



PINAL COUNTY  
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# PINAL COUNTY ELECTIONS DIRECTOR

MICHELE FORNEY

November 5, 2015

## **Post-Election Audit Report**

On Election Day, the Elections Department tabulated 16,036 early ballots and 1,379 polling place ballots. On the next day (11/4/15), we tabulated 187 provisional ballots and 2,453 “late earlys,” which are the early ballots that were dropped off at polling places or at the recorder’s offices. The total ballots cast in all four school district elections is 20,055. We uploaded the unofficial results and then began our customary post-election auditing procedures to ensure their accuracy. At that time, we noticed that the ballot totals that were reported were not correct, because the “Ballots Cast – Total” on the November 4, 2015 report was 22,508, which is 2,453 ballots too many. This means that there was an error that resulted in the late early ballots being reported twice. We confirmed with the early voting department that 18,489 early ballots were transferred to elections after signature verification, and our report shows that 18,489 early ballots were tabulated. In order to determine where the error occurred, we re-scanned all 18,489 ballots together (rather than splitting them up into earlys and late earlys), and re-ran the summary results report. The numbers for each school district remained the same for the yes and no votes, but the totals now matched up as well. In other words, 188 polling place ballots plus 1,201 early ballots plus 37 provisional ballots equals 1,426 yes votes, not 1,668 as reported on the unofficial reports on 11/4/15.

The Elections Department also found that the 11/4/15 report was not displaying the “Over Votes,” which is when a voter selects more than the permitted number of options. For these ballot propositions, it means some voters filled in both the yes and no bubbles. There were 19 over votes on the early ballots, which accounts for another math discrepancy on the 11/4/15 report.

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The 11/5/15 report is correct and all of the math demonstrates its accuracy. In addition, none of the individual numbers reported for the categories of ballots cast changed (i.e. polling place, early, provisional).

The Elections Department will revise its internal procedures to ensure that when posting the unofficial election results on Election Night and in the days that follow, every effort is made to ensure that the reported totals are accurate to the best of our knowledge.

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