



## **Supervisors approve Vote Centers, e-Poll Books for 2022 elections**

PIMA COUNTY, Feb. 15, 2022 – Pima County voters this August and November will be able to cast their ballots at a Vote Center after the Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to approve their implementation. Pima County will join 11 other Arizona counties using vote centers.

The change will allow voters to go to any Vote Center near their place of employment, school, daycare, grocery store, home or anywhere they happen to be on Election Day. Vote centers will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Board also voted 4-1 to purchase e-poll books, which will provide faster check-in during the voting process. At check in - which will now take 30 seconds instead of the three minutes it used to - voters will get the correct paper ballot for the precinct where they live. Under the previous system, voters had to cast their ballots at their neighborhood precinct polling location and risked not having their ballot count if they went to the wrong one. E-poll books and Vote Centers eliminate that problem and will reduce the instances of voters having to vote a provisional ballot.

Because each ballot will be uniquely printed for each voter, there will no longer be blank ballots at the polls or unvoted ballots after an election. Voters will still cast a paper ballot and all other voting procedures, including vote security and counting, will remain the same as in past elections. Pima County has been using the Vote Center model since 2002 for its Early Voting sites where voters cast their ballot at any of the Early Voting Sites available.

Proposed Vote Center locations will go to the Board of Supervisors for final approval in April. The County Elections Department has recommended at least 100 Vote Centers, though the Board may choose to add more. The Pima County Elections Department selected the locations based on several criteria:

- Bigger and more accessible to public transportation and pedestrian traffic
- Ample parking with plenty of accessible spaces for voters with disabilities.
- Proximity to areas with language minority populations, voters with disabilities and low-income communities including households with low vehicle ownership.

In rural areas like Mount Lemmon and the Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui nations, voting locations will be the same as in 2020 but will use the Vote Center technology.

There will be no change to Early Voting conducted by the Pima County Recorder's Office. In the 2020 election, 15 Early Voting Locations Sites were available to all registered Pima County voters.

"Our new Vote Centers help ensure that every Pima County voter will have their voice heard," said Interim Pima County Elections Director Mary Martinson. "We're incredibly grateful to the Pima County Board of Supervisors for taking this important step to help our election workers provide an accessible, convenient space for voters to safely and securely cast their votes on Election Day."

"We understand that many voters still prefer to cast a ballot in person on Election Day. We are committed to helping Pima County residents vote at a time and place to match their busy schedules," Martinson said.

[Go here for more information about the Board's action today.](#)