



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 15, 2016

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 be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Referral of Inquiry from Board of Supervisors Regarding Election Matters and Involuntary Change of Party Affiliation**

In March 2016, the Elections Integrity Commission (EIC) was asked by the Board of Supervisors to investigate irregularities in the Presidential Preference Election. The EIC's June 10, 2016 report on this subject is attached for your review.

In summary, the EIC was unable to detect any intentional or inadvertent modifications of voter registration databases to disqualify voters who previously voted with a specific party affiliation. In addition, Pima County did not experience any lines where voters were inconvenienced because of long wait times to vote.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: The Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder
Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator
Brad Nelson, Director, Elections Department

ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Pima County, Arizona

TO: Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tom Ryan, Chair 
Election Integrity Commission

Chuck Huckelberry
Pima County Administrator

DATE: June 10, 2016

RE: REFERRAL OF INQUIRY FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING
ELECTION MATTERS AND INVOLUNTARY CHANGE OF PARTY AFFILIATION

In your March 31, 2016 memo, the Election Integrity Commission (EIC) was asked to review the issue of voters believing their party registration had been involuntarily changed, and as a result they were required to vote provisional ballots.

The EIC was unable to do extensive research on this topic, but there definitely were cases where voters were surprised to find they had to vote provisionally. The County Republican and Democratic Party leaders were contacted just after the election, but neither could provide a list of aggrieved individuals, and neither thought the problem was extensive. The State Democratic Party was also contacted, and they provided one name from Maricopa County. The EIC hosted a visitor, Peter Davis, from Green Valley who brought statements from a few people who thought their voter registrations had been mishandled.

Chris Roads from the County Recorder's Office reviewed all of the cases in Pima County and each was explained as a human error either by the voter or by the MVD. It was very clear to us that the MVD form was confusing. Chris Roads and EIC members offered suggestions for ways to clarify the voter registration part of the form. In one case, it appeared that the Republican Party in Green Valley failed to forward registration forms in a timely manner prior to the election.

The voter from Maricopa County had registered twice under slightly different spellings and the MC Recorder's Office had tried unsuccessfully to contact her. I put them in touch and have been told the problem has been solved.

The Presidential Preference Election always causes confusion because independent voters are not eligible, and many voters who may think they are affiliated with major Parties, are, in fact, undeclared.

The bottom line is that the EIC does not believe there were intentional or inadvertent modifications of any voter registration databases. However, it would have been useful to look at the statistics of voter registration changes in the months prior to PPE's and compare them with statistics from other more standard elections. The EIC is unable to pursue this approach without additional resources and access to voter registration data, but we are willing to do so if such data and resources are provided.

INTEGRITY OF PIMA COUNTY
AFS

Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors
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xc: Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder
Craig Sullivan, Executive Director, County Supervisors Association of Arizona
Matthew Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties
Brad Nelson, Director, Elections Department