

# **Arizona Voter Registration Citizenship Requirement Including Documentary Proof of Citizenship**

## **Citizenship Requirement**

A registrant must be a U.S. citizen to be qualified to register to vote. [Ariz. Const. Art. VII, § 2](#); [A.R.S. § 16-101\(A\)\(1\)](#); [18 U.S.C. § 611\(a\)](#).

U.S. citizenship must be sworn to when registering to vote. In addition, under Arizona's bifurcated or dual-track voter registration system, an acceptable form of documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) is required to be registered as a "full-ballot" voter. A "full-ballot" voter is entitled to vote for all federal, state, county, and local races as well as state and local ballot measures for which the voter qualifies.

An otherwise eligible registrant who does not submit DPOC and whose U.S. citizenship cannot be verified via AZMVD records or other record in the statewide voter registration database is registered as a "federal-only" voter. A "federal-only" voter is eligible to vote solely in races for federal office in Arizona (including the Presidential Preference Election (PPE)).

### **1. Valid Forms of DPOC**

The following section outlines what constitutes satisfactory DPOC under Arizona law.

#### ***Driver Licenses and Identification Cards***

A registrant may submit certain state-issued driver license or non-driver identification card information as satisfactory DPOC. [A.R.S. § 16-166\(F\)\(1\)](#).

##### **i. Arizona Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card Number**

An Arizona driver license or non-driver identification card number (AZDL/ID#) issued by AZMVD after October 1, 1996 constitutes valid DPOC. To be deemed satisfactory, (1) the AZDL/ID# must be verified against AZMVD records; and (2) the verification must not return a result that indicates non-citizenship (*i.e.*, an "F-type" license).

A County Recorder may accept a copy of the registrant's AZDL/ID# as DPOC, but must still enter the AZDL/ID# into the statewide voter registration database so it can be verified against AZMVD records. AZMVD issues "F-type" licenses or ID cards to those who are non-citizens at the time of issuance. Because an F-type designation is not apparent on the face of

the license or ID card, an AZDL/ID# alone is not sufficient to prove citizenship without verification against AZMVD records.

## **ii. Out-of-State Driver License or Identification Card**

An out-of-state driver license or identification card may constitute satisfactory DPOC if it was issued by the state's driver license-issuing agency and indicates *on the face of the license or card* that the person provided proof of U.S. citizenship in that state. A County Recorder may accept an approved out-of-state license or identification card at face value and need not electronically verify the license or card.

For example, enhanced driver licenses or enhanced identification cards from other states that are issued in compliance with the Departments of State and Homeland Security's Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative satisfy Arizona's DPOC requirement. These states display an American flag on the face of the license or card. Examples of an enhanced license from Michigan and New York appear below with the American flag circled.

While a County Recorder shall not accept an out-of-state driver license or identification card number alone (because the statewide voter registration database cannot electronically verify these numbers), a County Recorder may visually verify or accept a copy of these licenses or cards for DPOC purposes.

### ***Birth Certificate***

A registrant may submit a legible copy of the registrant's birth certificate from any U.S. state or territory as satisfactory DPOC. [A.R.S. § 16-166\(F\)\(2\)](#). For U.S. citizens born abroad, a "Certification of Report of Birth" or "Consular Report of Birth Abroad" issued by a consular officer from the U.S. Department of State will suffice for a birth certificate. [22 U.S.C. § 2705\(2\)](#).

The registrant must supply supporting legal documentation (such as a marriage certificate or court- documented name change) if the name on the birth certificate or document is not the registrant's current legal name. If the registrant cannot provide supporting legal documentation to account for a different last name, a County Recorder must accept the birth certificate or document if at least the following information matches on both the birth certificate or document and the registration form:

- First name;
- Middle name;
- Place of birth;

- Date of birth; and
- Parents' name(s).

### ***U.S. Passport***

A registrant may submit a legible copy of the pertinent pages of the registrant's U.S. passport or passport card, or present the registrant's U.S. passport or passport card to the County Recorder, as DPOC. [A.R.S. § 16-166\(F\)\(3\)](#).

The pertinent pages of a U.S. passport are those that contain the photo, passport number, name, nationality, date of birth, gender, place of birth, and signature (if applicable). A U.S. passport card also may be accepted, which does not contain a signature.

If the County Recorder visually inspects (and does not make a copy of) the pertinent passport pages or passport card, the County Recorder must note in the registrant's voter registration record that the passport was inspected.

### ***Citizenship and Immigration Documents***

A registrant may present the registrant's original naturalization documents to the County Recorder for inspection or submit (1) a legible copy of the registrant's Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship, or (2) the registrant's Naturalization Certificate Number, Citizenship Certificate Number, or Alien Registration Number (also known as an "A-Number").

If a registrant does not present originals or provide a copy of documents but just provides a citizenship number, including a Citizenship Certificate Number, Naturalization Certificate Number, or Alien Registration Number, for proof of citizenship purposes, this number must be verified against U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database before the number can be deemed satisfactory. [A.R.S. § 16-166\(F\)\(4\)](#); see [Chapter 1, Section II\(A\)\(6\)](#) for more information on SAVE verification procedures.

### ***Tribal Identification Numbers and Documents***

A registrant may submit a Tribal Enrollment Number, Indian Census Number, Bureau of Indian Affairs Card Number, or Tribal Treaty Card Number as satisfactory DPOC. These tribal identification numbers are presumed valid for voter registration purposes and need not be verified against any database. [A.R.S. § 16-166\(F\)\(6\)](#).

A registrant may also submit a legible copy of the registrant's Tribal Certificate of Indian Blood or Tribal/Bureau of Indian Affairs Affidavit of Birth as satisfactory DPOC.

[Arizona Secretary of State 2019 Elections Procedure Manual](#) - pages 3-6