



ELECTIONS IN FLAGSTAFF

February 24, 2015

AGENDA



- Council Decisions Required
- History of Election Dates in Flagstaff
- Options for Holding Elections
 - Voter Turnout History
 - Election Cost Comparison
- Options for Amending Charter
- Council Direction

COUNCIL DECISIONS REQUIRED



- A. *When do we hold candidate elections?*
- B. *When do we bring Charter amendment to voters?*

HISTORY OF ELECTIONS

- City Charter – February / March
- 1996 – Statutes amended – 4 consolidated days
- 1997 – Ordinance No. 1951
- 2012 – Statutes amended – fall elections required
- 2013 – Pima Superior Court Ruling
- 2014 – August / November – Council Elections
- 2014 – August / Court of Appeals Decision
- 2014 – September / Ordinance No. 2014-26
- 2014 – October / State filed Petition for Review

OPTIONS - ELECTION DATES

- 1. March/May – even-numbered years
MARCH/MAY 2016

- 2. March/May – odd-numbered years
MARCH/MAY 2017

- 3. August/November – odd-numbered years
AUGUST/NOVEMBER 2017

- 4. August/November – even-numbered years
AUGUST/NOVEMBER 2016

OPTIONS #1, #2, OR #3

(MAR/MAY 2016; MAR/MAY 2017; AUG/NOV 2017)

□ PROS:

1. Allows for mail-ballot election
2. More emphasis on local
3. Potential for more campaign funding available
4. Potential for decreased partisan advertising
5. No confusion with independents/No Party Designated Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL)
6. Potential for less voter fatigue
7. Cost is the same

□ CONS:

1. Not w/State – more education needed
2. Potential for lower voter turnout
3. If polling place election held, cost would double

OPTION #4

(AUG/NOV 2016)

□ PROS:

1. Voters more familiar with election date
2. Potential for increase in voter turnout
3. Allows for polling place election

□ CONS:

1. Potential for increase in partisan advertising
2. Potential for decrease in campaign funding for local
3. Confusion with independents/NPD PEVL

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

ELECTION DATE	REGISTERED VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	% VOTER TURNOUT	TYPE	ISSUE
07/16/91	28,946	6,468	22.30%		Lockett Trust
03/02/92	29,676	7,659	25.80%		
11/03/92	28,305	20,578	72.70%	N	Smoking Ordinance
03/01/94	28,717	5,849	20.40%		
09/19/95	29,715	729	2.45%		Gas Franchise
03/05/96	28,407	10,317	36.30%		
11/05/96	32,206	17,281	53.70%	N	BBB
09/09/97	32,525	1,939	6.00%		USGS Bonds
05/19/98	32,389	6,451	19.90%		
05/16/00	29,001	9,272	32.00%		
11/06/01	26,530	11,789	44.40%		Fluoride
05/21/02	24,167	8,381	34.70%		
11/05/02	28,074	15,281	54.40%	S	YMCA
03/09/04	27,631	6,835	25.00%		
05/18/04	29,068	11,650	40.10%		
05/17/05	28,704	17,167	59.86%		Big Box Ordinance
05/16/06	25,473	9,445	37.08%		
05/20/08	27,452	12,523	45.62%		
03/09/10	27,785	12,482	44.00%		
05/18/10	27,589	11,970	46.00%		
11/02/10	29,068	17,874	61.50%	S	Bond Election
03/13/12	26,829	9,468	35.30%		
05/15/12	26,852	10,458	38.90%		
11/06/12	30,755	24,213	78.73%	N	Core Services / Forest Health
05/20/14	28,069	7,079	25.22%		Regional Plan
08/26/14	28,002	8,737	31.20%	S	Primary Candidate with the State
11/04/14	31,140	16,910	54.30%	S	General Candidate with the State & Road Repair/Street Safety

ELECTION RESULTS HISTORY

-  Mail Ballot Election
- S** Statewide Election
- N** National Election
-  City Primary/General Elections

ELECTION COST COMPARISON

- March/May Even Numbered Years, March/May and August/November Odd-Numbered Years
 - Stand alone mail ballot: \$125,000 est.
 - \$2.50/registered voter + cards/information
 - Stand alone polling place election: \$200,000 est.
 - \$5.00/registered voter + cards/information
- August/November Even Numbered Years
 - With the County polling place elections: \$100,000 est.
 - \$2.00/registered voter + cards/information

OPTIONS – QUESTION TO VOTERS

- Once election dates are selected, when is the question presented to voters?
 - **IF** March/May – even-numbered years:
 - August 2015
 - **IF** August/November – even-numbered years:
 - November 2015
 - **IF** March/May or August/November – odd-numbered years:
 - Wait for Supreme Court decision

QUESTIONS / COUNCIL DIRECTION



- A. *When do we hold candidate elections?*
- B. *When do we bring Charter amendment to voters?*