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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2012 GENERAL ELECTION REPORT EARLY BALLOTS VOTING AREA/PRECINCT STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez, released a comprehensive report on vote-by-mail ballots issued to voters. The report contained information for each voting area/precinct on the numbers of vote-by-mail ballots that were issued, voted and returned by Pima County voters.

The Pima County Recorder's Office mailed a total of 314,258 ballots to voters in Pima County who requested a ballot to be mailed to them. Of this figure, a total of 255,841 ballots were voted by Pima County voters. These are voters who like to utilize the vote by mail process.

The remaining 58,417 voters who were mailed a vote-by-mail ballot chose not to vote their vote-by-mail ballot. However, 15,464 voters who were mailed a vote-by-mail ballot chose instead to go to their assigned polling location on Election Day and were issued a provisional ballot. The decision by these voters made it necessary to issue 15,464 provisional ballots of the 27,646 provisional ballots that were issued in this election.

The remaining 42,953 voters who received vote-by-mail ballots chose not to participate in the election and we will categorize these as non-voting participants.

Under Arizona law, a voter who receives a vote-by-mail ballot can request up to two replacement ballots if the first ballot is lost, misplaced or damaged. The Pima County Recorder's Office issued 5,383 voters a 2nd ballot. Though requests for a third replacement ballot are rare, Pima County Recorder's Office received requests from 193 voters for a third ballot during this election.

The computer system will not allow more than one voted ballot to be accepted, so while some voters ordered up to three ballots, only one ballot was processed to be counted.

Press Release

December 5, 2012

Page 2 of 2

The Recorder's Office is required to ask voters the reason they need to receive replacement ballots. During this election cycle some unusual reasons were provided by the voters. These are some, but not all, of the reasons that were given to staff by the 5,383 voters requesting replacement ballots for the 2012 General Election cycle.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used a Sharpie pen and it bled through the ballot on the other side	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My husband voted my ballot and he likes to go to the polls
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dropped cigarette on ballot and burned it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changed my mind on some of the propositions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cat vomited on my first ballot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changed my mind for President after the last debate
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parrot ate the ballot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I accidentally put it through the shredder
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot find my ballot on my desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I ordered a ballot to this hotel but I am moving hotels so send to the new one
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used the wrong pen purple, highlighter did not read instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ballot got wet; put it in the microwave to dry it; ballot caught on fire
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voted for the wrong candidate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I was supposed to single shot a candidate for a race

There are several issues concerning the current process of the vote-by-mail program. The most significant is the question is that 58, 417 were mailed vote-by-mail ballots but for whatever reason did not to vote their ballot. This amounts to almost 20 % of the voters who requested a vote-by-mail ballot.

The second major issue concerns voters who receive a vote-by-mail ballot and then chose to go to their assigned polling location on Election Day. For the 2012 General Election, there were 15,607 who were in this category and were issued provisional ballots.

Several solutions to remedy these conditions have been proposed among the fifteen counties in Arizona and will be discussed at the scheduled state wide Records meeting in Phoenix on Thursday, December 6, 2012, to remedy these conditions. Preliminary discussions with statewide election officials indicate several of the recommendations to resolve these issues will require the Arizona State legislature to implement legislation during the next session.