



Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

Pima County Recorder
115 North Church Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85701

PHN: (520) 724-4330 FAX: (520) 623-1785 WEB: <http://www.recorder.pima.gov>

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: F. ANN RODRIGUEZ
(520) 724-4330
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Recorder Issues Clarification of Roster Issues

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez is issuing this press release to clarify statements concerning the Poll Rosters used in the polling places on Election Day November 6, 2012.

Provisional Ballots can be issued for various reasons:

1. Voter requested an Early Ballot
2. Voter moved and did not update their address and was sent to their new precinct/polling location
3. Voter is not on the signature roster
4. Voter is not registered here in Pima County

The number of provisional ballots issued in this election, according to the Pima County Elections Department is **26,194**. That number of provisional ballots is very close to if not lower than the number of provisional ballots that were issued during the 2008 Presidential Election. It should be noted that if there were a significant issue with the names in the poll rosters we would expect the number of provisional ballots to far exceed the 2008 total and that is simply not the case.

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The Pima County Recorder's Office has started the process of reviewing and validating the **26,194** provisional ballots issued on Election Day. So far, the overwhelming majority of provisional ballots that have been processed have been issued to voters who were sent an early ballot but chose to vote by provisional ballot instead. The second category of provisional ballots that have been processed so far were issued to voters who moved to a new residence and did not update their voter registration record. The volume of voters that fit into these two categories is consistent with the percentage of voters receiving provisional ballots in every election.

It should be noted that during the redistricting process the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the Pima County Elections Department reduced the number of precincts from 416 to 288, evidently due to the number of voters who are voting by early ballot. This decision by the Board of Supervisors reduced the quantity of polling locations by approximately 30% for the 2012 Presidential Election. Several observers have indicated simple mathematical calculations will tell you that trying to handle the same number of voters with fewer polling locations and therefore fewer poll workers will result in a longer processing time and longer lines unless there is a substantial increase in the number of poll workers at each location.

The third category for being issued a provisional ballot is for voters not on the signature roster. If a voter appears at a polling location and has a residence address assigned to the polling location but are not on the signature roster, Federal Law requires that voter be offered a provisional ballot and allow the voter to cast their ballot. The exact number of voters in this category is unknown at this time, however we will identify these voters through the ongoing provisional ballot review process. If the voter was in the correct polling location and was issued a provisional ballot, their provisional ballot will be processed to be counted. Included in this group of voters are those that moved from their old address but did not update their voter registration record.

The fourth category for issuing a provisional ballot is if the voter is not registered to vote in Pima County and does not know if they are registered to vote or not. This type of voter would follow the same procedure as the third category and be issued a provisional ballot. Provisional

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Ballots in this category will historically not meet the requirements to be verified and counted by the Department of Elections. The law is very clear that voters who appear on Election Day are entitled to be issued a provisional ballot under any circumstances without exception.

F. Ann Rodriguez stated that the Recorder's Office has determined that the category 3 voters listed above are an issue of concern to her as well as many voters who went to their correct polling location on Election Day but were not on the signature roster and therefore were issued a provisional ballot.

F. Ann Rodriguez has directed her Chief Deputy Recorder/Registrar of Voters and the computer programming staff to review the process and documentation and provide a summary of events, conditions and recommendations to improve the existing systems. Concurrently the Recorder's Office completed processing of 43,988 early ballots that were dropped off at the polling places on Election Day. Once that was completed I met with my staff to determine the results of their review of the signature rosters.

The Chief Deputy Recorder/Registrar of Voters and the Pima County Recorder's Office IT Department has provided preliminary findings on the poll roster anomalies and has provided the following:

1. In some voting areas, if a voter registered to vote for the first time on the voter registration cutoff date, their name appeared on the roster in the correct voting area but at the very top of the alphabetical listing of names for their letter group. All voters who registered prior to the cutoff date were properly listed in alphabetical order.
2. In some voting areas, if a voter submitted an address change that was entered in the computer system at the time of the voter registration cutoff date, their name appeared on the roster for their old polling place rather than their new polling place.

Note: The Voter registration cutoff date for the 2012 General Election was Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

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The Recorder IT staff found that neither of these issues occurred consistently or in every roster in the county. More than 60 of the 288 poll rosters that were examined contained no anomalies as mentioned above. The Recorder's Office has not yet completed the review of all of the rosters but will continue the process of reviewing all of the signature rosters for Pima County.

Summary:

Our computer programming staff is reviewing the data processing system to try to determine the cause of this intermittent situation.

While we are processing the provisional ballots, the Recorder's staff will track how many voters were required to vote a provisional ballot due to either of these two anomalies mentioned above. We will not know the final determination until we have completed processing all provisional ballots. Arizona State law allows us 10 calendar days to complete the process of all provisional ballots and the deadline is November 16, 2012. We received **26,194** provisional ballots according to the information provided by the Department of Elections.

As of 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 9th we have completed first checks on 782 provisional ballots. 34 provisional ballots were found to have been the results of the roster issue. The remaining 748 provisional ballots were issued to voters who choose not to vote their early ballot, voters who moved and did not update their voter registration address, voters who registered after the registration cut-off date, voters who failed to show proper identification and voters who went to the wrong polling place.

The Recorder's Office is committed to making certain that voters who want to vote in an election are able to do so. Provisional voting is designed as a "fail safe" method to allow voters to participate in an election even if problems occur. Voters can be assured that any provisional ballot that should be counted under the law will be counted in this election. The Recorder's Office is also committed to making certain that our tasks are performed correctly. My staff will

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get to the bottom of the roster situation to make certain that there are no printing issues in the future, no matter how small of an impact they have on the voting process.

Nevertheless, the Recorder takes full responsibility for the overall operations for the Pima County Recorder's Office. Ms. Rodriguez apologizes to any voter that was impacted on Election Day due to these issues. Ms. Rodriguez is taking steps to ensure this does not happen again.