The Pima County Election Integrity Commission met virtually on August 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance said the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Misty Atkins, Ryan Maese, Levoy Hurley, Barbara Tellman, Brian Bickel, Mike Cease, Arthur Kerschen, Mary Preble and Brad Nelson.

Also in Attendance: Pamela Franklin, Chief Deputy Pima County Recorder, Beth Borozan, District 4.

Absent: Michael Coltrin and Benny White

ITEM 3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Melanie Clark and Lana O’Brien both emailed Brad Nelson with comments. Both were in attendance of the virtual meeting.

Lana O’Brien’s question and comment:

Question: I have asked a question about the PEVL. It is my understanding SB1485 is in effect and so why is the Pima County website still asking for people to sign up for PEVL? Maybe I’m misunderstanding it, so if I could get some clarification on that I would appreciate that.

Comment: Basically, I was stating that with the concern with voting centers and that our elections are intended to be local, they’re intended to be accessible and they’re intended to be accountable and that’s the way the United States has formed it to ensure that we do have these things happen on a local level. That’s why our precincts need to be small so they’re accessible and accountable for all of us. So that was my concern is that the push with these voting centers there is lack of accessibility and accountability that is needed for the folks here in Pima County.

Melanie Clark’s question and comment:

Question: Can the Public communicate with the Elections Director (Brad)?
Comment: SB1485. I'm really in favor of removing voters from the Early Voting List. I've personally been an advocate for Early Voting, but after these recent events...I think a physical voting with the show ID is the best path forward.

ITEM 4. MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL:

The meeting summary was approved.

ITEM 5. AGENDA ITEMS:

5A. SB1485 – The discussion continued regarding the wording in SB1485 concerning the term “election cycle”. Commissioner Bickel expressed his concern regarding the unclear language used in the bill. Commissioner Tellman said she thinks the language is very clear about the elections a voter must vote their early ballot before they are removed from the Early Voting List. Commissioner Kerschen agreed with Commissioner Tellman. No further action was taken.

5B. Establishing election precincts for 2022 – Commissioner Tellman suggested waiting another year to consolidate election precincts since there are so many questions regarding the Permanent Early Voting List whether voters will remain on that list. Commissioner Hurley suggested the consolidation of precincts is moving the County in the wrong direction. He is opposed to geographically large precincts because it impedes party functions.

5C. Discussion regarding possible formal inclusion of the office of the County Recorder into the Commission – Commissioner Bickel said the inclusion of someone from the Recorder’s Office as a non-voting member would be possible with an amendment of the Bi-Laws of the Election Integrity Commission. The Bi-Law Committee consisting of Commissioner Bickel and Commissioner Hurley lost its third member and Commissioner Bickel asked Commissioner Kerschen to join the committee. Commissioner Kerschen agreed to be on the committee. Commissioner Bickel agreed that the Bi-Law Committee would meet in the near future and have a draft of Bi-Law amendments at the next meeting.

5D. Virtual Meetings – Discussion of the merits of virtual meeting verses in-person meetings. After the discussion, it was agreed the Commission would, on a month to month basis, continue meeting virtually until feasible to conduct them in person again. There was motion and a second that the September 17 meeting would be virtual. A roll call vote was taken that passed with six yes and two no. Commissioner Hurley asked Brad Nelson
to ask the Pima County IT Department to look into the availability of having a hybrid meeting.

5E. Updating the AZ Election Procedures Manual – Commissioner Bickel asked what the timeline is for any input to the Arizona Secretary of State regarding the newly revised Arizona Election Procedures Manual. Brad Nelson read from a press release sent out by the Arizona Secretary of State that any feedback should be sent to the Secretary of State by September 8, 2021 at 5 p.m. Commissioner Bickel urged all the members to read the Procedures Manual and give any feedback they had as individuals since the next Elections Integrity Meeting is being held after the feedback cutoff date.

ITEM 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

November 2, 2021 Vail School District Election Bi-Law Amendments

ITEM 7. NEXT MEETING DATES

September 17, 2021
October 15, 2021

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT