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Record number of Arapahoe County voters vote early

LITTLETON, CO --- A record number of voters cast their ballots Friday at Arapahoe County Early Voting Centers - the last day of early voting.

Polls officially closed at 4:30 p.m. Any voters in line at that time, were allowed to continue the voting process. We expect that it will take another two hours to allow everyone standing in line to vote. Anyone who arrived after 4:30 p.m. must vote on Tuesday, Election Day.

Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty said that more than 5,000 people have voted by 4:30 p.m. She expects the final tally may approach 6,000. As of Oct. 31, more than 26,000 people will have voted early in Arapahoe County.

Anticipating today's heavy turnout, Doty added machines at two of the most popular voting locations – CentrePoint Plaza in Aurora and Smoky Hill Library in Centennial.

"Your vote is as important to us as it is to you," said Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy A. Doty. "We've seen record numbers of voters participating in early voting and vote by mail and we are ready to insure a smooth voting process on Election Day."

As of Friday, 155,000 mail-in ballots have been turned in. Of those, 80,000 mail-in ballots have been counted.

On Election Day, Arapahoe County will use more voting machines than ever before. Arapahoe County will deploy 1,300 voting machines to more than 200 polling sites compared to 1,100 machines in 2004.

This year, 207,398 mail-in ballots were requested and 155,000 returned as of Oct. 31. When combined with Early Voting, 180,000 total votes have been cast in Arapahoe County so far. Arapahoe County has 344,088 registered voters.

Based on Early Voting, Vote by Mail and the County's prior voting history, Doty said she expects fewer voters to cast ballots on Election Day than in 2004. That year, 113,757 votes were cast on Election Day. Doty said she anticipates between 54,000 to 75,000 to vote in person on Tuesday.

"We've proactively encouraged voters to vote early and by mail to make the voting process easier for them," Doty said. "We strongly encourage voters who are still holding mail-in ballots to get those returned to us as soon as possible."

Arapahoe County is encouraging the 52,000 people still holding their mail-in ballots to return those ballots as soon as possible. Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. Election night, Nov. 4.

Voters who requested mail-in ballots, must vote by mail-in ballot or will be required to vote a provisional ballot if they go to their precinct polling site.

Mail-in ballots can be dropped off at any of the County's 13 ballot drop off locations. To find the location nearest you, visit www.arapahoevotes.com. Please note that mail-in ballots cannot be dropped off at polling sites on Election Day.

Voters needing help finding their voting poll place can call 303-795-4511 or visit www.arapahoevotes.com or www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

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