

Transition from Precincts to Vote Center Cost Report



PIMA COUNTY

Elections

Major Cost Associated with Elections

Elections have two major costs that vary per election.

People

- Temporary workers
- Warehouse workers
- Front-End workers
- Tech workers
- Ballot processing workers – Early Board
- Receiving Boards

Ballots

- Primary election ballots include ballots for each party participating in the election
 - Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green, No Labels (no labels must have ballots even if they do not have any candidates)
- General election ballots include full, federal only, non-partisan, and ballots that may contain only precinct committeemen.

Transition from Precincts to Vote Centers

Estimated Savings for Elections Department - Time & Location

Projected Savings before Implementation: \$289,484

- 100 vote centers projected during implementation presentation
- 129 vote centers at initial implementation August 2022
- 126 Actual vote centers in 2024

One-Time Implementation Cost

Pima County Elections and Recorder		
Vote Center and Electronic Pollbook Implementation Costs		
	Proposed	Actual
Recorder's Office Tenex Purchase	\$ 699,560.00	\$ 635,960.00
Verizon Data Plan	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 46,800.00
Mobile Device Management	\$ 5,280.00	\$ -
Cradlepoint Devices	\$ 67,094.82	\$ 75,481.00
Total Recorder's Initial Purchase	\$ 791,134.82	\$ 758,241.00
Elections Department Tenex Purchase	\$ 408,100.00	\$ 449,280.00
Total Startup cost for Tenex Purchase	\$ 1,990,369.64	\$ 1,965,762.00
Additional One Time Cost		
Onsite support -setup and testing of e-pollbooks and printers	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Rental of 80 touchpads	\$ -	\$ 59,600.00
2020 HAVA Grant Funds	\$ (694,438.40)	\$ (694,468.40)
Total Year One Purchase of Tenex Equipment	\$ 1,295,312.24	\$ 1,345,893.60

Ongoing Cost

Pima County Elections		
2022 Vote Center and Electronic Pollbook Annual Costs		
	Proposed	Actual
Annual Costs		
Recorder's Office Precinct Central EPB Software License/Support	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Elections Precinct Central EPB Software License/Support	\$ 207,900.00	\$ 15,625.00
Verizon Data Plan5	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 46,800.00
Consumables -toner and thermal paper	\$ 72,500.00	\$ 35,750.00
Total Annual Cost	\$ 354,600.00	\$ 148,175.00

The \$207,000 licensing fee includes \$192,025 for inventory management, poll worker management, online training, and election response used on election day. These costs are not directly related to vote centers.

The elections department purchased an additional 125 ePollbooks last year, which increased the cost from \$50,000 to \$65,625. The Records office owns and pays the \$50,000 licensing fee for the initial 400 ePollbooks.

What Affects the Cost of an Election?

Polling place locations

- Schools – low to no cost
- Libraries – no cost
- Parks facilities
- Churches, community centers, hotels, other facilities – costs vary

Post 2020

- Fewer schools willing to be vote centers
- Many churches declined to be vote centers
- Required the use of more hotels

What Affects the Cost of an Election, cont?

August 2022 Approved Locations

Schools – 17
Libraries – 8
Churches (42), hotels (10), other facilities (52)

November 2022 Approved Locations

Schools – 18
Libraries – 10
Churches (45), hotels (8), other facilities (48)

What Affects the Cost of an Election, cont?

2024
Approved
Locations

Schools – 10

Libraries – 10

Churches (46), hotels (4), other facilities (56)

Itemized Election Costs

Description of Services	Election Year 2012	Election Year 2014	Election Year 2016	Election Year 2018	Election Year 2020	Election Year 2022	Election Year 2024
Temporary Workers	345,304	352,760	272,991	279,160	396,522	488,838	604,427
Overtime	122,060	118,585	112,110	209,498	287,093	339,875	222,879
Election Pay/Mileage	889,189	786,335	943,637	878,840	659,917	708,958	807,711
Ballots	10,289,334	1,207,250	910,945	1,010,394	1,126,704	1,518,665	473,704
Class Hotel Rentals	25,895	24,646	31,217	30,037	17,564	37,544	49,419
Polling Place Rent	81,418	74,704	79,938	81,743	82,851	93,010	75,500
Equipment Delivery	40,123	39,313	35,438	37,128	35,801	57,684	77,905
Total Cost	2,781,724	2,929,408	2,801,541	2,526,800	2,606,452	3,244,574	2,311,545



Explanation of Cost Savings

- Election pay has decreased by \$136,000 from previous presidential election years.
 - The 2020 elections were an anomaly due to COVID. The office hired fewer workers to maintain distance and safety protocols.
- Ballot cost has decreased significantly. The County saved \$653,000 during the 2024 primary and general elections.
 - The increase in ballot cost in 2022 was due to contingency planning. We determined that printing ballots was not sustainable for future elections.
- Polling place costs decrease by \$7,400.
 - We decreased the number of hotels used as polling places.
- Overall election costs decreased by \$295,000.

Explanation of Cost Savings

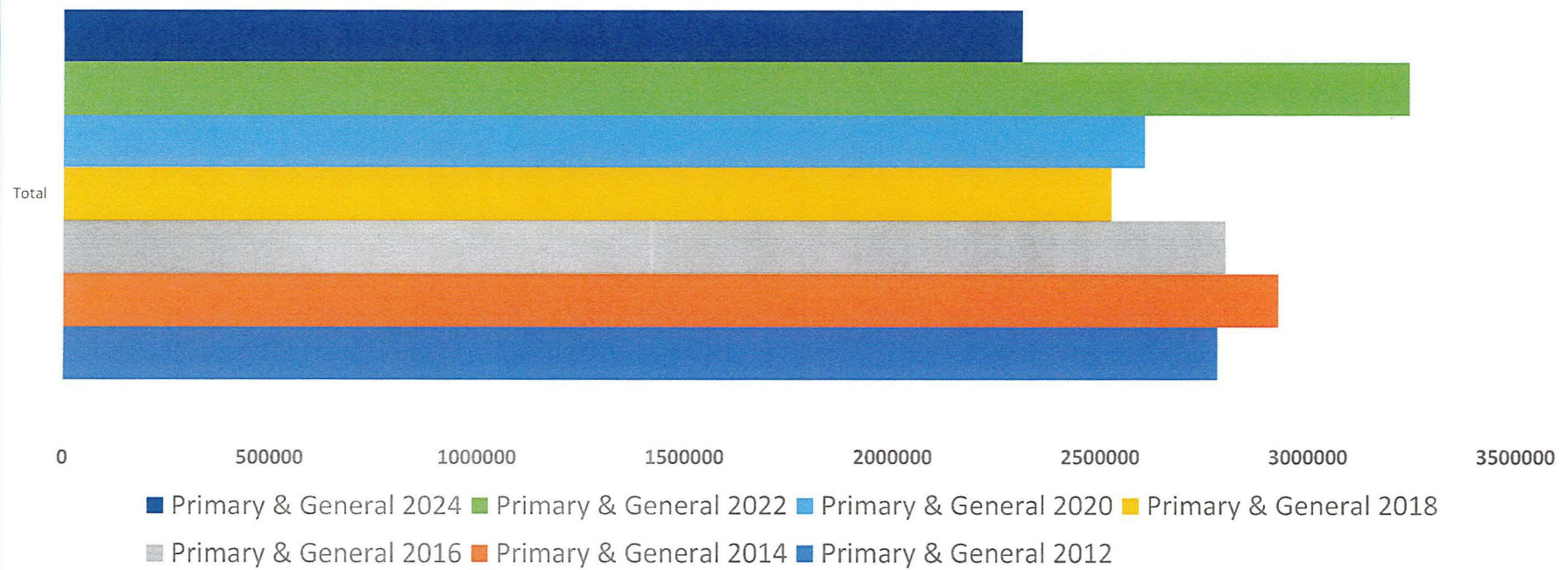
We anticipate additional cost savings as we continue to refine the process.

- Complete vote center analysis
- Reallocate poll workers
- Re-assess election boards

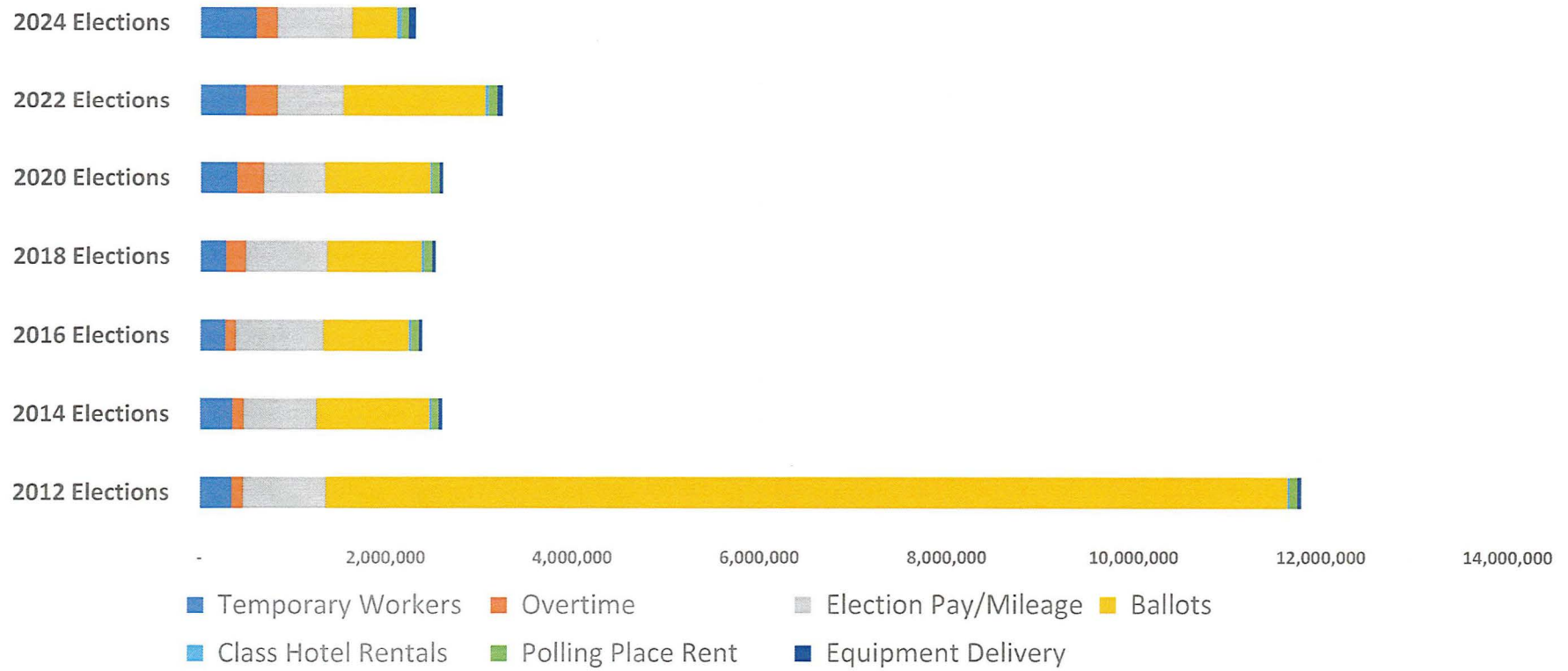
Cost is also dependent on changes made by the legislature.

- New processes were added on election day.
- Changes to timelines to report results.

Total Election Cost Comparison



Itemized Election Costs



Questions?