

The Elections Advisory Committee met in a regular session on December 23, 2019. The meeting was held at 198 S. Main Street, Yuma, Arizona.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting convened at 10:08 a.m.

2. Roll Call: Committee members present were: Recorder Robyn Pouquette; Supervisor Martin Porchas; Supervisor Darren Simmons; and Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney Bill Kerekes. County Administrator Susan Thorpe was excused. Others present were: Deputy Clerk/Executive Assistant Desarae Doten.

3. Approve the minutes for the following meeting: October 4, 2019 Regular Session

MOTION (POUQUETTE/PORCHAS): Approve as presented.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried 4-0, with Ms. Thorpe excused.

4. Yuma County Recorder and Elections Report

Ms. Pouquette provided a Power Point presentation.

a. Elections Calendar and Upcoming Elections

Ms. Pouquette reviewed the upcoming election dates:

- Presidential Preference Election: March 17, 2020
- Statewide Primary and General 2020: August 4, 2020 and November 3, 2020

She reported the Yuma County website has been updated with the names of candidates who have filed Statements of Interest.

The task-detailed calendar will be updated by Ms. Pouquette and Election Services Director Ms. Fontes.

b. Voter Registration Statistics

Ms. Pouquette reported the inactive voter list has been cleaned up by about 400 and the total increase is 1100 overall.

c. Budget Updates

Ms. Pouquette reported the newly created position "Voter Services Specialist" and the "Election Computer Systems Specialist" have been filled. The "Election Specialist" is currently open and expected to be filled by January 15, 2020

Details were provided about training and computer software updates from the vendor.

Discussion ensued regarding state law that states' ballots must be mailed first class mail to all early voters. Ms. Pouquette reported that since 2009 Yuma County has only mailed ballots using the non-profit rate. She noted the amount of money spent on postage is already high so tripling it would have a negative impact on the budget. In closing Ms. Pouquette noted the problem is that counties have different deals with their post offices.

d. Internal Operations and Procedures Update

Ms. Pouquette explained that the Attorney General signs off on the manual and once received it took a few weeks to work out some issues, and ultimately it was approved by the Attorney General and Governor Ducey on December 20, 2019.

She reviewed the following priorities:

- Analyze areas adjusted within the Arizona Elections Procedures
- Third-Party registration processing
- Live ballot verification and auditing

e. Voter Outreach Information / Election Correspondence

Ms. Pouquette provided the following handouts: Election Information Voter Guide Brochure and 90 day Notice – Permanent Early Voting List.

f. Statewide Voter Database (AVID)

Ms. Pouquette reported that staff members are learning how to use the system and work through it to address problems.

g. Discussion of process for Elections Director Performance Evaluation

Ms. Pouquette stated Ms. Fontes' evaluation will be due in June; therefore she wanted to place this item on the agenda to let the committee know she will be starting on this within the next month and hopes to have a draft at the next meeting. Ms. Fontes is doing great, she is very detailed oriented and keeps on top of things.

h. Report Requests

None.

5. Discussion of future agenda items

Supervisor Simmons stated he would like an update about preparations for the next elections.

6. Discussion of ongoing litigation concerning election related matters

Ms. Pouquette reported she wanted the committee to be aware that the new manual took out the five (5) day signature requirements. She spoke about *Navajo Nation vs. The Secretary of State and Coconino County vs the Secretary of State* which involve situations where those counties were allowed to give voters five (5) days after an election to sign a ballot. Ms. Pouquette confirmed that neither case involved Yuma County.

She noted two (2) additional lawsuits have been filed against the Secretary of State concerning ballots being accepted if postmarked by 7:00 p.m. on an election night. Somewhere in the lawsuits Yuma County is cited for rejecting ballots, however that information is not accurate. Mr. Kerekes noted the postmark is going to be critical, so the post office needs to be instructed.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Vice-Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2020.



Susan K. Thorpe, Chairman