



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2014

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

Re: **Vote Tabulation and Hand-count Audit**

The Pima County Elections Department continued to tabulate early ballots over the weekend, with 3,355 early ballots counted by Sunday afternoon. The ballots tabulated on Sunday had required duplication under the observation of the political parties due to damage to the ballots or marks made by voters that prevent the vote tabulation scanners from reading the ballots. For example, a voter might cross out a marked bubble on the ballot and then circle or draw an arrow to another candidate's name to indicate that is the voter's choice. Once the original duplication is performed by a two-member board, the ballot is then reviewed for accuracy by an additional board. Transferring all votes from so many damaged ballots to new ballots, all under observation of political parties, is a time-consuming process that was conducted both Saturday and Sunday. Initially, Elections Director Brad Nelson believed the duplication might not be completed sufficiently early on Sunday to allow for tabulation of these 3,355 ballots, but the duplication process was completed in a timely fashion.

In addition, on Saturday, the Elections Department conducted a hand-count audit as required by statute. The hand-count audit was conducted from 7:30 AM to about 1:00 PM on Saturday and involved Elections Department staff and approximately 60 audit observers designated by political parties. The polling place results from 10 precincts and approximately 10 batches of early ballots were hand-counted to verify the tabulation equipment is working properly. As the Board will recall, Pima County hand-count audits twice as many precincts as required by Arizona law, pursuant to the direction of the Board. The precincts to be audited are selected at random by the chairs of the political parties in the County. The political party chairs also select by lot the four individual contested races to be hand-counted in the early ballot audit; with one federal, one statewide candidate, one statewide ballot measure, and one legislative race being counted. The hand-count audit, which will be reported to the Arizona Secretary of State, verified the tabulation equipment was working properly.

The Recorder's Office finished processing 10,102 provisional ballots over the weekend and found approximately 9,335 to be valid. Approximately 3,600 of the valid provisional ballots will be tabulated this afternoon and the website updated shortly thereafter.

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Elections Department staff will work over tomorrow's Veterans' Holiday to facilitate the completion of the tabulation of all eligible ballots.

This morning, Pima County Superior Court Judge James Marner declined to grant a temporary restraining order to stop the County from continuing to count provisional ballots. Judge Marner's ruling indicated he saw no "irreparable harm" in continuing the counting of provisional ballots.

CHH/mjk

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