



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 16, 2021

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

From: Jan Leshner 
Chief Deputy County Administrator

Re: **Retirement of Pima County Elections Director Brad Nelson**

Mr. Brad Nelson, Director of the Pima County Elections Department, has announced his intention to retire in January 2022. The process has begun to hire the new Elections Director.

Mr. Nelson has served as Pima County's Elections Director since 2002. Under his leadership, the Elections Department focused on increasing integrity and transparency in County elections. Among the accomplishments of his 20-year tenure are:

- Pima County is the sole Arizona County that allows for political party participation, not just observation, of the election process. This unique participation is perhaps most obvious in the pre-election testing of the accuracy of the vote tabulation system. All Arizona counties invite political parties to observe the test. In Pima County the parties can conduct their own test, separate from the State and County test, prior to the official tabulation of ballots. This independent political party test is also conducted in a post-election environment, prior to the official canvass, to better certify the accuracy of the official count.
- Pima County, with great assistance from the Pima County Election Integrity Commission, is the sole Arizona County that has piloted risk-limiting, post-election audits to increase the accuracy of statutorily required hand-count audits. In a review of past hand-count audits in Maricopa, Pima, Yavapai, and Coconino counties conducted by Dr. Jim Helm, Information Technology Program Chair within the Polytechnic School, and Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University, has determined that Pima County's hand count audits have a 99% confidence level.
- Pima County was the first county to livestream the ballot-counting room during the tabulation of ballots. Since the initial launch of livestreaming, Pima County has expanded livestreaming to include the observation of the reception and administration of early ballots received from the Recorder's Office.
- Pima County is the only Arizona County to livestream the statutory hand count audit of ballots.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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Over the next few months I will finalize the search process, which will include the selection of a search committee that reflects the community with a goal of hiring the new Director by the end of the first quarter of next year.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Nelson and wishing him the very best.

CHH/anc

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Brad Nelson, Director, Elections Department