

**TOWN OF FLORENCE
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

Mayor Tara Walter
Vice-Mayor Johnie Mendoza
Councilmember Kristen Larsen
Councilmember Arthur Neal
Councilmember Nicole Buccellato
Councilmember Jose Maldonado
Councilmember Cathy Adam



Florence Town Hall
775 N. Main Street
Florence, AZ 85132
(520) 868-7500
www.florenceaz.gov
Meet 1st and 3rd Mondays

Monday, August 12, 2024

6:00 PM

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the Town of Florence Council and to the general public that a Special Meeting of the Florence Town Council will be held on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of Town Hall, 775 N. Main Street, Florence, AZ 85132.

To attend the meeting noticed below by technological means, members of the public may:

1. ***Watch Live:***
[YouTube Live](#)
FlorenceAZ.gov/tv

Locally on Cox TV Channel 11

2. ***Join virtually using the link below:***

[Join via ZOOM](#)

3. ***To call in and listen, please dial:***
Telephone: (346) 248 7799 or (669) 900 6833
Webinar ID: 826 4794 6394
Passcode: 121865

If any member of the public has difficulty connecting to the meeting, they are invited to contact the Town of Florence Information Technology Helpdesk at (520) 868-7543.

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **COUNCIL ROLL CALL:**
Tara Walter, Johnie Mendoza, Kristen Larsen, Arthur Neal, Nicole Buccellato, Jose Maldonado, Cathy Adam

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval to adopt Resolution No. 1915-24: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING AND ADOPTING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON JULY 30, 2024. (Lisa Garcia)
- b. Issuance of Certificate of Election to Mayor Elect Keith Eaton. (Lisa Garcia)
- c. Issuance of Certificate of Election to Council Elect James “Tony” Bencina and Council Elect Sherrie L. Bedford and Council Elect Tracy Florea. (Lisa Garcia)

6. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Call to the Public for public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. Council rules limit public comment to three minutes. Individual Councilmembers may respond to criticism made by those commenting, may ask staff to review a matter raised or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Council shall not discuss or take action on any matter during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

7. CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

8. ADJOURNMENT

Council may go into Executive Session at any time during the meeting for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Town’s Attorney(s) on any of the agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).

POSTED ON AUGUST 8, 2024, BY LISA GARCIA, DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER/TOWN CLERK, AT 775 NORTH MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA, AND AT WWW.FLORENCEAZ.GOV.

*****PURSUANT TO TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA), THE TOWN OF FLORENCE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY REGARDING ADMISSION TO PUBLIC MEETINGS. PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY MAY REQUEST REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS BY CONTACTING THE TOWN OF FLORENCE ADA COORDINATOR, AT (520) 868-8300 OR 711 TDD. REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW TIME TO ARRANGE THE ACCOMMODATION. *****



TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL ACTION FORM

AGENDA ITEM 5a

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Administration

STAFF PRESENTER: Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 1915-24: 2024 Primary Election Results

- ☒ **Action**
- ☐ **Information Only**
- ☐ **Public Hearing**
- ☐ **Resolution**
- ☐ **Ordinance**
 - ☐ **Regulatory**
 - ☐ **1st Reading**
 - ☐ **2nd Reading**
- ☐ **Other**

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE (Choose one)

- ☐ Community Vitality
- ☒ Economic Prosperity
- ☐ Leadership and Governance
- ☐ Partnerships and Relationships
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Transportation and Infrastructure
- ☐ Statutory
- ☐ None

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION:

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 1915-24: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING AND ADOPTING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON JULY 30, 2024.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Canvass of the votes must be done not less than six days, nor more than 20 days, after a primary or general election, the Town will meet to canvass the votes. August 12, 2024, is 13 days after the Primary Election. Pinal County is also scheduled to canvass the votes on Friday, August 12, 2024.

When the results of the canvass are determined, the Town Clerk must enter upon the records a statement known as the official canvass, which must state the following:

The total number of ballots cast at said primary election, as shown by the poll lists or reported by the county, was 3720. The total number of registered voters for the Primary Election was 10,158. Thus, the voter turnout for the Primary Election was 36.62%

The number of ballots rejected was 188 ballots.

The votes cast for the candidates for mayor were as follows:

Candidate for Mayor	Early Ballot	Election Day	Provisional	Total
Cordes, Michelle	1363	282	3	1648
Eaton Keith	1385	344	2	1731

The votes cast for the candidates for councilmember were as follows:

Candidate for Council	Early Ballot	Election Day	Provisional	Total
Bedford, Sherrie L.	1787	315	5	2107
Bencina, James "Tony"	1881	405	4	2290
Florea, Tracy	1643	294	4	1941
Write In's Candidates				
Larson, Kyle				177
Mendoza, Johnie				320
Arthur, Wilkerson				184

The following will be issued certificates of election:

Mayor
Keith Eaton

Council
James "Tony" Bencina
Sherrie L. Bedford
Tracy Florea

Statistical Data of Prior Elections.

The following table identifies the voter turnout for prior elections.

<u>ELECTION</u>	<u>REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTES CAST</u>	<u>VOTER TURNOUT PERCENTAGE</u>
PRIMARY 2002	2,458	798	32.50
PRIMARY 2004	3,276	940	28.70
PRIMARY 2006	3,270	264	8.00
PRIMARY 2008	3,269	745	22.79
PRIMARY 2010	3,976	1,332	33.43
GENERAL 2010	3,827	1,639	43.83
PRIMARY 2012	4,122	2,144	52.00
GENERAL 2012	3,948	1,869	47.30
PRIMARY 2014	4,176	1,505	36.04
GENERAL 2014	4,299	2,436	56.66

PRIMARY 2016	4,930	2,037	41.32
GENERAL 2016	5,176	4,104	79.28
PRIMARY 2018	5,820	2,312	39.73
PRIMARY 2020	7,043	3,138	42.23
GENERAL 2020	8,088	6,286	77.72
PRIMARY 2022	8,981	3,577	39.8
PRIMARY 2024	10,158	3,720	36.62

Discussion on Steps Moving forward:

Tracy Florea has officially withdrawn her candidacy from the upcoming Town Council election. Her withdrawal letter was received on August 4, 2024, via email. In her correspondence, Ms. Florea also indicated that she no longer resides within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Florence. As a result, although the votes are currently being canvassed, she is no longer eligible to serve on the Town Council.

Given the complexities and nuances of this situation, especially with statutory guidelines being somewhat vague, I have collaborated closely with the Town Attorney and consulted with several agencies including the County Recorder, County Attorney, other town and city clerks, and the Secretary of State's office since receiving the notice of her withdrawal.

As per the current statutory framework, the vacancy on the Town Council will not formally exist until the new term begins. This means that on December 9, 2024, when the new Council is officially seated, the vacant term will become effective. At the December 9, 2024 Special Council Meeting, after the selection of a Vice-Mayor, the Council will deliberate on how they would like to address the appointment to fill the vacant term.

At that time, Town staff will provide a more detailed briefing on the process for making the appointment and discuss the implications for future terms of office.

A VOTE OF NO WOULD MEAN:

A No vote means that the Town of Florence must reconvene to canvass the vote before August 19, 2024.

A VOTE OF YES WOULD MEAN:

A Yes vote means that the Town has accepted the results of the July 30, 2024 Primary Election.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact in approving the results of the 2024 Primary Election.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 1915-24
Voting Results

RESOLUTION NO. 1915-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING AND ADOPTING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY/GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON JULY 30, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Town of Florence, Pinal County, Arizona held a primary election on the 30th day of July 2024 for the election of a Mayor and three Councilmembers; and

WHEREAS, the election returns have been presented to and have been canvassed by the town council pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 16-642 and 16-646; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Florence, Pinal County, Arizona, declare the results of the election, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the total number of ballots cast at said primary election, as shown by the poll lists or reported by the county, was 3720. The total number of registered voters for as of the Primary Election was 10,158. Thus, the voter turnout for the Primary Election was 36.62%

SECTION 2. That the number of ballots rejected was 188 ballots.

SECTION 3. That the votes cast for the candidates for mayor were as follows:

Candidate for Mayor	Early Ballot	Election Day	Provisional	Total
Cordes, Michelle	1363	282	3	1648
Eaton Keith	1385	344	2	1731

SECTION 4. That the votes cast for the candidates for councilmember were as follows:

Candidate for Council	Early Ballot	Election Day	Provisional	Total
Bedford, Sherrie L.	1787	315	5	2107
Bencina, James "Tony"	1881	405	4	2290
Florea, Tracy	1643	294	4	1941
Write In's Candidates				
Larson, Kyle				177
Mendoza, Johnie				320
Arthur, Wilkerson				184

SECTION 5. That it is hereby found, determined and declared of record, that the following candidate did receive a majority of all votes cast for the office sought and is hereby issued certificates of election for mayor:

Keith Eaton

SECTION 6. That it is hereby found, determined and declared of record, that the following council candidates did receive a majority of all votes cast for the office sought and are hereby issued certificates of election:

James “Tony” Bencina

Sherrie L. Bedford

Tracy Florea

SECTION 7. This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY the Mayor and Council of the Town of Florence, Arizona, this _____ day of August 2024.

Tara Walter, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Lisa Garica, Town Clerk

Clifford Mattice, Town Attorney

Pinal County
Unofficial Canvas
Page 24

Summary Results Report
Primary Election
July 30, 2024

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

State of Arizona, County of Pinal

City of Maricopa - Mayor

Vote For 1

	TOTAL	Election Day	Early Provisional Voting	
POTTER, LEON	3,235	668	2,561	6
SMITH, NANCY	5,546	989	4,549	8
Write-In Totals	45	11	34	0
Overvotes	31	3	28	0
Undervotes	670	150	520	0
Contest Totals	9,527	1,821	7,692	14

City of Maricopa - City Council City of Maricopa

Vote For 3

	TOTAL	Election Day	Early Provisional Voting	
GOETTL, ERIC	4,916	1,052	3,854	10
LIERMANN, AMBER	5,602	1,047	4,549	6
MARSH, BOB	4,824	833	3,985	6
O'JON, CHRYSTAL	3,015	437	2,576	2
WILLIS, LE'ON	2,440	360	2,076	4
Write-In Totals	86	20	66	0
Overvotes	27	0	27	0
Undervotes	7,671	1,714	5,943	14
Contest Totals	28,581	5,463	23,076	42

Town of Florence - Mayor Town of Florence

Vote For 1

	TOTAL	Election Day	Early Provisional Voting	
CORDES, MICHELLE	1,648	282	1,363	3
EATON, KEITH	1,731	344	1,385	2
Write-In Totals	15	4	11	0
Overvotes	14	3	11	0
Undervotes	312	76	235	1
Contest Totals	3,720	709	3,005	6

Town of Florence - Town Council

Vote For 3

	TOTAL	Election Day	Early Provisional Voting	
BEDFORD, SHERRIE L	2,107	315	1,787	5
BENCINA, JAMES "TONY"	2,290	405	1,881	4
FLOREA, TRACY	1,941	294	1,643	4
Write-In Totals	758	149	609	0
Overvotes	0	0	0	0
Undervotes	4,064	964	3,095	5
Contest Totals	11,160	2,127	9,015	18

Votes for Official Write-In Candidates	
Candidate	Votes
US Senate - Green	
Quintana, Eduardo	4
US Senate - GOP	
Williams, Dustin Paul	8
Representative CD6 - Green	
Eastwood, Athena	0
State Senate LD16 - GOP	
Nganga, Judy	21
State House - LD10 - Dem	
Simmons, Stephanie	6
Corporation Commission - Green	
Cease, Mike	5
Luxenberg, Nina	3
Board of Supervisors - D1	
McCain, Barry	4
Florence Council	
Wilkerson, Arthur	184
Mendoza, Johnie	320
Larsen, Kyle	177



TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL ACTION FORM

AGENDA ITEM **5b**

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Administration

STAFF PRESENTER: Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk/ Deputy Town Manager

SUBJECT: Certificates of Election

- ☐ Action
- ☒ Information Only
- ☐ Public Hearing
- ☐ Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance
 - ☐ Regulatory
 - ☐ 1st Reading
 - ☐ 2nd Reading
- ☐ Other

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE (Choose one)

- ☐ Community Vitality
- ☐ Economic Prosperity
- ☒ Leadership and Governance
- ☐ Partnerships and Relationships
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Transportation and Infrastructure
- ☐ Statutory
- ☐ None

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION:

Presentation of the Certificate of Election for Mayor Elect Keith Eaton.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

There hereby found, determined and declared of record, that the following candidate did receive a majority of all votes cast for the office sought and is hereby issued certificate of election for mayor to Keith Eaton.

A VOTE OF NO WOULD MEAN:

Not Applicable

A VOTE OF YES WOULD MEAN:

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

Certificate of Election

Certificate of Election

I, Lisa Garcia, Clerk of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, do hereby certify that at the Primary Election held in the Town of Florence, on the 30th day of July 2024,

Keith Eaton

Was duly elected to the Office of Mayor of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, as appears by the official returns approved by the Town Council and on file in my office.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Town of Florence.

Gold Seal

Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk

Date



TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL ACTION FORM

AGENDA ITEM 5c

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Administration

STAFF PRESENTER: Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk/ Deputy Town Manager

SUBJECT: Certificate of Election

- ☐ Action
- ☒ Information Only
- ☐ Public Hearing
- ☐ Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance
 - ☐ Regulatory
 - ☐ 1st Reading
 - ☐ 2nd Reading
- ☐ Other

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE (Choose one)

- ☐ Community Vitality
- ☐ Economic Prosperity
- ☒ Leadership and Governance
- ☐ Partnerships and Relationships
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Transportation and Infrastructure
- ☐ Statutory
- ☐ None

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION:

Presentation of the Certificate of Election for Council Elect James "Tony" Bencina, Council Elect Sherrie L. Bedford and Council Elect Tracy Florea.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

It is hereby found, determined and declared of record, that the following council candidates did receive a majority of all votes cast for the office sought and are hereby issued certificates of election to James "Tony" Bencina, Sherrie L. Bedford, and Tracy Florea.

A VOTE OF NO WOULD MEAN:

Not Applicable

A VOTE OF YES WOULD MEAN:

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

Certificate of Election

Certificate of Election

I, Lisa Garcia, Clerk of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, do hereby certify that at the Primary Election held in the Town of Florence, on the 30th day of July 2024,

James “Tony” Bencina

Was duly elected to the Town Council of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, as appears by the official returns approved by the Town Council and on file in my office.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Town of Florence.

Gold Seal

Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk

Date

Certificate of Election

I, Lisa Garcia, Clerk of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, do hereby certify that at the Primary Election held in the Town of Florence, on the 30th day of July 2024,

Sherrie L. Bedford

Was duly elected to the Town Council of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, as appears by the official returns approved by the Town Council and on file in my office.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Town of Florence.

Gold Seal

Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk

Date

Certificate of Election

I, Lisa Garcia, Clerk of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, do hereby certify that at the Primary Election held in the Town of Florence, on the 30th day of July 2024,

Tracy Florea

Was duly elected to the Town Council of the Town of Florence, County of Pinal, State of Arizona, as appears by the official returns approved by the Town Council and on file in my office.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Town of Florence.

Gold Seal

Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk

Date