

Pima County Election Integrity Commission

<http://www.pima.gov/commission/ElectionIntegrity.shtml>

Minute Summary

The Pima County Election Integrity Commission met in regular session on June 10, 2011, at the Pima County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, 1st Floor, 130 W. Congress, Tucson, Arizona 85701.

Upon roll call, those present were as follows:

Item 1: Roll Call

Present: Mickey Duniho, Charles Geoffrion, Jim March, John Moffatt, Pat Pecoraro, Drew Spencer, Barbara Tellman, and Benny White

Absent: Ann-Eve Pedersen, Tom Ryan, Arnie Urken

Also in attendance: Brad Nelson, Pima County Elections Department

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance:

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3: Approval of the May 6, 2011 Minute Summary:

The minute summary was reviewed by the members of the Commission. No changes were noted. Pat Pecoraro motions to accept the minutes; Barbara Tellman seconds the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4: Poll Worker Evaluation Form – Brad Nelson

Mike Dale continues to work on the possibility of placing the new survey online, although he is out sick today. Brad Nelson asks that this topic be tabled until the July meeting.

The Elections Department hopes to utilize the online survey for some November 2011 School Board Elections.

Item 5: Poll Book Progress Update – Brad Nelson

Brad Nelson remains pessimistic about the poll books, and believes the counties who use the poll books aren't successful unless they use a notebook computer or CPU that is hard-wired back to the voter registration office via a Citrix connection. The poll books Brad Nelson was most interested in were used in Yavapai County, and Secretary Bennett seemed to be an advocate for such technology.

Brad Nelson does not believe the equipment (Express Book 5000) is robust enough, as the equipment is breaking in transport, from voting location to the County Clerk's Office. Mr. Huckelberry has been made aware of the difficulties, and concurs that this issue has gone as far as the current information allows. Brad suggests that this topic should be removed from Commission discussion.

The topic will be brought back if the equipment and technology improves.

Item 6: Secretary of State Legislative Status Update – John Moffatt

John Moffatt, Brad Nelson, and Benny White attended the Secretary of State's Election Procedures Manual meeting to discuss improvements to the manual.

The updates were broken down into three (3) categories: Modifications required by the Legislation; Elections official's feedback; and Non-Elections official's feedback. The Secretary of States Office encourages the public and Elections representatives to submit comments for consideration. There are three (3) additional meetings scheduled: July 26th, August 17th, and September 15th. Final comments will be compiled and reviewed for final inclusion in the manual. The final document will be sent to the Governor in October, and to the Department of Justice in November. The Commission is encouraged to review the handouts, provided by John Moffatt. Suggestions can be forwarded to John Moffatt or directly to the Secretary of States Office.

Meetings are open to the public.

Materials provided: Spreadsheet of Recommendations and changes to the State Elections Procedures Manual, dated June 1, 2011.

Item 7: Ballot Scanning Pilot Study Draft Letter – John Moffatt

At the May 6th EIC meeting, Tom Ryan volunteered to draft a letter, recommending that the Board of Supervisors make a formal request to the Secretary of State for Pima County to be considered in the Ballot Scanning Pilot Study (HB 2304).

Tom Ryan could not attend this meeting, but provided the EIC with a draft letter for review, and a letter of support from Associate Professor Christian S. Collberg, who's interested in participating in the ballot scanning pilot study. Legislation noted that the pilot program may include analytical assistance from one or more of the universities, under the direction of the Arizona Board of Regents.

John Moffatt sent the draft letter to the Secretary of State's Office, and posed questions, based upon the statute. The Secretary of State's Office provided feedback, which John included into another draft letter for the Commission to review, structured as to how the Secretary of State's Office and Pima County would like to proceed.

John Moffatt explains his changes with the Commission. He asks that the Commission provide their feedback before it's finalized. There is no rush in finalizing the letter, as there are no anticipated elections to utilize for the study given the anticipated schedule with the Secretary of State's Office.

There is some confusion as to what the Secretary of State's Office considers a "live election." John Moffatt has asked the Secretary of State's Office for clarify. Mickey Duniho suggests the letter be written with basic content. He suggests that the letter state that Pima County agrees to participate and assist in developing a plan, but that the Board of Supervisors will want to review the plan before they agree to go forward with the implementation. John Moffatt agrees.

Motion

Mickey Duniho makes a motion to ask Tom Ryan and John Moffatt to work on a new draft that expresses interest in participating and expresses the Board of Supervisors insistence that they have some right to review the plans.

The Commission will review another draft of the letter and finalize it by the July meeting. Once finalized and approved by the Board of Supervisors, it will be forwarded to Secretary Bennett's Office.

Barbara Tellman seconds the motion. Pat Pecoraro asks that a draft be forwarded to the Commission before the July meeting for another review.

Mickey Duniho asks that Tom Ryan draft the final draft of the letter.

The Commission takes a motion; motion unanimously carries.

Materials provided: Draft Model Letter (Tom Ryan) to Secretary of State Ken Bennett, from the Pima County Board of Supervisors reference Graphic Scanning Pilot Study; Letter from Associate Professor Christian S. Collberg, from the University of Arizona's Computer Science Department, offering support for the Graphic Scanning Pilot Study, dated May 17, 2011; Model letter (John Moffatt) to Secretary of State Ken Bennett, from the Pima County Board of Supervisors reference Graphic Scanning Pilot Study.

Item 8: Precinct Drawing – Redistricting – Brad Nelson

Redistricting

The Board of Supervisors districts will be redrawn, so they are similar in population. The Redistricting Advisory Committee was appointed by the Board of Supervisors and will advise on the redrawing of the County Supervisor district lines. Meetings will be held around Pima County with the goal of developing a draft district map for review. The next meeting is June 16, 2011, in Sahuarita. Meetings are public and more information can be found on their website: <http://www.pima.gov/redistricting/committee.shtml>

Meetings have been going well and moving forward. The County's Geographic Information Systems department has been assisting by providing a live map to change boundaries during meetings.

Precinct Drawing

The County has 417 election precincts, but with less people going to the polls, precincts will soon consolidate. Brad Nelson hopes to bring a map of the County-wide consolidations by the July meeting, but advises the Commission that the redistricting for the Board of Supervisors takes precedence. The changes to precincts will go before various bodies (Board of Supervisors and Department of Justice) for final approval. Advocacy groups will also review the changes.

The only other jurisdiction line that will change will be the Justice precinct lines, where the Justices of the Peace and the accompanying Constables are located.

Precinct drawings and jurisdictional changes are in a state of flux until the Independent Redistricting Commission gets done with their changes to the Congressional District and State Legislative District lines. That information will not be complete until September or October 2011.

Once the maps are drawn, and the EIC has done their work, there will be a series of public meetings to discuss the map and district changes.

Jim March asks if there is an effort to keep ethnic and tribal groups together when redistricting, as in some cases, grouping certain ethnicities and tribal groups together could skew an election. Brad Nelson explains that at a State and County level, you cannot have “regression.” If a district has a 52% Hispanic surname, you have to maintain that percentage. The tribal groups may want to remain in one district, which they can do.

Brad Nelson will update the Commission at the next meeting.

Materials provided: Redistricting Advisory Committee Meeting Dates handout.

Item 9: 2011 Election Update – Brad Nelson

There is a Consolidated Election in August 2011 in the City, but not in the County.

The next County Elections will be November 2011. Sunnyside and the Marana Unified School District will have an Election in November 2011 for their Governing Board.

Several school districts are still considering Elections: Continental School District, Flowing Wells School District, Catalina Foothills School District, and Tanque Verde School District. The County Superintendent's Office will verify their commitment by June 20th. Districts that overlap the City of Tucson will have mail-in ballots; Marana and Sunnyside will have polling places.

Benny White states that there are a number of issues yet to be resolved in the City Elections, as to what procedures and processes will be applied. Another outstanding issue is in regards to the Voter Identification. The County Recorder does not provide access to the voter registration database, but instead provides a copy in the ballot replacement locations immediately before an election. But if there's a question about the voting location, the ballot replacement location will contact the City Elections Department to look up the information in the live database to verify.

Benny White was assured by the Recorder's Office that the military ballots will go out 45 days prior to the election. The City of Tucson will send out mail-in ballots 20 days prior to the election. One ballot replacement center will be open 20 days prior to the election through Election Day. Six (6) additional centers will be open on Election Day for ballot replacement and ballot drop-off. No ballot tabulations will take place at any of these locations.

Brad Nelson has told the City Clerk's Office that City of Tucson election ballots can be dropped off at the County Elections Department, as long as the election has taken place within County jurisdictions. The City will provide the same courtesy to the County.

Item 10: Call to the Audience

Charles Geoffrion calls to the Audience. Mary DeCamp (Green Party candidate for Mayor of Tucson) invites the Commission to participate in Clean Elections; forms provided.

Item 11: Next Meeting Date and Time

The Commission will meet again on Friday, July 15, 2011, at 9:00 am, Pima County Administration Building, First Floor, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, 130 W. Congress, Tucson, Arizona 85701.

Item 12: Agenda Items-New Business

Voter Registration

Jim March expresses concern regarding the voter registration documentation between the Secretary of State's Office and the Pima County Recorder's Office, as he believes both online services state conflicting information, which may discourage people from voting. He would like to ask F. Ann Rodriguez to "spot check" registered voters on both websites to verify the information isn't contradictory.

Open Meeting Laws Update

John Moffatt reminds Commission members that all communication shall be done through Catherine Hanna, who will then forward the documentation to the rest of the Commission.

Parking for EIC Meetings

John Moffatt reminds the Commission that parking in the Administration Building garage is reserved for Pima County Administration Building employees, only. Commission members are welcomed to park in the El Presidio Parking Garage, and Catherine Hanna will be happy to validate the parking pass.

Item 13: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 pm.