



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 29, 2016

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Canvass of the 2016 Presidential Preference Election**

In order to transmit the results of the Presidential Preference Election (PPE) held on March 22, 2016, the Board of Supervisors must canvass this election on March 31. On March 26, political party representatives met with the Elections Director and department staff to conduct the hand-count audit. The hand-count audit results matched the computer tabulation exactly.

With 124 polling sites open, 38,113 votes were cast at the polls on Election Day. The canvass indicates 159,143 ballots were cast early. For the last six to eight years, more votes are cast by early ballot than at the polls. For the 2016 PPE, 79 percent of ballots cast were early ballots. Unlike Maricopa County, there were no long lines at our polling sites. It is estimated the maximum wait time for a voter to cast a ballot was 20 minutes.

There was some confusion with regard to voters registered as Independent wanting to cast a ballot at a polling site. Also, there were cases where voters claimed to be registered with a political party, but records showed them as actually registered as a nonparty voter or party not designated. This seemed to occur more frequently than in the past. It appears State Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) processes resulted in inadvertent changes to some voters' party affiliation. This problem is one that can only be corrected by the State.

The estimated total cost of the PPE is approximately \$1.7 million, with \$1.1 million of this cost incurred by the Election Department. The State will only reimburse the County \$1.25 per registered voter, which means the amount of reimbursement will be \$613,100. Hence, the County is subsidizing the State's PPE in the amount of \$1.1 million. The State also made the County responsible for the extra cost for the 2008 PPE.

In addition, there is a bill in the Arizona Legislature sponsored by the Secretary of State to fully reimburse the County for these costs; however, it also would require that the political parties bear the cost of conducting the election in the future. This seems contrary to the Governor's stated desire to allow independent voters to vote in future PPEs. Hence, it would appear passage of this legislation and reimbursement to the County for the full cost of conducting the PPE is remote, at best.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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Finally, attached is the press release issued today by the Recorder regarding the results of the provisional ballots cast in the March 22, 2016 PPE.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: The Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder
Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator
Thomas Weaver, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Brad Nelson, Director, Elections



Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

Pima County Recorder

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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: March 29, 2016

CONTACT: F. ANN RODRIGUEZ

MEDIA INQUIRIES: (520) 724-4357

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS COMPLETE ***Breakdown from Recorder's Office***

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez, announced today that a breakdown of the results of the provisional ballots from the Tuesday, March 22, 2016 Presidential Preference Election is now available. The Recorder's Office received 8,466 Provisional and 32 Conditional Provisional ballot forms from the Pima County Elections Department following the closing of polls on Election Day. We completed our review of all provisional ballots, at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2016.

Of the 8,466 forms processed, a total of 5,674 were determined to be valid and were approved to be counted. That is a validity rate of 67%. In our processing of the Provisional ballots, I directed my staff to track the reason why a voter was required to vote by provisional ballot and to track the reason why a ballot was disqualified. Our results are as follows:

Vote-By-Mail Issues:

- 4,289 voters had requested and been sent a vote-by-mail ballot. These voters chose not to return the vote-by-mail ballot and instead went to the polling place on Election Day to vote in person and therefore had to be issued a provisional ballot.
 - 92 of the vote-by-mail voters had in fact voted their early ballot in addition to attempting to vote a second time at the polls. These will be referred to the county attorney's office for attempting to vote twice.
 - The provisional ballots for the remaining 4,197 voters who chose not to vote their early ballot were verified and processed to be counted.

Voter Registration Issues:

- 1,856 Pima County voters who went to the polling places on Election Day were not registered with one of the three political parties participating in the election (Democratic, Republican, Green Party) as required by Arizona state law to be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Election.
- 204 voters registered after the February 22, 2016 voter registration deadline.
- 107 voters requested and were issued a different political party ballot than their voter registration record.
- 71 voters were not registered within Pima County.
- 72 voters registration were in cancelled status.
- 35 voters were under the legal voting age of 18 years old.

Miscellaneous Issues:

- 293 voters went to the wrong polling location to cast their vote. You must go to your assigned polling location to cast your ballot.
- 24 provisional ballots were not signed by the voter.
- 3 voters tried voting multiple ballots.
- 3 voter's identity could not be confirmed.

32 Conditional Provisional ballots were issued for insufficient or no identification at the polls. These voters were instructed when issued the conditional provisional ballot that they had until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2016 to show proper identification for their ballot to be counted. Of the 32 issued, one of the conditional provisional ballots was counted, as the voter contacted our office to confirm their identity as required by state law.

In this election, as in past elections, the majority of provisional ballots were due to voters receiving a vote-by-mail ballot but instead choosing to go to the polls on Election Day.

Voters who were issued a provisional or conditional provisional ballot can check to see if their ballot counted by going to our website, www.recorder.pima.gov and clicking on the Provisional Ballot Status link. To check the status you must have the receipt number issued to you at the polling place. Voters who have misplaced the receipt or do not have access to the internet can call the Recorder's Office at 724-4330 to find out if their ballot counted.

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