



# “Every Vote Counts!”

Increasing Voter Participation in Yuma County

## Final Report

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Plenary Session

1:30-5:30

Yuma Main Library

### Introduction

The Southwest Arizona Futures Forum met for their 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session at The Yuma Main Library on January 19, 2012. Approximately 73 people attended the Plenary to address the topic **Every Vote Counts Increasing Voter Participation in Yuma County**. An informative executive summary of the topic which was inspired by the O’Connor House was prepared by Yuma County Administrator, Robert Pickels. The executive summary was distributed to approximately 230 members of SAFF prior to the plenary. A copy is attached to this report.

The plenary began with a panel discussion who included:

**Ken Bennett**, *Arizona Secretary of State*

**Lynn Constable**, *Yavapai County Elections Director*

**Karen McCracken**, *Yavapai County Registrar of Voters*

**Robyn S. Pouquette**, *Yuma County Recorder*

**Sue Reynolds**, *Yuma County Elections Director*

**Greg Ferguson**, *Republican Party*

**Luis Heredia**, *Democratic Party*

Robert Pickels moderated the discussion. Presentations were followed by an informative question and answer session, and then the participants broke into four discussion groups in order to address selected questions on the topic. The facilitators, Tom Tyree, Bill Gresser, Judy Gresser and Bob Sloncen lead the four breakout groups. The recorders, Kay Eldridge, Julie Engel, Sharon Gardner and Frank West documented the consensus of each group. This information was then given to the report committee, Cindy Baker & Dr. Michael Trend. They reviewed each breakout group's answers and consolidated similar findings.

Following the extensive discussion on the questions, the entire group reconvened to enjoy appetizers and refreshments while expressing their experiences of the plenary. Cindy Baker presented the final report to the participants.

**Special Thanks go to:**

Panel Participants:

Ken Bennett, *Arizona Secretary of State*  
Lynn Constable, *Yavapai County Elections Director*  
Karen McCracken, *Yavapai County Registrar of Voters*  
Robyn S. Pouquette, *Yuma County Recorder*  
Sue Reynolds, *Yuma County Elections Director*  
Greg Ferguson, *Republican Party*  
Luis Heredia, *Democratic Party*

Yavapai County Recorder: Leslie Hoffman

O' Connor House Representatives: Madeline Coil & Judy Gresser

Moderator-Robert Pickels

Final Report-Cindy Baker & Dr. Michael Trend

Panel Chairs & Facilitators:

Facilitator: Bob Sloncen  
Recorder: Frank West

Facilitator: Judy Gresser  
Recorder: Sharon Gardner

Facilitator: Bill Gresser  
Recorder: Julie Engel

Facilitator: Tom Tyree  
Recorder: Kay Eldridge

Facility-Susan Evans and staff of Yuma Main Library

Refreshments-Paula Backs, Major James Combs & Robert Misemer

Technical & Logistical Support-Elizabeth Chavez, Ed Jin (Website & technical support)

Plenary Photographer: Richard Martin & Robert Misemer

SAFF Steering Committee: Paula Backs, Wayne C. Benesch, Elizabeth Chavez, Major James Combs, Bill Gresser, Machele Headington, Col. Robert Kuckuk, Richard Martin, Robert Misemer, Shelley Mellon, Doug Mellon, Robert Pickels, Bob Sloncen, Dr. Michael Trend, Tom Tyree, Patty Ware, Frank West and Greg Wilkinson