



SB 92 COMPREHENSIVE ELECTIONS UPDATE

SB 92 is the Secretary of State's annual elections legislation. It incorporates several elections bills into SB 92 including HB 725, HB 776 and HB 899 much of which was developed in cooperation with local election officials.

Some of the highlights of the bill:

- Allows the Secretary of State to develop a secure method to register to vote online.
- Gives independent candidates the option to qualify during partisan qualifying.
- Incumbents running as an independent to succeed his or herself are no longer required to collect petition signatures.
- Moves up the date the Secretary of State and superintendents publish the list of qualified write-in candidates so it is available before absentee voting begins.
- Requires that the Secretary of State determine the look and manner of the qualifying petition form.
- Allows an absentee ballot request for to also be used by the elector to notify elections office of a name change.
- Provides for the county registrar to utilize other methods to identify if a voter has recently died (obituaries, verifiable knowledge, letter by a family member, etc) allowing for more accurate voter rolls.
- Improves the National Change of Address registration updating process.
- Clarifies the statute governing the use of cameras and recording devices in the polling place.
- Gives the Governor more flexibility in calling for special elections for legislative seats by removing the 30-60 day requirement when the general assembly is not in session.
- Allows that if an incumbent were to qualify for reelection then withdraw before the end of qualifying, then qualifying would be extended for an additional two days. Also allows the political parties the opportunity to reopen qualifying if an incumbent were to withdraw after qualifying ended.
- Declares that consolidated governments that elect their officials in a nonpartisan election shall hold their elections on the nonpartisan general election date (July Primary).
- Includes language to allow a refund of qualifying fees if it was the result of an error by the elections superintendent.