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PRESS RELEASE

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2012 GENERAL ELECTION REPORT ANALYSIS OF ROSTER ISSUES

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez announces that her office has completed its review and evaluation of the signature roster printing computer malfunction that occurred during the November 6, 2012 General Election.

The program that generates signature roster data is complex and consists of several database subprograms, all working together within an automated system. The failure was during the execution of one of these subprograms. Technical and analytical review have found that a malfunction within one of the database subprograms resulted in the database table which stores signature roster data to not be refreshed before adding new records. The malfunction went undetected and led to two issues which impacted the signature rosters on Election Day.

Issue #1

First time voters, registering in Pima County on or just before the voter registration cut-off date of October 9, 2012, were listed out of order on the signature rosters. Their last names appeared at the top of the roster listing rather than in an alphabetized location within that letter because of an undetected malfunction in the signature roster program

The technical and analytical review found that 1,085 voters were impacted due to the alpha order malfunction. Poll workers diligently worked and were able to locate 861 of the voter names that were out of order thereby allowing those voters to vote a regular ballot. Poll workers did not locate the remaining 224 voter names on the signature rosters resulting in those voters being instructed to vote a provisional ballot.

Issue #2

During the month of October, voters who submitted voter registration forms to change the address on their voter records to their new address remained listed on the signature roster at their

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previous polling site. The correct data should have changed the voter information to their new polling location wherein the names should have appeared on the signature roster for their new polling location. Because of this undetected computer malfunction, 1,057 voters in Pima County were required to cast a provisional ballot.

In order to ensure that these computer malfunctions do not occur again, Rodriguez stated that she has added key quality control, policy and procedures.

1. The existing computer program generating the signature rosters will be re-designed to ensure that any computer malfunctions will be detected prior to distribution and use on Election Day at the polling locations.
2. In addition to a re-design, additional quality control measures will be instituted following the printing process of the signature rosters and prior to distribution to the poll workers.
3. The programs used in creating signature rosters will be upgraded to a more modern programming language. This will improve computer processing, allow monitoring and implement error handling procedures.
4. The Recorder is requiring improvement of communication procedures between the IT staff and the Recorder's Administration staff in order to ensure that communication will occur in a timely fashion when issues arise.

Rodriguez extends an apology about these computer malfunctions and undetected errors which occurred during the printing of the signature rosters. Rodriguez has personally counseled key administrative and technical support staff within the Recorder's Office to take immediate corrective action to prevent any future database malfunction.

The signature roster malfunction was 5% or 1,281 out of 27,653 total provisional ballots that were issued on Election Day. It is unacceptable to the Recorder that a roster printing error should require even one voter to vote by provisional ballot. Staff from the Recorder's Office should have detected the computer malfunction prior to releasing the signature rosters as a public document.

The key staff members responsible for overall production and quality control have accepted responsibility and the Recorder's Office has initiated pro-active functions and procedures to address these signature roster malfunctions.

"As the Pima County Recorder, I accept responsibility for the errors of my staff," Ms. Rodriguez stated.