



### **Gila County Elections Department Mission Statement**

The Gila County Department of Elections mission is to ensure equal access to the electoral process for all candidates and citizens by conducting secure elections that ensure every vote counts; implementing nondiscriminatory programs which encourage all citizens to vote; and providing superior training programs for citizen volunteers.

### **Gila County Elections Department Staff**

Eric A. Mariscal, Director

Alfonzo Alvarez, Elections Specialist

Josephine Goode, Voter Outreach Assistant

Cate Gore, Elections Assistant

Beverly Hawkins, Temporary Administrative Clerk

In 2013 the Gila County Elections Department had numerous personnel changes. The Director, Election Specialist, Elections Assistant and Temporary Administrative Clerk positions all became open. The positions were filled by October of 2013. The new Gila County Elections Department staff successfully conducted the Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District Special Election in May and the Gubernatorial Primary and General Election of 2014. The staff performed well and gained valuable knowledge in the conduct of elections.



As directed by the Gila County Board of Supervisors at the end of the 2014 Election Cycle the Gila County Elections Department seeks comment and direction for the following *preliminary plan* to achieve a more efficient and cost effective election day operation.

### **Consolidation Plan for the 2016 Election Cycle**

The trend in the last two Election Cycles, 2012 & 2014, for Gila County is a diminishing number of voters on Election Day at polling places. In the 2014 General Election 1,628 voters cast their ballots at a polling place. This is due in part to the increasing Permanent Early Voting List and the consolidation of candidate elections. A cost effective manner of Election Day services has been directed to be pursued by the Gila County Board of Supervisors. To this end, the following are options that may be pursued.

### **Options available**

Currently there are 39 precincts in Gila County that utilize 33 polling sites. Some precincts are co-located together, see attachment A.

1. Consolidation of polling sites by redrawing precinct boundaries.
2. Co-locate more precincts to reduce number of polling places.
3. Establish Vote Centers (no necessity to redraw precincts), but new equipment needed.

## **What is a Vote Center?**

Currently when an individual registers to vote their place of residence assigns them to a specific precinct and each precinct has a specific polling site that they must vote at in order for their ballot to be counted.

The Vote Center concept would allow Gila County Voters, regardless of their assigned precinct, the opportunity to vote at any Vote Center in Gila County.

## **Why Change to Vote Centers**

- Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) continues to increase
- Fewer Voters going to polling places
- Convenient for Voters
- Potential Cost Savings for County, see attachment B.

## **Types of Vote Centers**

**Urban Vote Center:** The Urban vote center would be utilized in the Globe, Miami, Payson and the Star Valley areas. They would utilize a ballot on demand printer that would allow any registered Gila County Voter to cast their vote.

**Rural Vote Center:** This would be our traditional polling locations in the outlying areas of Gila County. There would be no ballot on demand printer, but the Voter could use an Accessible Voting Device (Touch Screen Unit) to cast their ballot if they were not registered in the precinct.

## **What Vote Centers Might Look Like In Gila County**

### **Possible Urban Vote Centers**

1. Globe Elks Lodge Vote Center
2. Miami High School Vote Center
3. Star Valley Vote Center
4. Expedition Church Vote Center
5. Ponderosa Baptist Church Vote Center

## **Rural Vote Centers**

Copper Basin, Gisela, Pine-Strawberry, Roosevelt-Sierra Ancha, Tonto Basin, Whispering Pines, Young, Zane Grey, Canyon Day, Carrizo\* and San Carlos. (11total)

\* Preliminary testing for cellular connection at Carrizo indicated a connectivity issue that may exclude the location as a vote center.

## **Concerns**

1. Voters: Hesitancy to change
2. Cost of New Equipment: Ever diminishing resources, no Federal funding.
3. State shift to all mail elections: Would make new polling place equipment obsolete.

## **Moving Forward**

In addition to the consolidation question and the various options that are available there is another component that must be addressed, especially if the vote center option is to be accomplished.

## **Elections Department Refit of Equipment**

Through the Help America Vote Act of 2002 Gila County was able to modernize its voting equipment. The Accu Vote, TSX units and GEMS software that was purchased in 2004 had a projected service life of ten years. The Elections Department deploys 39 Accu Vote and 40 TSX units on Election Day. While our Accu Vote and TSX units are still functioning, we have been experiencing problems associated with aging equipment. In the 2014 Election Cycle we had one Accu Vote unit and two TSX units that failed. The most distressing equipment failure was the loss of our GEMS server that crashed after the Primary Election Logic & Accuracy test. Luckily the server failed early in the cycle and a backup server was obtained so that the election was not jeopardized. Gila County is not alone in regards to the refitting of election equipment and this has also created an additional need for updating our equipment. As required by the Secretary of State's Election Procedural Manual all counties are required to have an emergency tabulation plan. Gila County has designated the Greenlee County Elections Department as our emergency tabulation location due to the same GEMS software. Greenlee County is currently looking to update their equipment and may change to a system that may not be compatible with what Gila County currently uses. It may be possible that Gila County could take part in a bulk purchase to obtain the new equipment at a better cost than purchasing alone. A task force

comprised of the County Managers Association and the Election Officials of Arizona are presently researching this option.

**What We Need to Accomplish The Gila County Elections Department Mission Statement:**

1. E-Poll Books (25)
2. Accessible Voting Units (25)
3. Central Count Unit (1)
4. Election Software

Through newer technology we will need fewer machines and can eliminate altogether the need for precinct scanners (Accu Vote units).

**Election Operations Services**

In December of 2014 Elections Operation Services, Gila County's ballot programmer vendor, announced they would no longer be providing ballot programming service. In response to this news, the Gila County Elections Department is ready to assume the responsibility of ballot programming provided that the Board of Supervisors is agreeable. There are other vendors who could provide this service if the Board should prefer this option.

**Next Step**

With the Board of Supervisors direction a detailed plan of action will be prepared by The Gila County Elections Department to include the number of and location of Vote Centers for the Citizens of Gila County and a recommendation for vendor for equipment procurement and cost breakdown.

**Gila County Arizona**  
 General Election  
 November 6, 2012

**Voter Turn-out**

Precinct Code	Precinct	No. Reg. Voters	All County Ballots		Polling Place Ballots		Early Ballots		Provisional Ballots	
			Total Ballots Tabulated	Overall % Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout
100	Globe #1	626	434	69.33%	133	21.25%	289	46.17%	12	1.92%
105	Globe #2	266	173	65.04%	52	19.55%	120	45.11%	1	0.38%
110	Globe #3	148	95	64.19%	22	14.86%	70	47.30%	3	2.03%
115	Globe #4	672	448	66.67%	127	18.90%	304	45.24%	17	2.53%
120	Globe #6	926	640	69.11%	177	19.11%	438	47.30%	25	2.70%
125	Globe #7	495	339	68.48%	139	28.08%	189	38.18%	11	2.22%
130	Globe #8	640	408	63.75%	131	20.47%	261	40.78%	16	2.50%
135	Globe #11	755	528	69.93%	178	23.58%	345	45.70%	5	0.66%
140	East Globe	802	617	76.93%	164	20.45%	436	54.36%	17	2.12%
150	Miami #1	448	283	63.17%	91	20.31%	178	39.73%	14	3.13%
155	Miami #3	633	367	57.98%	133	21.01%	213	33.65%	21	3.32%
160	Claypool #1	881	562	63.79%	209	23.72%	330	37.46%	23	2.61%
165	Claypool #2	805	510	63.35%	190	23.60%	293	36.40%	27	3.35%
170	Claypool #3	503	290	57.65%	118	23.46%	161	32.01%	11	2.19%
175	Central Heights	530	358	67.55%	147	27.74%	185	34.91%	26	4.91%
180	Pinal Creek	217	155	71.43%	27	12.44%	114	52.53%	14	6.45%
185	Wheatfields	177	111	62.71%	38	21.47%	69	38.98%	4	2.26%
200	Payson #1	1,190	764	64.20%	220	18.49%	500	42.02%	44	3.70%
205	Payson #2	1,841	1,331	72.30%	329	17.87%	957	51.98%	45	2.44%
210	Payson #3	2,321	1,881	81.04%	323	13.92%	1,483	63.89%	75	3.23%
215	Payson #4	1,055	780	73.93%	166	15.73%	579	54.88%	35	3.32%
220	Payson #5	1,600	1,155	72.19%	276	17.25%	823	51.44%	56	3.50%
225	Payson #6	1,000	656	65.60%	177	17.70%	431	43.10%	48	4.80%
230	Payson #7	820	598	72.93%	149	18.17%	416	50.73%	33	4.02%
235	Payson #8	1,375	956	69.53%	234	17.02%	673	48.95%	49	3.56%
240	Star Valley	1,879	1,419	75.52%	305	16.23%	1,059	56.36%	55	2.93%
300	Copper Basin	798	428	53.63%	125	15.66%	292	36.59%	11	1.38%
305	Gisela	515	348	67.57%	99	19.22%	223	43.30%	26	5.05%

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310	Pine-Strawberry East	588	470	79.93%	148	25.17%	303	51.53%	19	3.23%
315	Pine-Strawberry West	1,492	1,154	77.35%	319	21.38%	788	52.82%	47	3.15%
320	Roosevelt	206	142	68.93%	27	13.11%	109	52.91%	6	2.91%
325	Sierra Ancha	143	111	77.62%	30	20.98%	79	55.24%	2	1.40%
330	Tonto Basin	1,055	815	77.25%	253	23.98%	522	49.48%	40	3.79%
335	Whispering Pines	200	167	83.50%	35	17.50%	126	63.00%	6	3.00%
340	Young	523	390	74.57%	113	21.61%	247	47.23%	30	5.74%
345	Zane Grey	508	364	71.65%	88	17.32%	257	50.59%	19	3.74%
400	Canyon Day	621	345	55.56%	295	47.50%	42	6.76%	8	1.29%
405	Carrizo	70	36	51.43%	33	47.14%	3	4.29%	-	0.00%
410	San Carlos	2,837	1,195	42.12%	826	29.12%	219	7.00%	150	5.29%
	<b>TOTALS</b>	32,161	21,823	67.86%	6,646	20.66%	14,126	43.92%	1,051	3.27%

**Gila County Arizona**  
 General Election  
 November 4, 2014

**Voter Turn-out**

Precinct Code	Precinct	No. Reg. Voters	All County Ballots		Polling Place Ballots		Early Ballots		Provisional Ballots	
			Total Ballots Tabulated	Overall % Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout
100	Globe #1	569	301	52.90%	6	1.05%	251	44.11%	44	7.73%
105	Globe #2	222	121	54.50%	2	0.90%	107	48.20%	12	5.41%
110	Globe #3	132	84	63.64%	1	0.76%	75	56.82%	8	6.06%
115	Globe #4	575	296	51.48%	-	0.00%	256	44.52%	40	6.96%
120	Globe #6	858	473	55.13%	-	0.00%	416	48.48%	57	6.64%
125	Globe #7	456	262	57.46%	2	0.44%	214	46.93%	46	10.09%
130	Globe #8	568	291	51.23%	6	1.06%	259	45.60%	26	4.58%
135	Globe #11	697	427	61.26%	1	0.14%	357	51.22%	69	9.90%
140	East Globe	728	435	59.75%	-	0.00%	385	52.88%	50	6.87%
150	Miami #1	408	191	46.81%	38	9.31%	144	35.29%	9	2.21%
155	Miami #3	565	245	43.36%	79	13.98%	158	27.96%	8	1.42%
160	Claypool #1	785	414	52.74%	2	0.25%	322	41.02%	90	11.46%
165	Claypool #2	690	372	53.91%	4	0.58%	285	41.30%	83	12.03%
170	Claypool #3	457	212	46.39%	54	11.82%	153	33.48%	5	1.09%
175	Central Heights	484	222	45.87%	4	0.83%	166	34.30%	52	10.74%
180	Pinal Creek	233	139	59.66%	1	0.43%	111	47.64%	27	11.59%
185	Wheatfields	152	74	48.68%	17	11.18%	49	32.24%	8	5.26%
200	Payson #1	1,070	533	49.81%	8	0.75%	479	44.77%	46	4.30%
205	Payson #2	1,674	1,038	62.01%	-	0.00%	969	57.89%	69	4.12%
210	Payson #3	2,237	1,555	69.51%	4	0.18%	1,453	64.95%	98	4.38%
215	Payson #4	953	562	58.97%	5	0.52%	523	54.88%	34	3.57%
220	Payson #5	1,416	879	62.08%	3	0.21%	805	56.85%	71	5.01%
225	Payson #6	886	476	53.72%	3	0.34%	435	49.10%	38	4.29%
230	Payson #7	722	422	58.45%	3	0.42%	388	53.74%	31	4.29%
235	Payson #8	1,220	733	60.08%	3	0.25%	683	55.98%	47	3.85%
240	Star Valley	1,750	1,183	67.60%	5	0.29%	1,089	62.23%	89	5.09%
300	Copper Basin	734	316	43.05%	63	8.58%	246	33.51%	7	0.95%
305	Gisela	457	251	54.92%	57	12.47%	186	40.70%	8	1.75%

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**Voter Turn-out**

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			Total Ballots Tabulated	Overall % Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout	Number Ballots	% Turnout
310	Pine-Strawberry East	510	350	68.63%	95	18.63%	245	48.04%	10	1.96%
315	Pine-Strawberry West	1,384	933	67.41%	230	16.62%	671	48.48%	32	2.31%
320	Roosevelt	197	138	70.05%	25	12.69%	108	54.82%	5	2.54%
325	Sierra Ancha	113	70	61.95%	13	11.50%	55	48.67%	2	1.77%
330	Tonto Basin	1,013	632	62.39%	158	15.60%	454	44.82%	20	1.97%
335	Whispering Pines	201	142	70.65%	30	14.93%	110	54.73%	2	1.00%
340	Young	484	293	60.54%	84	17.36%	198	40.91%	11	2.27%
345	Zane Grey	454	272	59.91%	48	10.57%	221	48.68%	3	0.66%
400	Canyon Day	610	252	41.31%	203	33.28%	47	7.70%	2	0.33%
405	Carrizo	67	12	17.91%	12	17.91%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
410	San Carlos	2,741	560	20.43%	359	13.10%	130	7.00%	71	2.59%
	<b>TOTALS</b>	29,472	16,161	54.84%	1,628	5.52%	13,203	44.80%	1,330	4.51%

# **Attachments**

# Polling Place Locations

PRECINCT NUMBER AND NAME	POLLING PLACE
100 - Globe No. 1 185 - Wheatfields	Globe-Miami Chamber of Commerce
105 - Globe No. 2 110 - Globe No. 3	St John's Episcopal Church
115 - Globe No. 4 120 - Globe No. 6	Elks Lodge
125 - Globe No. 7	Canyon Fire Station
130 - Globe No. 8	Globe City Hall
135 - Globe No. 11	Gila Pueblo Campus
140 - East Globe	Church of the Nazarene
150 - Miami No. 1	First Southern Baptist Church
155 - Miami No. 3	Miami Town Hall
160 - Claypool No. 1	Miami High School
165 - Claypool No. 2 180 - Pinal Creek	St Paul's Lutheran Church
170 - Claypool No. 3	First Baptist Church
175 - Central Heights	Central Heights Baptist Church
200 - Payson No. 1	Community Presbyterian Church
205 - Payson No. 2	St Philip's Catholic Church
210 - Payson No. 3	Expedition Church
215 - Payson No. 4	Quality Inn Payson Inn
220 - Payson No. 5	Church of Christ
225 - Payson No. 6	Mt Cross Lutheran Church
230 - Payson No. 7	Ponderosa Baptist Church
235 - Payson No. 8	Payson Public Library
240 - Star Valley	Star Valley Baptist Church
300 - Copper Basin	Hayden/Winkelman School District Office
305 - Gisela	Gisela Community Center
310 - Pine-Strawberry East 315 - Pine-Strawberry West	First Baptist Church of Pine
320 - Roosevelt 325 - Sierra Ancha	Roosevelt Baptist Church
330 - Tonto Basin	Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce
335 - Whispering Pines	Whispering Pines Fire Station
340 - Young	Pleasant Valley Community Center
345 - Zane Grey	Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship Church
400 - Canyon Day	Canyon Day Jr High School Library
405 - Carrizo	Carrizo Assembly of God Church
410 - San Carlos	Rice Gym
	Number of Polling Places
	33

# Vote Center Locations

VOTE CENTER OR PRECINCT NUMBER AND NAME	LOCATION
Globe Vote Center	Elks Lodge
Miami Vote Center	Miami High School
Payson Vote Center #1	Expedition Church
Payson Vote Center #2	Ponderosa Baptist Church
Star Valley Vote Center	Star Valley Baptist Church
300 - Copper Basin	Hayden/Winkelman School District Office
305 - Gisela	Gisela Community Center
310 - Pine-Strawberry East 315 - Pine-Strawberry West	First Baptist Church of Pine
320 - Roosevelt 325 - Sierra Ancha	Roosevelt Baptist Church
330 - Tonto Basin	Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce
335 - Whispering Pines	Whispering Pines Fire Station
340 - Young	Pleasant Valley Community Center
345 - Zane Grey	Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship Church
400 - Canyon Day	Canyon Day Jr High School Library
405 - Carrizo	Carrizo Assembly of God Church
410 - San Carlos	Rice Gym
	<b>Number of Polling Places</b>
	<b>16</b>

## **Potential Cost Savings by Moving to Vote Centers**

### **Polling place fees**

The Gila County Elections Department pays \$2,100.00 per election for the use of 33 facilities. By transitioning to 16 Vote Centers our fees would drop to \$1,275 a savings of over \$800.

### **Poll Workers**

The Gila County Elections Department used 203 Poll workers for the 2014 General Election at a cost of \$22,255.00. By shifting to Vote Centers we would need approximately 110 poll workers, that would cost roughly \$11,790.00, close to a 50% cost reduction.

### **Early Board Workers**

The Gila County Elections Department used 23 Early Board workers for the 2014 General Election at a cost of \$9,455.00. If the Gila County Elections Department were to procure a Central Count unit for tabulation it is possible that close to 50% reduction would occur in this area also.