



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 2, 2022

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

From: Jan Leshner *[Signature]*  
County Administrator

Re: **Vote Center Implementation Update and Additional Requested Information on Vote Center Locations**

The Elections Department has scheduled the review and approval of the proposed 129 Vote Centers locations for the May 3, 2022 Board meeting. Elections Director Constance Hargrove provided an implementation update on the progress made to date in transitioning from Precinct voting to Vote Centers (Attachment). The update includes information on voting equipment status, training, additional Vote Center staffing, timelines, work on the development of the public education and media plan, as well as current contingency planning.

Below is also additional information in response to questions received regarding voter turnout, early voting centers, vote center capacity, and outreach and education for voters on using vote centers,

***What is the plan to help mitigate against long waits for voters at vote center locations that are may be projected to have high voter turnout?***

In urban areas where sufficient sized facilities were not available, additional Vote Center locations were identified near smaller Vote Centers to mitigate long wait times and access issues. Additionally, in past elections, there were only 1 to 2 ID clerks to check in voters. For Vote Centers in areas of high voter turnout, there will be 4 check-in stations, which can be scaled up as necessary. It should be noted that with expanded voting opportunities with Vote Centers, such as being able to find a vote center near a place of employment or along a usual commute route, locations with a lower voter turnout in the past might see an increase.

***How many Pima County voters have opted to remove their names from the Active Early Voting List (AEVL) since being given that option?***

Voters have always had the option to remove their names from the early voting list. We do not have the information as to how many voters requested their names be removed from AEVL. However, if we look at data from 2020 for percent of ballots cast, there was an increase in early voting of about 2 percent from 2020 to 2021, and a slight 0.3 percent decrease from 2021 to 2022.

Date	Voter Totals	AEVL totals	% of AEVL to total
4/25/2022	625,298	477,131	76.30%
1/14/2021	630,218	482,970	76.63
10/1/2020	632,932	471,814	74.54

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***Do we have any projections as to how many voters will opt to vote in person in the August primaries and the November general election?***

There is no easy way to project how many voters will turn out in the upcoming elections. Generally, we have seen a downward trend over time in in-person voting. One piece of information to consider is past voter turnout in similar election cycles. In the 2018 General Election, 79 percent of votes cast were by early ballots. In the 2020 General Election, just over 87 percent of votes cast were by early ballots. In-person voter turnouts for both the 2018 and 2020 General Elections were 80,952 and 66,542 respectively. After the Primary Election, we will have better projections for the General Election where changes can be made if necessary.

***Provide a list of vote center locations in areas that have had historically high Election Day in-person voting turnout.***

Based on passed voter turnout, the Vote Center locations below may have high voter turnout on Election Day. High voter turnout is defined as 600 or more voters.

<b>Vote Center #</b>	<b>VOTE CENTER NAME CURRENT 2022</b>	<b>VOTE CENTER ADDRESS</b>
36	Ellie Town Flowing Wells Community Center	1660 W. Ruthrauff Road
54	Knights of Columbus #5133	1330 S. Mountain View Avenue
67	MUSD - Roadrunner Elementary School	16651 W. Calle Carmela
69	Orange Grove Mobile Estates	3635 W. Mango Drive
71	Oro Valley County Club	300 W. Greenock Drive
81	Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church & School	8845 N. Silverbell Road
97	Sahuarita Town Hall	375 W. Sahuarita Center Way
100	AUSD-Richard Wilson k-8	2330 W. Glover
114	VUSD - Cienega High School	12775 E. Mary Ann Cleveland Way
115	VUSD - Copper Ridge Elementary School	17650 S. Canyon Edge Trail

***Will there be early voting centers established prior to Election Day as there have been in the past, and if so, where will they be located?***

Early voting sites will be open in July as usual. Early voting sites will be located at the same locations as in previous elections, except for a few changes. These will include changing the east side location to a site that can better accommodate the number of voters that choose to vote there, adding a site in the Pascua Yaqui area and opening a site at the University of Arizona for the Primary Election instead of just for the General Election. The Recorder's Office

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will schedule the ballot drop off locations information for the May 17 Board meeting for approval, which are essentially the same as the early voting sites.

***Will there be a larger public communication plan regarding vote centers prior to both the August and November elections?***

Elections Director Constance Hargrove is working with staff and Communications to develop a public education campaign and media plan. Per the update, the plan will include social media, radio and television, visits to community organizations and political parties, direct mailings and live demonstration opportunities. The Communications Plan will be provided to the Board.

The Elections Department will be providing regular updates on the Vote Center implementation progress.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Constance Hargrove, Director, Pima County Elections  
Diana Durazo, Special Projects Manager, County Administrator's Office



**ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**  
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Date: May 2, 2022

TO: Jan Leshner  
County Administrator

FROM: Constance Hargrove  
Elections Director

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RE: Vote Center Implementation Update

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### History

On February 15, 2022, the Board of Supervisors authorized the use of Vote Centers for County elections, starting this year with the August primary and November general elections. The State Legislature approved vote centers in 2011 and 11 other counties in the state make use of them for their elections, including Maricopa County. They are a departure from the precinct-only voting that has been the norm in the County. Under the precinct system, voters could only cast a ballot at any County Vote Center, whether near their home, work, school, or wherever they may be on Election Day.

The Elections Department established a list of requirements for a location to serve as a vote center. Those requirements are:

- Indoor space of 2,000 square feet
- A facility that is ADA compliant
- Adequate number of power outlets to accommodate voting equipment
- Free and sufficient parking
- Proximity to public transportation
- Use of facilities for poll workers and voters
- A break area for poll workers
- Ample locations across Pima County to serve communities with limited transportation
- Ample locations across Pima County to serve where historically there is more in-person voting at the polls

The Elections department has made significant process in preparation for the transition from precinct voting to vote centers. The following highlights the progress to date:

#### **Vote Center Locations:**

- ADA assessments
  - Assessments continue at all locations
  - Changed locations that did not meet ADA requirements
  - Some sites changed because the facility decided they did not want to host the election.
- Space, parking, and location
  - Election staff added additional locations if the size of the facility did not meet the guidelines or if the size of the parking lot may cause an issue.
- Contracts
  - The majority of the facilities have signed and returned the contracts for the August primary.
  - The staff received verbal agreements from the other facilities.

#### **Cradle Points**

- All cradle points have been received. Twenty-five cradle points are activated to use for testing.

#### **E-Pollbooks and receipt printers**

The e-pollbooks work in conjunction with a small receipt printer on election day. The receipt prints after completing the check-in process for a voter on the e-pollbook. The receipt contains the voter's name and ballot style. The ballot officer issues the ballot based on the information printed on the receipt. The precinct can also use the receipts as a reconciliation tool at the end of the night.

- The vendor has shipped all e-pollbooks. All but 90 have been received.
- Receipt printers are on backorder with no anticipated delivery date. The vendor is exploring other options for the printers.
- The e-pollbooks can work without the printers. The e-pollbook display contains all the information printed on the receipt.
- The vendor has agreed to provide preprinted cards where the e-pollbook officer can write the ballot style and party to issue ballots. The officers can also write the voter's name on the card if they are using them as a reconciliation tool.

#### **Ballot on demand (BOD) printers**

- The vendor will begin shipping BOD printers in the 2nd week of June. They will ship one truckload per week through the first week of July.

- The printers will ship already programmed so that Elections staff will only need to assign them to a location.

## **Training**

Tenex is finalizing edits on the Pima County-specific e-pollbook training document. They are sending a final proof to staff the week of April 25 with the final document in hand the following week.

- In-person train-the-trainer classes will take place the 2nd or 3rd week of June. We are still finalizing the date for the training.
- Traditional poll worker training with separate equipment training is from July 18 through July 25. Troubleshooter classes are on July 22 and July 30.

## **Additional Vote Center Staffing**

- Voting equipment specialist – this is a new position assigned to troubleshoot any equipment issues that may arise during the day. They will handle paper jams, replace paper in the BOD printer and the receipt printer, sign-in problems on the iPad, and set up and break down equipment.
- Ballot officers – ballot officers will issue ballots printed on the BOD printers.
- Line management officer – we will assign one poll worker to manage lines if necessary.

## **Contingency Planning**

- BOD printer failure - the Elections department will print a percentage of ballots to send to each vote center and have ballots available to send out with troubleshooters. Voters can also continue voting using the ExpressVote (ADA equipment). Poll workers will issue ballots following the protocol used by the Recorder's office during early voting.
- Connectivity issues with the e-pollbooks – voters will continue to vote using provisional ballots. The officers can still use the e-pollbooks to check in provisional voters. The information will not be communicated to the central office, and the voter will not be shown as checked in at other vote centers. The voter cannot vote more than once because provisional ballots are not cast on Election Day. The voter will receive a voting record at the vote center in which they cast an in-person Election Day ballot.
- Internet access issues – we are exploring the use of portable cell towers to boost internet service. Staff will have a better idea of where problems exist, if any, after completing site testing.
- The office has spare iPads and printers to dispatch if necessary.

## **Public Education**

- The Elections Director is working closely with the Communications department to develop a comprehensive media plan. Conversations include:
  - Social media
  - Radio and television
  - Visits to community organizations
  - Visits to senior communities
  - Political parties
  - Direct mailings
  - Live demonstrations

Vote center implementation is moving forward. The staff is beginning to identify processes that need to change as we move to e-pollbooks and BOD printers. The new technology will streamline the process and allow quicker check in and ballot distribution.