



Morning Scoop with Arizona Capitol Times  
*Arizona Elections: What Changed in 2020 and What Lies Ahead in 2022*  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Panelists:

Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director, Clean Elections  
Honorable Leslie Hoffman, Recorder, Yavapai County  
Lisa Marra, Director of Elections, Cochise County  
Tammy Patrick, Senior Advisor, Elections, Democracy Fund

Dear Voters:

Thank you for attending the Morning Scoop event: Arizona Elections: What Changed in 2020 and What Lies Ahead in 2022. On behalf of the panelists and Clean Elections, I would like to thank you for the thoughtful questions presented. As promised, below is a list of all questions that were posted in the chat and the corresponding answers. We hope you find this information useful and appreciate you taking the time to be an informed voter. I encourage you to visit [azcleanelections.gov](http://azcleanelections.gov) for official, accurate voting information.

Sincerely,  
Gina Roberts  
Voter Education Director  
Clean Elections

**Questions and Answers:**

1. It is widely known that the Voter Rolls need to be cleaned up in every County in AZ. What is the plan to do that by our panelists?

Voter registration records are continuously updated in accordance with federal and state law. Counties often send official mail to voters, which is non-forwardable. The purpose of this is to indicate to the county if a voter is no longer at the address listed on the registration record. Pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act, after two official mailings have been sent and returned back to

the county, the voter is placed on the inactive list. If, after two federal election cycles, the voter has not communicated with the county or voted, they may be removed from the voter rolls. The county also receives death records from the Arizona Department of Health, and notifications from the court of felony statuses (such as juror notices when the person indicates they are a felon and cannot serve). There are several other ways the voter rolls are cleaned up, such as data from the National Change of Address (in conjunction with NVRA laws) and Arizona is a member of [Electronic Registration Information Center](#).

2. Why were sharpies used when the ballots clearly specified blue or black ballpoint pen?

Maricopa County recommended voters use Sharpies when they voted on Election Day, as Sharpies are the fastest drying ink and work best with the tabulators at the polls. Early ballots, whether voted by mail or in-person, are not immediately tabulated like Election Day ballots. Therefore, early ballots have plenty of time for the ink to dry. A voter could have used blue or black ballpoint pens or sharpies. To clarify, a voter can vote their ballot with any marking instrument. If the tabulator cannot read the ballot, the ballot will be duplicated. **A ballot will not be rejected simply due to the type of ink used.** Please note, we recommend voters follow the county instructions as certain marking instruments, such as crayon, can cause damage to the equipment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNhCcimt6No&list=PL8C6dWSWgXT9ihnWYVfqBME-9pEfdFUSC&index=6>

3. What happened to those voters who came in person to vote and were told that they had already cast a ballot?

If the roster indicates a voter has already voted or been issued an early ballot (and the county cannot determine in real time if the voter already cast a ballot), the voter will be given the option to vote a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will go back to the County Recorder, and they will determine if the county has already received a cast ballot from the voter. If the County determines the voter has not yet voted, the provisional ballot will count. The first cast ballot received by the county will be the only ballot that is counted for that voter.

4. How can a person verify that their address isn't being used to vote fraudulently?

If a voter has concerns about their address being used by others to vote, the voter should contact the County Recorder directly. They can search their records by address and best advise the voter.

It is important that mail be returned back as Not at this Address, especially if it is official election mail. Election mail is non-forwardable, so returned mail will trigger the NVRA process as mentioned in Question 1.

5. The System will allow a bad actor to vote twice, all they have to do is slightly change their name.

There are several checks and balances in place to prevent a voter from voting more than once. To have a valid voter registration on file, a voter must provide proof of identification and if voting in state elections, proof of citizenship. To receive a ballot, a voter must provide proof of identification to the poll worker at the polls. If voting by early ballot, the county will verify the signature on the early ballot affidavit envelope to ensure it matches the signature on file with the county. A ballot will not be counted unless the voter has a valid voter registration on file and provided proof of identification. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.azcleelections.gov/election-security>

6. Federal Only Voters do not have to Show any ID.

All voters, including Federal Only voters, must verify their identity prior to their ballot being counted. When a person votes in person, they must show the poll worker acceptable identification. When a person votes by mail, their signature is reviewed by trained County staff and verified against their voter registration record to confirm their identity. A Federal Only voter must provide sufficient identification to receive a ballot by mail.

<https://www.azcleelections.gov/how-to-vote/id-at-the-polls-list>

7. Can you tell us how we can get a better estimate of how many ballots remain to be counted? When officials come out with divergent estimates it feeds the crazy narratives that are out there.

Ballots are counted by the County Elections Department. Arizona has 15 counties, and depending on their system, election day ballots may be tabulated directly at the polls or transferred to central count. Arizona law allows counties to begin tabulating early ballots 14 days before election day. With legislation signed by the Governor in this session, tabulating early ballots may begin immediately after processing. This will take effect 90 days after sine die. It's important to remember that the election is not over on election night. There are many steps involved before an early ballot or provisional ballot can be tabulated. Early ballots dropped off on or right before Election Day are still required to be processed and verified in the same manner as those received earlier. There is also a 3-5 day curing period for signatures that do not match the voter registration record. Arizona law requires the county canvass the results of the

election no later than 10 days for a primary or presidential preference election, and between 6 and 20 days after a general election.

Voters should look to their county's election night reporting website for updates on ballot tabulation.

8. What is the future of mail-in voting in Arizona and the United States?

Most Arizona voters utilize the ballot by mail method (about 75%-80%). Laws governing ballot by mail are adopted by the state legislature. Voters who wish to express their views with their legislators can find contact information here: <https://www.azcleaselections.gov/how-government-works/elected-officials>.

9. When you mail ballots to everyone how often do you clean voting records to ensure mail votes aren't going to the dead or people that have moved out of state?

Voter rolls are updated and maintained on a daily basis. Arizona does not mail out ballots to every voter automatically in statewide elections. A voter must actively make a request for the ballot, either through a one-time request or by joining the Permanent Early Voting List. One-time requests can be made beginning 93 days before the election. A voter must have a valid registration on file in order to request a one-time ballot.

A voter must also have a valid registration to join PEVL. 90 days before the election every, a notice is mailed to every voter on the PEVL. The notice confirms the voter is still at the address on file and the voter still would like a ballot mailed to them.

These procedures ensure that ballots are only going to voters that have a valid registration and confirm their preference to receive a ballot by mail.

10. Logic and Accuracy testing verifies the accuracy at that point in time.

Logic and accuracy testing is performed twice. Once before the election, before any ballots can be tabulated. After the pre-election L&A test is concluded, the test ballots and program must be retained and secured. The electronic voting systems are securely stored, as required by the multiple layers of security measures outlined in the [Elections Procedures Manual](#). A post-election logic and accuracy test is done to verify no changes were made to the program that was certified during the initial L&A, and that the equipment is accurately tabulating

votes. Please note, Arizona has a multi-layered security approach to elections, and no component of an election is left unverified. In addition to L&A testing, a statistically significant hand count is performed after the election to further verify the accuracy of the machines.

11. If someone has moved to another state, is it up to them to let the Recorder's Office know that they have moved?

Anytime a voter has a change in status, whether it is moving, a name change, affiliation change, they need to update their voter registration record. If a voter moves out of state, the voter should contact their county recorder as soon as possible to cancel their Arizona registration. The voter will then need to register to vote in their new state (if they wish to be a registered voter). While Arizona has other processes in place to identify a voter that has moved, this is the surest and most efficient and timely way to keep records up to date.

12. Additional Questions and Comments:

In addition to specific questions, several comments were made in regards to news outlets and documentaries. Media literacy and being responsible consumers of information presented on social media and other platforms will help combat misinformation. We encourage voters to contact their election officials directly to verify information and help stop the spread of false or misinformation.

In regards to voters who have watched election related documentaries and have concerns about the security and safeguards surrounding Arizona elections, please take the time to read the Elections Procedures Manual. It will provide in-depth knowledge on the layers of security in place to protect your vote. You can learn more at: <https://www.azcleaselections.gov/election-security>.

And finally, we encourage voters to get involved directly in the process. Whether it's serving as a poll worker, political party observer or participating in a hand count, election administration could not occur without the involvement of Arizona citizens

Learn how to get involved at: <https://www.azcleaselections.gov/election-security/be-more-than-a-voter> and find your county's contact information at: <https://www.azcleaselections.gov/county-contact>.