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Soon, you can put in your 2¢ on AZ quarter

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PHOENIX — Get ready for a new chance to weigh in on the design of Arizona's state quarter.

Gov. Janet Napolitano's office is preparing to post the designs online and to solicit public input on which to select for release in 2008, spokeswoman Shiloh Mitchell said Friday.

The Arizona Republic reported Friday that Napolitano would defer to results of online voting by the public, but Mitchell declined to confirm or deny that.

"We will put the quarters up for Arizonans to look at, and we're still looking at processes to make comments," Mitchell said. "Ultimately it is the governor's decision, but she will heavily rely on the online comment."

As requested by Arizona's state-quarter commission, the U.S. Mint has made several minor changes to several of the five designs in contention.

Two federal advisory panels now get to make comments and suggest changes. Any comments or suggestions by the Fine Arts Commission and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee then will be considered by the state commission before final designs are produced by the mint, Napolitano's office said.

The recent changes made by the mint include changing an inscription in a design on Navajo code talkers and changing two others featuring desert landscapes to add more cactus.

One of the five designs shows a multirayed sun peeking over a rim of the Grand Canyon. A second combines much of the first design with a separate view of a saguaro amid other desert plants. A third is a desert scene dominated by saguaros.

The fourth shows 19th-century explorer John Wesley Powell in a boat on Colorado River rapids in the Grand Canyon, while the fifth design shows two code talkers, U.S. Marines who used their native language to thwart Japanese eavesdroppers during World War II.

On the Net

50 State Quarters Program: www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/index.cfm?action=50_state_quarters_program

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