

# Legacy Project

HISTORY  
VOLUME

SEPTEMBER 2015

COCHISE COUNTY  
CELEBRATES IT'S  
RICH HERITAGE TO  
LEAVE A LASTING  
LEGACY FOR THE  
FUTURE!!

## IN THIS VOLUME—

- History of Elections & Special Districts
- Elections Since 1881
- Women's Suffrage Initiative, June 1912
- 1991 — 3 or 5 Supervisors
- "Off" Election Year — What Do We Do?
- Mission & Goals of Department
- Contact information & Website

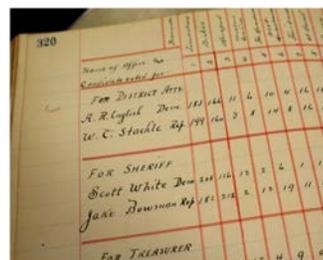
## History of Elections & Special Districts

Imagine it is November 1882 and the polling location in San Simon has just closed. The judges at the polling place now have the duty to tally the votes by hand for every candidate using tally sheets. Then the election board will draw lots with one of them being designated to deliver the sealed package containing the Great Register, tally list, ballots, and strung ballot stubs along with other paperwork to the Clerk of the Board in Tombstone or nearest

postmaster or express agent. Can you imagine the anxious candidate waiting for results to come in by horseback, mail or express agent from the far corners of this very large county? Once received, the Clerk of the Board will compile election results from each polling location before releasing results! Now before the results are "Official" the Board of Supervisors will canvass the election, again going precinct by precinct, vote by vote. From the Official

Minutes of the board meeting, this canvass process will take several hours and days. In 1938 the Board started the canvass of the Primary Election on September 13<sup>th</sup> and finished on September 20<sup>th</sup>!

Continued on Page 2



**Official Canvass in  
Board of Supervisors  
Minute Book**

## Elections since 1881...

**Cochise County was formed as a part of the Arizona Territory, with the same boundaries it has today, before Statehood occurred in 1912. Therefore, Cochise County has**

**been conducting elections since before Arizona became a state. The first election was held on November 2, 1882.**

Cochise County Elections

now manages all national, statewide and local elections for the County and also contracts to prepare & conduct elections for cities, towns and special districts within the County.

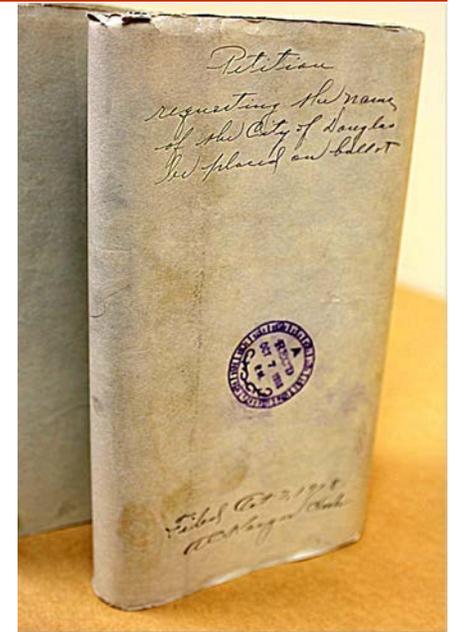


VOTE!



## History of Elections & Special Districts—continued from

Election laws are set forth in Arizona Revised Statutes naming the Arizona Secretary of State as the top election official. Under the guidance of the Secretary of State, election law and procedures are implemented by each county board of supervisors along with the county Clerk of the Board. So starting with the very first election held in Cochise County in 1882, the Clerk of the Board was responsible for conducting all aspects of elections, from setting up polling locations, training election board workers, candidate filings, to Election Day results. When paper ballots were used in Cochise County, the voter would check off their choices on a paper ballot and then when the polls closed, results would be tallied at the polling location using hash marks for each vote. After working a 14-plus hour day, election workers now had to tally and balance election results before voted ballots were sent back to the Clerk of the Board, often not reaching the board office until early hours the following day. To help speed up the process of physically getting voted ballots back to the county seat, trains were even utilized.



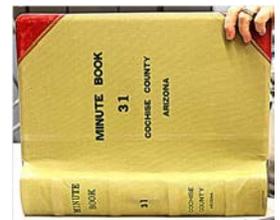
 A photograph of a historical document titled "THE COCHISE COUNTY VOTE" showing a grid of data. The title is in bold, uppercase letters. Below the title is a large table with many columns and rows of numbers, representing election results for various precincts.

Voting Precincts are approved by the Board of Supervisors every ten years after the Census. After the Census was completed, the Federal Government determines the number of Senators and Representatives from each state, setting up Congressional Districts. Then the State Legislature would meet to adopt Legislative District lines for Arizona (which often took months and months). Once approved, the county would set up the supervisor districts, justice of the peace districts, community college districts and voting precincts, all based on voter registration. In 1882 there were 27 designated polling locations throughout the county. As the county grew so did the

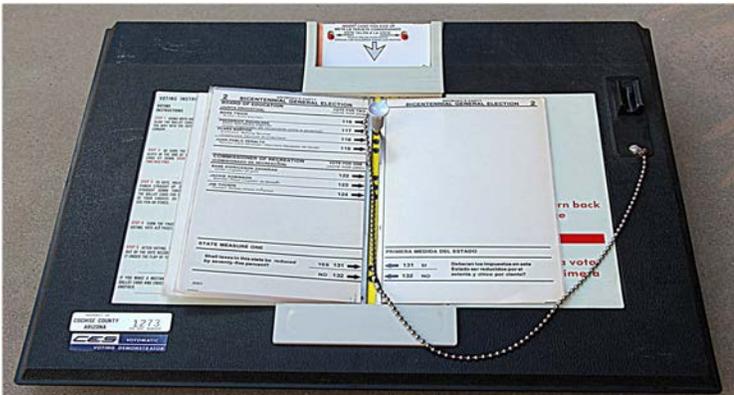
number of voting precincts, with the most voting precincts topping out at 65. The Board of Supervisors preferred to keep the total registered voters per voting precinct, but with the popularity of Early Voting it was possible to decrease the number of polling precincts to 49 after the 2010 Census, without inconveniencing the voters.

Dedicated poll workers put in many hours on Election Day and for very low pay. Poll hours were extended over time, going from 8:00 am to sunset, to 6:00 am to 6:00 pm by 1953 and today voting is from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Old Board Minutes show election board workers being paid as little as \$2.00 to \$4.00 a day, then up to \$10.00 a day, with today's board workers being paid \$100 to \$125 to work Election Day.

Early Election Day procedures are still used today, but have evolved from two pages in statutes to an entire Title in the Arizona Revised Statutes. Title 16 today covers Election Laws and Procedures, complex yet still based on the concept of "One Man, One Vote". Of course, "Man" is now every registered voter and not just male landowners as it was in the early years in Arizona.



As the county grew in population and voter registration increased, so did the complexities of conducting an election. In the late 70's and early 80's, the Clerk of the Board would appoint a county employee to lay the groundwork for an upcoming election. For the 1982 Primary and General Election, Dorothy Harguess worked from a desk in a corner of the Finance Department.



**OLD PUNCH CARD VOTING SYSTEM AT THE POLLS**

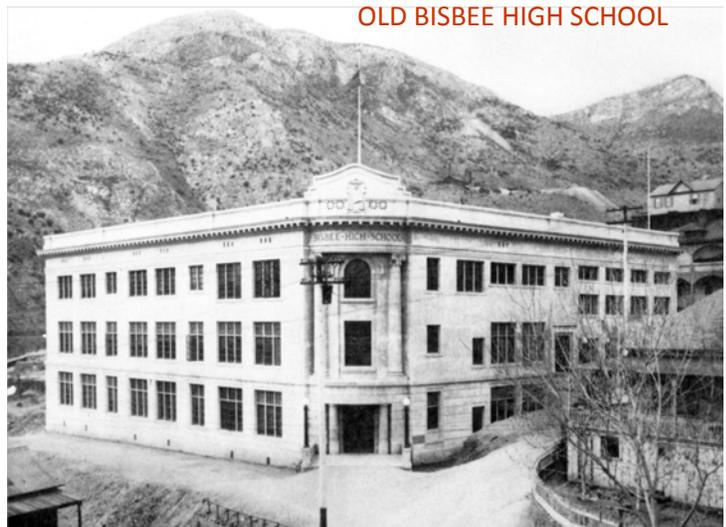
In 1980, Cochise County took the first steps toward bringing technological improvements to the election process introducing voters to punch card voting, the birth of “chad” in Cochise County! Each election involved creating the election onto hundreds of punch cards, called a Program Deck, with each card containing specific election information from what type of election was being conducted, a breakdown of offices up for election from the Federal Level down to local offices, precinct information and political party information to determine what the voter could actually vote for and how

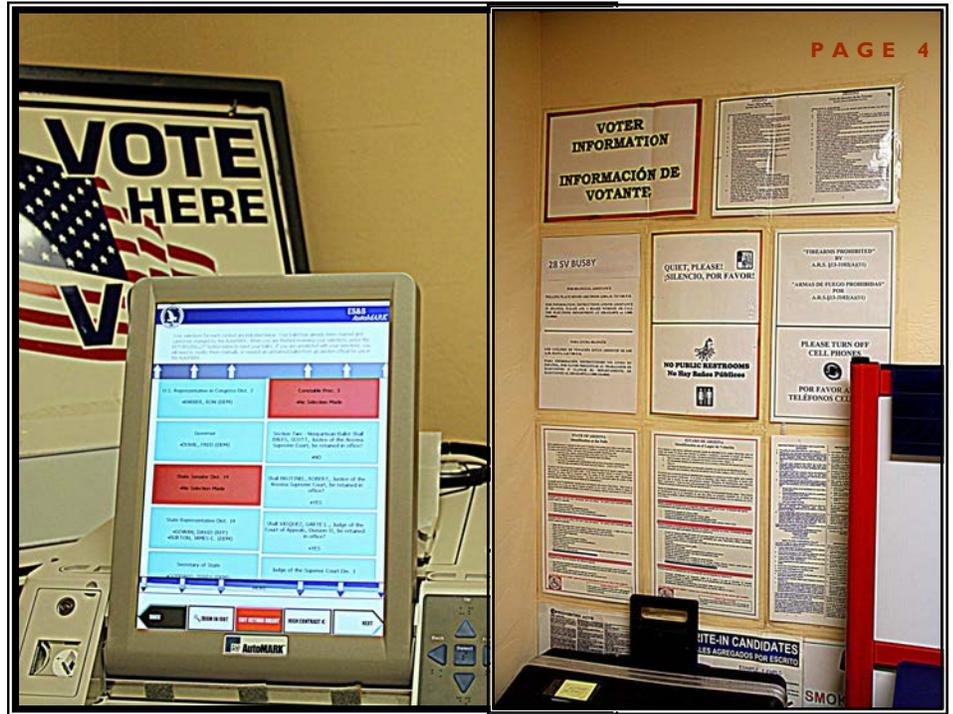
all votes were to be tabulated. This Program Deck was run through a machine called a Data General prior to running voted punch cards with a Zero's Report generated showing that no ballots had been tabulated. The Zero's Report is still run on today's current election system showing that tabulation begins with all zeros. The Data General was then programmed to tabulate each ballot by precinct on Election Night, with counting taking until the very early hours of the next morning.

The sensitivity of the Data General made tabulating punch cards sometimes a challenge when humidity was high during the Monsoon Season and required a steady finger to hold the stack of ballots just so when running the ballot cards through the Data General, but the oversight of a Tabulation Board made up of members from different political parties, assured the accuracy of the election process.

Finally, in 1984 the Board of Supervisors established the first Elections Department and appointed Sherry Marcell as the first Elections Officer/Director with a staff of two. The new department was located on the third floor of the Old Bisbee High School.

The Monsoon rains also impacted the Primary Election with the use of punch cards and then optical scan ballot system. A power outage in Bisbee on Election Night would delay the tabulation of ballots on the Data General. On Election Day the optical scan units had battery back-ups, but it was not easy to vote in a dark polling location or for results to be sent via phone line to Bisbee after the polls closed. Back-up generators were on hand in Bisbee, ready to be fired up so results could be tabulated.





## History of Elections & Special Districts—continued from page 3

In 2000, the Board of Supervisors took another step forward approving a new voting system which used punch cards but now tabulated results on an optical scan reader. The voter would insert their voted punch card into the scanner at the polling place, with results tallied on a memory card which were then sent in by modem to the Election Department after the polls closed. The sound of counting ballots went from a loud snapping noise of the punch cards being run through the Data General to a series of high pitch sounds of results coming in through the phone lines. Unfortunately for Cochise County, the memory card in each Optical Scan Ballot machine programmed by the vendor of the system could not hold the results for all six political parties and offices on the ballot in 2000 Primary Election, causing skewed vote counts and so all the voted punch cards had to be recounted on the old voting system which meant no election results were available until 10:00 pm the following day. The memory card issue was corrected for the General Election where the only problem affecting the election process was the snowstorm that hit Cochise County as the polls were closing!

While Cochise County may have suffered through a one day delay in election results in the 2000 Primary Election, the November General presidential election results in Florida were delayed by close election results and “chad”. Weeks later after “chad” was in the news every day, Congress moved to improve the election process in the United States and the Help America Vote Act was passed, resulting in no more “chad” and new voting systems throughout America. So in 2002, voters in Cochise County were introduced to optical scan voting and filling in the “oval”. Similar to the optical scan punch card system, the voter filled in the oval of their choice and the voted ballot was then run through the optical scanner called the M100. As with any technology, occasional problems occurred, an M100 might not boot-up election morning or a phone line might go down so results could not be sent via modem after the polls closed. To assure the accuracy of the vote, Hand Count Boards would meet the day after the election and randomly select a certain number of precincts and hand count results for selected offices and using hash marks would tally results. When finished, the hand count results are compared to the optical scan results, with there never being an issue in Cochise County. The old “hash mark” means of counting still continues today.

In 2011, the office was moved to the County Service Center on Melody Lane, in Building A. This move made Elections more easily accessible to voters and had much improved parking. It also facilitated communications with the County Recorder's Office, located in the same complex.



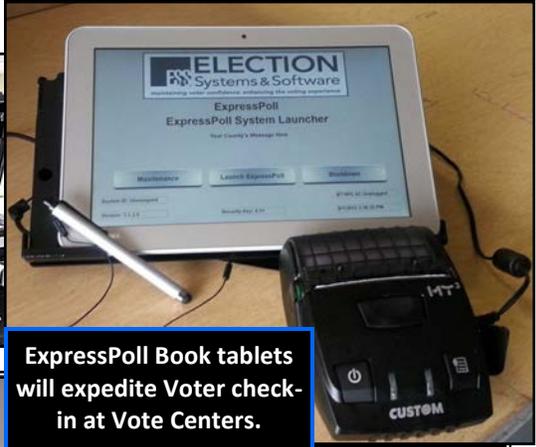
In 2015, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors approved bringing the latest voting technology with a new voting system consisting of ePoll books (electronic Poll Lists/Signature Rosters), ExpressVote machines (that voters will use to mark their polling place ballots) and the new version of the polling place tabulation machine, a DS200. The DS200 is a digital scan machine that reads front and back of the ballots and counts and accumulates all votes cast at the polls. In addition, the County purchased a high-speed digital scanning device, a DS850, to use to expedite the count of Early Ballots. This highly dependable machine is capable of counting up to 300 ballots per hour! We are very excited about this new generation of voting equipment that will improve the level of service to our voters. Please look for our Services publication next week, for additional information about the new system.



New ExpressVote ballot marking devices are unloaded, unpacked, set up and tested in the Elections Warehouse.



DS200 Tabulators



ExpressPoll Book tablets will expedite Voter check-in at Vote Centers.



DS850 High-Speed Digital Scanner for counting Early Ballots



COME JOIN US! OPEN HOUSE TO BE HELD ON MONDAY & TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-22nd, 2015  
 TOUR RECORDER'S & ELECTIONS/SPECIAL DISTRICTS' OFFICES & VOTE ON OUR NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT

**Elections were held in what is now the Cochise County portion of the then Arizona Territory from 1881 until Statehood was achieved in February 1912. A Women's Suffrage Initiative quickly followed, in June 1912.**

## Women's Suffrage and Arizona's Quest for Statehood

By Heidi Osselaer

Just prior to 9:00 am on February 14, 1912, when word reached officials in Phoenix that President William Howard Taft had signed Arizona's statehood proclamation, a "wild chorus of bells, whistles, and other noisemakers was sent up by Phoenix revelers." In Prescott the courthouse bell rang forty-eight times and in Bisbee forty-eight sticks of dynamite were ignited to celebrate the birth of the new state.

A few hours later, newly elected Governor George W. P. Hunt walked from the Ford Hotel on Second Avenue and Washington Street to the State Capitol Building, where he took his oath of office. After the inaugural ceremony, a parade celebrating statehood made its way down Washington Street featuring local National Guard companies, students from local schools, boy scouts, war veterans, and representatives from local fire departments, labor

unions, and male civic organizations.

Some schoolgirls were included, but no representatives from Arizona's numerous women's organizations participated. In fact, women were conspicuously absent from the statehood festivities, largely because they could not vote.



Madge Udall of Arizona leads the 1913 suffrage celebration parade in New York City.

# Women's Suffrage Initiative, June 1912—Bisbee

## Initiative Measure to be Submitted Directly to the Electors

To the HON. SIDNEY P. OSBORNE, Secretary of State,  
Phoenix, Arizona.

We, the undersigned citizens, qualified electors and legal voters of the state of Arizona, do hereby petition that the following amendments to the constitution of the state of Arizona, the same to be known as the WOMAN SUFFRAGE amendments, be submitted to the electors at the next succeeding general election occurring not less than four months after the filing of this petition, said petition being filed under Article IV of the constitution of the state of Arizona, said amendments to read as follows, to-wit:

Be it enacted by the people of Arizona, that Sections 2 and 15, of Article VII, of the Constitution of Arizona, be and are hereby amended to read as follows, to-wit:

No person shall be entitled to vote at any general election, or for any office that now is, or hereafter may be, elective by the people, or upon any question which may be submitted to a vote by the people, unless such person be a citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years or over, and shall have resided in the state one year immediately preceding each election. The word "citizen" shall include persons of the male and female sex.

The rights of citizens of the United States to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged by the state, or any political division or municipality thereof, on account of sex, and the right to register, to vote and to hold office under any law now in effect, or which may hereafter be enacted, is hereby extended to, and conferred upon males and females alike.

No person under guardianship, non compos mentis, or insane, shall be qualified to vote at any election, nor shall any person convicted of treason or felony, be qualified to vote at any election unless restored to civil rights.

Section 15. Every person elected or appointed to any office of trust or profit under the authority of the state, or any political division or any municipality thereof, shall be a qualified elector of the political division or municipality in which said person shall be elected or appointed.

Each of said petitioners for himself says:

I am a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector and legal voter of the State of Arizona. My residence and post office address and the date of my signing this petition are correctly written after my name.

Petition circulated in the Bisbee and County of Cochise

	NAME	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET NO. IF ANY	DATE OF SIGNING
1	J. A. Rosok	P.O. Box 795	Y. M. C. A.	June 7-1912
2	J. Phillips	" 774	" " " "	" 7-1912
3	E. M. Gausler	Bisbee 1305 2220		4/3 1912
4	M. J. Maddox	Globe		4/8
5	M. J. Conroy	Bisbee		4/8
6	W. L. Post	Bisbee		6/8/1912
7	W. Blais	Bisbee		
8	W. J. Samson	Bisbee		6/8-1912
9	C. R. Black	Bisbee Ariz 1122	Y. M. C. A.	L
10	Castelich	Ray Ariz Pinal Co		6-8-12
11	E. J. Jameson	Bisbee		6-8-12
12	Joseph Joseph	Bisbee Arizona		6-8-12
13	F. M. Goshall	Bisbee		6-8-1912
14	A. Dittler	Bisbee		6/8 1912
15	G. Blalock	Bisbee		6/8/12
16	J. W. Daugherty	Bisbee		6/9/12
17	W. C. Duggan	Bisbee		4/9
18	A. L. Jackson	Bisbee		4/10
19	D. W. Clannell	Bisbee		4/10
20	J. Cheuse	Bisbee 134 523		4/10



An  
“Off”  
Election  
Year

## 1991: 3 or 5 Supervisors?

Every two years, in even-numbered years, there is a major election cycle in Cochise County involving national, state and local races.

The odd-numbered years are referred to as “off” election years; however, those years can also be very busy for the Elections Office. 1991 was such a year!

1991 proved to be a busy election year with several Special Elections being held:

February 12, 1991—Willcox Unified School District held a Bond Question Election and Budget Override Election

February 26, 1991—City of Sierra Vista held a Mayor and Council Members Election and the San Pedro Valley Hospital District held a Tax Rate Election, which they are required to conduct every five years

At the same time, a Statewide Runoff Election between Fife Symington and Terry Goddard was also conducted.

In Cochise County Terry Goddard won 10,651 votes to Symington’s 9,862 votes. However Statewide, Symington won with 486,570 votes to Goddard’s 444,314 votes.

On November 5, 1991 the Cochise Elementary School District No. 26 went to the voters authorizing the use of Capital Outlay Funds for building projects.

Late in 1991, petitions with enough valid signatures were filed with the Clerk of the Board requesting an election be held asking voters to go from a three-member Board of Supervisors to a five-member Board of Supervisors. On August 19, 1991 the Board of Supervisors ordered the election to be held. At that time there were 47,417 registered voters in Cochise County, with only 15.6 % turning out to vote at the election held on December 17, 1991. The final vote was 1,387 “Yes” for Five Supervisors vs. 5,930 “No”.

By law, the Board of Supervisors Districts are equal in population, +/- 10%. Since the Greater Sierra Vista area has the highest concentration of population, all three current Supervisors’ Districts contain a portion of the Greater Sierra Vista area.. State law currently requires that when the countywide population reaches 175,000 a five-member Board of Supervisors is required. When that comes to pass, it is conceivable that a majority of Supervisors would be from the Greater Sierra Vista area. This is the argument used by those who are opposed to such a move, fearing that rural voters may not be well-represented.

Subsequent efforts after 1991 to move to a five-member Board of Supervisors have not passed.



# It's an "Off" Year—What Do We Do?



People often ask, "What do you do in an "off" year, in elections?"

Our response: There are always elections!

Finally, the "off-year" is when all election officers attend training conducted by the Secretary of State's Office, to maintain their Election Certification. By law, election officials must be Certified to handle ballots and conduct an election.

Since the County Elections Department conducts elections for all of cities, towns and most special districts within the County, under contract agreements, we are busy creating & proofing ballots, hiring poll workers, couriers, drivers and technology "Troubleshooters", even in an off year. Also, planning,

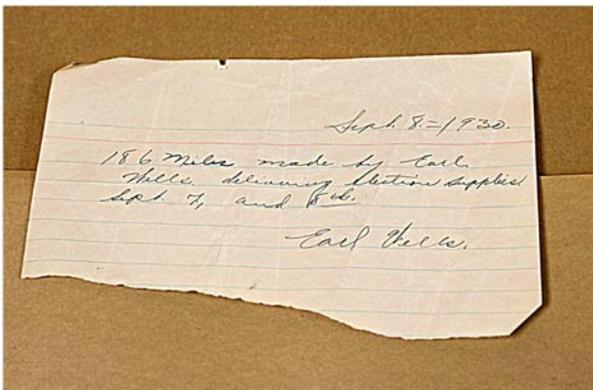
preparing for and testing ballots & equipment for a major election takes many months. The "off year is also a good opportunity to improve processes, update training materials for poll workers and create the numerous forms for the following year with all pertinent dates relative to the elections in a major election year.

*Upper Left: Photo is of locked ballot boxes following 2014 General Election, stored in Treasurer's Vault.*



**Former Secretary of State Ken Bennett, with Martha Rodriguez, Cochise County Election Program Coordinator, during the ceremony for presentation of Election Certification and Recertification to Election Officials successfully completing their training.**

Mileage claim from a poll worker in 1930.



*Isabella Greenway was Arizona's first U.S. Congresswoman. After the death of her first husband, Greenway moved to Arizona with her two children in 1922 and remarried. She found success in Arizona as a businesswomen, opening the Arizona Inn in Tucson and even owning and operating an airline. In 1932 she was elected to represent Arizona in the 73rd Congress. She won reelection in 1934 and retired after her second term.*



**Cochise County Elections &  
Special Districts Office**  
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**Bisbee AZ 85603**

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mrodriquez@cochise.az.gov

**Phone: 520-432-8970**

**Fax: 520-432-8995**



<https://www.cochise.az.gov/elections-special-districts/home>

The department also handles petitions and campaign finance filing for candidates as well as referendum, initiative, and recall filings and elections.

We also provide assistance to individuals trying to form special taxing districts such as fire, light, water and road districts. Once the district is formed the department is responsible for collecting each district filing, annual report and annual budget.

### **Elections—It's What We Do!**

**Providing professional election services to Voters, to Candidates, to cities & towns and Special Districts, and to any member of the public wishing to bring an Initiative, Referendum or Recall Petition before the Voters.**

**Our goals are:**

- **To conduct elections in accordance with the law**
- **To provide accurate & timely results**
- **To provide reliable information about elections**

### **Mission**

The Cochise County Elections & Special Districts Department administers, prepares, conducts and tallies federal, state and county elections held in Cochise County in a fair and impartial manner, and in accordance with the Arizona Revised Statutes and Federal law. The department also provides contract election services and assistance to several cities within the County and special districts (school districts, fire districts, water districts and the community college district). These services includes securing polling locations, hiring and training poll workers, tabulating ballots and preparing reports of results.



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TOUR RECORDER'S & ELECTIONS/SPECIAL DISTRICTS' OFFICES & VOTE ON OUR NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT**