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**ELECTIONS INTEGRITY COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
DECEMBER 2011**

**ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION (EIC)  
MISSION STATEMENT**

*To provide independent oversight of the County election process and to review and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding election information technology systems as well as technical and procedural matters.*

The EIC Annual Report is a publication, filed at the close of the calendar year. It is intended to keep Commission stakeholders, County executives/officials, and representatives apprised of important activities, meeting schedules, election updates, and other relevant information for those unable to attend monthly EIC meetings. The Annual Report will be distributed to the Board of Supervisors and Political Party officials, via email, and posted on the EIC website.

**EIC APPOINTMENTS**

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	E-Mail Address	TERM EXPIRES	APPT# BY
Michael	Duniho	<a href="mailto:maduniho@cox.net">maduniho@cox.net</a>	12/07/12	District 4
Ann-Eve	Pedersen	<a href="mailto:pedersen@amethystine.com">pedersen@amethystine.com</a>	09/30/12	District 5
Patrick	Pecoraro	<a href="mailto:pat@kalilbottling.com">pat@kalilbottling.com</a>	12/14/12	District 2
Arnold B.	Urken	<a href="mailto:arniebu@gmail.com">arniebu@gmail.com</a>	07/31/12	County Administrator
Tom	Ryan	<a href="mailto:TWMJRYAN@cox.net">TWMJRYAN@cox.net</a>	07/31/12	District 3
Charles	Geoffrion	<a href="mailto:cg_comm@msn.com">cg_comm@msn.com</a>	08/31/12	District 1
Benny	White	<a href="mailto:bennywhite1@cox.net">bennywhite1@cox.net</a>	12/07/12	Republican Party
Jim	March	<a href="mailto:1.jim.march@gmail.com">1.jim.march@gmail.com</a>	06/07/13	Libertarian Party

11/7/12 file

Andrew	Spencer	<a href="mailto:aspencer@email.arizona.edu">aspencer@email.arizona.edu</a>	09/30/11	Green Party
Barbara	Tellman	<a href="mailto:barbt2@cox.net">barbt2@cox.net</a>	05/03/13	Democratic Party

### **EIC WEBSITE**

[www.pima.gov/commission/ElectionIntegrity.shtml](http://www.pima.gov/commission/ElectionIntegrity.shtml)

### **EIC MEETING SCHEDULE**

Meetings were held on the following dates:

- Friday, January 21, 2011
- Friday, February 25, 2011
- Friday, April 1, 2011
- Friday, May 6, 2011
- Friday, June 10, 2011
- Friday, August 26, 2011
- Friday, September 16, 2011
- Friday, October 21, 2011
- Friday, December 2, 2011

### **GENERAL TOPICS**

#### **ELECTIONS CONDUCTED**

Procedures were reviewed for the following elections:

- March 8, 2011 – Consolidated Primary Elections for City of South Tucson, Town of Marana, and Town of Sahuarita.
- May 17, 2011 – Consolidated Elections for City of South Tucson, Town of Marana, and Town of Sahuarita.
- August 30, 2011 – Consolidated Elections for the City of Tucson
- November 8, 2011 – Consolidated Elections for the Pima County/City of Tucson School District Governing Boards, to include financial questions.

## **LEGISLATION & SECRETARY OF STATE ELECTIONS MANUAL**

### **Legislation**

Throughout the year, two (2) pieces of election legislation were passed and signed by the Governor on April 29, 2011; House Bill 2303 – Voting Centers and House Bill 2304 – Section 2811 - Scanned Ballot Election Auditing Pilot Program.

As a result of HB2304, Commission members requested that the Board of Supervisors make a formal request to the Secretary of State's Office for Pima County to be considered in the Ballot Scanning Pilot Study, in which a pilot test of ballot scanning will be conducted by the Secretary of State with one or two counties, guided by the chosen county's Board of Supervisors and at no cost to the chosen county. Mr. Huckelberry supported the Commission's interest in allowing Pima County to participate in the study with a formal letter, dated September 20, 2011.

Specifications will be written by the Secretary of State's Office, who will select the county and vendor to participate in the study.

### **Elections Procedures Manual**

In 2010, Secretary of State Bennett created a Committee from 15 counties, including political party representatives, and various election-related activity groups to discuss and submit comments regarding updates to the current procedures manual. The same group was asked again in 2011. Election practices and current security inventory was taken from each county and evaluated by the Secretary of State. The primary changes that occurred to the Manual were to bring the Procedures Manual into alignment with Legislation that had been passed in the 2011 Legislative Session.

The Election Procedures Manual was reviewed by the Attorney General in October and approved in November. The Manual was forwarded to the Justice Department for a 60-day review period for final approval prior to the Presidential Preference Election on February 28, 2012.

### **VOTER REGISTRATION**

The next deadline for voter's to register for the Presidential Preference Election is January 30, 2012. Multiple sources are available for potential voters to register with Driver's License Applications being the largest source.

### **VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING**

#### **Early Voting**

Voter's can request an early ballot for a specific election, or choose to place themselves on the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL). To participate in PEVL, voters can make a written request to the Pima County Recorder's Office (<http://www.recorder.pima.gov/>), asking to be placed on the list. Voters will receive prior notice of upcoming elections and dates that ballots will be mailed to their address. A form can be filled out to remove a voter from the list.

The Permanent Early Voter List has shown to increase voter turnout in elections. Voters who choose to vote early will most likely opt to be on the PEVL. The PEVL has attracted both support and opposition. While PEVL increases voter turnout, analysis has shown that the list tends to contain older, more conservative voters. This is in contrast to the more broadly representative voter demographic that participates at the precinct polling place.

Also, upcoming legislation is being discussed to remove PEVL, as some feel the potential for fraud occurs in early voting.

### **All-Mail Election**

The Recorder's Office completed an election cycle where some school districts opted for an all-mail format, which gave insight into the differences between polling place elections and all-mail elections.

In the Spring, the County Superintendent's Office informed the Recorder's Office that several school districts were contemplating November elections and they wanted an estimate of what the election costs would be to see whether they could afford them.

In February, Chris Roads, County Recorder's Office, made presentations to the school district finance and administration departments in Pima County, identifying the costs associated with the elections. Roads explained that there was a point at which the overall cost of an election begins to decrease when conducting an all-mail ballot election. Polling place elections are conducted by numerous election staff/polling place staff for one voter at a time. An all-mail election allows the Elections Department to hire a vendor who can assemble 6,000 ballots in an hour on a machine using only three (3) people. The labor cost significantly decreases when items are mass-mailed and ballot assembly is quicker.

When a jurisdiction hits 50% of their registered voters on the PEVL, they begin to save money when conducting an all-mail election. Roads took the jurisdictions with 50% PEVL and put together estimates of cost savings. The majority of the school districts saved money during an all-mail election and it was shown that early voting and an increase in voter turnout helped that result.

Pima County was not permitted to hold an all ballot-by-mail election until recently. The last legislative session included a provision which stated that all-mail ballot elections can take place as long as there's no "candidate" on the ballot.

A concerning factor for an all-mail election includes the future of mail delivery, as the United States Postal Service, in an effort to save cost, is considering the closure of the Cherry Belle Postal Service location and taking away Saturday mail delivery. This will add one to two extra days in mail delivery time to receive all-mail ballots.

Future elections that are conducted via all-mail will be thoroughly reviewed by the EIC.

## **PRECINCT AND POLLWORKER TOPICS**

### **Precinct Updates**

Since 2007, nearly 50% of registered Pima County voters have placed themselves on the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL) This has reduced the need for precinct polling places. As a result, Pima County has proposed to reduce the number of precinct polling places by one-third.

Tentative Re-Districting maps were approved during the December 16<sup>th</sup> Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) meeting, paving the way for precinct changes in a number of Districts in Pima County.

Mapping information can be found on <http://www.azredistricting.org/>.

Once redistricting is complete, the Recorder's Office will begin mass-mailing new voter ID cards to all voters.

### **Poll Worker Topics**

Throughout 2011, Commission members, with the help of the Pima County Elections Department and the Recorder's Office, updated the Poll Worker Evaluation Form, making it easier for the poll worker to express their experiences, anonymously, during an election cycle. In October, the final draft was complete and will be distributed during the next Election training cycle, and made available at polling places during the 2012 elections. As the new County web site is rolled out, the ability to provide feedback will be available online.

Additionally, Commission members discussed ways to simplify the poll worker process. Discussions over the year included poll worker pay, training, retention, and evaluation.

Poll workers tend to be older, making a 16-hour or more commitment difficult. Pima County is researching ways to encourage younger voters to support their local elections. Pay is a large incentive to poll worker retention and recruitment.

Training retention is challenging, but the Elections Department dedicates numerous hours to provide the best training and support materials for our poll workers. Following each election a Precinct "Scorecard" is created, then tabulated on a spreadsheet to identify good and bad performing Precincts as well as progress overall in eliminating errors. Continued discussions are expected in 2012.

## **AUDITING ELECTIONS**

A General Audit spreadsheet for 2010 was presented for EIC review during the January 2011 meeting. Specific concerns regarding incorrect ballot counts were discussed. Improvement was found in ballot counts during the 2010 election. Due to handling errors, ballots were found to be stuck together so more than one was handed out to voters at a few of the Precincts. Some ballots were not counted after going through the AccuVote machine which stops

automatically when this type of error occurs. This is likely due to the length of the ballot and poll workers not noticing the ballot needed attention. During the 2010 election recount, 54 ballots were found, which weren't counted in the original election count; most were from the emergency ballot drawer.

The Elections Department agreed that the ballot inventory from the vendor needed improvement, but poll worker reports on incorrect ballot inventory has decreased.

Provisional ballot count discrepancies between the County Elections Office and the Recorder's Office were noted, which may be due to each department's processing differences. Discrepancies are recorded in the Precinct ballot report. County Elections provides a provisional ballot count, from the polls, to the Recorder's Office. There is no current documentation of the number of provisional and conditional provisional ballot affidavit envelopes which were not verified and which also contained no ballot.

### **SECURITY AND CONTROLS**

Providing additional controls and cross checks in the election process is one of the major interests of the Commission. These controls range from initial ballot printing and distribution through the collection, tabulation, audit and storage processes. Voter fraud or negligence was also explored with the Recorder's Office and Commission members providing anecdotal evidence of possible intentional fraud. The Commission determined that improvement of the tracking and posting process for early ballots processed as well as better information on Provisional ballots is needed. The November election provided some examples, but none appeared to be egregious cases justifying prosecution by the County Attorney. A review of the decision to not use modems to transmit tabulated Precinct results was also discussed and no change was recommended.

Several agenda items have addressed the ability to scan and electronically audit all voted ballots. The Commission has gone on record to recommend to the Board that these technologies be further studied. The Board asked the County Administrator to submit a letter to the Secretary of State's Office expressing interest in participating in a ballot imaging test project enabled by the passage of House Bill 2304. The Secretary of State's Office has not yet initiated the steps to conduct a test, primarily due to totally unrelated workload such as a recall of the President of the Senate, revision of the Elections Procedure Manual, and preparation for the Presidential Preference Election in November, 2012.

The significant increases in cost to operate elections (as much as 78% over the 2004 Presidential election year) was addressed with some questions as to the cost benefit of some of the security procedures initiated since the 2006 RTA Election challenge, but the Commission also acknowledged the increasing difficulty, and cost, to obtain appropriate polling places and pay to staff the precincts. The Commission will continue to explore ways to improve transparency, security, and increased controls in a cost effective manner.

The Recorder's Office and the Elections Division continue to strive to improve controls and security with the Commission providing input and recommendations.

#### **COST OF ELECTIONS & TECHNOLOGY**

The Secretary of State's Office is working on a state-wide funding model in which costs can be determined and reported for each county. It was suggested that the State provide a Standard Chart of Accounts; a cost outline template, which can be used to identify what costs to consider when holding an election. Secretary of State Bennett was interested in the idea.

County election officials have expressed their concern about the out-dated voting technology now in use. Pima County and Maricopa County used optical scan technology before any other county, and Secretary Bennett recognizes that 70% of Arizona's voters are using equipment which is 15 years old or more. Counties are beginning to worry about who they can turn to for vendor support should systems go down. Some systems are only certified for use on a Windows 2000 server. As servers cannot be upgraded, failures begin to happen, and parts become scarce.

#### **ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION BY-LAWS**

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, the Commission approved the final updated version of the Commission By-Laws. Bylaws can be found on the EIC website.