**GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS** 

## STATE OF ARIZONA EXECUTIVE ORDER

## **Executive Order 2023-23**

## Authorizing the Use of State Facilities as Voting Locations

WHEREAS, the right to vote is fundamental to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to provide adequate access to voting, which under Arizona law includes returning a ballot by mail, returning a ballot at a designated drop box or voting location, and casting a ballot in person at a voting location; and

WHEREAS, A.R.S. §§ 16-248 and -411 require counties to designate voting locations prior to elections; and

WHEREAS, the Elections Procedures Manual outlines factors to consider when evaluating potential voting locations, including requiring that voting locations be appropriately sized for the anticipated voter turnout, meet accessibility requirements, and have sufficient public parking; and

WHEREAS, counties may face challenges in procuring enough adequate voting locations, particularly in light of increased threats and intimidation against election officials, poll workers, and voters in recent elections; and

WHEREAS, the State owns facilities that may satisfy the criteria for voting locations or serve as convenient and secure ballot drop-off locations across the State; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2020-50 provided for the utilization of State facilities as voting locations in the 2020 Primary and General Elections; and

WHEREAS, it remains in the interests of the State to work with counties to make State-owned facilities available for use as voting locations or ballot drop-off locations; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 4 of the Arizona Constitution and Title 41, Chapter 1, Article 1, of the Arizona Revised Statutes vest the executive power of the State of Arizona in the Governor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of this State, do hereby order and direct as follows:

- 1. The Arizona Department of Administration shall coordinate with State agencies and counties to identify and make available State-owned facilities, as appropriate, for use as voting locations or ballot drop-off locations in any statewide election in this State.
- 2. This Executive Order shall not confer any legal rights or remedies upon any person and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to any action or inaction of a State Agency, officer, employee, or agent thereof.

