



City of Phoenix

To: Toni Maccarone
Special Assistant to the City Manager

Date: April 11, 2017

From: Cris Meyer
City Clerk

Subject: **AUGUST 2017 COUNCIL ELECTION INFORMATION**

This report provides information and important dates related to the scheduled Council Election to be held in August 2017. Voters will elect councilmembers in Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8. No ballot measures have been referred to voters, so the election will be held only in the even-numbered council districts.

The date of the election is August 29, 2017. Election ordinances will be presented to the City Council at the April 19 Formal meeting, including the form of the ballot, designation of voting centers, and amendments to the precinct legal descriptions to reflect recent annexations in District 2 and to make technical changes and corrections.

ELECTION INFORMATION AND DATES

Nomination Petitions – Candidate information was available from the City Clerk Department beginning in January. For the first time, candidate information is available on Phoenix.gov. Candidate information was provided electronically, with fill-in forms for documents related to candidacy. Potential candidates could begin circulating nomination petitions on March 2. Nomination petitions and related documents may be submitted to the City Clerk starting May 1, but no later than May 31. Nomination petitions for councilmember must contain 200 valid signatures of qualified electors residing within the council district.

Precincts and Voting Locations – At the April 19 Formal Meeting, the Council will consider an ordinance to amend the precinct legal descriptions in all eight council districts. These changes are needed to reflect recent annexations in District 2 and to make technical corrections to the descriptions in all eight council districts.

For this Council Election in the even-numbered Council Districts only, 18 voting centers are being proposed. These locations were selected based on proximity to the districts having an election and level of use by voters in those districts. The proposed locations are the sites used in the 2015 election cycle for these districts.

Voters may vote at any of the 18 locations. The voting centers will be open on Saturday, August 26 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Monday, August 28 (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.), and the traditional hours (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.) on Tuesday, Election Day, August 29.

Voters can obtain information about voting center locations in several ways. The Sample Ballot Pamphlet will contain a list of the voting centers with each facility's address and a map of the locations. Voters can view the list and map online at Phoenix.gov/Elections beginning in mid-July. Also, an online voting center locator application will be available to allow voters to find the most convenient center for where they are, and view the level of activity at each location.

Sample Ballot Pamphlet – Voters who have requested to receive the Sample Ballot Pamphlet electronically (reducing printing and mailing costs) will receive an e-mail notice when the Pamphlet is available online. Voters can add their name to this list by visiting Phoenix.gov/Elections, by calling the City Clerk Department at 602-261-VOTE (8683), or using the 7-1-1 Relay System. A Pamphlet will be mailed to each residence in the four council districts that has a registered voter who is not receiving the pamphlet electronically. The Pamphlet will contain a sample ballot, general information about the election, and a map and list of voting centers. The Pamphlet will be distributed the week of July 24, before early ballots are mailed.

Permanent Early Voter List – Voters on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) will receive a notice regarding the election and will be mailed a ballot unless they return the postcard provided requesting that they not receive a ballot by mail. The notification postcard for the August Election will be mailed to over 270,000 voters the week of May 1.

Early Voting by Mail – Voters who are not on the PEVL can still vote by mail by submitting a signed written request no later than Friday, August 18. Early ballot request forms will be available on Phoenix.gov and at City public service counters and libraries. Voters will receive early ballots beginning Thursday, August 3. Voted early ballots may be returned by mail, or be delivered to the City Clerk's Office or to any voting center during the hours of operation. To be counted, early ballots must be received by election officials by 7 p.m. on Election Day. The United States Postal Service advises that voters should allow five days after it is sent for delivery of a ballot.

Early Voting in Person – Early voting also will be available on the 15th Floor of Phoenix City Hall from Wednesday, August 2 through Friday, August 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Accessible Voting – Accessible voting devices will be available at all voting locations to provide voters with disabilities the opportunity to vote independently.

Voter Registration – The last day a resident may register to vote in this election is Monday, July 31, which is 29 days prior to the election.

Voter Outreach – Multiple publications and news releases will be provided throughout the election process. Additionally, public service announcements will be produced and shown on the City's YouTube channel, and on Facebook and Twitter pages. Information will be provided through the election Twitter account (@PHXElections) and on the City's Facebook page (CityofPhoenixAZ). All election information will be provided in English and Spanish and is available at Phoenix.gov/Elections.

RECOMMENDATION

This memo is for information only. No Council action is required.