



Maricopa County

Office of the Recorder

County Recorder Adrian Fontes

111 South Third Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2281
Phone: (602) 506-3535
Fax: (602) 506-3273

July 25, 2017

Dear Precinct Committeeperson,

As the Maricopa County Recorder, I would like to thank you for the work you do on behalf of our Republic. In your elected office, which is the foundational building block of our entire system of government, you are a critical component to helping all American Citizens realize their fundamental right, the right to vote.

But more than just helping us help American voters, I want to ask for your feedback on the work we are doing to improve transparency, accountability, and outreach. Below are a few updates I want to share with you as an elected precinct leader in Maricopa County. Feel free to spread this information far and wide and please let us know in writing where you think we can make improvements for all citizen voters.

Updating Precinct Lines

After each Presidential election cycle, the County Recorder looks to make improvements and adjustments in precinct lines. In June we opened the public feedback period for the proposed precinct line adjustments. We established several objective criteria for our proposal, including:

1. 5,000 or fewer total registered voters in each voting precinct
2. 2,000 or fewer of whom who are not on PEVL (permanent early voting list)
3. Minimize precinct splits in smaller political subdivisions (school districts, city council, etc.)
4. Minimize the number of ballot styles in each precinct (improves reporting and statistics)

We are undertaking this process early, so that we can get the County Supervisors' approval prior to the statutory deadline of December 1, 2017. Our analysis of long wait times at polling locations, placement of polls, along with other data, led us to conclude that our precincts in many cases were unevenly balanced. Please note that not all precincts are impacted in our current proposal. Again, your input and the input from voters in your precinct is important to us.

Please Note: You will finish your current term in your current precinct. If you wish to run for re-election, and your precinct is one which has shifted after the Supervisors approve the new map, you then may have to run in a new precinct. That is why we want your feedback.

For additional information and to submit your feedback on precincts, please visit our website: recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/reprecincting.aspx

2017 Jurisdictional Ballot by Mail Elections

In November 2017, more than 1 million voters are eligible to vote in Jurisdictional elections. These elections almost exclusively impact bonds and overrides in Cities, School Districts, Fire Districts, and Sanitation Districts. In 2013, 96% of voters in these elections did so by mail. In 2015, that number rose to 97%. We are having difficulty justifying a subsidy for less than 5% of voters in these elections, which costs end up being passed to local Boards and Cities. In 2017 Fall elections, *all* registered voters in those jurisdictions will receive a ballot in the mail. The



Maricopa County

Office of the Recorder

County Recorder Adrian Fontes

111 South Third Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2281
Phone: (602) 506-3535
Fax: (602) 506-3273

regular rules for PEVL voters will now apply to all voters. This will simplify our elections process.

Importantly, in-person voting will be more accessible as we will have Ballot Centers for turn-in and replacement balloting, open longer hours and in more locations than before. Ballot Centers are not limited by precinct like traditional polling places, and will be open (for the Fall 2017 elections only) in phases for 28 days, closing November 7, 2017 at 7 p.m. For additional information about the Ballot on Demand system technology and how our Ballot Centers will work, we invite you to come view the new Ballot Center system in person at the Maricopa County Tabulation and Election Center (MCTEC) as noted below.

Tours of the Maricopa County Tabulation and Election Center

We are opening the doors of our MCTEC facility for tours where you will learn about our new Ballot Center system. While at the facility, you can learn about our secure, standard signature verification process for mailed ballots. This system is the industry standard and has been used and improved on in Maricopa County for several major election cycles. Our ballot tabulation systems, while dated, continue to comply with audits year after year. New technology is being considered, but our current system is dependable and well maintained by our Elections staff.

Our space is also open for your Legislative District meetings, civic organization meetings, and gatherings where interest in elections processes and procedures can be part of the agenda (during periods where there are no live ballots in the building). The Maricopa County Election Department is excited to share information directly with citizens about exactly how their elections work. Come in and see it for yourself!

To sign up for a tour of the MCTEC Election Warehouse, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/MCTECTours>

To make arrangements for meeting in our space and for any other questions or comments, please reach out to us at getinvolved@risc.maricopa.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Fontes".

Adrian Fontes
Maricopa County Recorder

Una versión en español de esta carta puede encontrarse en:
<https://recorder.maricopa.gov/site/publications.aspx>