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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: March 9, 2015

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator 

Re: **Presidential Preference Election - Unnecessary Taxpayer Expense**

The Arizona Legislature recently enacted legislation that would allow for Presidential Preference Election (PPE) in 2016 and would reimburse counties at the rate of \$1.25 per voter. It would be assumed there will be both a Democrat and Republican PPE. This would double our cost of the 2012 PPE.

The amount of State reimbursement does not begin to cover the full cost of conducting such an election. The County, by law, is precluded from conducting an all-mail election, which would reduce the cost, but it would not cover the cost of printing if the election was conducted all by mail. More traditional methods of conducting this election would cost \$1.5 million, with a State reimbursement of approximately \$400,000. Hence, the net cost to our taxpayers will be \$1.1 million.

Conducting a PPE requires a substantial subsidy by Pima County taxpayers. I have directed our lobbyist to ask the State Legislature to cancel the 2016 PPE and substitute caucuses conducted by the political parties.

In the past, Arizona's PPEs appear to have no real influence on the party who receives the nomination. PPEs are unnecessary and costly elections that taxpayers should not be required to subsidize.

CHH/anc

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