



Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

Pima County Recorder

240 N. Stone Ave., First Floor

Tucson, AZ 85701

PHN: (520) 724-4330

FAX: (520) 623-1785

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

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CONTACT: Mary Reynolds

Media Inquiries to (520) 724-4353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recorder Statement on Pascua Yaqui Request for Early Voting Site

The Pascua Yaqui tribe presented concerns about an early voting site on tribal lands today at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez has the following response:

Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez presented before the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in 2018, at one of their council meetings to advise them as to why there was no Early Voting Site, and that this would also be the plan for the 2020 Election. Ms. Rodriguez had two public hearings on this matter before the Board of Supervisors who do not approve Early Voting Sites. The Board of Supervisors approves Emergency Voting Sites and ballot drop off locations only. The Recorder is responsible for deciding where Early Voting Sites will be located.

Ms. Rodriguez offered some recommendations which the Pascua Yaqui leadership have not considered at this time.

1. The Pima County Recorder has no record of who is a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe – some live in metropolitan Tucson, unincorporated Pima County, Old Pascua in the Grant and Oracle area as well as in Yoeme Pueblo (Rillito) in Marana. They also have members who live in Maricopa County. Without the means to identify tribal members, the Recorder's Office is unable to target tribal voters and encourage voter participation.
2. Pascua Yaqui Tribe enrollment is proprietary information.
3. Due to the proprietary nature of the Pascua Yaqui registration data and the security issues of the voter database, The Recorder offered internal access to Pascua Yaqui staff. They could check voter registration for each member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Pascua Yaqui leadership declined this offer.
4. If the tribal leadership had accepted the offer to check registrations, they could have sent mailers to those not registered to vote and encourage them to register to vote. The Recorder's office would provide the voter registration forms that would be mailed back to the Recorder with postage paid. If they wanted the Recorder to keep track of any response, the Recorder's office could have done this also.
5. There is still time to check voter registration as described above, as the voter registration cut off to be eligible for the General Election is not until Monday, October 5.

6. There are multiple voting opportunities for all voters in Pima County. Early Voting sites, mailed ballots as well as Election Day polling places are all options from October 7 through November 3, 2020.
7. The Mission Library is 7 miles away for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe main area, also known as New Pascua. The Mission Library also serves the Tohono O'odham San Xavier District which is 7 miles away. There is an early voting site serving the Tohono O'odham Nation in Sells. The T.O. Nation encompasses a large geographic area, so some voters must drive 63 miles (over one hour) to reach that site.
8. Regarding bus routes and timetables for the Pascua Yaqui: The Recorder's office has no control over any bus system for any jurisdiction. Instead of requiring Pascua Yaqui voters to take the bus, Pascua Yaqui leadership could provide transpiration for their membership by setting up a telephone number for ride requests to Mission Library Early Voting Site. This would be similar to Uber, but the Pascua Yaqui would provide and pay for the service.
9. The Recorder's office will produce radio spots for the Pascua Yaqui radio station about the voter registration deadline on October 5, 2020. The Recorder's office will post flyers or provide the flyers for Pascua Yaqui staff to post about the voter registration deadline.
10. The Recorder's office will produce radio spots for the Pascua Yaqui radio station about the Mission Road Library Early Voting Site. The Recorder's office will post flyers or provide the flyers for Pascua Yaqui staff to post about the Mission Library Early Voting Site including dates the site will be open for curbside drop-off of early ballots, early voting and emergency voting.
11. For tribal members who live in Old Pascua (Oracle/Grant area), the closest Early Voting Site is the Woods Library on First Avenue (3 miles), for Yoeme Pueblo in Marana, the closest Early Voting Site is the Wheeler Taft Abbett Library (12 miles).
12. At every Early Voting Site, security is the most important issue, including but not limited to secure ballot storage, location security, and secure IT infrastructure. Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez and her leadership team carefully consider many possible locations for Early Voting Sites before selecting the ones that meet strict criteria.
13. It is too late in the election year to make changes and be able to provide a secure voting site.

The Recorder's Office is proud of the outreach efforts that have contributed to some of the highest voter registration and voter participation numbers in the United States of America. During her 28 years of public service, Recorder Rodriguez has made it a priority to collaborate with all voter communities and vulnerable populations.

Regarding staffing issues, the Recorder's Office is currently recruiting staff for paid temporary positions at the Ballot Processing Center on Country Club and at Early Voting Sites. For people who would like to see democracy in action and want to find out more about this opportunity, please email ballotpatrol@recorder.pima.gov.

