

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Committee members present were: Recorder Richard Colwell; Supervisor Darren Simmons; Supervisor Martin Porchas and Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney Bill Kerekes. County Administrator Ian McGaughey was excused.

Others present were: Elections Services Director Kika Guzman; and Deputy Clerk/Executive Assistant Desarae Doten.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No comments were received.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS: The Committee will open each of the following items separately for discussion and possible action, as appropriate.

1. Approve minutes: Regular Session October 19, 2023

MOTION (COLWELL/PORCHAS): Approve as presented.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried 4-0, with Mr. McGaughey excused.

2. Yuma County Recorder and Elections Report

a. Elections Calendar 2023-2024 Update

Mr. Colwell provided a handout containing deadlines for the following elections scheduled in 2024:

- Presidential Preference Election (March 19)
- Special Jurisdiction Election (May 2)
- Primary Election (August 6) *This date was changed to July 30; however, it was listed correctly during the time of this meeting *
- General Election (November 5)

Ms. Guzman reviewed details such as when 90-Day notices will be mailed, and the last day to vote early in person.

b. Voter Registration Statistics

Mr. Colwell distributed handouts, which included local active and inactive voter data, and a memorandum from the Secretary of State containing the statewide voter registration report that now reflects the five recognized parties in Arizona. Those are Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, No Labels, and Green Party.

c. Voter Outreach Information

- i. Social media releases
- ii. Colorado Tea Party Presentation

Mr. Colwell reported staff has been working with the Communications Division to plan small commercials and messages using television, radio, print and social media so they can get word out to the public concerning deadlines and important information.

Mr. Colwell reported speaking with party chairs. He was informed they would provide a meeting invitation to allow staff to review processes, as needed.

d. Budget Updates

Ms. Guzman reported Elections would be asking for the 2023 HAVA grant and will reach out to the Yuma County Grants Division for assistance to complete the application. In addition, they intend to submit a request for more staff during the upcoming budget cycle. Mr. Colwell noted they currently have 3.5 positions in the Elections Department.

e. Internal Operations and Procedures Update

- i. E-Qual update**
- ii. Vote Center in San Luis**
- iii. Election worker compensation update**
- iv. Election worker training**
- v. Table top exercise in December 2023**

Ms. Guzman reported that four (4) candidates are using the E-Qual website for their signatures.

Mr. Colwell spoke concerning the vote center in San Luis. He explained party chairs asked if he would consider a second site because of the traffic congestion at Cesar Chavez. He noted there is a new elementary school, but students will be in session during these elections. The other option is a medical facility that has an isolated room that would work. An agreement was reached to hold the Special Election in May at the medical site, and if that goes well, then staff would consider it for the 2024 primary and general elections. The second site would be at the library.

Ms. Guzman reported an item regarding election worker compensation would be going to the Board of Supervisors on February 5 to approve the new fees, which apply only to federal elections.

Mr. Colwell spoke about the tabletop exercise, which he thought was very good and well attended. He noted there was a big emphasis on cyber-attacks.

f. Voter and Elections Correspondence

Mr. Colwell stated they are doing the required mailings. On December 18, 2023, 90-Day notices and early ballot requests were sent to active voters.

g. Additional Reports

Mr. Colwell asked the committee to advise if there is specific information they would like to see at future meetings.

3. Upcoming visit by Secretary of State Adrian Fontes on January 29, 2024.

Mr. Colwell reported Mr. Fontes will be at the Recorder/Election Offices at 9:00 a.m. and staff will provide a tour of the building. He hopes to have Deputy County Administrator Josh Scott give him an overview of the building under construction at 197 S. Main Street.

4. Discussion of future agenda items

No discussion.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Adopted this 15th day of May, 2024.



Darren Simmons, Chairman