

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

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

Others present were: Elections Services Director Kika Guzman; Voter Services Coordinator Joann Munoz; Clerk of the Board Desiree Gunderman; Deputy Chief Information Officer Jesus Cervantes; ITS Security Administrator Christina Brumley; and Deputy Clerk/Executive Assistant Desarae Doten.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No comments were received.

ELECTION OF 2024 CHAIRMAN and VICE-CHAIRMAN:

1. Elect a Yuma County Elections Advisory Committee Chairman for Calendar Year 2024.

Mr. McGaughey nominated Supervisor Simmons, seconded by Mr. Colwell.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried 4-0, with Supervisor Porchas excused.

2. Elect a Yuma County Elections Advisory Committee Vice-Chairman for Calendar Year 2024.

Mr. Colwell nominated Supervisor Porchas, seconded by Mr. McGaughey.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried 4-0, with Supervisor Porchas excused.

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 January 24, 2024

Mr. Colwell noted the Primary Election date was changed from August 6 to July 30.

MOTION (KEREKES/COLWELL): Approve as presented.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried 4-0, with Supervisor Porchas excused.

2. Yuma County Recorder and Elections Report

a. Elections Calendar 2023-2024 Update

- i. Presidential Preference Election Summary**
- ii. San Luis Special Election**

Ms. Guzman reported voter turnout for the Presidential Preference Election was 30.03% and the City of San Luis Special Election was 7.11%.

With regards to the Primary Election in July, Ms. Guzman reported ballot proofs have been sent to candidates along with party chairs.

Supervisor Simmons asked whether polling places have been set. Ms. Guzman confirmed the Board of Supervisors would approve those sites during their meeting on June 3, 2024.

b. Voter Registration Statistics

Mr. Colwell provided a handout which included voter registration numbers from May going back to January, 2024. He also included a registration report compiled by the Arizona Secretary of State showing data for all counties.

c. Voter Outreach Information

- i. Social media releases**
- ii. Public billboard advertising**

Mr. Colwell reported staff recently met with the Yuma County Communications Division concerning upcoming election. He noted that in 2022 a billboard was not utilized; however, they are considering one for this election.

Discussion ensued concerning the value of the signs, approximate cost and locations. Ms. Guzman stated the signs could be reserved for up to 4 weeks and would be paid from the HAVA grant.

Mr. McGaughey questioned other options available for these funds and Ms. Guzman said they could be used to pay for early voting staff and any other advertising.

d. Budget Updates

Ms. Guzman stated \$150,000 in HAVA funds are remaining and staff will soon apply for next year's grant.

e. Internal Operations and Procedures Update

- i. Third Party Voter Registration Groups**
- ii. Ballot Drop Boxes Security/Observers**
- iii. Concerns about Non-Citizens registering to vote**
- iv. Table top exercise on April 9, 2024.**
- v. Secretary of State Fellowship Program**
- vi. Elections van**

Mr. Colwell reported on issues concerning Third Party Voter Registration Groups. An example was from a voter who called to say she was approached at Sam's Club and she was told she needed to re-register since her voter ID card was expiring.

Ms. Guzman spoke about an experience where she was approached and told general election ballots for November are going out now, which is untrue.

Ms. Munoz explained they have seen where a voter is registered with a good address and then forms from Third Party Groups are coming back with bad addresses.

Supervisor Simmons asked if the county can issue a Public Service Announcement about this and recommend they go to Elections Office for questions. Mr. Colwell confirmed that was the discussion they had with Communications.

Mr. Kerekes advised that providing general voter registration information would be fine, but without referencing Third Party Groups.

Mr. Colwell reported during a local party meeting members voiced concerns about ballot boxes and asked if there should be observers. He expressed his opinion that there is no need for an observer and explained there is still a process once a ballot is placed inside the box.

Mr. McGaughey expressed full confidence that Yuma County has gone above and beyond to ensure the integrity and security of the boxes.

Mr. Colwell reported he has received questions about non-citizens and the majority of people who register is through the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) and if they come to his office they are provided with a form. Ms. Munoz explained the form is ran through system to validate their license type.

Discussion ensued concerning the Secretary of State Tabletop event in April which focused on elections and the possibility of cyber-attacks.

Mr. Cervantes reported he also attended the tabletop which focused on up and coming threats, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). Discussion took place concerning the COOP Plan and the importance to have that available to continue operations during an active election. He informed the committee that ITS staff member Christina Brumley was also present and would be assisting moving forward.

Mr. Colwell noted the Arizona Secretary of State (SOS) is offering to hire and send people from within the community, and they currently have a person lined up who is currently a student at Arizona Western College.

Mr. Colwell reported the election van has been in a couple crashes, such as being rear ended in parking lot, but has been repaired. He informed the committee that he wants to get magnetic signs and plan to use it as a billboard with advertising.

f. Voter and Elections Correspondence

Mr. Colwell reported the 90-Day notices were mailed.

g. Additional Reports

i. Schedule of upcoming Elections Advisory Committee meetings

Mr. Colwell noted these meetings are held quarterly and asked if there was a need to get together either before or after the election in July. The committee agreed that unless there are any issue they can stay on schedule.

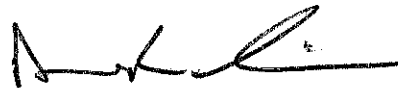
3. Discussion of future agenda items

Supervisor Simmons stated the committee would meet next in mid-August.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Adopted this 21st day of August, 2024



Darren Simmons, Chairman