



FROM THE DESK OF DAVID EPPHIMER, CHAIRMAN

Pima County Republican Party
1740 E Fort Lowell Rd, Suite 140
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November 29, 2019

Pima County Election Integrity Commission
Tucson, Arizona

Commissioners,

This is to inform the Pima County Election Integrity Commission that I accepted Karen Schutte's resignation as a Republican elections observer on November 10, 2019, three days **before** she filed on November 13 a City of Tucson 2019 "Election Report" that was listed on the agenda for the Commission's November 15 meeting as Item 8, "November Election". I have been told that Ms Schutte's report was read aloud by the Vice Chairman of the Commission, and this is verified by the video record of this meeting currently posted on the Commission's web site. Her report was followed by a two paragraph personal note, critical of a review and subsequent recommendations (white paper), not authored by her, of the 2018 general election in Pima County. Please note:

- Ms Schutte served as a Republican elections observer at my appointment and pleasure.
- Political party observers serve and report to their respective parties, not the Commission.
- I neither directed her to file a final report on the 2019 Tucson election nor approved it for release to the Commission. It was not authorized by me for release to anyone.
- She had no responsibility to file a report to the Commission on this election, even had she still been a Republican observer.
- To my knowledge, Ms Schutte, in the capacity of a Republican election observer, has never before filed such a report to the Commission, nor have the other political party observers done so this year for the 2019 Tucson election.

Concerning Ms Schutte's personal note:

- At the time of the November 2018 general election, Ms Schutte's two official roles with the Republican Party were as a precinct committeeman and state committeeman from LD9. For that election she was only one of many Republican hand count volunteers who worked post election to verify the machine ballot count. In early 2018, I appointed Chris King to be the Party's official observer for that year's general election, replacing Ms Schutte. If she observed the 2018 election in any official capacity, I am unaware of it, which helps explain why she was not asked to assist in writing the white paper.
- Moreover, at the time of the November 2018 general election, Ms Schutte was no longer a commissioner, having been replaced by Benny White, then he by John Cote in early 2018. The white paper is the work product of only the then current Republican commissioners – Messrs. Beard, Rhodes, Hurley and Cote, and was approved by me for distribution. Commissioner Beard was replaced by Commissioner Rhodes at the appointment of Supervisor Miller during the writing of the white paper, explaining why both are signatories of the document. It has never been represented to express the views of the Commission as a whole.

Simply put, Ms Schutte's November 13, 2019 report was not written by a Republican elections observer. The report and its addendum do not reflect the views and opinions of the Pima County Republican Party.