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# MEMORANDUM

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(AMENDED)

Date: September 11, 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 read "CH Huckelberry", is written over the typed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Election Facts Related to the August 26, 2014 Primary Election**

As you know, the Primary Election was conducted by the County on August 26, 2014, and the results of the election were canvassed by the Board of Supervisors on September 2, 2014. The following facts are helpful in understanding election dynamics:

- 237,000 early ballots were mailed to voters within Pima County. Of the early ballots mailed, 123,368 were returned for tabulation; hence, only 52 percent of early ballots mailed were actually voted.
- 147,063 total ballots were cast; 23,690 of those at polling locations. This means only 16.1 percent of all ballots were cast at polling places. At one polling place, no ballots were cast.
- 83.8 percent of ballots cast were early ballots. This number is higher than predicted by staff.
- Overall voter turnout was 30.06 percent; higher in Pima County than in Maricopa County.
- For the first time, e-poll books were used in select precincts. The use of e-poll books significantly reduced poll worker confusion and possible inadvertent errors. The reaction of poll workers and voters was overwhelmingly positive regarding the use of e-poll books. We are hopeful the Recorder will concur with substantial expansion of the use of this electronic aide to the voting and election process.
- As stated previously, 25 precincts participated in the scanner-less pilot project. The Republican Party had observers at Election Headquarters to observe the reception of ballots cast at these locations. The Democratic Party had observers at many of the precincts. There were no issues associated with the utilization of secure ballot boxes at these polling locations as opposed to scanners.

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- The current tabulation system and software, including polling place scanners, performed better than expected. Only five precinct scanners needed to have their memory card replaced or the scanner replaced. This failure rate is significantly less than expected.
- The future tabulation system, recently approved for purchase by the Board of Supervisors, was used in Pinal County for their Primary Election and worked well without issues or concerns.
- In the near future, for the November 2014 General Election, voters will receive via mail publicity pamphlets for Proposition 415, the County bond issue; State propositions; and any questions related to school districts.

In summary, the use of early balloting seems to be accelerating; making polling places and precincts essentially obsolete and extraordinarily non-cost effective. Of greater concern is that while almost all precincts had more than one ballot cast, one precinct had none. If, in the future, there are precincts where only one vote is cast and only one voter appears and signs the voter registration roster, the principle of the secret ballot will be violated, which is of significant concern.

CHH/anc

c: Ellen Wheeler, Assistant County Administrator  
Brad Nelson, Director, Elections Department