



P. O. Box 3145  
Tucson, AZ 85702-3145

Located in the Old Courthouse at:  
115 North Church Avenue, Tucson, AZ

<http://www.recorder.pima.gov>

**F. Ann Rodriguez**  
**Pima County Recorder**

*Recording history one document at a time.*

**Christopher J. Roads**  
**Chief Deputy Recorder**  
**Registrar of Voters**

**Document Recording: (520) 740-4350**  
**Voter Registration: (520) 740-4330**  
**Fax: (520) 623-1785**

## **Guest Opinion**

### **January 31, 2007**

The 2008 Presidential Preference Election is rapidly approaching us here in Arizona on February 5, 2008. However, I wonder if the 134,000 in Pima County or the 755,000 in the state that are registered Independents or No Party Designated, realize unless their registration is changed to either the Republican or Democratic Party, they can not or will not have a vote in the Arizona Presidential Preference Election.

This is the first time in several decades that there has not been a sitting President or Vice-President seeking the office of President of the United States. This Election is very important as this is the beginning of the long political process for Presidential candidates to achieve the goal of being the successful candidate to represent their political party for the 2008 November General Election. This is the first step for you as a voter to have a say in this process.

Although the Holiday season is still upon us and many people will be paying less attention to an election occurring in February, now is the time to check to determine if you are eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Election. The voter registration deadline is less than a week after New Year's Day.

Only two political parties will be participating in the Presidential Preference Election on February 5, 2008, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The Libertarian Party has opted not to participate in the election and no other political party qualifies in Arizona. In order to participate, you must be registered to vote as a member of either the Republican or Democratic Party. "Wait a minute," you say. "Independents and No Party Designated have a right to vote in partisan primary elections. As a voter registered as an Independent or No Party Designated, I should be entitled to vote in the Presidential Preference Election."

When the initiative that created Arizona's open primary law was drafted—the initiative that the citizens of the State of Arizona voted and approved--it did not include the Presidential Preference Election.

A voter who chooses to register as an Independent or No Party Designated can vote in our state Primary Election held in September. However, the election that will be held on February 5, 2008 is not a "primary" election under Arizona State law. It is a "preference" election. A "primary" election is a "winner-take-all" election.

In a preference election, the candidates are vying for delegates to the political party convention. Each Presidential candidate receiving a percentage of the votes will win one or more delegates, with the largest share going to the candidate who receives the most votes.

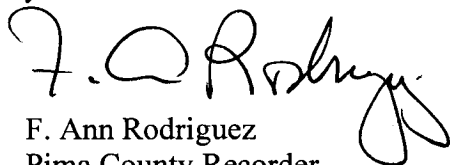
While these distinctions may seem subtle, this is the requirement in Arizona State law that the Recorder's Offices in Arizona are required to apply. If you are not registered as a member of the Democratic or Republican Party, you simply will not be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Election on February 5, 2008.

So check your most recent voter registration card. If it does not say "DEM" or "REP" and you want to vote in the Presidential Preference Election, you need to submit a new registration form and designate the party of the candidate you want to support. While you are checking your voter registration card for your party affiliation, you should also check to make certain that your address is correct and if not, update that information at the same time.

If you have an Arizona driver's license or identification card issued by the Motor Vehicle Division after October 1, 1996, you can submit your registration form online at [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com). If you want to submit a regular voter registration form, you can obtain a form at the Recorder's Office, at any library, Post Office, Motor Vehicle Division Office, most city and town halls, headquarters for any political party, or you can download one from the Recorder's website, [www.recorder.pima.gov](http://www.recorder.pima.gov). If you live outside Pima County, voter forms are also available at these same locations in your county and you can also use [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com). Contact your local County Recorder's Office for additional information.

After the Presidential Preference Election is over, and it is your desire to go back to Independent or No Party Designated, just complete a new voter registration form and submit it to the Recorder's office or go online. If you have any questions, please call 740-4330.

The deadline for registering to vote in the Presidential Preference Election is January 7, 2008. If you want to vote for the candidate of your choice, make certain you qualify and that your voice is heard.



F. Ann Rodriguez  
Pima County Recorder  
520-740-4356