



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

**FINAL AMENDED**  
FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2826

consolidated election dates; political subdivisions

Purpose

Modifies statute related to consolidated election dates and political subdivisions.

Background

According to A.R.S. § 16-204, all elections, including recall elections and special elections to fill vacancies, must be held on: a) the second Tuesday in March, b) the third Tuesday in May, c) the tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and d) the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. However, for regular elections that are only for candidates in a city or town with a population of at least 175,000, not including recall elections and special elections to fill vacancies in those cities or towns, elections must be held on: a) the tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and b) the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund.

Provisions

1. Establishes, beginning with elections held in 2014, that a candidate election held for or on behalf of any political subdivision of this state, other than a special election to fill a vacancy or a recall election, must be held on the following dates and only in even-numbered years:
  - a) the tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and specifies the following:
    - i. if the political subdivision holds a primary or first election and a general or runoff election is either required or optional for that political subdivision, the first election must be held on this date, without regard to whether the political subdivision designates the election a primary election, a first election, a preliminary election or any other descriptive term.
  - b) the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and specifies the following:
    - i. if the political subdivision holds a general election or a runoff election, the second election held must be held on this date; or
    - ii. if the political subdivision holds only a single election and no preliminary or primary or other election is ever held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates, or receiving a partisan nomination or designation or for any other purpose for that political subdivision, the single election must be held on this date.

2. Establishes, beginning with elections held in 2014 that are not candidate elections, an election held for or on behalf of any political subdivision of this state, and including a special election to fill a vacancy or a recall election, must be held on the following dates:
  - a) the second Tuesday in March;
  - b) the third Tuesday in May;
  - c) the tenth Tuesday before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November; or
  - d) the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Requires an election to be held on this date for the approval of an obligation or other authorization requiring or authorizing the assessment of secondary property taxes by a county, city, town, school district, community college district or special taxing district, with a certain exception.
3. Permits certain election officers to use a unified ballot format that combines all of the issues applicable to the voters in a city, town or school district in an all mail ballot election.
4. Defines *political subdivision*.
5. Contains a preemption statement, a conforming legislation clause and a severability clause.
6. Makes technical and conforming changes.
7. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Senate Committee of the Whole

- Requires candidate elections to be held in even-numbered years and on the primary and general election dates, with a certain exception.
- Specifies that non-candidate elections, including a special election to fill a vacancy or a recall election, are held on the consolidated election dates.
- Permits an election officer to use a unified ballot format in certain all mail ballot elections.

House Action

Senate Action

JUD	2/16/12	DP	5-4-0	JUD	3/12/12	DP	6-2-0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	3/01/12		31-24-4-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	4/04/12		11-17-2
Final Read	4/30/12		32-28-0	3 <sup>rd</sup> Read #2	4/19/12		16-13-1

Signed by the Governor 5/14/12  
Chapter 353

Prepared by Senate Research  
May 22, 2012  
GK/tf