

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting convened at 2:01 p.m.

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

Others present were: Elections Services Director Kika Guzman; Voter Services Coordinator Joann Munoz; Clerk of the Board Desiree Gunderman

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** There were no comments.

**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 May 15, 2024**

MOTION (MCGAUGHEY/COLWELL): Approve the minutes as presented.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried 5-0.

**2. Yuma County Recorder and Elections Report**

- a. Elections Calendar 2023-2024 Update**
  - i. Primary Election**
  - ii. Recount**

Mr. Richard Colwell called upon Ms. Kika Guzman who shared the results of the primary election which were certified by the Yuma County Board of Supervisors on August 8, 2024. There were 2,305 voters that went into the voting locations, with a total turnout of 21%.

There was a tabulated total of 21,976 ballot only, 15,466 pertaining to the offices to be recounted (Board of Supervisor District 4 and County Recorder). The recount was competed on Friday, August 16, 2024.

Mr. Colwell added there were issues getting the information out to the public in a timely manner but they have corrected the problem. Additionally, the City of Yuma brought attention to how the Precincts were being reported without the jurisdiction splits, but it has been identified and rectified.

**b. Voter Registration Statistics**

Mr. Colwell provided a voter registration update handout containing information for the past year that highlighted the trends of active and inactive voters as of April 8<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**c. Voter Outreach Information**

**• Naturalization Ceremony on September 18, 2024**

Mr. Colwell shared a Naturalization Ceremony will be held on September 18, 2024 at the convention center, starting at 9:00 a.m. A considered effort is made to encourage those individuals to register to vote.

Ms. Joann Munoz noted at the last ceremony they had 46 register to vote out of 200.

**d. Budget Updates**

Mr. Colwell submitted an application for the HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2002) grant program but it has not yet been approved. The funds would be separated out between voter registration spending and elections spending.

Responding to Supervisor Simmons question on the amount of extra staff employed for this election, Mr. Colwell replied they employed approximately 140 employees.

**e. Internal Operations and Procedures Update**

**• Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Between Yuma County Recorder and Yuma County Board of Supervisors**

Mr. Colwell read aloud a statement he prepared regarding his experience working with Elections, Voter Registration and the Recording staff and expressed that the success of the IGA is dependent on the trust and respect between all the areas. The IGA states that the agreement can be terminated at any point and he asked if the agreement should continue or Election Services be reverted back under the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Simmons suggested reverting it back under the Board with new, incoming staff. He added that it could be reviewed again in the future.

Mr. Kerekes noted there would be a delay as the change would be effective 60 days after the letter is sent.

Discussion ensued regarding who would be responsible for communicating the change via a letter.

**f. Voter and Elections Correspondence**

**• 90 Day Notices Covered Primary/General Elections**

Mr. Colwell said Ms. Guzman was working on the General Election. She shared she was working with a vendor to create the ballots, currently at 148. It could possibly be a two (2) or three (3) card ballot. There are 13 state propositions, with 9 local propositions

including school and city. Since there has never been a 2 card ballot, it could present challenges.

Upon query by Supervisor Simmons regarding propositions from school districts, Ms. Guzman answered that information from Mohawk, Yuma Elementary School District, Antelope and Crane had been received.

Mr. Colwell said the 90 Day Notices were mailed out prior to the primary but included the general.

Ms. Guzman added they received the list for the State Candidates and propositions yesterday.

Supervisor Simmons asked about the budget for PSAs (Public Service Announcements) since the turnout was low.

Mr. Colwell shared they met with Communications to determine what venues to use. There were approximately 52,457 ballots mailed out by the vendor and 1,712 mailed by Voter Registration, with approximately 19,279 received back. Postage cost approximately \$26,000 to mail them out, and \$10,850 in return postage. He expects the presidential election to be three (3) to four (4) times the size.

#### **g. Additional Reports**

##### **i. Schedule of upcoming Elections Advisory Committee meetings**

Mr. Colwell did not have anything to add.

The next meeting will be held after the general election in November.

#### **3. Discussion of future agenda items**

Mr. McGaughey asked for the Summary Report as a handout.

Ms. Guzman asked to add the 2025 election updates.

#### **4. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024



Darren Simmons, Chairman