

Pima County Election Integrity Commission

Minute Summary

The Pima County Election Integrity Commission met in regular session on April 1, 2011, at the Pima County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, 1st Floor, 130 W. Congress, Tucson, Arizona 85701.

Upon roll call, those present were as follows:

Item 1: Roll Call

Present: Donna Branch-Gilby, Charles Geoffrion, Jim March, John Moffatt, Pat Pecoraro, Tom Ryan, Drew Spencer, Arnie Urken, and Benny White

Absent: Mickey Duniho, Ann-Eve Pedersen

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance:

Also in attendance: Brad Nelson, Pima County Elections Department; Mike Dale, Pima County Elections Department

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Approval of the February 25, 2011 Minute Summary:

The minute summary was reviewed by the members of the Commission. No changes were noted. Pat Pecoraro motions to approve the summary; Donna Branch-Gilby seconds the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4: Poll Worker Evaluation Form – Donna Branch-Gilby

Donna Branch-Gilby updated her draft evaluation form for the Commission's review and comment. She discusses her changes to the document with the Commission.

The purpose of the survey is to get specific feedback regarding poll worker experience, in order to improve the process, and would be in addition to the current comment survey provided by the Elections Department. The current survey from the Elections Department is collected at the end of the Election Day, whereas Donna's survey is meant to be filled out online within three (3) days following an election.

Donna Branch-Gilby asks the Commission for a recommendation to implement this survey, or one similar, so every poll worker has the opportunity to provide their feedback regarding their poll working experience. This survey is intended to originate from the Elections Department, be endorsed by the Commission, and used as an online-only form. A link to the survey, via the EIC website, will be forwarded to each poll worker after the election.

Charles Geoffrion questions how the draft survey differs from the survey the Elections Department disseminates. He encourages the Commission to continue to guide and provide input to the Elections Department, but cautions micro managing the survey process.

The Elections Department is in the process of changing their policy and will ask every poll worker to fill out their survey form. Mike Dale, of the Elections Department, will post the survey online in case the poll worker doesn't receive a copy at the polling location. The goal is to gain as much improvement on the success of each poll worker as we can.

Brad Nelson agrees that the Elections Department surveys are distributed, but not always returned, and acknowledges that input is important. He adds that an individual form, as opposed to a group form, is preferred. Mike Dale reiterates that the current Elections Department form is very helpful for his Department. He cautions that although Donna Branch-Gilby's draft survey will shed light on a poll worker's experience, additional Elections Department resources will have to be provided to review and disseminate the information provided on an additional form. He recommends integrating the two (2) forms, which he is working on.

Benny White questions the PDF format, requesting a more user-friendly option. John Moffatt suggests using the "Survey Monkey" database, where information is entered, tabulated, and allows individuals to comment, as well.

The Election Department will work on merging the two (2) surveys and bring a draft document to the EIC by the next Commission meeting.

Donna Branch-Gilby has resigned from the EIC to focus on her additional responsibilities with the Metropolitan Energy Commission. Her replacement will be Ms. Barbara Tellman, representing the Democratic Party. Charles Geoffrion expresses his appreciation to Donna, thanking her for her service on the EIC.

Item 5: Bylaws for Election Integrity Commission- Jim March-cont'd

Jim March created a draft Bylaws document, but feedback was not returned. Jim reviewed Bylaws from the Metropolitan Energy Commission (MEC), which were similar to the EIC, but is having trouble merging the two (2) documents, as the EIC's Bylaws are unique. He seeks feedback from other EIC members on how to merge the MEC and EIC Bylaws.

Jim March will email the Bylaws to Catherine Hanna, who will forward them to the EIC. Feedback will be provided at the next Commission meeting.

Item 6: Overseas Ballots – Tom Ryan – cont'd

Tom Ryan suggests Pima County look into a secure web transmission system where the County has complete control. Chris Roads was asked to look into overseas procedures at the Commission's request, although there has been no feedback from the Recorder's Office, to date. John Moffatt suggests the Commission be more specific in what they request from the Recorder's Office.

Tom Ryan inquired why the Recorder's Office chose their current email system, as opposed to a secure, web-based system. John Moffatt will follow up with the Recorder's Office for feedback.

Item 7: Recorder's Report on Poll Worker Errors – Benny White

Benny White asked that this Item be continued to the next meeting. He was supposed to present a proposal to the Commission, and forward their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, to consider using 12 County workers in the General Election of November 2011, and to facilitate these election processes in the most troublesome voting areas.

Benny White wants to modify that proposal to reflect the February 2012 Presidential Preference Election, as the November 2011 election is a City and School Board Election. The Republican Party is interested in supporting Benny's proposal, and intend to take a more active roll in the City Elections.

Benny White will present his proposal at the next EIC meeting.

Item 9: Secretary of State Legislative Status Update – John Moffatt**

*****Item 9 was discussed before Item 8.***

John Moffatt provides an update regarding HB2304 - Scanned Ballot Election Auditing Pilot Program, and HB2303 – Voting Centers.

HB2304

HB2304 is caught up in the Senate Rules Committee. Very little text is dedicated to Ballot Scanning and the reporting and pilot completion dates have changed. The pilot program is set to expire in 2015, as opposed to 2014; and the published report results will be extended to 2014, as opposed to 2013. John Moffatt encourages the Commission to view the legislative website for updates.

HB2303

Benny White views HB2303 as problematic. It's written to accommodate voting centers and the voting center concept. If voting centers are established, it would create problems throughout the current Title 16 statutes, which references "precincts."

Additionally, HB2303 does not require a Board of Supervisors to coordinate a voting center with cooperation from the Elections Department, Elections officials, or the Recorder's Office, but instead suggests that the Board of Supervisors "may" coordinate voting centers with Elections and Recorder's Office officials' cooperation.

Voting centers will have to support every voter in Pima County on Election Day. HB2303 does not specify how many voting centers will be built, and it has to accommodate the voter's ballot preference. Individual voters require specific ballot styles, depending on the voting cycle and party affiliation (striped ballots); therefore, it would be impossible to predict the number of voters utilizing any given voting center and keep them stocked with the requested ballots they require.

Benny White recommends that the Commission advise the Board of Supervisors of the negative implications of the voting center concept.

Motion

Benny White motions that the Commission make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that they direct the Director of Elections and the Recorder's Office to review HB2303 and its concept, and seek input from the County Lobbyist as to support, oppose, or concerns on the legislation. Arnie Urken seconds the motion. Motion unanimously carries.

Catherine Hanna will create a memorandum for the EIC Chairman to review and sign. The memorandum will be forwarded to the County Administrator for further action.

Item 8: Poll Book Progress Update – Brad Nelson

Brad Nelson forwarded a link to Catherine Hanna for EIC review on poll book use in Ohio. John Moffatt thought the video didn't address the concerns the Commission previously raised. If HB2303 passes, poll books may need to be implemented, as it will record who voted in that "voting center."

The poll book used in the video is touch screen. The voter finds his/her last name, the screen displays people associated with that last name, and you're prompted to a signature block, where you sign your name. The system superimposes your signature over the Recorder's Office official signature, and your signature is then verified. If authorized, a voter card is generated with appropriate ballot information to control the Touch Screen Voting System.

Some polling places will be equipped with a ballot printer, which will print out the requested ballot for that voter.

Polling books have their benefits: voter verification is established quickly, equipment is efficient, and they alleviate the need for clerical assistance.

Benny White has reservations on the signature verification process and capabilities. Tom Ryan added that he would not trust this equipment. John Moffatt adds that the same concerns can be made when training 300 poll workers to verify voter signatures, as well.

Brad Nelson had previously suggested that a poll book vendor address the Commission and demonstrate their equipment. Benny White welcomes a demonstration for the Commission.

Poll Books are not subject to Federal certification, as they are not tabulated.

Two (2) companies to be considered are Robis and ES&S. ES&S is currently used in Yavapai County. Either can be contacted to demonstrate their equipment. Jim March noted that ES&S is used by the Secretary of State's office, adding that ES&S is associated with Premier electronic poll booking, which has had documented issues in the past.

Benny White reminds the Commission that the poll books are extremely expensive to purchase and maintain. Additionally, tabulation equipment must be considered and integrated with the poll book equipment, at an additional cost. He is not in favor of electronic poll books at this time. Brad Nelson agrees.

Brad Nelson will contact a poll book vendor to conduct a presentation to the EIC and/or contact Yavapai County to meet with the EIC and discuss their experiences with the devices.

Item 10: Call to the Audience

Charles Geoffrion calls to the Audience. During the February 25, 2011 EIC meeting, the Elections Department was asked to provide a comparison handout of the past three (3) Election Cycles in Pima County. Mike Dale provided his report to the EIC for review, noting the Elections Department's improvement in training, ballot receipt and ballot count.

Item 11: Next Meeting Date and Time

The Commission will meet again on Friday, May 6, 2011, at 9:00 am, Pima County Administration Building, First Floor, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, 130 W. Congress, Tucson, Arizona 85701.

Item 12: Agenda Items-New Business

No additional agenda items for discussion were noted.

Item 13: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 pm.