



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 2, 2020

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry 
County Administrator

Re: **Elections Oversight 2020**

There has been increased discussion across the country about the integrity of the voting system, leading to what may be one of the most contested and controversial elections, county-by-county, state-by-state ever in our history.

While Pima County has long had safeguards in place to protect against election fraud, a coordinated plan for regular, robust communications is proposed to ensure the residents of Pima County that any occasional error or broader, systematic attempt to tamper with the election system will both not be tolerated.

To provide for centralized review of and communications about the election process, effective Monday, October 5, 2020, an Election Integrity Task Force will be established.

This Task Force is not intended to interfere with the operations of either the County Recorder or Elections Director nor will it diminish the importance of the Election Integrity Commission, which provides independent oversight of the County election process. It is intended to provide a collaborative vehicle to enable immediate, accurate and responsive communication.

The Task Force will lead a coordinated communications response, answering inquiries about early balloting, early ballot drop offs and Election Day voting.

The goals of the Task Force are to:

- Review and ensure that security plans for early voting, early drop off and Election Day polling take into account the steps necessary to ameliorate or deconflict any attempts to interfere with a free and fair election in Pima County;
- Provide rapid responses for any controversies, protests, voter intimidation attempts and more at early voting sites, early drop off sites, polling places and either the County Recorder's Office or the Elections Department;
- Develop a Rapid Response media and social media plan to quickly respond to and/or quash any early-voting or voting-day controversies, rumors, misinformation or disinformation.

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- Develop methods to provide the public and all County personnel who may be called upon to respond to inquiries from the public accurate information about voting. This will include, but is not limited to the development of Frequently Asked Questions, information provided on the website and media releases.
- Ensure that representatives of the County Attorney's Office are assembled and ready to act immediately to defend any action that might thwart the legal casting of a ballot.

The Task Force shall consist of:

- John Voorhees, Assistant County Administrator, Task Force Chair
- F. Ann Rodriguez, County Recorder
- Chris Roads, Chief Deputy Recorder/Registrar of Voters
- Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
- Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
- Brad Nelson, Pima County Elections Director or his designee
- Mark Evans, Director Pima County Communications
- Andrew Flagg, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney

In addition, a Joint Information Center (JIC) will be established at or adjacent to Pima County Elections Department no later than October 30 and will be in place until the election results are finalized. The JIC will be led by Pima County Communications personnel and will include representatives of the County Recorder and Pima County Elections Department. Further details of the composition and operations of the JIC will be recommended by the Task Force.

CHH/mp

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,