



# TOWN OF CAREFREE

100 EASY STREET  
P.O. BOX 740  
CAREFREE, ARIZONA 85377  
(480) 488-3686 • FAX (480) 488-3845

November 26, 2007

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee  
President of the Senate  
1700 W. Washington, Senate Wing  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable James Weiers  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington, House Wing  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**RE: TOWN OF CAREFREE MAIL BALLOT PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD  
MARCH 13, 2007 AND May 15, 2007.**

Dear Gentlemen:

Pursuant to A.R.S. 16-409.B, the Town of Carefree hereby submits its Mail Ballot Election Report. I apologize for the tardiness of this report.

## 1. CHANGES IN VOTER TURNOUT.

Our March 13, 2007 Primary Election showed voter turnout to be about the same as in the March 2005 election. The run off election in May resulted in a 13% increase due to the fact that only two candidates ran and both ran strong campaigns. There was also a school district budget override on the ballot in May.

Following are the statistics:

<u>ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>NUMBER BALLOTS CAST</u>	<u>VOTER TURNOUT</u> <u>    %</u>
3/07/87	922	344	37
3/21/89	1,118	377	33
3/19/91	1,396	231	16
3/09/93	1,647	395	23
5/18/93	1,584	203	12
3/14/95	1,741	385	22
5/16/95	1,764	404	22
3/11/97 (first mail ballot)	1,950	875	45
3/09/99	1,967	994	51
5/18/99	1,967	1,035	53
3/13/01	2,011	997	50
3/11/03	2,182	1,133	51

RECEIVED  
NOV 27 2007  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

5/20/03	2,138	1,016	48
3/08/05	2,461	1,059	43
3/13/07	2,549	1,126	44
5/15/07	2,549	1,451	57

## 2. COST OF MAIL BALLOT ELECTION COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL ELECTIONS.

The cost of our mail ballot election in March was \$1.72 per voter and in May was .82 per voter and was contracted through Maricopa County. We shared the ballot in May with a school district budget override. The combined total was \$7,207 including all the legal ads such as call of election and the financial statement.

<u>ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>COST PER VOTER</u>
3/07/87	922	\$1,410	\$1.52
3/21/89	1,118	\$1,413	\$1.26
3/19/91	1,396	\$1,447	\$1.03
3/09/93	1,647		
5/18/93	1,584	\$3,328 (combined)	\$1.03
3/14/95	1,741		
5/16/95	1,764	\$3,594 (combined)	\$1.02
3/11/97	1,950	\$1,950	\$1.00
3/09/99	1,967		\$1.00
5/18/99	1,967	\$3,881 (combined)	\$1.00
3/13/01	1,971	\$2,897	\$1.47
3/11/03	2,182	\$3,208	\$1.47
5/20/03	2,138	\$3,143	\$1.47
3/8/05	2,461	\$3,668 (includes \$50 delivery charge for ballots)	\$1.47
3/13/07	2,549	\$4,174	\$1.72
5/15/07	2,549	\$2,246	\$ .86

## 3. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OR REFINEMENTS IN THE MAIL BALLOT PROGRAM.

Due to past experience, we were prepared for a wide difference between election night unofficial results and the official results which came in a few days later. With the wide discrepancy we had experienced in the past, the people were more understanding and did not have such high expectations regarding the early results.

It was recommended and agreed to by the County that our ballot box would be picked up as usual the week before the election, and I would deliver it to Cave Creek after the polls closed on election night to be taken to the County for counting.

There was still a difference of approximately 15% for the March and 4% for the May votes counted between the unofficial results on election night and the official results we received a few days later. We had made it clear to the media and the public that the election night results were unofficial and not necessarily correct and the correct count would be available a few days later. This helped calm the public and the candidates. We found that the numbers for some candidates changed from the early (unofficial) ballot count in March and the final (official) ballot count resulting in a run off for the General Election in May.

In the May General Election we piggy backed with the County for a school budget override election. I had agreed that the ballots would go out 29 days before the election date. Because of the override election the County sent

the ballots out 33 days before the election. This resulted in one of the candidates accusing the Town of election fixing since they had been told the 29 day information.

The County also sent out informational post cards saying the May election would be a walk in election and gave the wrong address of the voting place on the card. When this was pointed out they sent another post card informing electors that it was an all mail ballot election with the corrected address of Carefree Town Hall.

We would continue to suggest a process be developed so that a better total could be available earlier. We look forward to the day when we can vote by the Internet and have almost immediate results.

#### 4. FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF MAIL BALLOT IRREGULARITIES.

Neither the Town of Carefree nor the Maricopa County Elections Department observed any irregularities.

#### 5. VOTER SATISFACTION WITH THE PROCESS.

There was confusion in the May election as to whether it was a mail ballot or walk in and why they got the ballots so early. Those who were uncertain about mailing their ballots were welcome to place their ballots in the ballot box which was available at the front counter from the 29 day time the ballots were supposed to be mailed until 7 p.m. election night.

#### 6. NUMBER OF NON-DELIVERABLE BALLOTS.

For both elections, the County Election Department mailed 2,549 ballots; of those, none were returned. We were informed that no ballots could be forwarded so any one out of town had to request a ballot be sent to them at another address.

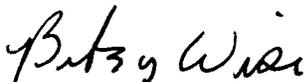
#### 7. FINAL WORDS.

As the election official for the Town of Carefree, I find that mail ballot elections still insure a higher voter turn out.

We noticed with this election that voters are much more comfortable with mail ballot elections and we had few spoiled ballots or those that had to be verified.

There was less concern by the voters in our town following these elections regarding the slow final results because people were more aware of the system. It seems that faster results should be available with the technological breakthroughs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, however, and we look forward to internet voting.

Sincerely,



Betsy Wise  
TOWN OF CAREFREE  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

C: Town Council  
Jon Pearson, Town Administrator  
Ray Valenzuela, County Elections Department