



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

July 16, 2024

Appointment to Fill a Vacancy of the Position of Constable, Justice Precinct 4

Background

On May 21, 2024, the Board of Supervisors voted to accept the resignation of Constable Oscar Vasquez. At that time, the Board voted to not fill the position. On July 2, 2024, Presiding Constable Eric Krznarich asked the Board of Supervisors to revisit that decision and to appoint Tracy Ethridge-Nielsen to the position. The Board directed me to provide a recommendation for their consideration.

Discussion

The Board must first decide if it chooses to fill the position. To eliminate the position of Constable, Justice of the Peace (JP) Precinct 4, the Board must also eliminate Precinct 4 and the position of JP. That elimination would go into effect at the end of the current term of office. Both the Constable and JP for Justice Precinct 4 are up for election this year. Elimination of the precinct and these positions would have had to have been done previously, in order to reprecinct or reassign the area that is currently Justice Precinct 4 to adjacent precincts and adjust the precinct boundaries to be effective in this election cycle. Therefore, the position of Constable JP 4 Precinct 4 cannot be eliminated at this time.

A concern expressed by Presiding Constable Krznarich is that the workload within JP Precinct 4 has fallen and will continue to fall to the other Constables. Justice Precinct 4 (map attached) is the third largest by population and stretches from north of Silverbell and I-10 to south of Diamond Bell Ranch.

Justice Precinct	Population
1	129,564
2	133,641
3	9,294 (Ajo)
4	133,807
6	131,401
7	127,067
8	134,735
9	128,454
10	142,692

Since the position cannot be eliminated, the appointment by the Board to fill the vacancy will allow for a Constable to serve for approximately five months prior to January 2025 at which time the duly elected Constable will take office. Funding for this position is in the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **Appointment to Fill a Vacancy of the Position of Constable, Justice Precinct 4**
July 16, 2024
Page 2

Currently, there is one candidate who has qualified for the July 30 Primary Ballot. Democrat Tracy Ethridge-Nielsen is running unopposed in the Primary Election. The last day to file as a write-in candidate for a partisan election has passed.

Recommendation

I recommend that the Board of Supervisors fill the vacancy in the position of Constable in JP Precinct 4 created by the resignation of Constable Oscar Vasquez at the August 13, 2024 Regular Meeting with the appointment of Tracy Ethridge- Nielsen. While it is possible that a write-in candidate might file to run against Ms. Ethridge-Nielsen in the November General Election, the benefits the residents of Justice Precinct 4 realize with the representation of a full-time Constable outweigh the potential advantage Ms. Ethridge-Nielsen's incumbency might offer. The appointment to fill the vacancy will do much to end the burden placed on the other Constables and allow for those in Justice Precinct 4 to receive timely and appropriate service.

Sincerely,

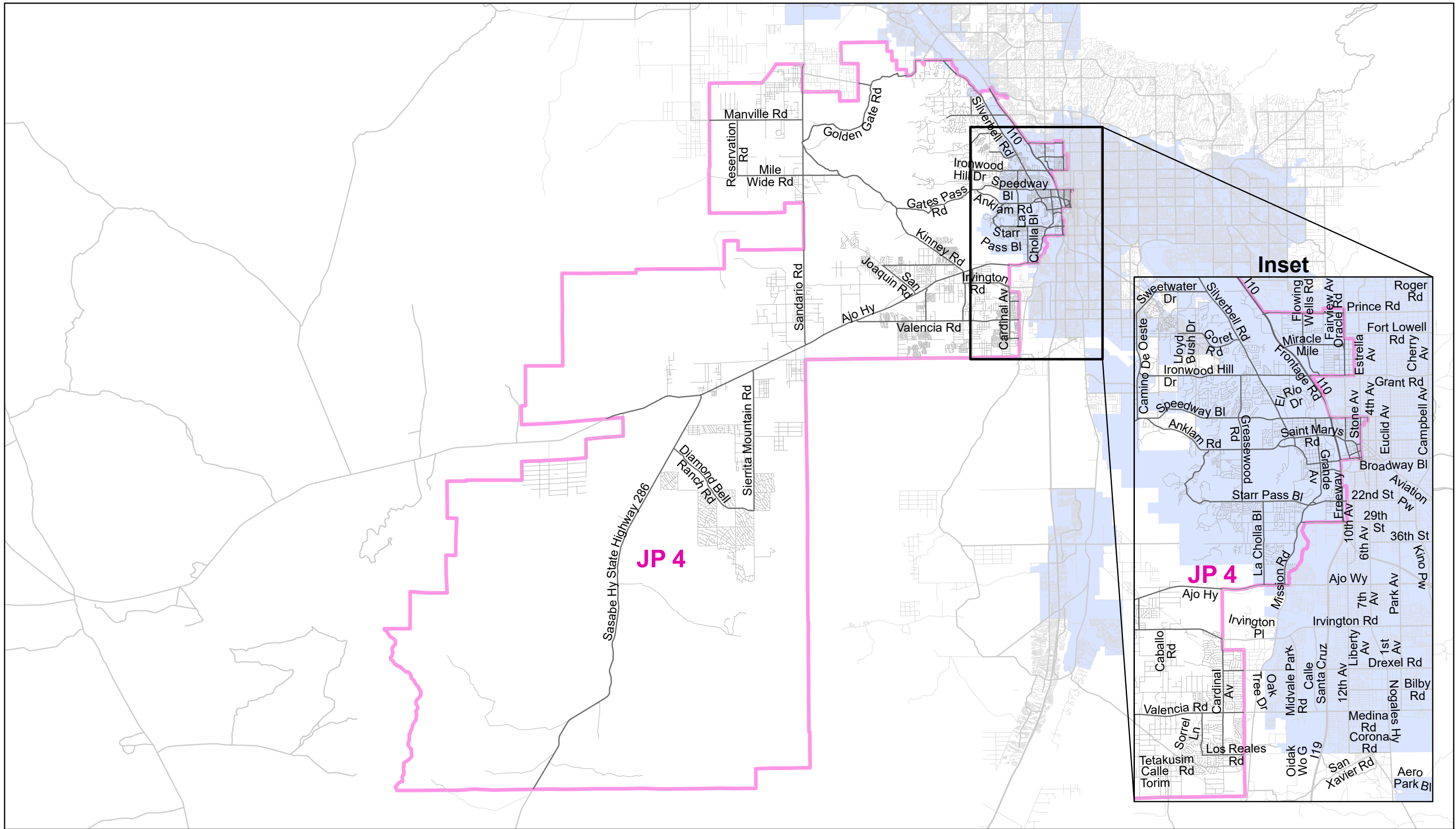


Jan Lesher
County Administrator

JKL/anc – July 8, 2024

Attachment

c: The Honorable Eric Krznarich, Presiding Constable
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator



Justice Precinct 4
Vacant Constable Position

Population Estimate (2024):
133,807