

# Polling Locations in Arizona and South Carolina: 2016 vs 2020

Jessica Randall

Last compiled 09 September, 2020

## Polling locations open in 2016 and 2020

### Arizona

Between the 2016 primary Presidential election (PPE) and the 2020 PPE there was a net addition of 145 polling locations, which is a 44.6% increase.

In about 15% of the 307 zip codes in Arizona there was a reduction in the number of polling places. In total, about 709,636 or 14% of the population of Arizona, lives in a zip code that saw a reduction in the number of polling places.

Compared to 2016, there were 350 new polling places opened in Arizona statewide in 2020, 124 of these were opened in Maricopa county alone. Arizona maintained 120 of the same polling locations between 2016 and 2020 and 28 of these were within Maricopa County.

### South Carolina

In South Carolina, there was a 7.2% reduction (148) in the number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs. In total, about 2,258,223 or 46% of the population of South Carolina, lives in a zip code that saw a reduction in the number of polling places.

Compared to 2016, there were 799 new polling places opened in South Carolina statewide in 2020, 98 of these were opened in Richland county. South Carolina maintained 1,120 of the same polling locations between 2016 and 2020 and 39 of these were within Richland County.

### Pennsylvania

Between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs there was a decrease of 2,342 polling locations, which is a 31.4% decrease statewide.

In about 33% of the 1,791 zip codes in Pennsylvania there was a reduction in the number of polling places. In total, about 5,663,905 or 45% of the population of Pennsylvania, lives in a zip code that saw a reduction in the number of polling places.

## Polling location changes by demographics

### Arizona

11% of the Hispanic or Latino population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 16% of the White population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 15% of the Black population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 8% of the American Indian population lives in a zip code which lost polling

locations. 12% of the Asian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 15% of the population who identified as some other race or two or three or more races lives in a zip code which lost polling locations.

Hispanic and Latino people comprise 31% of the population of Arizona, and 24% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. White people comprise 55% of the population of Arizona, and 63% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Black people comprise 4% of the population of Arizona, and 5% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. American Indian people comprise 5% of the population of Arizona, and 3% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Asian people comprise 3% of the population of Arizona, and 3% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations.

#### *Maricopa County*

In total, 709,636, or 9% of people who lived in Maricopa County, Arizona lived in zip codes which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

6% of the Hispanic or Latino population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 10% of the White population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 9% of the Black population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 4% of the American Indian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 10% of the Asian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 9% of the population who identified as some other race or two or three or more races lives in a zip code which lost polling locations.

Hispanic and Latino people comprise 32% of the population of Maricopa County, and 22% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. White people comprise 54% of the population of Maricopa County, and 64% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Black people comprise 5% of the population of Maricopa County, and 6% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. American Indian people comprise 2% of the population of Maricopa County, and 1% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Asian people comprise 4% of the population of Maricopa County, and 4% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations.

### **South Carolina**

46% of the Hispanic or Latino population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 47% of the White population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 44% of the Black population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 46% of the American Indian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 46% of the Asian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 48% of the population who identified as some other race or two or three or more races lives in a zip code which lost polling locations.

Hispanic and Latino people comprise 5% of the population of South Carolina, and 6% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. White people comprise 64% of the population of South Carolina, and 65% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Black people comprise 27% of the population of South Carolina, and 26% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. American Indian people comprise less than 1% of the population of South Carolina, and fewer than 1 % of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Asian people comprise 1% of the population of South Carolina, and 1% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations.

#### *Richland County*

In total, 2,258,223, or 26% of people who lived in Richland County, South Carolina lived in zip codes which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

24% of the Hispanic or Latino population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 29% of the White population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 23% of the Black population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 15% of the American Indian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 27% of the Asian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 26% of the population who identified as some other race or two or three or more races lives in a zip code which lost polling locations.

Hispanic and Latino people comprise 5% of the population of Richland County, and 4% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. White people comprise 42% of the population of Richland

County, and 47% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Black people comprise 48% of the population of Richland County, and 43% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. American Indian people comprise less than 1% of the population of Richland County and fewer than 1 % of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Asian people comprise 3% of the population of Richland County, and 3% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations.

## **Pennsylvania**

41% of the Hispanic or Latino population live in a zip code which lost polling locations. 45% of the White population live in a zip code which lost polling locations. 40% of the Black population live in a zip code which lost polling locations. 40% of the American Indian population live in a zip code which lost polling locations. 53% of the Asian population live in a zip code which lost polling locations. 50% of the population who identified as some other race or two or three or more races live in a zip code which lost polling locations.

Hispanic and Latino people comprise 7% of the population of Pennsylvania, and 7% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. White people comprise 77% of the population of Pennsylvania, and 78% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Black people comprise 11% of the population of Pennsylvania, and 10% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. American Indian people comprise less than 1% of the population of Pennsylvania, and fewer than 1% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Asian people comprise 3% of the population of Pennsylvania, and 4% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations.

The weighted median income in the previous year of all zip codes which lost polling places between 2016 and 2020 was \$58,080 and the weighted median income of all zip codes in Pennsylvania which gained polling locations was \$54,250 and among those which maintained polling locations it was \$54,472.

### *Philadelphia County*

In total, 5,663,905, or 6% of people who lived in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania lived in zip codes which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

2% of the Hispanic or Latino population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 7% of the White population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 6% of the Black population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 9% of the American Indian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 4% of the Asian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 7% of the population who identified as some other race or two or three or more races lives in a zip code which lost polling locations.

Hispanic and Latino people comprise 14% of the population of Philadelphia County, and 6% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. White people comprise 35% of the population of Philadelphia County, and 41% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Black people comprise 41% of the population of Philadelphia County, and 46% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. American Indian people comprise less than 1% of the population of Philadelphia County, and fewer than 1 % of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Asian people comprise 7% of the population of Philadelphia County, and 5% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations.

The weighted median income in the previous year of all zip codes which lost polling places between 2016 and 2020 was \$73,740 and the weighted median income of all zip codes in Philadelphia County which gained polling locations was \$46,150 and among those which maintained polling locations it was \$85,437.

### *City of Philadelphia*

In total, 85,647, or 5% of people who lived within the City of Philadelphia lived in zip codes which lost polling locations during the 2020 PPE.

2% of the Hispanic or Latino population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 6% of the White population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 6% of the Black population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 9% of the American Indian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 4% of the Asian population lives in a zip code which lost polling locations. 7% of the population who identified as some other race or two or three or more races lives in a zip code which lost polling locations.

Hispanic and Latino people comprise 19% of the population of City of Philadelphia, and 6% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. White people comprise 28% of the population of City of Philadelphia, and 41% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Black people comprise 43% of the population of City of Philadelphia, and 46% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. American Indian people comprise less than 1% of the population of City of Philadelphia, and fewer than 1 % of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations. Asian people comprise 7% of the population of City of Philadelphia, and 5% of people who lived in zip codes which lost polling locations.

The weighted median income in the previous year of all zip codes which lost polling places between 2016 and 2020 was \$73,730 and the weighted median income of all zip codes in the City of Philadelphia which gained polling locations was \$43,022 and there were no zip codes within the City of Philadelphia which maintained the same number of polling locations between 2016 and 2020.

## Polling location changes by population

### *Selected Tables*

### Arizona

The following tables show the number of people compared with how many zip codes gained, maintained, or lost polling locations. In zip codes where between 0 – 10,000 people live, 52 gained polling locations, 10 lost polling locations, and 84 maintained polling locations.

Table 1: Arizona

	gp_total/delta_cat	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
1	0-10,000	59	8	80
2	10,001-20,000	16	6	12
3	20,001-30,000	13	3	7
4	30,001-40,000	18	8	8
5	40,001-50,000	17	2	7
6	50,001-60,000	6	1	2
7	60,001-70,000	7	1	1
8	70,001-80,000	3	0	0
9	Total	139	29	117

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people gained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE. Those with between 30,001 – 40,000 people gained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 70,001 – 80,000 people gained the fewest polling locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people maintained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 10,001 – 20,000 people maintained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 70,001 – 80,000 people maintained no polling locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people lost the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 10,001 – 20,000 people lost the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 50,001 – 60,000 and between 70,001 – 80,000 people lost no polling locations.

## South Carolina

Table 2: South Carolina

	gp_total/delta_cat	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
1	0-10,000	13	27	179
2	10,001-20,000	13	28	26
3	20,001-30,000	6	19	17
4	30,001-40,000	2	18	8
5	40,001-50,000	2	6	5
6	50,001-60,000	2	4	1
7	60,001-70,000	0	1	1
8	80,001-90,000	0	1	0
9	Total	38	104	237

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people and those with between 10,001 – 20,000 people gained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE. Those with between 20,001 – 30,000 people gained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 60,001 – 70,000 people and those with between 80,001 – 90,000 people gained no polling locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people maintained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 10,001 – 20,000 people maintained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 80,001 – 90,000 people maintained no locations.

Zip codes with between 10,001 – 20,000 people lost the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 0 – 10,000 people lost the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 60,001 – 70,000 people and those with between 80,001 – 90,000 people lost the fewest locations.

## Pennsylvania

Table 3: Pennsylvania

	gp_total/delta_cat	Gained Polling Locations	Lost Polling Locations	Maintained Polling Locations
1	0-10,000	146	181	777
2	10,001-20,000	29	111	84
3	20,001-30,000	25	46	18
4	30,001-40,000	26	28	6
5	40,001-50,000	4	19	0
6	50,001-60,000	6	7	1
7	60,001-70,000	5	0	0
8	70,001-80,000	1	0	0
9	Total	242	392	886

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people gained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE. Those with between 10,001 – 20,000 people gained the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between 70,001 – 80,000 people gained the fewest number of locations.

Zip codes with between 0 – 10,000 people maintained the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 10,001 – 20,000 people maintained the second highest number of

polling locations, and zip codes with between both 60,001 – 70,000 people and those with between 70,001 – 80,000 people maintained no locations.

Zip codes with between 10,001 – 20,000 people lost the greatest number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPE, those with between 10,001 – 20,000 people lost the second highest number of polling locations, and zip codes with between both 60,001 – 70,000 people and those with between 70,001 – 80,000 people lost no locations.

## Methodology

This report examines polling location data from 14 or 93% of the counties in Arizona, 46 or 100% of the counties in South Carolina, and 67 or 100% of the counties in Pennsylvania.

Pima County, Arizona 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 addresses. 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).

Weighted median household income calculations were estimated by taking the median of the median household incomes by household size as estimated in the American Community Survey table B19019\_001. Only zip codes with complete information on median income by household size were included in income calculations so these numbers may differ from total number of zip codes which saw changes in numbers of polling locations.

Zip code and county data were obtained from [unitedstateszipcodes.org](https://www.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 are current as of 09 September, 2020.

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Sarah Berlin at Democracy Works for providing data on Arizona and South Carolina from the Voter Information Project and Rebecca Fuhrman at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Department of State for providing data from Pennsylvania.