

Polling Locations in Arizona and South Carolina: 2016 vs 2020

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Numbers of 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.

Change in number of polling locations between 2016 and 2020

Arizona

Between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs, 252 zip codes, or 88.1% of zip codes in Arizona with open polling locations during the 2016 PPE gained or maintained the same number of polling locations during the 2020 PPE while 34 zip codes, or 11.9%, lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

South Carolina

Between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs, 262 zip codes, or 68.8% of zip codes in South Carolina with open polling locations during the 2016 PPE gained or maintained the same number of polling locations during the 2020 PPE while 119 zip codes, or 31.2%, lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

Demographics

Arizona

In those zip codes which lost polling locations ($n = 34$), an average of 22% (median = 20%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 60% (median = 65%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 3% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 10% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

In those zip codes which gained or maintained polling locations (n = 251), an average of 24% (median = 18%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 53% (median = 63%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 2% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 17% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 2% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

Maricopa County

In those zip codes which lost polling locations within Maricopa County (n = 11), an average of 25% (median = 20%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 61% (median = 67%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 5% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 1% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 4% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

In those zip codes which gained or maintained polling locations within Maricopa County (n = 91), an average of 30% (median = 23%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 56% (median = 61%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 5% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 3% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 4% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

South Carolina

In those zip codes which lost polling locations (n = 118), an average of 5% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 63% (median = 66%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 29% (median = 26%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 1% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

In those zip codes which gained or maintained polling locations (n = 262), an average of 4% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 60% (median = 63%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 34% (median = 29%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 1% (median = 0%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 2% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

Richland County

In those zip codes which lost polling locations within Richland County (n = 9), an average of 4% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 53% (median = 57%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 37% (median = 37%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 3% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

In those zip codes which gained or maintained polling locations within Richland County (n = 5), an average of 4% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 19% (median = 24%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 74% (median = 67%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 1% (median = 0%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

Polling Location Changes, Demographics, and COVID-19

Arizona

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which lost polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 31), an average of 24% (median = 20%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 65% (median = 67%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 4% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 2% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had between 8 - 235 cases of COVID-19.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which gained or maintained polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 207), an average of 28% (median = 21%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 60% (median = 67%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 3% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 5% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 2% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had between 2 - 242 cases of COVID-19.

In those zip codes with COVID-19 data pending tribal approval which lost polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 3), an average of 3% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 1% (median = 0%) of people considered themselves White, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 93% (median = 95%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Asian or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had an average of 1 case of COVID-19.

In those zip codes with COVID-19 data pending tribal approval which gained or maintained polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 21), an average of 5% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 31% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves White, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 63% (median = 92%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had an average of 1 case of COVID-19.

All zip codes without complete COVID-19 data as of 25 August, 2020 (n = 23), gained or maintained polling locations in the 2020 PPE. An average of 9% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 9% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves White, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 80% (median = 95%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 0% (median = 0%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 1% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races.

Maricopa County

In those zip codes within Maricopa County with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which lost polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 11), an average of 25% (median = 20%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 61% (median = 67%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 5% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 1% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 4% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had between 8 - 235 cases of COVID-19.

In those zip codes within Maricopa County with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which gained or maintained polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 91), an average of 30% (median = 23%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 56% (median = 61%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 5% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, an average of 3% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native, an average of 4% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves Asian, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and an average of 2% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had between 4 - 242 cases of COVID-19.

There were no zip codes within within Maricopa County which had any COVID-19 data pending tribal approval nor were there any zip codes for which COVID-19 data were unavailable.

South Carolina

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which lost polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 118), an average of 5% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 63% (median = 66%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 29% (median = 26%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 1% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had between 3,859 - 643,223 cases of COVID-19.

In those zip codes with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which gained or maintained polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 262), an average of 4% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 60% (median = 63%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 34% (median = 29%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 1% (median = 0%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 2% (median = 1%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had between 3,859 - 643,223 cases of COVID-19.

Richland County

In those zip codes within Richland County with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which lost polling locations in the 2020 PPE (n = 9), an average of 4% (median = 4%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 53% (median = 57%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 37% (median = 37%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 3% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had an average of 515,665 cases of COVID-19.

In those zip codes within Richland County with complete COVID-19 data by zip code which gained or maintained polling locations in the 2020 PPE ($n = 5$), an average of 4% (median = 3%) of people considered themselves Hispanic or Latino, an average of 19% (median = 24%) of people considered themselves White, an average of 74% (median = 67%) of people considered themselves Black or African-American, fewer than 1% of people considered themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, an average of 1% (median = 0%) of people considered themselves Asian, and an average of 2% (median = 2%) of people considered themselves some other race or two or three or more races. These zip codes had an average of 515,665 cases of COVID-19.

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 frequently 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](https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org) and 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 and data on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina was obtained through the New York Times covid-19 repository on GitHub and joined by county with zip code data by county. 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 25 August, 2020.

Acknowledgements

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References