Arizona

Between the 2016 primary Presidential election (PPE) and the 2020 PPE there was a net addition of 147 polling locations, which is a 44 percent increase.[[1]](#footnote-1) But while there was an overall increase of polling locations, some areas within the state had polling locations closed between the elections.

In about 12 percent of the 286 zip codes in Arizona, there was a reduction in the number of polling places. In total, about 784,000 people, or 15 percent of the population of Arizona, live in a zip code that saw a reduction in the number of polling places.

There do not appear to be racial disparities in the proportions of populations that live in a location with reductions in polling locations. In Arizona, the proportions range from 11 percent of the Native American population that lives in a zip code with polling location closures to 16 percent of the white population. The range is slightly larger in Maricopa County, Arizona’s most populous county, where the proportions of the populations that live in a zip code with fewer polling locations range from 5 percent of the county’s Native American population to 10 percent of Maricopa’s white population.

South Carolina

In South Carolina, there was nearly a 10 percent reduction (211 locations) in the number of polling locations between the 2016 and 2020 PPEs. In total, 2.6 million people, which is the majority (53 percent) of the South Carolina population, live in a zip code that lost a polling location.

As in Arizona, there were no racial disparities in the proportions of populations that live in areas where poll closures occurred. The range of proportions extend from 52 percent of the Black population to 55 percent of the Latino/Hispanic populations live in zip codes with a closure. In Richland County however, there were disparities. Over 83 percent of the white population in Richland lives in a zip code with a closure while 67 percent of the Hispanic/Latino population and 59 percent of the Black population live in these zip codes.

1. This analysis examines polling location data from 14 or 93% of the counties in Arizona. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)