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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: May 21, 2015

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **November 2015 City of Tucson General Election Costs**

Attached is a May 20, 2015 letter from the Pima County Recorder to the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson. The Recorder's correspondence discusses the cost savings that would be realized by the City if they were to participate in a consolidated November 2015 General Election with the County.

The Recorder is continuing discussions with City of Tucson representatives regarding the potential for such a consolidated election.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: The Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder  
Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator  
Brad Nelson, Elections Director



Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 3145  
Tucson, AZ 85702-3145

County Public Service Center  
240 N. Stone Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Tucson, AZ

**F. Ann Rodriguez  
Pima County Recorder**

*Recording history one document at a time.*

**Christopher J. Roads  
Chief Deputy Recorder  
Registrar of Voters**

Document Recording: (520) 724-4350  
Voter Registration: (520) 724-4330  
Fax: (520) 623-1785  
www.recorder.pima.gov

May 20, 2015

Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor  
Regina Romero, Councilmember  
Paul Cunningham, Councilmember  
Karin Uhlich, Councilmember  
Shirley C. Scott, Councilmember  
Richard Fimbres, Councilmember  
Steve Kozachik, Councilmember  
Tucson City Hall  
255 West Alameda  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
**VIA EMAIL**

**RE: 2015 City of Tucson Elections**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers

At the present time, the plan is for the Recorder's Office to perform signature verification services for the City of Tucson's upcoming Primary and General elections. The voter registration figures that are referenced in this communication are from April 28, 2015 and this number fluctuates every week up or down depending on voter registration activity, updates, deaths or moving out of our community.

There are currently 218,445 registered voters in the City of Tucson. Our current fee for signature verification only per ballot is \$0.75 a signature.

| <b>% of Turnout</b> | <b>Ballots signature verified</b> | <b>Cost at \$0.75 a signature</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 25%                 | 54,611                            | \$40,958                          |
| 30%                 | 65,534                            | \$49,150                          |
| 35%                 | 76,455                            | \$57,341                          |
| 40%                 | 87,378                            | \$65,533                          |

There would also be some additional fees for any problem signature ballots that take more time to resolve such as contacting the voter, sending them a letter that we have a problem with their signature. At this time we have no idea how many of the problem signature ballots there would be but I would estimate not to exceed \$5,000.00 for this service.

I am writing this communication as I am very concerned on the issue of City of Tucson Voters receiving 2 ballots in the mail for the November 3, 2015 elections: one ballot containing the City of Tucson candidates and charter amendments and a different ballot package for the countywide bond questions and any school related issues. Presently there are 135,853 of the active registered voters in the City of Tucson are on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL), so they will be receiving a countywide ballot as well as the City of Tucson ballot. That is 62% of the active registered voters in the City of Tucson. The breakdown by ward is as follows:

| Ward #       | Active Registered Voters | PEVL voters    |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1            | 34,173                   | 20,677         |
| 2            | 47,181                   | 30,867         |
| 3            | 31,731                   | 19,294         |
| 4            | 40,930                   | 25,724         |
| 5            | 28,303                   | 16,997         |
| 6            | 36,127                   | 22,296         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>218,445</b>           | <b>135,853</b> |

**Consolidated Election Costs**

If the City of Tucson would consider a consolidated election with the county for the General Election in November, the Recorder's Office uses the consolidated election fee schedule and the voter registration list maintenance fees. We are in the process of updating these fees to be the following figures, if approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Maintenance Fee for Active registered voters (218,445) and Inactive registered voters (42,498) at \$0.05 per name. That total is 260,943 @ \$0.05 = \$13,047.15.

Consolidated Election Fee for Active Registered voters (218,445) at \$0.10 per name. 218,445 @ \$0.10 = \$21,844. The total cost for the Recorder's Office service for the consolidated election would be approximately \$34,891.15. These fees are not tied to the turnout in the election.

The Election Department fee for handling a consolidated election is at \$0.75 per registered voter. Their cost would be active registered voter 218,445 @ \$0.75 = \$163,834.

The cost for both Recorder's Office and Election Department would be \$34,891.15 + \$163,834 = \$198,725.15 for the City of Tucson to place their candidates and charter changes on the consolidated election ballot. To summarize:

|   |                 |                     |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| Maintenance Fee – active voters                         | 218,445 @ \$.05 | \$10,922.25         |
| Maintenance Fee – inactive voters                       | 42,498 @ \$.05  | \$ 2,124.90         |
| Consolidated Election Participation Fee – active voters | 218,445 @ \$.10 | \$21,844.00         |
| Election Department consolidated Election Fee           | 218,445 @ \$.75 | \$163,834.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |                 | <b>\$198,725.15</b> |

City of Tucson Mayor and Council  
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If the City of Tucson wants to do the "Choice is Yours" booklet as they have done in the past that cost would be borne by the City of Tucson and is not included in this estimate.

I hope that the costs presented above are valuable information to the Mayor and Council in making your decision as to considering the cost savings of doing a consolidated election with the Countywide bond proposals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 724-4356.

Sincerely,



F. Ann Rodriguez  
Pima County Recorder

**CC: VIA EMAIL**  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
C.H. Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator  
Martha Durkin, Interim City Manager  
Roger Randolph, City Clerk  
Brad Nelson, Pima County Elections Director

FAR:pmf

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