



Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FEBRUARY 28, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION

Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez would like to remind voters that anyone who wishes to participate in the February 28, 2012 Presidential Preference Election **must** be registered with the same political party affiliation as of the Presidential candidate they wish to vote for, in accordance with A.R.S. §16-241(A). There are only 2 political parties participating in this election and they are the Republicans and Green parties.

The Recorder's office has received a number of inquiries about whether Arizona's Open Primary laws apply to the Presidential Preference Election (PPE). "Remember," states Ms. Rodriguez, "this is not a primary election; it is a "preference" election. There is a difference. The results of the PPE are non-binding, meaning the winner in Arizona may not necessarily be the candidate running in the General Election in November. The Open Primary laws in Arizona don't apply to this election."

Through the initiative process, the voters of the State of Arizona voted to allow voters registered as Independent and Party Not Designated to participate in our regular State Primary Elections that are held in September. When the voters of the State of Arizona passed this initiative in 1996, the Presidential Preference

Election was not included. The PPE is therefore a closed election where only registered voters of the participating political parties may vote.

Ms. Rodriguez states “each state has different state laws that govern them and there are many states that do allow Independents and Party Not Designated voters to participate in determining a Presidential candidate, however the State of Arizona is not one of them.”

If anyone who is currently registered to vote as an Independent or Party Not Designated wants to participate in the upcoming February 28, 2012 Presidential Preference Election, that voter will have to re-register for the political party affiliation of the candidate that they wish to vote for. They need to change their registration *no later than midnight on Monday, January 30, 2012.*

There are 3 reasons a person must re-register to vote:

✓ **Name Change** ✓ **Address Change** ✓ **Political Party Change**

Re-registering can be done simply by completing a new voter registration form. For additional information, visit the Recorder’s website at www.recorder.pima.gov. Voters with an Arizona driver’s license or Motor Vehicle Division issued identification card may register online at the EZ Voter Registration site at www.servicearizona.com.

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The Pima County Recorder’s Office phone numbers have changed

The prefix is now **724**. The Voter Registration division’s new phone number is: 520-724-4330 and the Recording division’s new phone number is: 520-724-4350. Please make a note of the new phone numbers. Beginning in June, 2012, the old phone number will no longer connect you to either of these divisions.