

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE'S
PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE TUCSON PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION
CENTER AT 1501 S. CHERRYBELL STRAVENUE, TUCSON, ARIZONA**

WHEREAS, On December 5, 2011, the U.S. Postal Service announced its intention to proceed with the consolidation of postal facilities; and under this proposal, the U.S. Postal Service is proposing to move mail processing operations from the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center to the Phoenix Processing and Distribution Center; and

WHEREAS, Tucson Processing and Distribution Center serves 1.8 million citizens and 23,197 businesses in southern Arizona; and closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center would mean the direct loss of 310 postal jobs at the Tucson facility, the loss of an additional 120 indirect and induced jobs, the loss of more than \$30 million in economic activity in southern Arizona, and the loss of \$4.8 million in tax revenues for federal, state and local governments.

WHEREAS, The Pima County Recorder's office is one of the largest customers of postal services in Pima County and was projected to mail over one million pieces of mail in 2012. Mail includes vote-by-mail ballots, voter identification cards, voter registration forms and address update letters. The majority of voters in Pima County now vote by mail; and in 2010, the Phoenix postal processing center has stated that they could not process all Pima and Maricopa County ballots on the same day, requiring use of the Tucson processing center; and the closure would disproportionately impact the time Native American voters on the Tohono O'odham Nation have to return ballots by mail; and

WHEREAS, Closure of all but the Phoenix facility would also fail to provide a backup facility for vote by mail process in case of unforeseen circumstances. Lack of a backup facility is a violation of state election law; and closure of the Tucson Processing and Distribution Center could impact the ability of the Pima County Attorney's Office, would delay timely mail delivery to and from service members at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca; and could eliminate a local bulk mailing discount currently provided to businesses and organization that deliver mail to the processing facility directly; and

WHEREAS, Arizona Democratic Party promotes active participation of all eligible voters in the democratic process by registering to vote and voting, and encourages all legislative, judicial and educational efforts to promote voter participation and advocacy; and aims to assure that voters' rights are safeguarded on election-day by preventing potential voting rights violations, such as intimidation at the polls, unworkable voting equipment, and other civil rights violations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Arizona Democratic Party opposes the closure of the U.S. Postal Service's Tucson Processing and Distribution Center and supports CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS which expand the criteria for considering closure, and prohibits the closure, of a postal facility if it would result in a disproportionate, unreasonable, or undue burden on a class of individuals who are elderly, economically disadvantaged, limited in mobility, or without reliable and affordable internet access.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Arizona Democratic Party will send a copy of this resolution to all members of the Arizona Democratic Congressional Delegation.