



## Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

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# PRESS RELEASE

DATE: August 1, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***RECORD NUMBER OF EARLY BALLOTS BEING MAILED FOR THE AUGUST 28, 2012 PRIMARY***

*For information about polling place ID requirements, please contact the Pima County Division of Elections at (520) 351-6830, or visit their web site at [www.pima.gov/elections](http://www.pima.gov/elections).*

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez announced today that early voting for the August 28, 2012 Primary Election is already at a record pace even though we are at the very beginning of early voting for the election. The highest number of early ballots ever mailed to voters in Pima County during a countywide primary election cycle was 158,817. That record was set during the August 2010 Primary Election cycle with ballots being mailed over an 18 day period of time.

The first day of early voting for the August 28, 2012 Primary Election is this coming Thursday, August 2, 2012. To date, more than **216,600** Pima County voters have already requested vote-by-mail ballots for this election. All those ballots will be mailed this Thursday, August 2, 2012. Pima County will exceed the highest number of vote-by-mail ballots mailed in a countywide primary election by more than **57,700** ballots on the very first day of the early voting cycle.

Rodriguez stated that *“the trend of high voter participation in early voting has been increasing for many years but has sharply increased for the 2012 elections.”* Prior to the 2012 spring elections, the highest percentage of voter turnout from early voters compared to all ballots cast in an election was 63.3% during the November 2010 General Election. The percentage of ballots cast by early voters has increased significantly in 2012. For example

**72.3%** during the February 28, 2012 Presidential Preference Election.

**79.9%** during the April 17, 2012 Special Congressional District 8 Primary Election.

**76.3%** during the June 12, 2012 Special Congressional District 8 General Election.

Given the high number of voters that have already requested ballots for the primary election, we anticipate that we will continue the trend of almost 3 out of every 4 voters participating in an election opting to vote in the comfort of their home rather than traveling to polling places on Election Day.

Rodriguez stated, ***“the increased participation in early voting is credited to both the Permanent Early Voting List as well as increased voter interest in determining who their elected representatives should be. With the large number of contested races in this Primary Election, we anticipate a much higher level of voter participation in the Primary Election than in prior years.”***

Voters have until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 17, 2012 to request a ballot by mail. Voters can make a request online at [www.recorder.pima.gov](http://www.recorder.pima.gov) or by calling the Pima County Recorder’s Office Voter Registration office at 724-4330. Any Pima County voter can also track the status of their vote-by-mail ballot on the Pima County Recorder’s Office website [www.recorder.pima.gov](http://www.recorder.pima.gov) by selecting the Early Ballot Status choice on the main page of the site and entering the required information.