



**PIMA COUNTY ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY FOR MARCH 28, 2014**
<http://www.pima.gov/commission/ElectionIntegrity.shtml>

The Pima County Election Integrity Commission met in regular session on March 28, 2014 in the Herbert K. Abrams Building, 1st Floor Conference Room #1104 at 3950 S. Country Club Road, Tucson, Arizona.

ITEM 1. ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Mickey Duniho, Elaine Lim, Matt Smith

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 – February 21, 2014

It was moved by Bill Beard, seconded by Barbara Tellman and carried unanimously to approve the Summary of the January 24, 2014 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY – March 7, 2014

It was moved by Christopher Cole, seconded by Bill Beard and carried unanimously to approve the Summary of the March 7, 2014 meeting.

ITEM 4. NEW ARIZONA LEGISLATION – Bill Beard

Bill Beard provided copies of his "Election Related Bills at the Legislature" for March 2014. Only two on the list have been signed by the Governor, and several others as noted on his list appear to be moving forward. Since the majority of bills on the list are still in committee, Mr. Beard gave the opinion that it is unlikely they will go anywhere.

ITEM 5. REMOVAL OF POLLING PLACE SCANNERS – analysis of impact – Brad Nelson

Brad Nelson stated that there will be 25 pilot polling locations in mixed demographics in the 2014 Primary Election where the ballot scanners will be removed. If the pilot is successful for the Primary, 50 polling places in the 2014 General Election will have the ballot scanners removed. Various opinions were expressed on the subject:

Bill Beard: Ballot scanners help enhance the ability to determine the voter intent by giving a voter a second chance in the event an over-vote is detected and the scanner rejects the ballot.

He contends that removing the scanners leaves the County open for a lawsuit over a change that could potentially disenfranchise a voter.

Christopher Cole: Would not be opposed to the pilot project if it would reveal an increase in error rates to present to the Board of Supervisors.

Benny White: Fully supports the pilot program: the removal of polling place scanners is authorized by current law; in view of the reality that polling place scanners are becoming increasingly unreliable; early balloting is now at 75% of ballots cast.

Arnie Urken: If over-votes are an issue with regard to voter intent, under-votes should also be considered.

Barbara Tellman made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve the pilot program for the purpose of gathering data and Christopher Cole seconded the motion. The vote was 2 in favor, and 5 opposed; the motion did not carry. The pilot program will go forward as planned but without an explicit recommendation to the Board.

ITEM 6. PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONS ON ELECTION ADMINISTRATION – Tom Ryan

Tom Ryan requested moving this Item for discussion after Item 8.

**ITEM 7. ELECTION SYSTEM PROCUREMENT: Update – Brad Nelson
EIC Recommendations – Tom Ryan/Benny White**

Brad Nelson said there is a draft RFP which may be available for his review. When it is available, he will forward the finalized RFP to the Commission members. The RFP will request information on how a system will handle all possible voting parameters including ranked voting, open and closed primaries, straight party voting, etc.

Two vendors will be demonstrating their systems to the Arizona Secretary of State's certification committee for possible certification at the state level. Unisyn will present on April 4th at 1:00, and Dominion will present on April 18th at 1:00. At this point, there has not been a response back to the Pima County Board of Supervisors by the Secretary of State, regarding the March 19th letter from the BOS to SOS requesting a waiver of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) requirement in the State of Arizona Elections Procedures Manual.

ITEM 8. COST OF ELECTIONS – Arnie Urken/Brad Nelson

Referencing the spreadsheet compiled by Pima County of all election costs for 2012, the same information can also be compiled for the 2014 elections. During further discussion, it was requested that other costs be included on the spreadsheet: amortization on election equipment; fixed "core costs," such as costs associated with the day to day operation of the Elections Department and Recorder's Office, such as staffing, building operation and maintenance, equipment maintenance, etc.; election cost reimbursement by other jurisdictions; a prediction of cost versus savings of removing scanners from pilot polling locations as outlined in a memo dated February 20, 2014 from Brad Nelson to the Election Integrity Commission.

Tom Ryan requested that pie charts in three levels be created from the spreadsheet to give a visual picture of how costs are distributed. Level one could show Elections Department costs versus Recorder's Office costs; level two could show Elections costs distributed in basic categories; level

three could be the spreadsheet itself. Responsibility for creation of these charts was discussed in terms of normalizing the procedure, and since the County has the cost information, it was suggested that a County employee be responsible. A determination of who may be responsible should be available by the next meeting. Benny White will produce a sample of what the Election Integrity Commission would like to see.

ITEM 6. PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON ELECTION ADMINISTRATION – Tom Ryan

Tom Ryan resumed reading from the spreadsheet beginning on page 3:

Election officials should take advantage of the resource calculators available through the [Presidential] Commission website: Pima County has similar criteria for evaluating and implementing methods to best process voters in a satisfactory amount of time.

Analyze the reasons for excessive wait times: Predominantly voters taking a long time voting their ballots. Wait times also can occur at the signature table and special situations table.

Jurisdictions should transition to electronic poll books: Pima County is in the process.

Jurisdictions should utilize the many recommendations made available by the EAC “Successful Practices for Poll Worker Recruitment, Training, and Retention”: Pima County has comprehensive procedures for tracking poll worker availability and contact updates (as well as any complaints that might disqualify them). New training manuals and supplemental online training will be available. Tom Ryan recommended that Pima County Election Department training staff read the “Successful Practices” manual.

Jurisdictions should recruit public and private sector employees as well as high school and college students to become poll workers: Pima County does not have a formalized broad-spectrum recruitment program, but does recruit high school students by reaching out to poll workers for referrals such as a family member. Civic organizations that inquire generally decline due to long hours required.

State developed programs should be implemented to recognize employers for supporting their employees who wish to work on Election Day: This is a state issue.

The state should institute poll worker training standards: There are no state standards, *per se*, other than that the Procedures Manual can be used as a guide. This is generally left up to the individual jurisdictions.

Different equipment used in different counties necessitates different training programs, but states must still achieve uniform applications of legal standards: This item may be directed to states where poll worker training is done by the state. In Arizona the Procedures Manual goes to all counties, providing the uniform legal standards. Election Department and Recorder’s Office permanent employees are trained and tested by the Arizona Secretary of State’s office to become Certified Election Officers.

Election authorities should establish advisory groups for voters with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency: Pima County works with Arizona Center for Disability Law and several other advocacy groups. Ballot translations are made through court certified text translators for Spanish language; an O’odham contractor through the Tohono O’odham Nation for recorded ballot translation; Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind for braille ballots as needed.

Election authorities should make every effort through their own website and through traditional communication outlets, especially non-English language media, to reach these voters (with limited English proficiency): The Pima County Elections Department website offers the viewer the option of translating text to Spanish, and the phone has an option for reaching a Spanish speaking employee. In the event of a request for another language there is a resource through Superior Court that is available.

States and localities must adopt comprehensive management practices to ensure accessible polling places: Pima County evaluates polling places using the ADA survey published by the Department of Justice and works with the Arizona Center for Disability Law to review locations.

A checklist ensuring that each polling place is accessible should be kept by the responsible election official for each election, and kept on file to prepare for the next election: In addition to the surveys, pictures are taken as necessary.

Within the polling place, elderly voters and voters with disabilities waiting their turn to vote must have access to chairs until their turn to vote: Seating is available in the polling place, as well as along the route from the parking lot to the voting area if it is a substantial distance.

States should survey and audit polling places to determine their accessibility: Answered above.

Jurisdictions should provide bilingual poll workers to any polling place with a significant number of voters that do not speak English: In the polling locations, "Se Habla Español" stickers are worn by poll workers who speak Spanish. An attempt is made to have a Spanish speaking poll worker in every polling location regardless of demographics, and polling places in areas with high numbers of Hispanic surnames are staffed almost entirely with Spanish speaking poll workers.

Election officials should test all materials for plain language usability: The Elections Department looks at the ballot every time [while under design] as from the eyes of a first time voter for clarity. Proposition summary language on ballots is determined by the Secretary of State and the legislative council.

30

ITEM 9. NEW BUSINESS

Brad Nelson announced that this may be Gloria Abarca's last meeting, and that Sara Balentine would be taking over [coordinating EIC meetings].

ITEM 10. NEXT MEETING DATE

April 18, 2014

ITEM 11. CALL TO AUDIENCE

Bob Hancock was in the audience, and had no comments.

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Bill Beard and seconded by Barbara Tellman and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.