



**KEN BENNETT**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**STATE OF ARIZONA**



August 5, 2014

Dear Election Officials in Coconino, Gila, Navajo and Yavapai Counties:

Due to the passing of Senator Chester Crandell (LD6) our offices have received numerous media requests and questions from the public about the vacancy selection process for Legislative District 6. Arizona Revised Statutes Section 16-343 outlines the process for a vacancy on the ballot and explains next steps for election officials due to this vacancy.

Primary Election

Early voting began on July 31, 2014 and the ballots have been printed for the primary election with Senator Crandell listed as the only candidate for the primary election.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-343(F), a vacancy due to the death of the candidate "shall not be filled." Therefore, write-in candidates are not authorized and the primary election will move forward with only Senator Crandell's name on the ballot. Our office will notify the appropriate county board of supervisors to post a notice of Senator Crandell's death and that votes cast for him will be tabulated.

General Election

Following the primary election, the vacancy on the ballot is filled by the party's precinct committeemen. There are four counties within Legislative District 6: Coconino, Gila, Navajo and Yavapai. The Republican Chairman of Coconino County will call the meeting since it is the county with the largest geographical area in the district as confirmed by the Independent Redistricting Commission (see A.R.S. § 16-343(C)). All precinct committeemen from the district may participate to nominate a candidate of the party's choice and that candidate will file a nomination paper and affidavit to comply with the filing requirements. The candidate will face any other candidates eligible to appear on the general election ballot.

Legislative Vacancy

The process to fill the remainder of Senator Crandell's term is guided by A.R.S. § 41-1202 and is separate from the ballot vacancy process. The precinct committeemen from Navajo county will nominate three qualified electors to the Navajo County Board of Supervisors who will make the final appointment.

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Please direct any questions to Christina Estes-Werther, State Election Director,  
at (602) 542-8683 or [cwerther@azsos.gov](mailto:cwerther@azsos.gov).

Sincerely,



Ken Bennett  
Secretary of State