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(S.D.)-Pine Ridge Voters Will Get Full Six Weeks Of Early Voting

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/19/2012 05:33 PM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - Voters in Shannon County will have a full six weeks of early voting in Pine Ridge beginning Friday, thanks largely to a federal voting rights lawsuit filed by residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The lawsuit prompted Secretary of State Jason Gant and other officials to provide funding for a full 46 days of early voting at a polling place in Pine Ridge, the same period of early voting allowed elsewhere in South Dakota. The original plan in Shannon County was for only six days of early voting.

Gant says an agreement was reached to find the extra money to fund the satellite absentee voting center in Pine Ridge. The satellite polling center is necessary because Shannon County does not have its own courthouse.

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