



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

September 19, 2014

Dr. Jeffrey Goldberg, Dean
College of Engineering
The University of Arizona
P. O. Box 210072
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0072

Re: Pima County Elections System Partnership Opportunity

Dear Dr. Goldberg:

Pima County would like to explore collaborating with The University of Arizona to research and plan our next purchase of an election system. Although we are purchasing a new voting system from Election Systems and Software, we realize it is not too early to be proactive about changes in technology and social expectations.

These changes challenge us to think ahead about specifications for the next purchase of an election system. In particular, new technology now enables us to lower the costs and improve the reliability of election processes. Grasping these opportunities requires us to engage citizen, educational, business, legal and government stakeholders to define a model of elections for the future.

More than a century ago, US inventors began to design new voting machines and devise a curriculum for educating people to improve the management of elections. Since then, the pace and complexity of technological changes have dominated our social capacity to transform the potential of computer-mediated processing of voting data to serve individual voters. In fact, the US pioneered in setting standards for the design of reliable election systems, but the world has changed significantly since the first version of national voluntary voting system standards was developed over 30 years ago.

Approximately seven years ago, the Board of Supervisors formed the Election Integrity Commission (EIC) to advise the County on how to manage election system reliability and

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costs. The EIC has initiated a dialog about the attributes of an ideal election system. A goal of the Commission's conversation has been to create a model standard for voting operations that can serve as a benchmark for election planning in Pima County, Arizona and beyond. This model standard would integrate ideas about technological and social specifications for new election systems.

Partnering with The University of Arizona to investigate the future of election systems would enable the County and its stakeholders to institutionalize the development of more comprehensive knowledge about new voting technology and its social implications. This advance could include the creation of new professional and scholarly research and curricular growth to extend the University's leadership in informatics and big data analysis. The elections process, including underlying manual, electronic, mechanical, logistical, and sociological processes comprise a very interesting and complex system.

We envision a sequence of international scholarly and community conferences to nurture this partnership. My appointee to the EIC, Dr. Arnie Urken, is a nationally recognized expert in elections systems and processing and believes very strongly in this proposal, as do I. There are also a number of EIC members who, in their own right, are election process and procedure experts. I would hope the expertise of these EIC members could also be utilized in any project collaboration of the University and the County.

Pima County believes very strong in election integrity and citizen engagement in the elections process. We are, therefore, prepared to provide a certain level of financial support of this effort should the University choose to accept our request for assistance.

I look forward to your response to this proposal and continued partnership opportunities for Pima County and the University.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder
Dr. Ann Weaver Hart, President, The University of Arizona
Chair and Members, Pima County Election Integrity Commission
Ellen Wheeler, Assistant Pima County Administrator
Brad Nelson, Pima County Elections Director