

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
EXTENDING HOURS OF OPERATION) Administrative Order
AND PRIORITY FOR ADJUDICATION) No. 2026 - 88
OF ELECTION PROCEEDINGS)
)
)
_____)

To ensure prompt consideration of any legal dispute regarding voting in the primary election on July 21, 2026, and in the general election on November 3, 2026, it is necessary to extend the hours of operation of the Superior Court in Arizona until the polls close those days.

The administration of justice requires that priority be given to the resolution of post-election judicial proceedings. Arizona law requires that judgment be pronounced by the Superior Court in election contests on an accelerated basis. A.R.S. § 16-676 (providing that judgment must be pronounced within five days after a hearing, which is to be set “not later than ten days after the date on which the statement of contest was filed, which may be continued for not to exceed five days for good cause shown”). Practical considerations may dictate the need for entry of judgment well within the outer limits of these timeframes. In an election contest, judgment must be entered by the trial court so that sufficient time remains for consideration of an appeal, if any, and a potential remand. Giving priority to adjudicating an election contest may necessitate the delay of other court proceedings.

The administration of justice also requires that priority be given to address judicial tasks concerning recounts. When a canvass of election returns shows that an automatic recount is required, A.R.S. § 16-662 requires the canvassing authority to certify the facts requiring the recount to the Superior Court in the county in which the canvass is conducted. Arizona law requires that the Superior Court promptly enter an order requiring a recount of votes. A.R.S. § 16-663(A). The Superior Court must receive the recount result, announce the result, and enter an order of its determination for delivery to the elected officials responsible for issuing the required proclamation or certificates of election. A.R.S. § 16-665.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, sections 3 and 23 of the Arizona Constitution, and the existing Arizona statutes for determining the results of elections,

Election-Day Availability

IT IS ORDERED that the Superior Court, including the Office of the Clerk of the Court, in each county shall remain available to accept filings and act on requests for emergency relief on

July 21, 2026, and on November 3, 2026, until all the polling locations in the county are closed to voters.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge in each county shall provide a telephone number that can be used to contact the court after 5:00 PM on July 21, 2026, and on November 3, 2026, to (1) the local county elections department, (2) the division of the Court of Appeals to which the Superior Court is assigned, (3) the Supreme Court Clerk, (4) the county attorney, and (5) the Administrative Office of the Courts.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge or designee in each county immediately notify (1) the clerk of the applicable division of the Court of Appeals, (2) the Supreme Court Clerk, and (3) the Supreme Court's Public Information Officer in the event the court receives an election-related case on July 21, 2026, or on November 3, 2026.

Recount Availability

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Superior Court in each county must be available to receive from election officials certified facts requiring a recount and to promptly issue related orders. The Superior Court is directed to coordinate with election officials and the clerk of the court so that certification of facts may be received and orders issued outside of normal court hours, if needed.

Priority

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a Superior Court judge assigned to a contest or other action concerning the outcome of the primary election or the general election is to give priority to adjudicating the action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that proceedings in election contests must be scheduled so that an appealable judgment will be issued in sufficient time for consideration of an appeal, if any, and a potential remand.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a request for certification of good and sufficient cause will be approved in accordance with A.R.S. § 12-128.01(A) in the event a judge is unable to issue rulings within sixty days on other litigation due to the priority given adjudication of an election contest.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2026.

ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
Chief Justice