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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Record Pace of Voted Ballots Returned For the Special Congressional District 8 Election Continues

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez reported today that the record pace for early ballots for the Special Congressional District 8 General Election being voted and returned to her office is continuing.

The Recorder's Office has received a significant number of media inquiries concerning the very high rapid volume of returned early ballots for the Special Congressional District 8 General Election. The questions have included requests for break downs of the data by political party affiliation of the voter.

The return information changes by the minute as we complete signature verification processing on the returned ballots. In order to make certain we provide accurate information to all media sources and so the numbers reported are not different based on the time of day of the media inquiry, F. Ann Rodriguez announced today that she will be releasing reports of this information on a more frequent basis to media sources concerning the returned ballots in this election cycle until the end of the early voting cycle.

The Recorder's Office is currently processing the returned ballots through the validation procedures at the rate of between 10,000 to 13,000 ballots each day. Due to the high volume of voted early ballots being returned and the number of steps involved in the validation process, there is a time period between receipt of the ballot and the completion of the validation process

187,614 early ballots were mailed out to voters in Pima County starting Thursday May 17, 2012. Already, more than **71,478** voted early ballots have been returned to the Recorder's Office. In addition, we have had 289 walk-in voters at our early voting sites. The breakdown by party is shown here as to those ballots that have been signature verified and will be processed to be counted.

Democratic	65,887 ballots mailed	17,250 ballots returned	26% returned
Republican	71,810 ballots mailed	17,645 ballots returned	24% returned
Green	347 ballots mailed	60 ballots returned	17% returned

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Libertarian	996 ballots mailed	160 ballots returned	16% returned
Independents/ Other	48,739 ballots mailed	10,295 ballots returned	21% returned

It is common to see 10 to 15% of the voters return their early ballots within the first week of early voting. However, in this election more than **38%** of the vote-by-mail ballots have already been returned.

Rodriguez noted that voters who have not yet requested a vote-by-mail ballot may do so as long as the Recorder's Office receives the request by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2012. Voters can request an early ballot by calling 724-4330. Voters can also submit their early ballot request online at www.recorder.pima.gov. If a voter prefers to vote early in person, they can do so at three different sites in Pima County, 115 N. Church Avenue, 6550 S. Country Club Road and 6920 E. Broadway Blvd, suite D during regular business hours.

The deadline for any voter to return an early ballot is 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, June 12, 2012.