




PINAL COUNTY
WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 19, 2020
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Louis Andersen, County Manager 
RE: Elections during COVID-19

The Elections Director for Pinal County respectfully request that the Governor and State Representatives allow the County the option to determine whether to conduct ballot-by-mail elections for the 2020 Primary and 2020 General Election if the Governor continues or reinstates the State of Emergency.

Elections has just finished conducting the 2020 Democratic Presidential Preference in a situation that was very difficult because of the corona virus public health situation. Polling places cancelled on us. Poll workers cancelled on us. There was not enough hand sanitizer for every polling place. There were no cleaning products available to each polling place until mid-day. Members of the public were upset that the election were going forward because they did not understand that we had no choice.

Pinal County has already conducted a countywide ballot-by-mail election in 2017 for the RTA ballot measures. That election was successful and cost effective. The Pinal County Recorder's Office operated additional early in-person voting options, and the Elections department offered support to those efforts.

Ballot-by-mail elections work well in Arizona. This is the best way that we can serve the voters and keep them safe during this public health crisis. Please vote in favor of this ballot-by-mail proposal.

Elections director Michele Forney is available to meet if you would like more information or feedback on the experiences with ballot-by-mail in Pinal County.