



PIMA COUNTY ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 12, 2013
<http://www.pima.gov/commission/ElectionIntegrity.shtml>

The Pima County Election Integrity Commission met in regular session on December 12, 2013 in the Herbert K. Abrams Building, 1st Floor Conference Room # 1104 at 3950 S. Country Club Road, Tucson, Arizona

ITEM 1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Tom Ryan, Arnie Urken, Pat Pecoraro, Mickey Duniho, Bill Beard, Barbara Tellman, Christopher Cole, Elaine Lim, Benny White and Brad Nelson

Absent:

Others in Attendance: Ellen Wheeler, Pima County Administrator's Office

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY – November 15, 2013

It was moved by Bill Beard, seconded by Benny White and carried unanimously to approve the Summary of November 15, 2013 Elections Integrity Commission Meeting.

ITEM 4. EIC to BOS MEMORANDUM – Tom Ryan - Update

Several commission members communicated with their Board of Supervisors member either in person or by telephone. Mickey Duniho spoke with his Supervisor who stated he had seen the memorandum, but that he did not remember any discussion of the memorandum by the Board of Supervisors and as far as he knew there had been no vote taken, and that his perception was that the response was entirely from the chairman and not from the board. He also stated that he actually supported everything that was said on the memorandum and if given a chance to vote on it, he would vote in favor of the Election Integrity Commission's request.

Elaine Lim and Christopher Cole spoke with another Supervisor who stated he had seen and read the memorandum, but both got the same comments as other Supervisors in reference to the memorandum.

Bill Beard spoke with his Supervisor and she is concerned, she echoed some of the same comments as the other supervisors.

Tom Ryan spoke with his Supervisor and she is interested on the Procurement side and wants to be kept up to date.

Arnie Urken met with Mr. Huckelberry along with Ellen Wheeler and Brad Nelson. Arnie commented that the memorandum the commission received from Chairman Valadez which they thought was significant in a way that apparently wasn't, because he did that pro forma to administrative response. He could not copy other people because that would have been in violation of the open meeting law and so the Board is not speaking with any voice here. Ellen Wheeler commented that Mr. Huckelberry's suggestion to the commission was to put together a report for the procurement part. This report would outline the pros and cons about new technology. Lay out the report to show both sides and ask the Board of Supervisors to put the item on the agenda for an open meeting discussion.

Christopher Cole suggested a good solid report for Procurement, Barbara Tellman suggested to do that along with their annual report.

The consensus of the commission is that they need to get the attention of the BoS. Tom Ryan stated that they have time to get the report together and get it to a BoS meeting before the procurement process.

Pat Pecoraro asked if the commission would be making a recommendation about using Accu-Votes at the polls? Tom Ryan replied that would be part of their recommendation. Barbara Tellman discussed several issues/ questions.

Do we want to replace all or some of the equipment by the 2014 election?

If we replace some of the key equipment, do we only replace the central count and forget about having machines at the polling places?

What specific company to go with, and who makes those decisions?

She thinks the board has not looked at the two questions. Benny White mentioned that there is a proposal in place and that they need to discuss that.

ITEM 5. DISCUSSION OF BRENNAN CENTER BEST PRACTICES – Benny White

Brennan Center practices indicates voter turnout increased by early voting opportunities. Our past practices in early voting have been that during large elections the Recorder has approximately 14 locations geographically distributed throughout the county. In smaller elections the locations go down to approximately 7 – 10 locations, with the Recorder's office included as one of the locations.

Early voting sites begin at the same time as when the early ballots are mailed out, which is 29 days prior to election. Statute states that those early voting sites can continue to stay open through the Friday prior to the election. Anything past Friday goes into emergency voting. Emergency voting statutes are very lenient on what constitutes an emergency to the extent that no one is allowed to ask what the emergency is.

In 2008 the Recorder's office had those emergency sites open through Saturday, but were not available on Sunday. In the statute it specifically states that the Monday prior to election day the only site to be available should be the Recorder's office.

We have an extended voting period. The Brennan study indicated the more opportunities you have for early voting, the better the turnout you have. We have a high turn out anyway, more than most counties in the state and better than most counties in the nation.

Benny white would like to expand early voting by hours or possibly adding days. Would like to discuss with the Recorder's office in January if this is a possibility and what would be the additional costs?

Barbara Tellman would like additional locations to drop off ballots the weekend prior to the election. Would like Chris Roads to be invited to the January 24, 2014 meeting to discuss expansion of early voting, emergency voting and increase opportunities for ballot drop off.

ITEM 6. ELECTION UPDATE- November 5, 2013 Vail Incorporation- Brad Nelson

Brad Nelson will give projected costs and these will be e-mailed to commission members. If we use electronic poll books, we are currently not inclined to use them without the poll list. Benny White is concerned with the implementation of the accessible device used in Vail. This device requires vote to be printed on an 8.5 X 11 sheet, which then is duplicated into a ballot that could be scanned. He wants to try to eliminate all the physical manual manipulations. He is also concerned with the secrecy of the ballot. He states "HAVA indicates that voter should be able to vote without assistance and they should be able to get that vote recorded without anybody seeing it." Privacy and independence is the key. The commission has requested that Mary Martinson and Bryan Crane from the Elections Department attend the January 2014 meeting to discuss the impact of removing scanners. Tom Ryan asked, what happens on election night when ballots show up and what happens to the over-vote rate?

Brad Nelson also discussed an incident that took place during the November 5, 2013 election at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center. Due to this incident an inspector and a poll worker were permanently removed from working at any precincts in future elections. Brad Nelson Elections Director wrote a report to the Sunnyside School District Superintendent to report the outcome of his investigation of the incident and also to re-emphasize any additional further training for individuals working at precincts.

ITEM 7. COST OF ELECTIONS UPDATE – Arnie Urken/ Brad Nelson

Arnie Urken commented that the cost of elections is a work in progress. Copies of spreadsheets that John Moffatt e-mailed were passed out to commission members to get an idea to see how much things cost. Arnie will pass copies without a discussion. This report is to try to get numbers for future planning. Arnie Urken will provide a memorandum on how we might use information contained here, or what type of reports people might like to see. Any questions will be sent to Gloria and she will re-direct to Arnie Urken.

ITEM 8. ELECTIONS EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT UPDATE- Brad Nelson

The process will take approximately at least 6 months. Information Technology individuals think the Board of Supervisors will probably have a contract before them of whichever vendor it might be, probably by July 2014. If that happens we will be sticking with what we have through 2014.

This includes scanners at the polls and central count. This is because time will not allow us to receive new equipment, get it acceptance tested and individuals trained. That is a possibility going forward. The last thing we want to do is put a system out there in which we don't have confidence in. Brad Nelson has provided RFP (Request for Proposals) templates from other counties to Pima County Information Technology individuals to use. Mickey Duniho asked about the possibility of leasing equipment for 2014. Brad Nelson will speak with Procurement Director, to see if he would entertain that possibility. Members want to know if an RFP is ready, does it need to be awarded by a certain date? Some members would rather wait for the RFP process if we are not going to get it in place for the 2014 elections. Brad Nelson explained he needs equipment in place, acceptance tested and personnel trained by early 2015.

Benny White recommended that one of the questions for prospective vendors should be if they meet or exceed the 2005 standards and if they exceed, they need to explain how they exceed.

Mickey Duniho asked how late Brad Nelson could wait. Brad Nelson would like to have new equipment in place for any elections that will be held in 2015, and would like to use equipment prior to 2016 Presidential Preference election.

Another question asked by Mickey Duniho was whether we could try different equipment from vendors which were currently being considered for an RFP so equipment could be tested. Brad Nelson would like RFP to move forward. He will reach out to IT Individuals for a date and agenda on what the discussions will be about during the next meeting. IT department is working on the RFP during the next few months.

ITEM 9. SOS VOTER REGISTRATION AND BALLOT PROPOSALS–DISCUSSION – Brad Nelson

Brad Nelson asked if this topic is in reference to ballot bifurcation. He commented that the Procedures Manual has nothing to say about bifurcation.

ITEM 10. E- POLL BOOK – SUMMARY/FUTURE USE – Brad Nelson

The real benefit for the e-poll book is providing the voter registration data out and getting voter history back in. The e-poll book worked wonderful as far as the elections side.

We would like some type of electronic poll book used going forward but in a way which provides the Recorder's office the security she needs. We need to re-emphasize with poll workers using e-poll books that they need to confirm with voters if the address of the voter is current with what shows on their driver's license.

E-poll books for future use need to have some type of auditing capabilities, if we are not going to be using a poll list. In a vote center environment all e-poll books will have to communicate with one another.

Benny White commented that Maricopa County uses an e-poll book and has been experimenting with it about a year, and he wants to know what their experiences have been. Brad Nelson replied that the e-poll book they were using / testing is from a company called Robis Inc. he is not sure if this is in the pilot stages or if they are actually committed.

Benny White discussed that we are writing a requirement about the e-poll book that may not currently be required. He asked if the Democratic Party still used the pink tear sheets. Barbara Tellman replied that she does not think they have been used recently. Benny White states that the pink sheets were not useful, he would question writing this in for a requirement to use an e-poll book.

Brad Nelson commented that the statute states he has to have duplicate copies made for political parties.

He also stated that Yavapai County uses the ES & S Express poll book, which is the same e-poll book Yuma County uses. The Express poll book becomes the encoder to use in the touchscreen voting device, that's where tabulation and voter registration mix and so they had to be certified, because there is that contact between the tabulation system and the voter registration system. The e-poll book that some jurisdictions are looking at going forward, do not contact the tabulation system so there is no need for EAC certification for an e-poll book.

ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS

Benny White mentioned item about early voting expansion. Nothing else discussed.

ITEM 12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Scheduled January 17, 2014 meeting **changed to January 24, 2013**

February 21, 2014 – stays the same

March 21, 2014 – stays the same

ITEM 13. CALL TO AUDIENCE

Bob Hancock a member of the audience had no comment.

ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Tom Ryan, seconded by Bill Beard and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.