Polling Locations in Arizona and South Carolina: 2016 vs 2020

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Polling locations open in 2016 and 2020

Arizona

Overall, Arizona had 333 open polling locations statewide at the 2016 primary Presidential election (PPE). During the 2020 PPE there were 480 open polling locations. This is a difference of 147 more or a 44.1% increase in polling locations.

South Carolina

Overall, South Carolina had 2179 open polling locations statewide at the 2016 PPE. During the 2020 PPE there were 1968 open polling locations. This is a difference of 211 fewer or a 9.7% decrease in polling locations.

Changes polling locations between 2016 and 2020

Arizona

Between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs, 131 zip codes, or 45.8% of zip codes in Arizona with open polling locations during the 2016 PPE gained polling locations during the 2020 PPE while 121 zip codes, or 42.3%, maintained the same number of polling locations, and 34 zip codes, or 11.9% lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

South Carolina

Between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs, 22 zip codes, or 5.8% of zip codes in Arizona with open polling locations during the 2016 PPE gained polling locations during the 2020 PPE while 240 zip codes, or 63%, maintained the same number of polling locations, and 119 zip codes, or 31.2% lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

Polling location changes and demographics

Arizona

In those zip codes which gained polling locations (n = 130), 1,097,341 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,592,077 people identified as White, 151,742 people identified as Black or African-American, 112,169 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 95,155 people identified as Asian, 5,418 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 74,049 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 3,127,951 people lived in zip codes which gained polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

In those zip codes which maintained polling locations (n = 121), 332,346 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 789,044 people identified as White, 39,413 people identified as Black or African-American, 99,629 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 45,800 people identified as Asian, 3,149 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 29,562 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 1,338,943 people lived in zip codes which maintained polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

In those zip codes which lost polling locations (n = 34), 199,582 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 478,194 people identified as White, 34,738 people identified as Black or African-American, 27,721 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 21,005 people identified as Asian, 1,434 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 20,335 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 783,009 people lived in zip codes which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

Selected Tables

The following tables show the number of people of each demographic in groups of 10,000 people compared with how many zip codes within each group gained, maintained, or lost polling locations. ex: In zip codes where between 0 – 10,000 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 95 gained polling locations, 28 lost polling locations, and 112 maintained polling locations. Zip codes may overlap between demographic groups such that one zip code could have between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Hispanic or Latino and between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as White.

Table 1: Arizona: Hispanic or Latino

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
0-10,000	95	28	112
10,001-20,000	16	4	7
20,001-30,000	10	2	1
30,001-40,000	4	0	1
40,001-50,000	3	0	0
50,001-60,000	2	0	0

Table 2: Arizona: White

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
0-10,000	65	16	95
10,001-20,000	30	8	10
20,001-30,000	22	7	8
30,001-40,000	12	2	7
40,001-50,000	1	1	1

Table 3: Arizona: American Indian or Alaskan Native

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
0-10,000	128	34	120
10,001-20,000	2	0	1

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Native American or Alaskan Native gained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 0 – 10,000 people

who identify as Hispanic or Latino gained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 40,001 – 50,000 people who identify as White gained the fewest polling locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Native American or Alaskan Native maintained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Hispanic or Latino maintained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 40,001 – 60,000 people who identify as Hispanic maintained the fewest polling locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Native American or Alaskan Native lost the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Hispanic or Latino lost the second highest number of polling locations (28), and zip codes with between 30,001 – 60,000 people who identify as Hispanic or Latino and between 10,001 – 20,000 people who identify as Native American or Alaskan Native lost the fewest polling locations.

Quantile Table of Total People per Zip Code

Table 4: Arizona: Total

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
37 – 2,210	25	2	45
2,211 – 8,860	25	7	38
8,861 – 33,500	33	16	22
33,501 – 74,400	47	9	16

Zip codes with between 33,501 – 74,400 people gained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 8,861 – 33,500 people gained the second greatest number of polling locations, and the two smallest quantiles of zips codes each gained the least number of polling locations.

Zip codes with between 37 – 2,210 people maintained the greatest number of polling locations, those with between 2,211 – 8,860 people maintained the second greatest number of polling locations, and those with between 33,501 – 74,400 people maintained the fewest number of polling locations.

Zip codes with between 8,861 – 33,500 people lost the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 33,501 – 74,400 people lost the second greatest number of polling locations, and those with between 37 – 2,210 people lost the least number of polling locations.

Maricopa County

In those zip codes which gained polling locations (n = 63), 885,880 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,176,725 people identified as White, 143,786 people identified as Black or African-American, 45,993 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 86,542 people identified as Asian, 4,878 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 60,831 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 2,404,635 people lived in zip codes within Maricopa county which gained polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

In those zip codes which maintained polling locations (n = 28), 195,125 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 586,852 people identified as White, 32,415 people identified as Black or African-American, 12,409 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 40,955 people identified as Asian, 1,820 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 21,528 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 891,104 people lived in zip codes within Maricopa county which maintained polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

In those zip codes which lost polling locations (n = 11), 87,541 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 206,275 people identified as White, 18,429 people identified as Black or African-American, 3,037 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 14,071 people identified as Asian, 552 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 8,808 people identified as some other race or two or three or more

races. In total, 338,713 people lived in zip codes within Maricopa county which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

South Carolina

In those zip codes which gained polling locations (n = 22), 16,765 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 186,367 people identified as White, 60,998 people identified as Black or African-American, 350 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 2,629 people identified as Asian, 73 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 4,498 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 271,680 people lived in zip codes which gained polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

In those zip codes which maintained polling locations (n = 240), 103,054 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,263,585 people identified as White, 565,893 people identified as Black or African-American, 6,605 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 28,937 people identified as Asian, 943 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 40,197 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 2,009,214 people lived in zip codes which maintained polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

In those zip codes which lost polling locations (n = 118), 149,663 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,670,713 people identified as White, 691,940 people identified as Black or African-American, 7,071 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 41,640 people identified as Asian, 1,644 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 56,721 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 2,619,392 people lived in zip codes which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

Selected Tables

The following tables show the number of people of each demographic grouped into quantiles compared with how many zip codes within each quantile gained, maintained, or lost polling locations. ex: In zip codes where between 0 – 10,000 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 22 gained polling locations, 118 lost polling locations, and 240 maintained polling locations. Zip codes may overlap between demographic groups such that one zip code could have between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Hispanic or Latino and between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as White.

Table 5: South Carolina: Hispanic or Latino

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
0-10,000	22	118	240

Table 6: South Carolina: White

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
0-10,000	17	51	196
10,001-20,000	3	37	31
20,001-30,000	0	21	7
30,001-40,000	1	5	6
40,001-50,000	1	2	0
50,001-60,000	0	2	0

Table 7: South Carolina: Black or African American

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
0-10,000	20	97	232
10,001-20,000	1	18	6
20,001-30,000	1	3	1
30,001-40,000	0	0	1

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Hispanic or Latino gained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Black or African American gained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 50,001 – 60,000 people who identify as White and between 30,001 – 40,000 people who identify as Black or African American gained the fewest polling locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Hispanic or Latino maintained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Black or African American maintained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 40,001 – 60,000 people who identify as White maintained the fewest polling locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as as Hispanic or Latino lost the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 0 – 10,000 people who identify as Black or African American lost the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 30,001 – 40,000 people who identify as Black or African American lost the fewest polling locations.

Quantile Table of Total People per Zip Code

Table 8: South Carolina: Total

	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
40 – 2,240	8	7	81
2,241 – 6,950	2	13	80
6,951 – 19,200	8	39	47
19,201 – 81,900	4	59	32

Zip codes with between 40 – 2,240 and between 6,951 – 19,200 people each gained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 19,201 – 81,900 people gained the second greatest number of polling locations, and those with between 2,241 – 6,950 people gained the least number of polling locations.

Zip codes with between 40 – 2,240 people maintained the greatest number of polling locations, those with between 2,241 – 6,950 people maintained the second greatest number of polling locations, and those with between 19,201 – 81,900 people maintained the fewest number of polling locations.

Zip codes with between 19,201 – 81,900 people lost the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 6,951 – 19,200 people lost the second greatest number of polling locations, and those with between 40 – 2,240 people lost the least number of polling locations.

Richland County

There were no zip codes within Richland county which gained polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs.

In those zip codes which maintained polling locations (n = 5), 5,713 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 25,577 people identified as White, 75,673 people identified as Black or African-American, 133 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 2,847 people identified as Asian, 200 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 2,809 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 112,952 people lived in zip codes within Richland county which maintained polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

In those zip codes which lost polling locations (n = 9), 11,540 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 134,046 people identified as White, 107,617 people identified as Black or African-American, 527 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 7,356 people identified as Asian, 223 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 7,694 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. In total, 269,003 people lived in zip codes within Richland county which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

Polling location changes, demographics, and COVID-19

Arizona

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which gained polling locations (n = 116), 1,094,726 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,584,502 people identified as White, 151,119 people identified as Black or African-American, 72,806 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 94,674 people identified as Asian, 5,279 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 73,306 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 2 – 241 cases of COVID-19 reported in these zip codes.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which maintained polling locations (n = 91), 330,565 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 785,820 people identified as White, 39,148 people identified as Black or African-American, 39,934 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 45,548 people identified as Asian, 3,123 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 29,070 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races.There are between 2 – 242 cases of COVID-19 reported in these zip codes.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which lost polling locations (n = 31), 199,285 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 478,039 people identified as White, 34,732 people identified as Black or African-American, 19,375 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 20,977 people identified as Asian, 1,434 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 20,159 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 8 – 235 cases of COVID-19 reported in these zip codes.

In those zip codes in which COVID-19 data are pending tribal approval and which gained polling locations (n = 9), 341 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,155 people identified as White, 71 people identified as Black or African-American, 25,656 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 133 people identified as Asian, 37 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 214 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There is 1 case of COVID-19 reported.

In those zip codes in which COVID-19 data are pending tribal approval and which maintained polling locations (n = 12), 754 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 2,456 people identified as White, 66 people identified as Black or African-American, 27,781 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 91 people identified as Asian, no one identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 139 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There is 1 case of COVID-19 reported.

In those zip codes in which COVID-19 data are pending tribal approval and which lost polling locations (n = 3), 297 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 155 people identified as White, 6 people identified as Black or African-American, 8,346 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 28 people identified as Asian, no one identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 176 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There is 1 case of COVID-19 reported.

In those zip codes without COVID-19 data which gained polling locations (n = 5), 2,274 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 6,420 people identified as White, 552 people identified as Black or African-American, 13,707 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 348 people identified as Asian, 102 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 529 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races.

In those zip codes without COVID-19 data which maintained polling locations (n = 18), 1,027 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 768 people identified as White, 199 people identified as Black or African-American, 31,914 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 161 people identified as Asian, 26 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 353 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races.

There were no zip codes without COVID-19 data which lost polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE.

Maricopa County

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which gained polling locations (n = 63), 885,880 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,176,725 people identified as White, 143,786 people identified as Black or African-American, 45,993 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 86,542 people identified as Asian, 4,878 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 60,831 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 4 – 238 cases of COVID-19 reported in these zip codes.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which maintained polling locations (n = 28),195,125 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 586,852 people identified as White, 32,415 people identified as Black or African-American, 12,409 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 40,955 people identified as Asian, 1,820 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 21,528 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 9 – 242 cases of COVID-19 reported in these zip codes.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which lost polling locations (n = 11), 87,541 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 206,275 people identified as White, 18,429 people identified as Black or African-American, 3,037 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 14,071 people identified as Asian, 552 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 8,808 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 8 – 235 cases of COVID-19 reported in these zip codes.

In those zip codes without complete COVID-19 data which gained polling locations (n = 5), 2,274 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 6,420 people identified as White, 552 people identified as Black or African-American, 13,707 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 348 people identified as Asian, 102 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 529 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races.

In those zip codes without complete COVID-19 data which maintained polling locations (n = 18), 1,027 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 768 people identified as White, 199 people identified as Black or African-American, 31,914 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 161 people identified as Asian, 26 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 353 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races.

There were no zip codes without COVID-19 data in Maricopa which lost polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE.

South Carolina

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which gained polling locations (n = 22), 16,765 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 186,367 people identified as White, 60,998 people identified as Black or African-American, 350 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 2,629 people identified as

Asian, 73 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 4,498 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 16,114 – 655,027 cases of COVID-19 reported.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which maintained polling locations (n = 240), 103,054 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,263,585 people identified as White, 565,893 people identified as Black or African-American, 6,605 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 28,937 people identified as Asian, 943 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 40,197 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 4,012 – 655,027 cases of COVID-19 reported.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which lost polling locations (n = 118), 149,663 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 1,670,713 people identified as White, 691,940 people identified as Black or African-American, 7,071 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 41,640 people identified as Asian, 1,644 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 56,721 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 4,012 – 655,027 cases of COVID-19 reported.

Richland County

There were no zip codes within Richland county which gained polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which maintained polling locations (n = 5),5,713 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 25,577 people identified as White, 75,673 people identified as Black or African-American, 133 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 2,847 people identified as Asian, 200 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 2,809 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 525,749 – 525,749 cases of COVID-19 reported.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data which lost polling locations (n = 9),11,540 people identified as Hispanic or Latino, 134,046 people identified as White, 107,617 people identified as Black or African-American, 527 people identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 7,356 people identified as Asian, 223 people identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 7,694 people identified as some other race or two or three or more races. There are between 525,749 – 525,749 cases of COVID-19 reported.

Methodology

This report examines polling location data from 14 or 93% of the counties in Arizona and 46 or 100% of the counties in South Carolina. Pima County, AZ has not been included since the data come from the Voter Information Project and Pima County does not participate in its activities. Data were reviewed for uniqueness, completeness, and accuracy of information on zip codes, county, and number of polling locations. Polling locations are known to change just before an election so this data should not be viewed as a definitive list of the actual polling locations used on election day.

Demographic data were obtained from the 2014 – 2018 American Community Survey's B03002 table and groups were categorized as either Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by specific group: White alone, Black or African American Alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Asian alone,Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and All other races alone (Including Some other race alone and Two or more races alone).

Zip code and county data were obtained from unitedstateszipcodes.org. While many zip codes map directly to specific counties, the relationship between these two organizational systems is not always 1:1 and is subject to change.

Data on COVID-19 cases in Arizona was obtained from the Arizona Department of Health Services while data on cases in South Carolina was obtained though the New York Times covid-19 repository on GitHub. Data from these sources was combined with demographic and zip code data. Data on COVID-19 cases was only kept for those zip codes for which we also had polling location data and in Arizona, was categorized to denote where data were missing or suppressed pending tribal approval as noted in the original data. Data are current as of as of 27 August, 2020.

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