



## **2021 City of Tucson Elections – What You Need to Know**

### **Who is eligible to vote in the City of Tucson Primary Election:**

- You must live within the City limits since July 4<sup>th</sup>
- You must be registered to vote prior to 29 days before the election, which is July 5<sup>th</sup>
- You must be at least 18 years old on the date of the election, which is August 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **How the Council are Elected:**

Council Members are nominated by the ward they wish to represent in the primary election and are elected to the city council at-large in the general election.

The Mayor and Council Members for Wards 1, 2, and 4 are elected in the same year, while Council Members for Wards 3, 5, and 6 elect their Council Members in the same year.

Elections occur every two years, and the Mayor and Council Members serve four-year terms. There are no term limits for these elected officials.

### **2021 Candidates include: Council Members in Wards 3, 5 and 6.**

Click here to view the 2021 candidates:

<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/elections>

### **The City of Tucson Conducts Vote By Mail Elections:**

- Primary Elections – the winner of a Primary Election goes on to represent their political party for Council Member.
- General Elections – selects the winner of each Council member's race. These elections may also include ballot measures/questions (if any) for voter's consideration.

If you are registered as a member of the Democratic, Republican or Libertarian Party, and live in Ward 3, 5, or 6, you will automatically receive a ballot by mail for the Council Member race for your ward.

If you are registered as Independent, No Party Preference, or as a member of a political party other than Democratic, Republican or Libertarian Party, and live in Ward 3, 5, or 6, you may select either a Democratic or Republican party ballot to vote for the Council race for the Ward in which they live. Should you choose not to vote in the Primary Election, it WILL NOT change your political party status, and it WILL NOT affect your ability to vote in the General Election.

If you are a registered voter and live in Ward 1, 2 or 4, you will only be allowed to vote for Council Members and any ballot measures in the 2021 General Election.

### **How does Vote By Mail Work:**

While conducting elections we follow the provisions of the Tucson Charter, Code and Arizona Revised Statutes. Since 2011 the City of Tucson has been conducting the City's elections as Vote by Mail.

Regarding mail ballots, the statutes require that returned mail ballots be accompanied by an affidavit signed by the voter declaring their right to vote the ballot. The ballot and signed affidavit must be mailed together. Both the City of Tucson and Pima County use an affidavit envelope that the voter signs and then seals the ballot inside. This is then placed into a mailing envelope to keep the signature secure during mailing. This is the process we have used for years due to voter concerns about revealing their signature on the outside of the affidavit.

Upon receipt from the post office we use the following procedures:

- 1) The affidavit is removed from the outer mailing envelope.
- 2) The affidavit is scanned into our ballot tracking software to show the ballot has been returned by a voter that should have received a ballot for the election.
- 3) The ballot is placed into a batch and then transported to the Pima County Recorder for signature verification. This transport is done by two Deputy City Clerks and a security guard. City Clerk staff remains at the Recorder's Office until the ballots are ready to be returned.
- 4) The Recorder's staff verifies the signature as required by statute. The individuals doing the verification have received extensive training and are certified signature examiners.
- 5) Once the ballot is transported back to the City's election facility it is scanned again to show it is returned from the County and ready to be processed by the ballot boards.
- 6) The ballot boards are made up of two individuals of opposite political parties. Each board has one Democrat and one Republican member. They receive a batch of approximately 400 sealed affidavits at a time.
- 7) The board verifies each affidavit against the poll list for that batch. Once it is verified that the affidavit matches the poll list it is set aside until all affidavits for that batch are complete.
- 8) Once the batch is complete, the board will pull the ballot out of the affidavit just far enough to verify it is the correct precinct, and in the Primary Election, the correct political party for the voter. Once verified, the ballot is removed from the affidavit.
- 9) The affidavit is placed face down and the still-folded ballot is separated into a separate pile. At no time are the boards allowed to look at the ballot and affidavit at the same time. Due to the volume and pace of the work, there isn't time to compare the ballot and affidavit. Additionally, multiple Deputy City Clerks are monitoring the boards' work.

- 10) The affidavits are then removed from the table and secured, and the ballots are placed into a transport box and sealed. They are now ready to go to tabulation.
- 11) Following the election, the affidavits are sealed and secured in the City Records Center. At the end of their retention period they are shredded prior recycling.

### **Tabulation**

- 1) The City's ballot tabulation system is in a secured location that is sealed, alarmed and monitored by redundant surveillance systems.
- 2) The tabulation system is a stand-alone system and is not connected to the City's network or the internet.
- 3) Once the system is set to begin the election, no access to the system will occur without observers of the Democratic and Republican parties being present.

### **Hand Count Audit**

- 1) The City of Tucson has been conducting a hand count audit of ballots for many years prior to the State of Arizona requiring it as part of the conduct of elections.
- 2) The hand count audit is conducted by members of the Democratic and Republican parties. The results of each hand count are compared to the computer-generated tabulation results.

At no time from receipt of the ballots from the vendor through final disposition of the election is any one individual alone with a ballot.

Our number one goal is the integrity of the election process and the City of Tucson has always been a leader in this regard.

### **Concerns about the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL)**

On May 11, 2021 the Governor signed Senate Bill 1485 making changes to the statutes regarding the PEVL. These are the key points in the legislation.

- 1) The PEVL is renamed the Active Early Voting List (AEVL).
- 2) If a voter on the AEVL actively votes by mail, they will continue to receive an early ballot.
- 3) If a voter on the AEVL does not return at least one early ballot over the course of four years (two consecutive primary elections and general elections, and any municipal

elections that precede them) the voter will be sent a postcard asking if they still want to receive an early ballot. The county recorder may additionally reach the voter by telephone, text message, or e-mail.

- 4) Directs the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections to remove the voter from the active early voting list if the voter does not respond to the notice within the 90-day time period.
- 5) Whether a voter opts to remain on the AEVL or not, they remain eligible to request an early ballot or vote in person, ensuring no voter is ever disenfranchised. There is absolutely no "purging" of voter registration lists, despite what some have said in an attempt to mislead the public.

**2021 Primary Election Important Dates**

June 30	Last day to register to vote for the Primary Election
July 1	Publicity Pamphlet “The Choice is Yours” will be mailed to all registered households with a registered voter
July 7	Primary Election ballots will be mailed
July 23	Last day the City Clerk can mail a replacement ballot to voters that have destroyed, spoiled, or lost their ballot
July 28	Last day for voters to mail back their voted ballot via U.S. Postal Service. Ballots may be dropped off at a voting location on Election Day only.
August 3	ELECTION DAY!!



## General Election Information

### **Who is eligible to vote in the City of Tucson General Election:**

- You must live within the City limits since October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- You must be registered to vote 29 days before the election, which is October 4<sup>th</sup>
- You must be at least 18 years old on the date of the election, which is November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- All qualified electors who meet these requirements (regardless of what Ward they reside in) may vote in the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election.

### **General Election Candidates and ballot measures (if any):**

Click here to view updated information on candidates/ ballot measures for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General election.

Candidates: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/elections>

### **2021 General Election Important Dates**

October 3	Publicity Pamphlet “The Choice is Yours” will be mailed to all registered households with a registered voter
October 4	Last day to register to vote for the General Election
October 6	General Election ballots will be mailed
October 22	Last day the City Clerk can mail a replacement ballot to voters that have destroyed, spoiled, or lost their ballot
October 27	Last day for voters to mail back their voted ballot via U.S. Postal Service. Ballots may be dropped off at a voting location on Election Day only
November 2	ELECTION DAY!!