



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 9, 2008

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: Poll Versus Early Voting Trend

Previously I had reported that the cost of conducting the General Election has been increasing rather dramatically in the recent past. Below is a table of costs associated with conducting these elections over the years. The table divides the costs into those incurred by the Recorder, who primarily conducts voter registration and early voting, and the Division of Elections, which conducts all other aspects of an election, including Election Day voting at the over 400 polling places in Pima County.

Table 1

Primary and General Election Costs

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recorder's Office</u>	<u>Elections Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
2000	\$ 685,824	\$1,837,616	\$2,523,440
2002	675,763	1,690,192	2,365,955
2004	773,462	2,126,777	2,900,239
2006	884,117	2,869,474	3,753,591
2008	1,848,367	3,628,500	5,476,867

The table below shows the trend in early voting versus ballots cast at the polls on the day of election. The table includes data from the 1998 General Election through 2006.

Table 2

Poll Day Versus Early Ballots Cast on General Election Day

<u>General Election Date</u>	<u>Polls</u>	<u>% of Votes</u>	<u>Early Voting</u>	<u>% of Votes</u>	<u>Total Votes Cast</u>
1998	143,572	73.4	52,008	26.6	195,580
2000	178,330	61.7	110,863	38.3	289,193
2002	131,556	56.6	101,008	43.4	232,564
2004	196,218	53.1	173,103	46.9	369,321
2006	131,142	46.0	153,793	54.0	284,935

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As can be seen in this data, there is a significant trend toward early voting. In fact, early voting totals increased 196 percent since 1998, while the increase in total votes cast between 1998 and 2006 increased by 46 percent. It is likely that in 2008, early voting could constitute approximately 60 percent of all votes cast.

The Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) is expected to also make significant changes in Pima County's early voting numbers. According to the Recorder's Office, almost 120,000 Pima County voters have already signed up to be on the PEVL so far. This number is expected to continue to grow much higher as the Presidential Election approaches. The Recorder's Office will continue to offer every new registered voter in Pima County the opportunity to sign up to be on the Permanent Early Voting List when the Recorder's Office sends the new voters their voter identification card after registering. In addition, when a current registered voter makes a change to their voter record and the Recorder's Office sends their new voter identification card and they are not already on the PEVL they will offer them another PEVL request. If the voter is already on the PEVL they will just send them their new voter identification only.

Each person on the Permanent Early Voting List will automatically get a ballot by mail for every election they are eligible for, in all jurisdictions in Pima County including the City of Tucson who conducts their own elections.

Given the trend lines of past elections and the Permanent Early Voting List, it is likely that more than 130,000 votes in the September Primary Election and between 250,000 and 300,000 votes in the General Election could be cast by early ballot. The significant increase in costs associated with early voting is shown in Table 1.

CHH/jj

c: The Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder
Brad Nelson, Elections Director