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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: June 1, 2021

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Attached Letter Addressed to the Board of Supervisors from Voting Coalitions**

Please see the attached letter addressed to the Board of Supervisors regarding loss of private grant funding for elections based on a new law signed by the Governor on April 7, 2021 (HB 2569). The letter concludes that based on the previous grant funding, the County could potentially be \$1,622,987 short in conducting the next election.

In the past, we have always budgeted those funds necessary to conduct an election and have not relied on grant funding for our elections. Historically, the County has provided all funding necessary to conduct a free, fair and accessible election without relying on grant funds.

In advance of the November 3, 2020 General Election, Pima County did receive a privately funded grant from the Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTLC) for approximately \$950,000. (Split equally between Elections and the Recorder) Per the grantor, the funds were to be generally used for unforeseen COVID pandemic election administration expenses. The grant monies were used to provide extra compensation to temporary election workers who had to conduct their duties without the benefit of being able to social distance.

In summary, we will always provide funding necessary to conduct our elections without relying on any future private grant funding.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: The Honorable Gabriella Cázares-Kelly, Pima County Recorder  
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator



**ARIZONA  
COALITION  
FOR CHANGE**



May 25, 2021

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

Election officials in your county are entrusted with the responsibility of preparing, administering, and conducting elections. We write to urge you to commit adequate funding so that election officials can run free, fair, and accessible elections.

Arizona has a history of using private grant funds to assist local election officials in maintaining a system of free and fair elections. Last election cycle for example, Arizona received \$11.5 million in grant funding to ensure that local election offices had the critical resources they needed to safely serve and encourage voter participation. In light of the pandemic, these rapid response funds were essential to ensuring safe, efficient election day administration, expanding voter education and outreach efforts, launching poll worker recruitment, training and safety efforts, and supporting early in-person voting and vote-by-mail. These measures benefited all Arizona voters and expanded the electorate -- resulting in historic turnout under very adverse circumstances. Many of the innovations in 2020 -- such as curb-side ballot drop off, increased use of secure drop boxes, mobile voting units, and increased election staffing -- were all funded using private grant funds.

On April 9, 2021, despite opposition from county election officials, Governor Ducey signed HB2569 into law. This law prohibits the state from utilizing private money to prepare, administer, or conduct elections. This means that any new or unanticipated costs above-and-beyond the normal cost of conducting an election -- like we saw with the public health crisis in the 2020 election -- cannot be supplemented with additional private grant funding. Therefore, it is critical that election officials have the resources necessary to run future elections and respond to any urgent needs that arise.

The Arizona legislature made it clear that it is the responsibility of the counties to make up any funding shortfalls to conduct elections. We are therefore asking you to commit to allocating \$1,622,987 (your per capita share of the \$11.5 million loss) for election efforts in your county—above and beyond the normal cost of conducting an election— so that election officials can maintain existing access and continue to run free, fair and accessible elections.

At the same time, we would like to bring to your attention an effort at the federal level to secure Congressional funding for election administration and infrastructure. We are working with Center for Secure and Modern Elections (CSME) and The Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL), which recently launched the Election Infrastructure Initiative, a nonpartisan advocacy effort to secure \$20 billion over 10 years in critical election infrastructure funding in the infrastructure package pending before Congress. At least two-thirds of the funds will go directly to local election jurisdictions. You can read more about it [here](#). We are also attaching a short document outlining the Initiative to this letter. We are specifically requesting that you consider signing the letter to Congress [here](#).

Please budget supplemental election funding of \$1,622,987 consistent with the pro rata loss in funding caused by HB2569. Also, please consider signing on to the national effort to have Congress include elections in the pending infrastructure proposal.

Respectfully,

Alex Gulotta, Arizona State Director, All Voting is Local  
Rosemary Avila, Arizona Campaign Manager, All Voting is Local  
Amanda Lugo, Democracy Director, Living United For Change in Arizona (LUCHA)  
Joel Edman, Executive Director, AZ Advocacy Network  
Francisca Gil, Political Director, Arizona Coalition for Change & Our Voice Our Vote Arizona



## **Election Infrastructure Initiative Fact Sheet**

The Center for Secure and Modern Elections (CSME) and the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL)—in partnership with election officials and partner organizations—have formed the Election Infrastructure Initiative to advocate for investments in critical election infrastructure of \$20 billion over 10 years in the 2021 Infrastructure Package.

There are important election reforms under consideration in Congress. The Election Infrastructure Initiative complements those by prioritizing the need for sustained investment in election infrastructure. That is most effectively done by including investments in election infrastructure at the county, municipal and state levels in the 2021 Infrastructure Package.

### **Why Federal Funding is Needed**

Election administrators and national security officials at the federal, state, and local levels work tirelessly to make sure the public's expectations for secure, efficient, and trustworthy elections are met. But our elections face a greater array of threats today than ever before, including interference from hostile foreign countries, outdated infrastructure and equipment, and misinformation and disinformation that challenge public trust in the electoral process. The COVID-19 pandemic added further burdens to the effective administration of elections at every level in 2020, challenging state and local governments as never before, and highlighting the deep need for significantly more federal investment in election infrastructure.

Experts estimate that meeting the full need for election infrastructure over the next decade will require Federal investments of at least \$20 billion at the county, municipal and state levels.

### **Election Infrastructure Officially Designated “Critical Infrastructure” by the Department of Homeland Security**

In January 2017, the Department of Homeland Security officially designated election infrastructure as “part of the existing Government Facilities critical infrastructure sector.”

In making this designation, DHS stated that election infrastructure “is vital to our national interests, and cyber-attacks on this country are becoming more sophisticated, and bad cyber actors – ranging from nation states, cyber criminals and hacktivists – are becoming more sophisticated and dangerous.”

The DHS designation applies to: “storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the election process, and information and

communications technology to include voter registration databases, voting machines, and other systems to manage the election process and report and display results on behalf of state and local governments.”

## **Federal Funding Should Go Directly to Local Election Jurisdictions**

Election administration is one of this country’s most localized tasks, run at the county level in most states and at the municipal level in others. Past federal efforts have awarded election infrastructure funds nearly exclusively to states. In many cases, only limited funds have made it to the jurisdictions at the county and city level that are largely responsible for managing election infrastructure, including polling locations and voting equipment.

As a result, we recommend that two-thirds of the funding go directly to county and municipal election authorities and one-third to states.

## **Disparities in Election Funding**

Election administration in the United States provides markedly different levels of service to voters depending on where they live. An election department in a lower-income jurisdiction—funded by that jurisdiction’s tax revenue—will usually have fewer voting opportunities and more antiquated infrastructure, making voting less accessible. Election infrastructure expenditures per voter in a wealthier county can be 10 to 15 times such expenditures in more impoverished counties.

To address this inequity, we recommend that election infrastructure funding awarded to election jurisdictions at the county and municipal levels are based on a formula that factors in both population and poverty level.

## **Election Funding Uses**

Election departments will be able to make urgently-needed modernizations, including:

- Replacing outdated voting machines
- Upgrading voter registration databases and websites
- Investing in election management equipment, including ballot sorters, envelope openers and stuffers, and ballot verification technology
- Upgrading local election management systems, including software
- Investing in physical infrastructure (including real estate) to allow local election jurisdictions to provide early, mail and in-person voting opportunities, and maintain secure facilities for storage of election equipment and materials
- Bolstering systems to execute election audits
- Strengthening cybersecurity posture