



Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez

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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: August 3, 2012
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez is asking for help from the citizens in Pima County in tracking the delivery of vote-by mail ballots by the United States Postal Service.

Recently, the United States Postal Service announced cuts in service that include shutting down the Tucson Mail Processing Center in addition to other regional processing centers and post offices throughout the country. One of the justifications asserted by the United States Postal Service is that the elimination of the Tucson plant will cause only a slight delay for delivery of first class mail in Pima County. The post office claims that the current service level is one business day for delivery of first class mail and that the proposed changes will result in delivery time increasing to two business days.

On Thursday, August 2, 2012, the Pima County Recorder's Office mailed ballots to more than 215,000 voters in Pima County. Under postal regulations, the ballots are handled the same as first class mail. If the post office is correct in its claims as to current service levels, all of these ballots should be delivered to voters in Pima County on Friday, August 3, 2012.

The Pima County Recorder's Office is requesting assistance from voters in tracking the delivery dates for the ballots mailed on August 2, 2012. We want to hear from voters as to the date they actually received their vote-by-mail ballots.

Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez stated *"I am very concerned with the postal service plan to reduce service in Pima County. The voters in Pima County are overwhelmingly deciding to cast their ballot in every election using the ballot by mail program. Most cities and towns have opted to conduct all of their elections entirely by mail. It is imperative that ballots not be delayed in postal service transmission systems so that voters have as much time as possible to carefully consider their choices for elected representatives."* In order to determine the accuracy of postal service claims as to existing service levels, we need to confirm the claims of the current service levels.

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The Recorder's Office has set up a special email account, Igotmyballot@recorder.pima.gov for voters to provide the information needed to conduct this evaluation. In order to track the ballot delivery, we need the following information:

Igotmyballot@recorder.pima.gov

Voter's name

Address where the ballot was delivered including zip code

Date you received your ballot.

There is also a link on our website, www.recorder.pima.gov for voters to send the information.

Voters who do not have access to email may call our office at (520) 724-4330 to provide the information.

Rodriguez stated: ***“Only by conducting an outside evaluation of the current level of postal system service can we determine the real impact of the proposed changes on the voters in Pima County. This evaluation is virtually cost free to taxpayers but provides a potential for a large volume of data to be gathered quickly. It is essential that we determine the impact of the postal service changes on the voters of this county.”***