The Pima County Election Integrity Commission met in regular session on November 15, 2013 in the Herbert K Abrams Building, 1st Floor Conference Room # 1108 at 3950 S. Country Club Road, Tucson, Arizona.

ITEM 1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Tom Ryan, Arnie Urken, Pat Pecoraro, Mickey Duniho, Bill Beard, Barbara Tellman (late), Benny White, Christopher Cole (late), Brad Nelson, Elaine Lim

Absent:

Others in Attendance: Ellen Wheeler, Pima County Administrator's Office

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY – September 25, 2013 and October 18, 2013

It was moved by Benny White, and carried unanimously to approve the Meeting Summaries for both September 25, 2013 and October 18, 2013 Election Integrity Commission Meetings.

ITEM 4. EIC to BoS MEMORANDUM – UPDATE- Tom Ryan

Members were extremely disappointed with the response from Mr. Valadez. They felt memorandum was quite condescending, dismissive and that he did not respond directly to their recommendations. Members feel that Board of Supervisors has conceded all consideration of election matters to County Administrator and he is proceeding at his own discretion to do whatever he wants to do. One member commented that her Supervisor had not seen or read the memo. Another member commented he was surprised that the response for the BoS memorandum came from Mr. Huckleberry’s secretary instead of the secretarial staff at the Board of Supervisors office. It was also discussed that members need to continue to interface with their supervisor that appointed them. Tom Ryan asked each member to e-mail their supervisor and then follow up with a telephone call or to have a face to face meeting.
ITEM 5. CLEAR BALLOT BRIEFING RECOMMENDATION – UPDATE -Benny White

Mr. Huckelberry's response was that he would assign Ellen Wheeler to work with Larry Moore from Clear Ballot. Ellen Wheeler is in the process of arranging a date for a web demo from Larry Moore. Benny White discussed that they did not send a letter to the Secretary of State, but that The Secretary of State had received the letter.

One recommendation from the commission was that the Secretary of State's office and Pima County work together. It was discussed by the commission that the Secretary of State's Office certifies equipment for use in the state, but that they have not taken an assertive position on the certification on anything. Commission hopes that the Secretary of State's office and Pima County will have the same information that they are working from. Benny White commented that the Secretary of State plays a principal role in all of this. Ellen Wheeler has been in contact with Larry Moore and he stated that he had spoken with Jim Drake earlier and that Mr. Drake would talk to the Secretary of State about whether they would support making the rule more flexible to give counties more flexibility and that conversation would happen soon. Ellen Wheeler will follow up with Jim Drake and Kris Kingsmore at the Secretary of State's office. Mickey Duniho brought up that there are two laws, ARS 16-442F and ARS 16-421, that give authority for experimental use of uncertified election systems.

ITEM 6. ELECTION UPDATE –November 5, 2013 – Vail Incorporation – Brad Nelson

Touchscreens produced a total of 118 ballots. There were a few issues. One problem was the performance of the printers, at one location the printer was replaced twice. Another issue was the lack of privacy for the voter (no booth) and also when ballot was printed it printed face up. There were several programming changes that were discussed by members to make software a little easier for the voter to use. Barbara Tellman mentioned she thought in general that it was a good idea to try this equipment. Elaine Lim also mentioned that she thought the e-Poll books were a successful experience and people liked them. Benny White commented on the lack of cross reference of ballots cast. He asked what happened to the paper back up? There were no paper signature rosters used. The paper signature rosters were available for back up at each polling site in case e-Poll books went down. E-Poll books keep a tally of the voters and the number of spoiled ballots. Each voter was issued a Voter ID Slip, then at the end of the night Voter ID Slips were counted to make sure the E-Poll and Voter ID Slips totals were the same. Tom Ryan had requested some feedback from other people using e-Poll book and the feedback was positive. He also mentioned that other people have also used the paper signature roster to keep long lines moving. Bill Beard suggested having procedures in place, in case power goes down. He mentioned using some type of backup plan and for all poll workers to be very well aware of those procedures. Overall experience with the lack of scanners at the polling sites was positive. Barbara Tellman commented she did not see anybody object or remark about the metal box used to collect ballots.

Proposal is the consolidation of precincts from 288 to 248. This proposal for approval will take place during next Tuesday’s BoS meeting. We had three precincts on this approval list that were required to be removed.

One precinct is by PCC West; in this area we had combined three precincts into one. There were some concerns that this was too large of a geographic area to make into one precinct and that it would be too inconvenient for people that lived in the outskirts of that precinct.

Second precinct was in the Maldonado Elementary School area. In this area we also combined three precincts into one, even though this was much more of a compact geographical area there was a feeling that combining three precincts was asking too much.

Third precinct was in the Armory Park area. We were notified by the City of Tucson Clerk that two seated council members lived in that area and if precincts were changed both members would be in the same ward.

Commission members commented that some concerns they have heard from people have been that precincts are getting further to go cast their ballot. Because of the distances we need to have better provisions to drop off their ballots. Mickey Duniho commented that Pima County Recorder’s office should have some re-direction for voters enquiring about City Elections. He also feels there should be more communication /coordination between Pima County Recorder’s office and the City of Tucson website.

ITEM 8. COST OF ELECTIONS UPDATE – Arnie Urken / Brad Nelson

Arnie Urken had nothing new to report. He does not have a paper copy or CD of the Cost Of Elections. Ellen Wheeler reported that John Moffatt is working on reviewing spreadsheets and John has offered to get information that is missing from the Pima County Recorder’s office.

Arnie Urken has requested a paper copy if possible. Mickey Duniho would like copies before next meeting.

ITEM 9. ELECTION EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT UPDATE – Brad Nelson

Brad Nelson will re-schedule meeting with IT and will notify Tom Ryan and Benny White. Pat Pecoraro asked what the plan was for 2014. Brad Nelson replied to go ahead and pursue the purchase of a central count system. Tom Ryan and Benny White will be included in the drawing of the specifications as far as what we would like it to do, the weight and how fast it can process ballots. He would like the equipment to go through the necessary verification, review and selection process and have that here hopefully by March 2014.

Members asked if leasing a system was being considered as an option. Brad Nelson will bring that option up to Procurement to see if that’s something that’s available and if that is something that they want to pursue.
ITEM 10. AG OPINION- Voter Registration, Separate Ballots for State Elections – Brad Nelson/Chris Roads – Written Memo

The Secretary of State's office requested all state Election Directors and Recorders to attend a meeting in Phoenix last week. The state is drafting a procedure on maintenance of a voter registration file. This will include what voter uses a federal only ballot. They will be flagged somehow. On the elections side we will print federal only ballots, if the voter demands to vote a full ballot they will be issued a Provisional. Recorder will verify if eligible to vote in state, if so, that ballot will be processed, if not ballot will be duplicated and will only be counted as a federal ballot.

ITEM 11. NEXT MEETING DATES – Proposed

December 12, 2013
January 17, 2014
February 21, 2014

Meeting dates were all approved

ITEM 12. NEW BUSINESS

Benny White brought in a batch of reports from the City of Tucson for Mickey Duniho and Bill Beard to show that the City of Tucson does not sort ballots by precinct prior to tabulation.

ITEM 13. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

No audience members

ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tom Ryan and seconded by Bill Beard and unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 11:02 a.m.