



TOWN OF ORO VALLEY
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 31, 2007

The Honorable Ken Bennett
President of the Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Town of Oro Valley, Arizona Ballot by Mail Election held March 14, 2006

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to ARS 16-409 B, the Town of Oro Valley, Arizona hereby submits its Mail Ballot Election Report for the Ballot By Mail Primary Election held on March 14, 2006.

This was the sixth ballot by mail election conducted by the Town of Oro Valley. This election was the Town's regular primary election placing candidates, Home Rule Option and a Referendum before the voters.

1. CHANGES IN VOTER TURNOUT:

According to the Pima County Recorder, Oro Valley total registered voters was 23,135. A total of 12,389 voters returned their voted ballots on time. The turnout for this election was **53.60%**.

2. RELATIVE COSTS OF MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL ELECTIONS.

03/14/06 Regular Primary Election – Conducted by Mail (Note: Stand alone Election. Cost of election paid entirely by Oro Valley):

U.S. Postmaster	\$ 11,250.00
Pima County Recorder	<u>\$ 44,593.26</u>
Total Cost	\$ 55,843.26

Please note that as a result of cleaning up the voter roles, the total number of registered voters in Oro Valley decreased by 1,890 registered voters from the Special Election held November 8, 2005. Therefore, the cost of this election **decreased** by \$2,993.92.

3. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR REFINEMENTS IN THE MAIL BALLOT PROGRAM.

We have discussed the issue of the mailing date for the ballots. Currently, the Oro Valley Town Council, with agreement by the Pima County Recorder, has determined in each election to mail the ballots on the earliest possible date, 33 days prior to the Election Day. Ballots for the March 14, 2006 Regular Primary Election were mailed out 33 days prior to the election.

4. FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF MAIL BALLOT IRREGULARITIES.

No specific irregularities or problems were determined or reported during this election. 23,135 ballots were initially mailed.

Of the ballots returned:

- 289 returned with no forward address.
- 55 returned with an indication that the voters were temporarily away and placed a hold on their mail.
- 435 were returned with forwarding addresses in Oro Valley and new ballots were sent to those voters.
- 317 were returned with a forwarding address outside Pima County.
- 6 Military/Overseas ballots were returned with forwarding addresses and new ballots were sent.
- 2 Military/Overseas ballots were returned without a forwarding address.

Combined we issued a total of 574 New Residence Ballots. These ballots include voter registration forms and require the voter to update their registration before their ballot is counted. Some of them had contacted the Pima County Recorder's Office or the Oro Valley Town Clerk's Office before the ballots were sent so we were able to send the new residence ballots without waiting for the original ballots to be returned.

5. VOTER SATISFACTION WITH THE ELECTION PROCESS.

We received no complaints or comments from voters during this election cycle.

Overall, Oro Valley voters seem to like the convenience of voting by mail and prefer this type of an election rather than a traditional polling place election.

6. NUMBER OF UNDELIVERABLE BALLOTS:

See information in part 4 above.

Please note that of the 12,389 ballots voted, 6060 (45.5%) were returned in the first two weeks of the election. 2499 (20.2%) were returned in the last 7 days prior to the election. While a majority of voters return their ballots by mail, many still chose to physically hand carry in their voted ballot to place in the ballot box located at the Oro Valley Town Hall.

If you have further questions, please contact Pima County Chief Deputy Recorder/Registrar of Voters Chris Roads at (520)740-4340 for more details on this process.

SUMMARY:

As the Election Official for the Town of Oro Valley, I find that "stand-alone" ballot by mail elections are more expensive than "polling place" elections that are combined with a Pima County Election. However, the cost is about the same if the ballot by mail election and the polling place election is only for Oro Valley and not combined with a Pima County Election. We traditionally have a higher voter turn-out when the election is conducted by mail and our voters like the convenience of voting by mail. The receipt of the Oro Valley Election results were timely, with the Pima County Division of Elections providing the Town with unofficial results at 8:01 p.m. Election evening. The final certified tabulation of the Returns of the Primary Election was received by Pima County Elections Director Brad R. Nelson on Thursday, March 16, 2006.

With the assistance of the Pima County Recorder and Division of Elections, I am committed to making the voting process in Oro Valley as convenient and easy as possible for our voters and my goal is to see our voter turn-out rise above 50%, which we achieved during our March 14, 2006 Primary Election with a turn-out of 53.60%.

Sincerely,



Kathryn E. Cuvelier, CMC
Town Clerk
Town of Oro Valley, Arizona

C: Mayor & Town Council
Town Manager