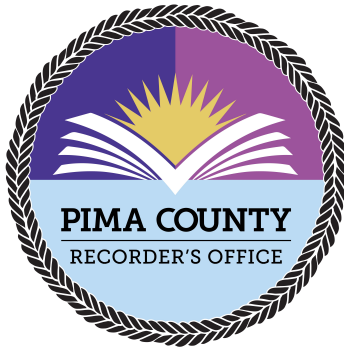


PIMA COUNTY
RECORDER'S OFFICE

After Action Report

Primary Election
July 21, 2026





EARLY VOTING OPERATIONS

After-Action Report

2026 Primary Election

Submitted – Friday, September 4, 2026

This narrative is provided to the Board of Supervisors reviewing the Pima County Recorder's Office administration of Early Voting operations for the July 21, 2026, Primary Election.

EARLY VOTING OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

The Recorder's Office issued 349,879 Early Ballots to voters. These included Ballots by Mail, in-person at Early Voting Sites, Uniformed and Overseas Voters and Special Election Boards.

There were 646,190 Active Voters in Pima County. Of those voters, 461,511 were on the Active Early Voting List (AEVL).

The five recognized parties in Arizona are Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green and No Labels. Active Early Voting List members who were also members of a recognized political party were automatically sent a ballot. Voters who have not designated a party or whose party is not officially recognized by the county or state are considered "No Party Designated" voters, commonly referred to as independent voters. The Green, Libertarian and No Labels parties had closed elections and did not allow non-party members to participate. The Democratic and Republican parties had open primaries that allowed Party Not Designated voters to participate.

Ballot by Mail Notices were sent on April 22, 2026, to all AEVL voters. It informed those registered with a political party that they would be sent a ballot. Those not registered with a party were told how they could request a ballot. Party Not Designated voters or those not on the AEVL could request a notice via the PCRO Early Ballot Request Portal or by calling. Voters who lived within a municipality having a non-partisan race were also given the opportunity to request a "City/Town Ballot" via the same form.

Additionally, there were 91,549 Inactive voters eligible to participate in the election. Federal law states that a voter is designated as Inactive when their residential address cannot be confirmed. If an Inactive voter produces sufficient identification while voting in person, their status will be reactivated. A voter can also re-activate their status by updating their Voter Registration with their residential address.

Inactive voters are also moved to Active status if they sign a petition and their signature is verified during the process of reviewing the petition for valid signatures.

After two federal election cycles, if an Inactive voter has not updated their Voter Registration, their registration is canceled and removed from the voter roll, in accordance with federal law.

There were 737,739 voters eligible to vote on June 22, 2026, the deadline to register for the Primary.

The Early Voting period started on June 24 and ended on July 17. Emergency Voting was available to any Pima County voter on July 18 and 20.

During Early Voting, the Pima County Recorder’s Office mailed 349,879 Early Ballots. Total number of ballots turned over to the elections department, can be found on the 2026 Primary Canvass Report.

EARLY VOTING SITES

There were 15 Early Voting and Ballot Drop Off sites available during the election.

Early Ballot Site Issued Total – Primary Election Comparison		
2020	2024	2026
1,273	2,723	2,373

Information derived from Early Voting Site-issued reports maintained by the Pima County Recorder’s Office Voter Data application. A full report can be found on the 2026 Primary Election Canvass.

Pascua Yaqui Early Site, July 16

Issue: The Recorder’s Office was notified by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe that they had ordered the early closing of all Tribal Government Offices in preparation of an impending storm and expected flooding.

Solution: The Early Voting Site closed one hour early. The closure was limited to this specific site and was not associated with any other sites.

Notes: An Observer was present during the closure.

ID Verification Option

Pima County introduced a new way for voters to drop off their ballots.

Voters who completed their Early Ballot and inserted it into their signed, dated and sealed Affidavit Return Envelope, could bring it to any Early Voting Site or Election Day Vote Center by 7 p.m. on Election Day. If the voter’s identity was verified when the ballot was dropped off, the Ballot Affidavit was stamped as “ID Verified.” The verified Ballot Affidavit was placed in a secure ballot box.

ID Verified ballots were bulk approved at our Ballot Processing Center and submitted directly to the Pima County Elections Department.

Future Improvements: We will use larger signs, e.g. sandwich boards at the entrances of the Early Voting Sites, and signs at the check-in tables to inform voters of the option to ID Verify their Early Ballots. Staff will be trained to interpret that when a voter asks to have their ballot affidavit “signature verified,” it’s actually a request to “ID Verify” their affidavit.

Votemobile/Mobile Voting Unit

The mobile voting unit continues to operate under the established staffing model utilized by all Recorder's Office Voting Sites. This includes a bipartisan team of permanent and intermediate staff and trained and licensed drivers.

The mobile voting unit was stationed at the following locations:

- **Tuesday, July 14** - Salazar-Ajo Library, 15 Plaza #179, Ajo
- **Thursday, July 16** - Robles Ranch Community Center, 16150 W Ajo Hwy, Three Points
- **Friday, July 17, & Saturday, July 18** - Tohono Plaza (Bashas' Plaza), 1 Main St, Sells
- **Monday, July 20** - Marana Aquatic & Recreation Center, 13455 N Marana Main St, Marana

Operational Challenges

The most significant challenges encountered during the Primary Election involved adverse weather conditions and mechanical issues. The election occurred during peak monsoon conditions, with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees, and intermittent storms that caused electrical outages. These outages directly impacted site operations and, in some instances, temporarily closed Early Voting Sites.

Because all closures occurred before Election Day, voters still had additional opportunities to vote in person. In the event of a closure, the Recorder alerts the County Attorney's Office, County Administration and the Chair of the Board as well as stakeholders within the area, if necessary.

Ajo, Mobile Voting Site, July 14 &

Issue: The mobile voting unit generator experienced a power failure during a period of extreme heat, requiring the Voting Site to be temporarily relocated to the Ajo Public Library.

Solution: Before the site was closed, the Motemobile was locked and sealed to maintain the security and integrity of the remaining voting equipment and materials. The Site utilized the Express Ballot Marking Device to issue ballots. No voters were impacted.

Notes: An Observer was present during the closure and relocation.

Sells, Mobile Voting Site, July 17 & 18

Issue: Engine failure on truck caused by the weight of the Mobile Voting Unit resulted in delayed opening. That same afternoon a power outage on the entire reservation resulted in the loss of bathroom facilities for staff and forced the site to close early.

Solution: Pima County Fleet Services provided an emergency backup vehicle capable of pulling our Mobile Voting Unit. Facilities Management provided a more robust mobile generator and assisted us with set up and breakdown. Community partners were notified.

Notes: Tohono O'odham Nation Community stakeholders were notified of the late arrival. PCRO did not inform the Tohono O'odham Nation stakeholders about the early closure because all tribal offices were closed. Facilities Management provided on-site support in Sells and Marana, supplying a larger generator capable of withstanding high temperatures and stabilizing power

needs during storm season. Their timely intervention minimized operational disruptions and supported sustained voter access.

Future Improvements:

Vehicle Upgrade

With the support of Pima County Fleet Services, the weight capacity issue has been resolved through the purchase of a larger, diesel-fueled vehicle capable of safely towing the full mobile voting unit payload, including voting equipment and staff.

Generator Capacity Enhancements

Fleet will be collaborating with us to install a higher-capacity generator designed to withstand extreme weather conditions and operational demands. In addition, backup generators will be added to ensure service reliability in the event of a primary generator failure.

Interdepartmental Coordination

Our Office is working closely with Fleet Services, Facilities Management and other operation partners to refine redeployment testing, enhance equipment readiness and establish rapid-response protocols for any issues.

Ballot Drop-Off Sites

Six Ballot Drop Boxes were available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from 8 a.m., Wednesday, June 24, until 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, July 21. The boxes were then locked, and no late ballots were allowed to be deposited.

- **Pima County School Superintendent's Office - Drive up:** 200 N Stone Ave; utility driveway between 240 N Stone and 200 N. Stone
- **Recorder's Downtown Office - Walk up:** 240 N Stone Ave; courtyard facing the Recorder's Office
- **Recorder's Eastside Office - Walk up:** 6920 E Broadway Blvd; in front of the Pima County Health Department office
- **Pascua Yaqui Tribal Chambers - Walk up:** 7474 S Camino De Oeste; in front of the Community Services building
- **Sahuarita Town Hall - Drive up:** 375 W Sahuarita Center Way, Sahuarita; courtyard/fountain area inside the parking horseshoe
- **Sells Post Office - Walk up:** 1 Main St, Sells; to the left of the Post Office entrance, by the second column

Number of Ballots returned to Ballot Drop Boxes

	Downtown Drive up	Downtown Plaza Walk up	Eastside Walk up	Pascua Yaqui Walk up	Sahuarita Drive up	Sells Walk up	Total
Totals	1,521	2,051	6,836	180	946	81	11,615

During the Primary Election, Ballot Drop Boxes saw a notable increase in use across multiple locations. Voters consistently expressed appreciation for the convenience, accessibility and security the boxes provided. The increased volume demonstrates strong voter confidence in this option and reinforces the importance of maintaining and expanding drop box availability for future election cycles.

Planned improvements

We are in the process of adding more Ballot Drop Boxes throughout Pima County. The upcoming General Election cycle will have three new Ballot Drop Boxes installed. Visit recorder.pima.gov, for more details.

Election Observers

With established guidelines in place, our office accepted Political Party Observers. All Ballot Replacement sites were open to Party Observers during the Primary Election. All recognized political parties have been invited to participate. During the Primary Election, only Republican and Democratic observers participated.

Issue: We continued to interact with Observers who were unfamiliar with standard protocols before they arrived at the sites, including not bringing personal belongings, such as bags, electronic devices and drinks. Observers were asked to bring documents authorizing access to the site, and expectations were communicated to Observers before they arrived to ensure compliance with established procedures.

Solution: We reached out to political party leadership to ensure that Observers were given instructions before arriving and had clear expectations of policies and protocols. We also issued several reminders that we will not allow Observers into a site without proper documentation. Additional support was provided by staff.

Notes: Limited quantities of Observer guidelines are available at each site. Additional copies will be provided to the Early Voting Sites for the 2026 General Election.

Future Improvements: To improve clarity and consistency moving forward, Party Chairs and designated Observers will be notified in advance of any site-specific limitations or considerations, including restroom availability, parking requirements and access constraints.

Republican Party Early Voting Observer Totals

Site / Location	Scheduled Slots	Actual Unique Observers	Duplicate Observers	Notes
Pima County Recorder – Signature Verification (7-13)	18	2	1	Many slots unfilled; same Observer appeared repeatedly
Pima County Recorder – Signature Verification (7-6)	3	2	1	One Observer covered two shifts
Pima County Recorder Main Office (EVS 6-24)	2	1	1	Same person covered both shifts
Pima County Recorder Main Office (EVS 7-6)	0	0	0	No Observers listed
City of Tucson – Ward 2 Office (6-24)	1	1	0	Single Observer
City of Tucson – Ward 2 Office (7-6)	2	2	0	Different Observers each shift
Recorder’s Country Club Office (6-24)	1	1	0	Single Observer
Recorder’s Country Club Office (7-6)	0	0	0	No Observers listed
Oro Valley Library (7-13 & 7-18)	15	6	4	Some had multiple shifts
Oro Valley Library (7-6)	13	11	3	Multiple returns July 6-10
Pima County Parks & Rec (River Rd)	4	3	1	One duplicate Observer
Wheeler Taft Abbott Library	16	3	2	Two Observers repeat heavily
W. Anne Gibson–Esmond Station Library	4	3	1	One duplicate Observer
Kirk Bear Canyon Library	10	5	3	Multiple repeats across days
Miller Golf Links Library	12	2	1	One Observer covers nearly all shifts
Anamax Recreation Center	3	3	0	All unique Observers
Valencia Library	2	1	1	Duplicate Observer present

Site / Location	Scheduled Slots	Actual Unique Observers	Duplicate Observers	Notes
Pascua Yaqui Tribal Chambers	24	1	1	Same Observer covered every slot
Eckstrom-Columbus Library	3	1	1	Same Observer repeated
Votemobile – Salazar-Ajo Library	1	1	0	Single Observer
Votemobile – Robles Ranch	1	1	0	Single Observer
Votemobile – Marana Aquatic Center	1	1	0	Single Observer

Democratic Party Early Voting Observer Totals

Location	Scheduled Slots	Actual Unique Observers	Duplicate Observers	Notes
Signature Verification – Recorder's Office (3950 S Country Club)	3	3	0	All Observers unique; each attended one day

2026 General Election

The General Election will include contests for county, state, federal and non-partisan municipality, fire districts and school governing board races. It will also include statewide initiatives, referendums, budget overrides and bond approvals.

- **Tuesday, September 18**, Ballots mailed to Uniformed & Overseas Voters.
- **Monday, October 5**, is the last day to register
- **Wednesday, October 7**, is when Early Voting begins and Early Ballots will be mailed
- **Friday, October 23**, is the last day to request a replacement ballot
- **Tuesday, November 3**, is Election Day

Planned improvements

For the General Election, we are pleased to offer an Early Voting Site on the University of Arizona campus. The Ballot Drop Box will be in a central area accessible to the on-campus residents and the University of Arizona community.

To help prepare Pima County voters, we are sharing the list Early Voting Sites early. This will allow voters to plan when they can vote or drop off their ballots. Pima County voters can drop off and vote at ANY Early Voting site.

Future Considerations

Potential changes to US Postal Service rules could be implemented before the General Election, but an injunction is delaying those changes. Pima County is already voluntarily abiding by three of the four proposed changes:

1. Unique barcodes on outgoing Mail Ballot packets mailed through our vendor
2. Unique barcodes on Ballot Return Affidavit Envelopes
3. Election Mail Envelope Design Analysis conducted by the USPS
4. Uploading of first and last name and address of each voter into USPS portal*

*As of Friday, September 4, 2026, the USPS Portal has not yet been launched.

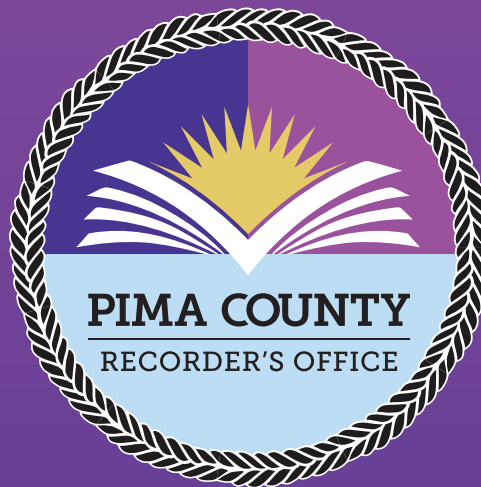
Concerns: The data being requested for the USPS portal is a matter of public record, but there is concern for unintended consequences and many unanswered questions.

Acknowledgements

A special thank you to Pima County Fleet Services and Facilities Management for their rapid and effective support in response to challenges encountered during mobile voting. We also appreciate the dedication and professionalism of the entire staff of the Recorder's Office, which worked with a commitment to serving voters and providing a secure and accessible voting experience. They were essential to the successful administration of this election.

"We voted by mail on vacation. We requested that our early ballots be sent to us up here. [We] took [our ballots] straight to USPS, they have been received, verified and counted! Thank you!"

- Pima County Voter



Voter Registration Dashboard

Log in to check your voter registration,
find out about upcoming elections,
request a ballot, and more!



    
@PimaRecorder

Voter Services:
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Website:
recorder.pima.gov