

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SUBMISSION

**Gila County, Arizona
Precinct Boundary and Polling Place Changes**

Submitted by

**Linda V. Eastlick, Director
Gila County Department of Elections**

November 21, 2011

Linda V. Eastlick, Director
leastlick@co.gila.az.us
(928) 402-8708



Elizabeth Mata, Administrative Assistant
lmata@co.gila.az.us
(928) 402-8709

David Rogers, Elections Specialist
drogers@co.gila.az.us
(928) 402-8750

Josephine Goode, Voter Outreach Coordinator
jgoode@co.gila.az.us
(928) 402-8628

GILA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

1400 E. Ash
Globe, Arizona 85501

November 21, 2011

ORIGINAL SENT FEDEX: 8670 5830 1469

Mr. Chris Herren
Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Room 7254, NWB
United States Department of Justice
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Submission Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act
Voting Precinct Boundary and Polling Place Changes

Dear Mr. Herren:

In accordance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as amended, and on behalf of Gila County, Arizona, we are requesting your review and preclearance for Gila County to adopt new voting precinct boundary and polling place changes required as a result of new Supervisorial and Community College Redistricting boundary changes. Other polling place changes, as detailed below, are required due to changing demographics, ADA compliant access, availability, and building condition issues. This cover letter is accompanied by an Exhibit Listing and a flash drive which contains all exhibits.

Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 51.34, Gila County requests expedited consideration of its preclearance request.

Separate submissions have been made to the Department of Justice for Gila County's Supervisorial redistricting and Community College redistricting. For your convenience, further information as prescribed by 28 C.F.R. § 51.27 follows below

A. COPY OF ENACTMENT:

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Gila County, Arizona held November 1, 2011 an Order was approved adopting the changes to voting precincts and regular polling place locations which will take effect upon preclearance by the Department of Justice of this submission. The full Board presentation may be found in Exhibit A. See Exhibit B for a copy of the Order signed on November 1 as well as copies of the Orders establishing new supervisorial and community college boundaries signed by the Board of Supervisors on October 18, 2011.

B. COPY OF EXISTING PROGRAM

Maps of the benchmark precincts are included in Exhibit D

C. EXPLANATION OF AND REASONS FOR THE CHANGES

Supervisorial and Community College redistricting plans adopted by the Gila County Board of Supervisors, changing demographics, and other specific polling place issues such as ADA compliant access, and building condition issues require Gila County make a number of precinct boundary and polling place changes. The changes include:

- **Pine-Strawberry East and Pine Strawberry West Precincts**

The Pine-Strawberry precinct shall be divided north to south along Highway 87 and the new community college district boundary. That portion of the precinct to the east of the highway shall be designated as the Pine-Strawberry East precinct. That portion of the precinct west of the highway shall be designated as the Pine-Strawberry West precinct.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new community college district boundaries.

Both precincts shall be co-located for voting purposes and the polling place for both shall remain the First Baptist Church of Pine.

- **Sierra Ancha, and Carrizo Precincts**

The Sierra Ancha precinct shall be divided north to south along the White Mountain Apache Reservation which is the new supervisorial boundary. That portion of the precinct to the west shall be designated as the Sierra Ancha precinct. The Eastern portion of the precinct shall be merged into the Carrizo precinct.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new supervisorial boundaries and to include additional reservation lands in reservation precincts.

The Sierra Ancha polling place will remain the Roosevelt Baptist Church. There are only two voting age people in the eastern portion being merged into the Carrizo precinct. Voter access will be greatly improved since their polling place is currently located off the reservation in Roosevelt, 77 miles away. The Carrizo polling place, which remains at the Assembly of God Church, is on the reservation, 13 miles away.

- **Wheatfields Precinct**

A new precinct shall be formed along the boundary of the Miami #1 and Globe #1 precincts between Hicks Road on the South, Wheatfields Road and the new community college district boundary on the west, Jesse Lane on the north and the new supervisorial boundary on the east. The new precinct shall be designated as Wheatfields.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new supervisorial and community college district boundaries.

The polling place for this precinct shall be co-located with the Globe #1 polling place at the Globe/Miami Chamber of Commerce. While this polling place is not located within the precinct, voters will be going to the same polling place as they did previously. There is no appropriate polling place inside the precinct boundaries

- **Pinal Creek and Claypool #2 Precincts**

A new precinct shall be formed along the boundary of the Miami #1 and Globe #1 precincts and from the northern portion of the Claypool #2 precinct, between Bixby Road, Pinal Creek Road and the new supervisorial boundary on the east, Highway 188 and the new community college boundary on the west and the new community college boundary on the south. The new precinct shall be designated as Pinal Creek. The southern portion of the Claypool #2 precinct shall be designated as the Claypool #2 precinct.

The reason for the new precinct is to accommodate new supervisorial and community college district boundaries.

The Pinal Creek polling place shall be co-located with Claypool #2 polling place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church as there is no appropriate location in the Pinal Creek precinct. By co-locating the polling place, those voters moving from Claypool #2 to the new Pinal Creek precinct will be going to the same polling place as they did previously. For those voters moved from the Globe #1 precinct to the Pinal Creek precinct, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is 2.0 miles closer than the previous polling place, which was the Globe-Miami Chamber of Commerce.

- **Miami #1 and Miami #3 Precincts**

The Miami #1 precinct shall be divided east to west beginning just south of Los Arcos Flore Street to the east and following the new College District boundary west to the Gila and Pinal county line. The northern portion shall be designated as the Miami #1 precinct. The southern portion shall be merged into the Miami #3 precinct. Additionally, the boundary between Miami #1 and Miami #3 beginning at Canyon Avenue on the west to approximately Latham Blvd on the east shall be changed to follow the new community college district boundary.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new community college district boundaries.

The polling place for Miami #1 remains the First Southern Baptist Church. The polling place for Miami #3 remains the Miami Town Hall. The Miami #1 polling place is 0.4 miles from the Miami #3 polling place.

- **Claypool #3 Precinct**

The current polling place for the Claypool #3 precinct located at the National Guard Armory/Regional Skill Center shall be eliminated. The new polling place shall be the First Baptist Church, which is located within the Claypool #3 precinct. Voting has been conducted at this facility in the past with good success.

The reason for the change is the deteriorating physical condition of the Armory building and difficulties moving large equipment located in the polling place in order to conduct voting. The new voting location is 0.5 miles from the old voting location and thus voters will not be significantly impacted.

- **Globe #1 and #2 Precincts**

The northern and northeastern portions of the Globe #2 precinct shall be merged into the Globe #1 precinct. The new boundary line between the Globe #1 and Globe #2 precincts shall begin at US 60 and Broad Street on the west and follow the college district boundary eastward to Third Street. The southwest portion of the Globe #2 precinct shall be designated as the Globe #2 precinct.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new community college district boundaries.

Voters impacted by the move into Globe #1 precinct will now vote at the Globe-Miami Chamber of Commerce which is 1.0 miles from the previous polling place at the Lutheran Church.

The Globe #2 polling place at St. Peter's Lutheran Church shall be eliminated and the Globe #2 polling place shall be co-located with the Globe #3 polling place at St. John's Episcopal Church. The St. Peter's Lutheran Church shall be eliminated as a polling place due to space constraints, inadequate ADA compliance, and declining demographics. The new voting location is .04 miles from the old voting location and thus voters will not be significantly impacted.

- **Globe #3 and East Globe Precincts**

The northeastern portion of the Globe #3 precinct along the community college boundary at Third Street to the eastern boundary of the precinct shall be merged into the East Globe precinct. The southern portion of the Globe #3 precinct shall be designated as the Globe #3 precinct.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new supervisorial and community college district boundaries.

The Globe #3 polling place at St. Paul's Methodist Church shall be eliminated and the Globe #3 polling place shall be co-located with Globe #2 polling place at St. John's Episcopal Church. The reason for the polling place change is to eliminate the use of an

ADA noncompliant polling location. The Episcopal Church, which is located in the Globe #3 precinct, has appropriate disabled voter access and is located across the street from the previous polling place. Voters will not be impacted by this move.

The East Globe polling place shall remain at the Church of the Nazarene. For voters affected by the Globe #3 boundary change, the Church of the Nazarene is located 2.3 miles from the previous polling place at St. Paul's Methodist Church.

- **Globe #4 and #5 Precincts**

The northeastern portion of the Globe #4 precinct along the community college boundary at Sixth Street (Josephine) shall be consolidated with the East Globe precinct. The remainder of the Globe #4 precinct and the entire Globe #5 precinct shall be consolidated. The new precinct shall be designated as Globe #4.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new community college district boundaries. The reason for the merging of the remainder of Globe #4 and Globe #5 is declining demographics.

The East Globe polling place shall remain at the Church of the Nazarene. For voters affected by the Globe #4 boundary changes, the Church of the Nazarene is located 1.4 miles from the previous polling place at the Gila County Courthouse.

The polling place for the merged precinct Globe #4 shall be the Elks Lodge. The Globe #4 polling place at the Gila County Courthouse shall be eliminated due to logistical challenges. The Courthouse must be used immediately following the closing of the polls for public access to election results. This has caused the poll workers at the Courthouse, not to mention the public who is waiting, a great deal of consternation as poll workers try to get the polling place shut down in order for the public to enter. The Elks Lodge is not located in the Globe #4 precinct. However, it is the most suitable place available and is only 0.5 miles from the center of the precinct. The Courthouse was not located in the Globe #4 precinct and was approximately 0.7 miles from the center of the merged precinct.

- **Globe #6 Precinct**

The current polling place for the Globe #6 precinct shall be moved from the Maranatha Baptist Church and co-located with the Globe #4 polling place at the Elks Lodge.

The reason for this change is to eliminate the use of an ADA noncompliant polling location. The Elks Lodge building has appropriate disabled voter access and is located 2.2 miles from the previous polling place. Voters will not be seriously impacted by this move as both facilities are just off the same major highway.

- **Hayden, Winkelman, Christmas Precincts Combined into Copper Basin Precinct**

The boundaries between the Hayden, Winkelman, and Christmas precincts shall be dissolved and the entire area shall become a new precinct. The new precinct shall be designated as the Copper Basin precinct. The voting place for the new Copper Basin precinct shall be the Hayden High School. The Hayden, Winkelman and Christmas precincts shall be combined.

The reason for the change is declining population, increased permanent early voting, and difficulties in recruiting poll workers in these areas. The new precinct shall be called the Copper Basin precinct.

The new polling place shall be located at the Hayden High School. This new polling place is 1.9 miles from the Hayden Town Hall polling place, 0.3 miles from the Winkelman Town Hall polling place and 9.0 miles from the Christmas polling place. Hayden and Winkelman voters will not be significantly impacted by the change in polling place. It is recognized that the Christmas voters will have to drive ten minutes further to the new polling place, but they must drive to their current polling place as this is a rural area and it has become extremely difficult to get poll workers to continue to man the previous Christmas polling place in Dripping Springs.

- **San Carlos, Christmas Precincts**

The southeastern boundary between the Christmas and San Carlos precincts shall be moved to the west to follow the reservation and new community college district boundaries.

The reason for the change is to accommodate new college district boundaries and to include additional reservation lands in reservation precincts.

There is zero population contained in the area being merged into the San Carlos precinct and therefore, no voters are affected.

All other precinct boundaries and polling places not specifically mentioned as a part of this submission remain in effect as previously established. However, we have changed the precinct code numbers for all precincts in the County.

Exhibit Information

- Exhibit A - Board of Supervisors November 1 meeting agenda packet
- Exhibit B - Order to adopt changes
- Exhibit C - Applicable statute
- Exhibit D - Maps showing the precinct boundaries before and after the change
- Exhibit E - Listing of all Gila County precincts, polling places, and precinct codes before the change, as well as a listing of all Gila County precincts, polling places, and precinct codes after the change
- Exhibit F - Precinct Population change 2000 to 2010.
- Exhibit G - Total Population, Voter Registration, and Permanent Early Voters before and after the change.

- Exhibit H - Supervisorial District and College District Before the Change and After the Change
- Exhibit I - 2010 Total Population and Voting Age Population by Precinct Before the Change and After the Change
- Exhibit J - contains Preclearance of prior practice "No Objection" letters.
- Exhibit K - Public notices including availability of submission for public review and the Board meeting at which changes were adopted
- The USB jump drive included with this submission contains asc, shape, and Excel files.

D. PERSON MAKING SUBMISSION

On behalf of Gila County:

Linda V. Eastlick, Director
Gila County Department of Elections
5515 S Apache Avenue, Suite 900
Globe, AZ 85501
928.402.8708
928.402.4319 - Fax
leastlick@co.gila.az.us

E. SUBMITTING AUTHORITY

Gila County Board of Supervisors, Gila County Arizona

F. COUNTY AND STATE OF SUBMITTING AUTHORITY

Gila County, Arizona

G. PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR CHANGE

The party responsible for making the proposed changes is Gila County.

H. AUTHORITY FOR MAKING CHANGE

Arizona Revised Statutes §11-212, §15-1441, and §16-411 are included herein in Exhibit C. These statutes provide authority for the Gila County Board of Supervisors to:

- Create new Supervisorial Districts for the election of board members;
- Create new districts (precincts) in the Community College District for the election of district board members;
- Establish a convenient number of election precincts in the county and define the boundaries thereof;
- Designate a polling place within each precinct, or an adjacent precinct as necessary where elections shall be held;
- Combine precincts for political subdivisions including community college districts;
- Split precincts for administrative purposes.

I. DATE OF ADOPTION

Gila County adopted the proposed changes on November 1, 2011

J. EFFECTIVE DATE

The precinct boundary and polling place changes will take effect after preclearance by the Attorney General.

K. ENFORCEMENT OF CHANGE

Gila County will enforce the proposed changes only after preclearance by the Attorney General.

L. SCOPE OF CHANGE:

The change shall affect those voters living in each of the precincts named above which includes: Pine-Strawberry East and West, Sierra Ancha, Carrizo, Miami #1, Globe #1, Wheatfields, Claypool #2, Pinal Creek, Miami #3, Claypool #3, Globe #2, Globe #, Globe #4, Globe #5, Globe #6, East Globe, Hayden, Winkelman, Christmas, and San Carlos.

M. ANTICIPATED EFFECT ON MEMBERS OF RACIAL OR LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS

Gila County does not anticipate that the proposed changes contained in this submission will have a discriminatory effect on members of racial or minority groups in Gila County. Gila County does not have a retrogressive purpose in making the changes contained in this submission.

N. PAST OR PENDING LITIGATION

There is no past or pending litigation concerning the changes in this submission.

O. PRECLEARANCE OF PRIOR PRACTICE

Following is a listing of voting precinct boundary and/or polling place changes precleared by the Department of Justice since the 2000 decennial census. Copies of the DOJ no objection letters are included in Exhibit J:

- Gila County received preclearance from the Department of Justice for its last supervisorial redistricting plan and realignment of voting precincts on August 5, 2002, File Ref 2002-3232.
- Gila County received preclearance from the Department of Justice for the creation of the five-member Gila Community College District governing board on June 3, 2002, File Ref 2002-2218.
- Gila County received preclearance from the Department of Justice for precinct boundary and/or polling place changes on
 - 10/10/2002 File-Ref: 2002-4312
 - 06/30/2003 File Ref: 2003-1563
 - 07/20/2004 File Ref: 2004-2675
 - 02/22/2006 File Ref: 2005-4686
 - 06/07/2006 File Ref: 2006-4394
 - 10/23/2006 File Ref: 2006-4744
 - 11/27/2007 File Ref: 2007-3915

P. MINORITY CONTACTS

Josephine Goode Gila County Voter Outreach Coordinator P. O. Box 528 San Carlos, AZ 85550 928.402.8628 jgoode@co.gila.az.us	Roberto Sanchez Retired Military - Air Force & Aerospace Ind. 45 N Starlight Drive Star Valley, AZ 85541 928.472.7588 bobsanchez_9@hotmail.com
Michael A. Pastor Gila County Supervisor 1400 E. Ash Street Globe, AZ 85501 (928) 402.8753 mpastor@co.gila.az.us	

The entire submission, including all exhibits, is available for inspection at the Gila County Elections Department from 9 am to 5pm Monday through Friday. The Notice of Submission availability, in English and Spanish, is being provided at the County Elections Office and in newspapers of general circulation. Spanish and Apache language assistance will be available.

If you need additional information or have any questions regarding the content of this submission, please contact the Gila County Department of Elections at (928) 402-8708.

Respectfully,



Linda V. Eastlick, Director
Gila County Department of Elections

Attachments