

### OUR IMPACT ON 2020



#wethevoters

# The Presidential Election - General Election -

Citizens Clean Elections Commission WE THE VOTERS CONFERENCE Saturday, October 26, 2019



Bo Dul, State Elections Director, Arizona Secretary of State Thad Hall, Elections Director, Coconino County



# AGENDA

- What is a General Election?
- The General Election Ballot
- 2020 General Election Key Dates
- Ways to Vote



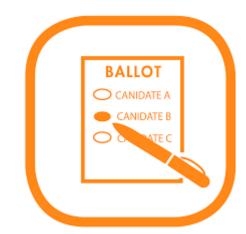
- Arizona's Voters & Expected Turnout
- How We Elect the President: Electoral College

1. Primary vs. General Elections Primary Elections are contests between candidates from the same party.

Arizona currently recognizes the Democratic, Libertarian, and Republican Parties.

Primary winners from each party go on to run in the General Election.

# 2. What will be on your General Election ballot?



# Federal Races in 2020

### **President\***

### Senate

### House of Representatives

# State Races in 2020

#### Senators

#### Representatives

### Corporation Commissioners

### Supreme Court Justices (Retention)

Court of Appeals Judges (Retention)

# County Races in 2020

### Board of Supervisors

Assessor

Attorney

Recorder

Sheriff

Superintendent of Schools

Treasurer

### Initiatives, Referenda, and Recalls

Initiative: Voters propose new laws or amend existing laws

Referendum: Voters may veto a law (or part of a law)

Recall: Voter attempt to remove an elected officer from their position

### 3. 2020 General Election – Key Dates

Event	Date
Voter Registration Deadline	10/5/2020 (Monday)
Start of Early Voting	10/7/2020 (Wednesday)
Ballots-by-Mail Sent to PEVL Voters	10/7/2020 (Wednesday)
Last Day to Request a Ballot-by-Mail	10/23/2020 (Friday)
Mail in Your Ballot-by-Mail By	10/29/2020 (Thursday)
Last Day to Vote Early In-Person	10/30/2020 (Friday)
ELECTION DAY	11/3/2020 (Tuesday)

# 4. Ways to Vote

### By Mail

- Permanent Early Voting List
- One-time Ballot-by-Mail Request

**In-Person Early Voting** 

**Election Day Voting** 

- Polling Places
- Vote Centers

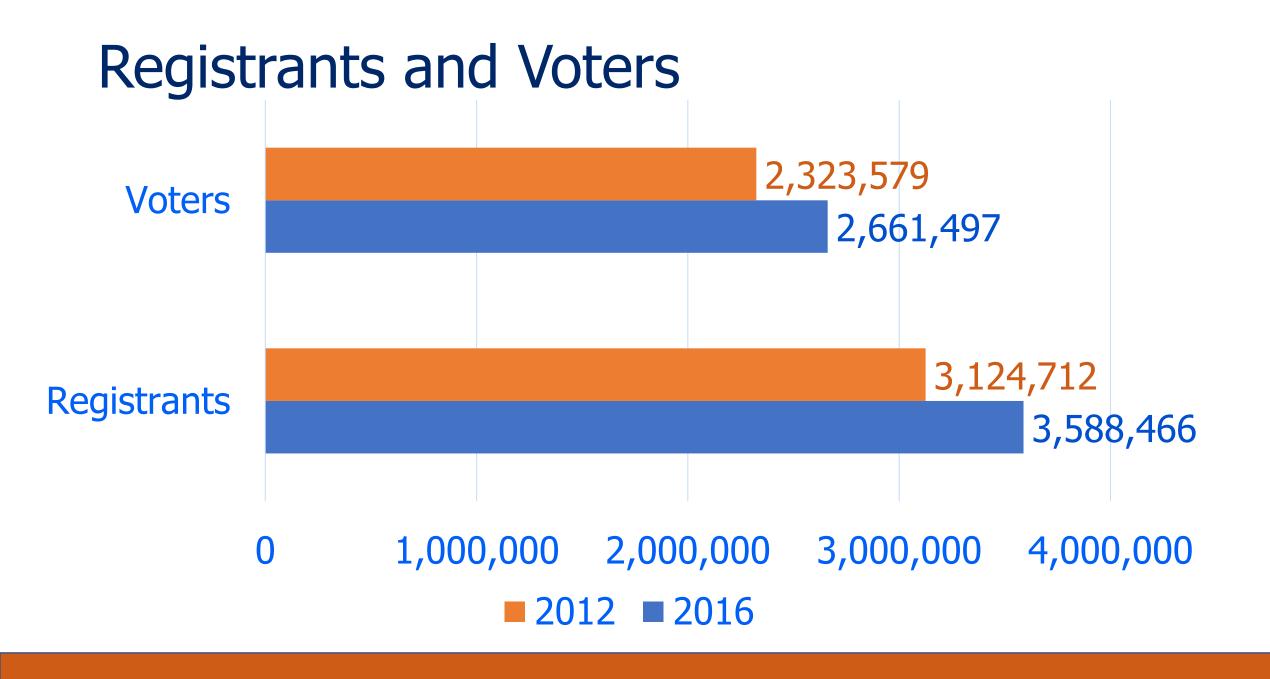
# **Implementation of Voting Methods**

- Varies across counties
  - Coconino 2x as large geographically as Maricopa
  - But Maricopa is 30 times as populated
- Reflects geography, needs of specific populations, and resources
- Arizona has the most urban of urban areas and the most rural of rural areas
- Assistance available for voters
  - Accessibility
  - Language assistance



# 5. Arizona Voters & Expected 2020 Turnout



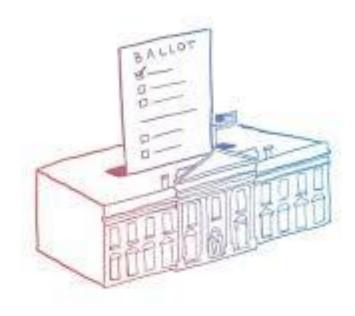


# Likely 2020 Registration and Turnout

- Current Registration for 2020 3.89 million
  Will be close to 4 million by October 2020
- Expected turnout 78% (equal to 2008)
- 3.12 million voters 450,000 more than in 2016
- 73% of Arizonians are on the PEVL
- Fewer than 1 million registrants will vote on Election Day

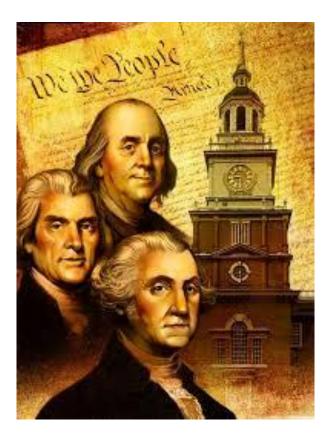


# 6. How We Elect the President: Electoral College



# What is the Electoral College?

- Process established by the founding fathers in the U.S. Constitution
- A compromise between election of the President by Congress vs. popular vote
  - The Electoral College consists of 538 electors (270 needed to win)
- Each candidate running for President has their group of electors
  - When you vote for President, you are voting for your chosen candidate's *electors*.



# Allocation of Electors to States



### Number of Senators (Always 2)



Number of House Districts (Population Based)



Arizona will have 11 Electors in 2020

### **How States Allocate Electoral Votes**

- Maine and Nebraska:
  - One electoral vote to the candidate who has the most votes in each congressional district
  - The remaining two electoral votes to the candidate who finishes first statewide
- All other states have a winner-takes-all allocation
  - You win the state popular vote, you get all of the electoral votes

# **Arguments for the Electoral College**



- President chosen by the "best of the best"
  - President will be a person of "ability and virtue"
- Not tied to pandering to the public for election or re-election
  - Can have the Nation's best interest at heart
- Small group can easily debate the merits of each potential candidate for the Presidency

# **Arizona's Electoral College Meeting**

- Participating party candidates are selected in the PPE
  - Parties nominate presidential electors to appear on general election ballot for their candidate
  - Represent party stalwards
- Electors meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December (12/14/2020)
  - Sworn in by the Secretary of State
  - Each signs an official certificate of the vote



### **National Electoral Vote Allocation - 2020**

- A candidate needs 270 to win
- Arizona has 11 electoral votes
  - We tie for 14<sup>th</sup> most with Indiana, Massachusetts, and Tennessee
- California has 55 electoral votes, Texas 38, and Florida and New York have 29



• Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming each only have 3 electoral votes Electoral College Reform Proposals and Controversies

# Reforms Introduced into Congress

### **District System**

• Allocate electoral votes by district in all States like Maine and Nebraska

### **Proportional System**

• Allocate electoral votes by proportion of popular vote won in the State

### Automatic System

 Popular vote system automatically wins 100% of electoral votes in the State National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Award all electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote nationwide

Goes into effect when states totaling 270 electoral votes adopt the legislation

Arizona has not passed this legislation

# "Faithless" Electors

- Do Electors have to cast their vote to reflect State's popular vote?
- Possibly to be considered by the Supreme Court this term
- Washington State Supreme Court—Must be faithful
- Federal 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit—Electors can use their discretion



# **Final Thoughts**



- Election officials provide infrastructure
  - We can't make you mail back a ballot or go to the polls.
  - It's up to you make your voice heard!

### You can help get others to participate in our democracy.

- ASK them to vote and ask them face to face
- PEER PRESSURE: "I know that Sue, Jose, and I are all voting early on Tuesday."
- CHECKING UP: "I will text you to see how your voting experience went!"

### **Key Resources**

- ServiceArizona.com
   Voter Registration
- my.arizona.vote Voter Registration
- azsos.gov/elections Election Information

Status/Info

- azcleanelections.gov Voter Information
- County Recorder/ County-Specific
   Elections Offices Information

