



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Rex Scott, District 1

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Adoption of E-poll books and Vote Centers

PIMA COUNTY- We need to move forward with both vote centers and e-poll books. Every other Arizona county uses e-poll books to check in their voters and verify their identities. Eleven other counties, including Maricopa, make use of vote centers. As we have heard from the League of Women Voters, both these necessary reforms will ***increase election security and efficiency, help to eliminate provisional ballots, allow for faster counting of votes and increase access to voting.***

The four members of the District One team had a two-hour meeting last week with Pima County Recorder Gabriella Cazares-Kelly, the interim Elections Division head, Mary Martinson, and Marion Chubon, who works in the Pima County Recorder's office. We were joined by Misty Atkins, who represents District One on the Election Integrity Commission. After their presentation, we asked these three leaders many questions about their plans for implementing e-poll books and vote centers.

Our questions addressed topics ranging from voter access, connectivity, security, the proposed number of vote centers and many others, including the plans for informing Pima County voters of these changes. We came away from the meeting both well informed and impressed with the scope and substance of their plans. It was obvious that they were not only ready to answer all our questions, but that they had anticipated most of them.

Another important meeting that occurred last week was when the Election Integrity Commission gathered to consider whether or not they would encourage the Board of Supervisors to move forward with e-poll books and vote centers. They have endorsed both reforms and have also suggested some measures to ensure the safety, security and sound operation of our elections. I am certain that everyone in the recorder's office and our elections division will give strong consideration to their wise guidance.

One of the members of the Election Integrity Commission is Benny White, who was the Republican Party candidate for Pima County Recorder in the last election. During the meeting, he called on his colleagues to let ***reality and facts, not assumptions and presumptions*** to guide both their dialogue and decisions. My belief is that the voters of Pima County will also take a reasoned, sensible approach in evaluating the necessity and effectiveness of these two reforms.

Every voter in Pima County deserves to know that their elections will be conducted in an efficient and effective way, with the safety and security of their ballots being our paramount concern. I believe that the adoption of e-poll books and vote centers will assist us in keeping those commitments. Anyone who wants to know more about how our elections are conducted and protected should take the time to become well versed in the available “reality and facts.”

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