS AND THE CITY, TOWN OR COUNTY ATTORNEY, stating the essential
10 change in the existing law should the measure receive a majority of votes
11 cast in that particular manner. In the case of a referendum, a "yes" vote
12 shall have the effect of approving the legislative enactment that is being
13 referred. The "yes" and "no" language shall be posted on the secretary of
14 state's website after being ~~approved~~ PREPARED by the ~~attorney general~~
15 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OR, FOR CITY, TOWN OR COUNTY MEASURES, BY THE CITY OR
16 TOWN CLERK OR COUNTY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS AND THE CITY, TOWN OR
17 COUNTY ATTORNEY, and before the date on which the official ballots and the
18 publicity pamphlet are sent to be printed. Below the statement of effect
19 of a "yes" vote and effect of a "no" vote there shall be printed the
20 corresponding words "yes" and "no" and a place for the voter to put a mark
21 as defined in section 16-400 indicating the voter's preference.

22 E. In addition to the information prescribed by subsection D of
23 this section, for state statutory measures, the officer in charge of
24 elections shall print on the official ballot immediately before the first
25 proposed state statutory initiative measure and immediately before the
26 first proposed state statutory measure submitted under the referendum the
27 following statement: "Notice: Pursuant to proposition 105 (1998), these
28 measures cannot be changed in the future if approved on the ballot except
29 by a three-fourths vote of the members of each house of the legislature
30 and if the change furthers the purpose of the original ballot measure, by
31 an initiative petition or by referring the change to the ballot."

32 F. Instead of printing the official and descriptive titles or the
33 full text of each measure or question on the official ballot, the officer
34 in charge of elections may print phrases on the official ballot that
35 contain all of the following:

36 1. The number of the measure in reverse type and at least twelve
37 point type.

38 2. The designation of the measure as prescribed by subsection C of
39 this section or as a question, proposition or charter amendment, followed
40 by the words "relating to..." and inserting the subject.

41 3. Either the statement prescribed by subsection D of this section
42 that describes the effects of a "yes" vote and a "no" vote or, for other
43 measures, the text of the question or proposition.

44 4. The words "yes" and "no" or "for" and "against", as may be
45 appropriate and a place for the voter to put a mark.

1 5. For state statutory measures, immediately before the first
2 proposed state statutory initiative measure and immediately before the
3 first proposed state statutory measure submitted under the referendum the
4 following statement: "Notice: Pursuant to proposition 105 (1998), these
5 measures cannot be changed in the future if approved on the ballot except
6 by a three-fourths vote of the members of each house of the legislature
7 and if the change furthers the purpose of the original ballot measure, by
8 an initiative petition or by referring the change to the ballot."

9 G. For any ballot printed pursuant to subsection F of this section,
10 the instructions on the official ballot shall direct the voter to the full
11 text of the official and descriptive titles and the questions and
12 propositions as printed on the sample ballot and posted in the polling
13 place.