



## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY  
County Administrator

October 26, 2020

Mr. Scott J. Nathan  
Voter Protection Corps Foundation  
100 Cambridge Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Delivered Via Email: [snathan@mindspring.com](mailto:snathan@mindspring.com)

Re: **Your October 24, 2020 Letter Regarding Police Presence at Polling Locations on Election Day**

Dear Mr. Nathan:

Thank you for your letter which confirms our verbal discussion and the intent of Pima County regarding law enforcement at polling locations on Election Day. At present, we have no plan to do so, with one exception where poll workers at a particular location have made an advance request for police presence. At this location, an off-duty law enforcement officer will be employed by the County and will abide by all appropriate requirements to be as inconspicuous as possible and outside the 75-foot limit.

As of today, October 26, 2020, the plans to not employ police at polling locations on Election Day remain in place. However, as noted in your letter, this could change if there is a marked increase in threats to the personal safety of voters or poll workers. The only other consideration is possibly to use law enforcement for traffic control at high traffic polling places in or near schools. This should be less than a half dozen sites.

In addition, on Election Day we will ask all law enforcement to provide priority response to any request for assistance at an election polling place should the need arise to summon police to a polling location for any reason.

The voting process in Pima County has been divided between the Recorder who reports to the electorate and the Elections Department which reports to the County Administrator who then reports to the Board of Supervisors. This division responsibility has been viewed as one of many check and balance systems necessary for the conduct of a fair and accurate election.

Mr. Scott J. Nathan

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For whatever reason, I did not receive either of the two letters to election officials in Pima County over the last two weeks about voter intimidation. I suggest, in any future letter, you provide a copy of the communication to myself as County Administrator.

I would add, there is a difference between an early voting site and an Election Day polling location. An early voting site is open to all voters in the County and an Election Day polling location is open only to eligible voters within a particular precinct, dramatically reducing the probability that an incident requiring police presence would occur at an Election Day polling site versus an early voting site.

In summary, there is no present plan to have police presence at 229 Election Day polling locations in Pima County.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

Enclosure

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder  
John Voorhees, Assistant County Administrator  
Brad Nelson, Director, Elections Department



October 24, 2020

*Via Electronic Mail*

Mr. Chuck Huckelberry  
Pima County Administrator  
130 W. Congress Street  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Police Presence At Polling Locations On Election Day

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

I write on behalf of the Voter Protection Corps Foundation, a member of a coalition of election protection organizations in Arizona, regarding the presence of police at polling locations in Pima County on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

As you may know, members of the Election Protection Arizona coalition have sent two letters to election officials in Pima County over the past two weeks regarding voter intimidation, including the presence of police at polling locations as a source of intimidation. In addition, Secretary of State Katie Hobbs published a guidance earlier this month concerning the avoidance and prevention of voter intimidation during this election. We wish to focus on eliminating voter intimidation arising from the presence of law enforcement and private security at polling places on Election Day.

It is our understanding that (a) the Board of Elections (the "Board") is the county department that is responsible for conducting all Election Day operations in Pima County, including managing or supervising the polling locations throughout the county; (b) the Board is aware of relatively few acts of voter intimidation during the early voting process, and certainly not enough instances of voter intimidation to warrant the presence of private security or law enforcement at the polls; (c) subject to certain limited exceptions, the Board will not be posting, stationing or otherwise assigning law enforcement or private security at or near polling places on Election Day; and (d) the exceptions that would warrant the presence of law enforcement or private security at one or more polling places on Election Day are limited to circumstances where, on or before Election Day, threats to the personal safety of voters or poll workers, such as when private individuals or groups armed with semi-automatic or other weapons stand at the

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polls, have occurred. In the event an exception arises, police would be present at the affected polling location(s) only and not at all polls.

If our understanding as described above is accurate, we hereby request that you confirm it in writing as a reply to this letter. If it is not accurate, please inform us in what ways it is not accurate.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact me at (508) 259-6359 or [snathan@mindspring.com](mailto:snathan@mindspring.com).

Thank you in advance.

Very truly yours,

*/Scott J. Nathan*

Scott J. Nathan  
Voter Protection Corps Foundation