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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2012
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Provisional Ballot Breakdown from Recorder's Office

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez, announced today that a breakdown of the results of the provisional ballots from the November 6, 2012 General Election is now available. On Election Day and in the days following, there were significant allegations of problems with the poll rosters in the polling places. In order to clarify the issue, I am releasing the following information.

The Recorder's Office received 27,653 Provisional and Conditional Provisional ballot forms from the Pima County Elections Department following the closing of polls on Election Day. We completed our review of all provisional ballots at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Friday, November 16, 2012.

Following the press release is a graph showing the breakdown of reasons provisional ballots were issued.

Of the provisional and conditional provisional ballots received, 43 were either blank or voided forms that could not be processed.

Of the remaining 27,610 forms processed, a total of 23,526 were determined to be valid and were approved for tabulation. That is a validity rate of 85.2%.

In our processing of the Provisional ballots, I directed my staff to track the reason why a voter was required to vote by provisional ballot and to track the reason why a ballot was disqualified. Our results are as follows:

Of the total voters who received provisional ballots, 15,110 had requested and been sent early ballots. These voters apparently chose not to return the early ballot and instead went to the polling place on Election Day to vote in person. A total of 98 of those voters had in fact voted their early ballot in addition to attempting to vote a second time at the polls. All 98 of those ballots were

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invalidated and I will request an investigation into their conduct. The provisional ballots for the remaining 15,012 voters who chose not to vote their early ballot were verified and tabulated.

In addition, 4,845 Pima County voters who appeared at the polling places on Election Day moved without updating their voter registration address. Those voters were required by state law to vote at the polling place for their new address. Since these voters had not updated their address with our office, their names were not on the poll rosters at the new polling place. However, under state law, all 4,845 ballots were verified and the provisional ballot form will be used to update their address in the voter registration roll.

2,212 voters went to the wrong polling place. These voters were correctly listed on the poll rosters at their assigned polling place. Under state law, each of these ballots had to be disqualified.

1,559 individuals attempted to vote on Election Day in Pima County when they were not eligible to do so. Of that group, 856 had never registered to vote in Pima County, 428 had previously registered to vote here but their voter registration was cancelled. The remaining 275 individuals did register to vote, but registered after the statutory registration cutoff date of October 9, 2012 and were therefore not eligible to vote on November 6, 2012. None of these voter's names appeared on any poll roster since they were not eligible to vote in Pima County.

2,533 provisional ballots were issued for a variety of reasons including voters with insufficient or no identification at the polls, voters who had changed their name and voters who had obtained court orders to seal their voter registration record. For some reason poll workers issued two provisional ballots to 24 different voters. Only one of those provisional ballots was verified for each voter.

Claims have been made that the poll rosters had significant printing errors in them. Our review of the records did find two different intermittent printing errors occurred in the rosters. In some polling places, voters who registered for the very first time in Pima County on the registration cutoff date were listed at the beginning of their alphabet group rather than in proper alphabetical order. The second issue was that some voters who changed their address after the voter registration cutoff date were listed in their old polling place rather than their new polling place. I have directed my staff to determine the cause of these printing errors and to fix the problem so that they do not occur again. Our review determined that 1,351 voters were required to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day due to these poll roster printing issues.

Rodriguez stated: "It is unacceptable to me that a roster printing error should require even one voter to vote by provisional ballot. However, the roster printing errors did not cause a significant volume of provisional ballots on November 6, 2012. Each of the voters impacted by this issue will be receiving a letter from our office explaining the situation and apologizing for the inconvenience they faced on Election Day."

Many claims have been made that the election system in Arizona is "broken" and needs to be fixed by the Recorder's Office. As the numbers clearly show, the issue of provisional ballots is

controlled not by the Elections Department or the Recorder’s Office, but by the voter’s themselves. Federal law requires the poll workers to offer a provisional ballot to any voter who appears at any polling place if their name is not on the roster. Arizona law requires the poll workers to offer a provisional ballot to any voter if they appear at the polling place if their name is on the roster but flagged as receiving an early ballot or if they have insufficient identification.

In this election, if the voters who received an early ballot voted that early ballot rather than a provisional ballot and had the voters who moved without updating their address kept their voter registration record current and if voters had checked with any of the online resources available to determine their proper polling place before going to the polling place to confirm their assigned polling site and had voters properly registered to vote by the registration cutoff date, fewer than 4,000 provisional ballots would have been issued in this election. That number would have been further reduced had voters brought the correct identification to the polling place as required under Arizona law.

In the next couple of weeks our office will release a report as to the details of the roster printing issue and its impact on each individual polling place. In addition, we will issue a report of the provisional ballot reasons and results by polling place.

Voters who were issued a provisional or conditional provisional ballot can find out whether or not their ballot counted and if not, the reason why it did not count. This information is available on our website, www.recorder.pima.gov by clicking on the Provisional Ballot Status link. To check the status you must have the receipt number issued to you at the polling place. Voters who have misplaced the receipt or do not have access to the internet can call the Recorder’s Office at 724-4330 to get the results of their ballot.

