



Published: 12.28.2005

Voter rolls in Arizona up sharply

By C.J. Karamargin

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

One of the few things growing faster than Arizona's population is the number of registered voters.

The state is now home to more than 2.6 million voters, a 4.7 percent increase since 2004, according to recent figures from the Secretary of State's Office.

Arizona was the second-fastest-growing state in the country after Nevada from 2004 to 2005, when its population jumped 3.5 percent to 5.9 million.

Election officials attribute much of the growth in voter numbers to registration drives mounted by political parties and interest groups in anticipation of last year's presidential race.

"In 2004, we processed 261,400 voter registration forms," said Chris Roads, Pima County deputy recorder and registrar of voters. "This year we processed 45,860. It's been much quieter."

Roads predicted a flurry of forms will be filed next year — by new voters as well as those who move or change their names — because of the gubernatorial, congressional and state legislative contests.

The new voter registration figures show that Arizona is home to 1,063,112 Republicans, 913,418 Democrats, 668,352 independents and 18,476 Libertarians.

But while Republicans are the dominant force in Maricopa County, Democrats outnumber Republicans in 10 of the state's 15 counties. Among them is Pima County, where there are 180,328 Democrats, 150,876 Republicans, 124,180 independents and 3,841 Libertarians.

With 459,225 registered voters, Pima County has slightly more than 17 percent of Arizona citizens eligible to vote in local, state and federal elections.

Over the past year, the ranks of Pima County's voters grew from 448,050, an increase of 2.5 percent. But it has surged by more than 23 percent since 2000, when the county had 371,696 voters.

Maricopa County, home to about 60 percent of the state's population, has about the same percentage of voters. With 682,787 Republicans, it has more GOP voters than all other counties combined.

Voters by county

● Registered voters in Arizona by county as of Nov. 1

Apache 41,221

Voters by county

● Registered voters in Arizona by county as of Nov. 1

Apache 41,221

Cochise 64,880

Coconino 64,756

Gila 26,121

Graham 15,353

Greenlee 4,207

La Paz 7,307

Maricopa 1,569,823

Mohave 87,681

Navajo 54,901

Pima 459,225

Pinal 94,727

Santa Cruz 21,054

Yavapai 97,961

Yuma 54,141

Total 2,663,358

Cochise 64,880
Coconino 64,756
Gila 26,121
Graham 15,353
Greenlee 4,207
La Paz 7,307
Maricopa 1,569,823
Mohave 87,681
Navajo 54,901
Pima 459,225
Pinal 94,727
Santa Cruz 21,054
Yavapai 97,961
Yuma 54,141

Total 2,663,358

● Contact reporter C.J. Karamargin at 909-8482 or at ckaramargin@azstarnet.com.

All content copyright © 1999-2005 AzStarNet, Arizona Daily Star and its wire services and suppliers and may not be republished without permission. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution, or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the expressed written consent of Arizona Daily Star or AzStarNet is prohibited.