



**PIMA COUNTY ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2020**
<http://www.pima.gov/commission/ElectionIntegrity.shtml>

The Pima County Election Integrity Commission met in regular session on January 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Herbert K. Abrams Building, 3rd Floor Conference Rooms 3108/3110 at 3950 S. Country Club Road, Tucson, Arizona.

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The American flag was saluted with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Grady Rhodes, Michael Coltrin, Levoy Hurley, Barbara Tellman, Arnold Urken, Brian Bickel, Richard Fridena, John Cote, Brad Nelson

Absent: Steve Pothier

ITEM 3. CALL TO PUBLIC

No public participation.

ITEM 4. ELECTION OF EIC OFFICERS

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR:

Rhodes nominated Hurley, Cote seconded. Urken nominated Bickel for Chair, Fridena seconded.

VOTE FOR CHAIR:

For Bickel - Five votes

For Hurley – Three votes

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIR:

Fridena nominates Hurley, Rhodes seconded. Coltrin nominates Tellman, seconded by Tellman.

VOTE FOR VICE CHAIR:

For Tellman – four votes

For Hurley – four votes

Vote ends in a tie. The election for vice chair will be postponed until next meeting with new nominations at that time.

ITEM 5. 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Chair Bickel continues working on the report and will bring the report forward at a later date.

ITEM 6. EI-ISAC Summary - Pothier

Due to the absence of Commissioner Pothier this topic was not discussed.

ITEM 7. PPE Update – Nelson

Director Nelson discussed the Election Departments preparation for the March 17 Presidential Preference Election. That discussion focused on the unique procedures relating the election. For example - the closed nature of the election, consolidation of polling places and precincts, small number of precincts (approximately 20) are voting by all mail ballot, candidate name order on the ballot – drawn by lot, candidates withdrawals, postcard will be mailed to each voter household on or about February 7 in an attempt inform voters of the unique nature of this election.

ITEM 8. ELECTION DEPARTMENT PARTICIAPATION WITH THE EIC – Nelson

At the November meeting a subcommittee was formed (Hurley, Bickel and Urken) to review the bylaws with a focus on Article VII (Removal of Officers). Director Nelson suggests that in addition to discussing Article VII that the subcommittee also review Article IX, Section 2 (Meetings). Article IX, Section 2 currently states that the commission must meet nine (9) times per year. Director Nelson suggests meeting fewer times per year.

Commissioners discussed the topic and the consensus was that fewer meetings might be appropriate with the possibility to call additional meetings as necessary. The topic was continued for future meetings.

ITEM 9. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE TO QUARTERLY MEETINGS - Tellman

At the Chairs direction, the discussion for Item 8 and Item 9 were combined.

ITEM 10. EPPIHIMER MEMO TO EIC (Response to Schutte Election Report) - Hurley

Commissioner Hurley brought the topic forward for possible discussion. Hurley stated that the memo from Chair Eppihimer speaks for itself and he felt no need to discuss the topic further.

No further discussion occurred.

ITEM 11. MONTHLY REPORT TO BOS – Rhodes

Commissioner Rhodes broached the subject of providing a monthly report to all members of the Board of Supervisors reflecting topics that were of importance regarding the Commissions discussions/actions. Chair Bickel commented that the minutes of the Commission meetings might suffice and that those minutes would be available to anyone who chose to review the Commissions activity. Commissioner Fridena expressed a desire that a separate report, not the minutes, be sent to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for distribution to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Urken commented that if the report was to come from the Commission, it would need to be approved by the Commission prior to submission to the Clerk. Chair Bickel then stated that anyone can send material to the Clerk of the Board for distribution to the Board of Supervisors but that if a Commissioner chose to do so as an individual it needs to be stressed that the Commissioner is acting on their own and are not representing the Commission. Commissioner Rhodes finalized the discussion when he stated that it had been his intention to send a report as an individual not as a representative of the Commission.

ITEM 12. VOTING ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED – Tellman & Nelson

Commissioner Tellman suggests that the Commission hear from a group that advocates for the disabled to speak to the Commission about Pima County's effort to make/keep voting accessible. Director Nelson noted that he has not yet reached out to an advocacy group but intends to do so. Discussion included the County's past efforts to supply large print ballots and braille ballots upon request. Nelson also mentioned that the County has recently replaced its accessible voting devices used at the polls. It is hoped that the advocate will not only speak to the commission regarding access but also provide a comment on the new accessible voting devices.

ITEM 13. HAVA FOR CYBERSECURITY - Nelson

Director Nelson noted that the 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant provides funds for an election jurisdiction to address cybersecurity. Nelson stated that the Pima County Recorder had requested cybersecurity funds in late 2019. The status of that request is unknown to Nelson and he suggests that the topic would be best referred to the Recorder. The Election

Department cyber vulnerabilities were assessed by the County Information Technology Department. That assessment will be made available to the Commission.

Additional funds are available via the 2018 HAVA grant for election administration. The Election Department has requested \$100,000 for the purchase of tablets to be used at the polls to assist voters in finding the correct polling place.

ITEM 14. ELECTION DEPT. MEASURES FOR CLEAN AND FAIR ELECTIONS – Fridena

Commissioner Fridena expressed concern that the 2020 election will be disputed/contested and he wondered how he, as a commissioner, should answer questions posed to him about election integrity. Fridena provided a list of potential areas for challenges and headed that list with the question: “What measures will the Pima County Elections Department employ to demonstrate a fair and clean election”? Fridena referenced the Pima County Election Department flow chart and asked that it be sent to all past and current members. Group discussion among the commissioners focused on directing people with questions about integrity to the Pima County web page to review items such as the flow chart, security plan, live stream of ballot tabulation, hand count audit reports, etc...

ITEM 15. BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE – Hurley, Bickel and Urken

The subcommittee will conduct its first meeting after the February 21 Commission meeting.

ITEM 16. Website and Campaign Finance Software – Bickel

Chair Bickel noted that the Pima County Election Campaign Finance System was difficult to use and inquired if it can be improved. Director Nelson noted that all Arizona Counties had been promised a low cost campaign finance system from Arizona Secretary Of State Michele Reagan since 2014 and Pima County had been holding off on acquiring a new campaign finance system on the expectation that a statewide system was imminent. Secretary Reagan did not provide the promised system. Current Secretary of State Hobbs has not pursued a similar system for use by the counties. Pima County intends to have a new/improved campaign finance system prior to the 2022 gubernatorial election.

ITEM 17. Future Agenda Items

Annual Report, Disabled Issues, Fair and Clean Elections, Election Legislation

ITEM 18. Next Meeting Dates: February 21, 2020 and March 20, 2020.

ITEM 19. Adjournment