



Maricopa County

Denny Barney
Chairman, District 1

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September 11, 2017

Dear Constituent,

I have heard from several concerned precinct committee members regarding a letter from the County Recorder dated July 25th. Surprisingly, the first I heard of the potential redrawing of district precinct lines was upon receiving the letter in the mail, which was addressed to me as a precinct committeeman.

As a result, I requested a formal opinion from our County Attorney Bill Montgomery. In that letter Mr. Montgomery stated, "The Board of Supervisors has the exclusive statutory authority to adjust election precinct boundaries as frequently as every two years, or as infrequently as every ten years."

While there was clear lack of communication with the Board of Supervisors as well as process deficiencies in messaging, it is not unheard of for the County Recorder to be involved in reprecincting. The Recorder's Office was involved in reprecincting two other times this past decade, with the last time being more than five years ago. What has changed this cycle is the amount of public outreach.

Some have asked, "Why should the boundaries be updated now?" That is a good question! At a minimum, growth in developing areas necessitates changes for precincts to be a manageable size. Other updates are being considered due to municipalities' own redistricting.

Since receiving the letter, I have requested two public hearings for the County Recorder to present to the Board of Supervisors his proposal for the 2018 elections, including any proposed reprecincting. In reporting on the first hearing, the AZ Republic noted that the Supervisors were "concerned". The concerns I expressed were, in part, based on communication I have received from you. The second hearing generated additional questions.

I will continue to do my best to work with the elected County Recorder – it is in the taxpayer's best interest that I do so – but you have my assurance that I am actively involved in the process. While redistricting rarely, if ever, makes everyone happy, I promise you I will not vote for any plan that has not been well-vetted.

What is most important to me at this point is that your feedback on potential changes be communicated and incorporated. You have an "on the ground" perspective that is critical to making sure any potential precinct changes reflect the demographics and needs of the area. Your feedback may be provided via the Recorder's website (recorder.maricopa.gov) or to me personally at barneyd@mail.maricopa.gov. My door is always open, but the "official" public comment period ends on September 22nd so please don't wait!

Thank you for your service and for the opinions you have shared.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denny Barney".

Denny Barney, Chairman
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors