

Petitions and Signatures

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Under Arizona statute (ARS 9-101), there are two ways to form a new city or town: one is by a 2/3's supermajority signature vote and the other by a 10% collection of signatures and a subsequent election of the simple majority. Both methods require a substantial signature gathering campaign and validation by election officials. It was always the intent of the Incorporate Vail AZ (IVA) committee to bring Vail incorporation to the ballot in November.

On August 8, 2023, the IVA ended their signature campaign and submitted 223 petitions with 2,637 signatures to the Pima County Elections Department. Each petition was serialized and included the language calling for an election of the simple majority. The petitions also included the metes and bounds and map of the Vail boundary. Upon initial review, the Elections Department rejected 10 petitions for procedural reasons leaving 213 petitions and 2,542 signatures for consideration. The final report of their eight-day extensive review of the petitions and signatures revealed the following:

- 2,058 signatures were verified at the time of signing
- 193 signatures were invalid because the voter was not registered at the time of signing
- 2 signatures were invalid because the address was missing or illegible
- 15 signatures were invalid because the address was invalid
- 69 signatures were invalid because the signature didn't match the signature on file
- 8 signatures were invalid because the signature could not be identified or was illegible
- 3 signatures were invalid because the signing date was missing
- 4 signatures were invalid because the signer registered after the sign date
- 14 signatures were invalid because the voter signed more than once
- 176 signatures were invalid because the voter was registered in the wrong jurisdiction

This summary gives a good indicator of the rigor by which the Pima County Elections Department and Recorders Office verified the petitions and signatures. It resulted in an 81% acceptance rate and gave a cushion of 521 signatures over the 1,537 signatures required to place Vail incorporation on the November ballot. On August 21st, the Pima County Board of Supervisors ratified the petition and authorized the vote for November 7th, 2023.

There will be a series of public meetings beginning on August 29 then again on September 11, September 25 and October 10. All of these public meetings will be held at 6:00 at the Cienega High School student union. All are welcome to attend. These meetings may be broadcast and/or recorded. Please go to the Incorporate Vail AZ facebook page or www.lovevailvotetail.com for more information.

This is an important time for our community. Vail was founded in 1880 by Walter Vail as a railroad crossing community. In 1893, it was christened a town even though Arizona statehood was still 19 years in the future. Formalizing the Vail community gives us credibility to the world, increases citizen participation, brings better public services, increases accountability, reduces the power and influence of centralized big government, and fosters a sense of community. Incorporating Vail would put our community on the list of 91 other cities and towns in Arizona.

It is through this public democratic process that citizens can rally together to create a sustainable community with all the rights and privileges granted to municipalities. We would make our own decisions about our future. We'd own our sovereignty. Vail would be an official place on the map. Help make Vail our hometown by voting YES on proposition 402 on November 7th!