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THE STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona
January 27, 2022
9:31 a.m.

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1 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS
2 CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 9:31 a.m. on
3 January 27, 2022, at the State of Arizona, Clean
4 Elections Commission, 1616 West Adams, Conference Room,
5 Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the following
6 Board Members:
7 Mr. Damien Meyer, Chairperson
8 Mr. Mark Kimble
9 Ms. Amy Chan
10 Mr. Galen Paton
11 OTHERS PRESENT:
12 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director
13 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer
14 Mike Becker, Policy Director
15 Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director
16 Avery Xola, Voter Education Specialist
17 Julian Arndt, Executive Support Specialist
18 Kara Karlson, Assistant Attorney General
19 Kyle Cummings, Assistant Attorney General
20 Mary O'Grady, Osborn Maledon
21 Christina Stone, Riester
22 Christina Borrego, Riester
23 Cathy Herring, Staff
24 Rivko Knox, Member of the Public
25

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1 discussion and possible action on minutes for the
2 December 16, 2021 meeting. Any discussion on those
3 meetings -- minutes? Excuse me.
4 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that
5 we approve the minutes as written.
6 CHAIRMAN MEYER: I have a motion to approve
7 the minutes. Is there a second?
8 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: This is
9 Commissioner Kimble. I second.
10 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. We have a motion to
11 approve the minutes, it's been moved and seconded. I'm
12 going to take a roll call vote now, and we'll start
13 with Commissioner Chan. How do you vote?
14 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
15 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Kimble.
16 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
17 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Paton.
18 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
19 CHAIRMAN MEYER: All right. And I vote aye
20 as well, so that motion carries four to zero.
21 Moving right along to Item No. III on the
22 agenda, discussion and possible action on Executive
23 Director's report, enforcement and regulatory updates,
24 and legislative update. I'll turn it over to you, Tom,
25 to share all the good news.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G
2
3 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Good morning. This is
4 Damien Meyer, Chairperson for 2022, first meeting.
5 We're going to go ahead and call this meeting to order.
6 It is 9:31, January 27th, 2022.
7 I'd like to ask any audience members to
8 please keep your screens -- your microphones on mute,
9 please, as we're doing this by Zoom still.
10 And with that, we'll take attendance.
11 Commissioners, please go ahead and identify yourselves
12 for the record. Go ahead, Commissioner Chan.
13 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Oh, all right. Hi.
14 Amy Chan here for the meeting. Good morning.
15 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mark Kimble is also
16 here.
17 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Paton. You're
18 on mute, Commissioner Paton.
19 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'm here. Galen Paton.
20 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you.
21 I do not see Commissioner Titla on my screen.
22 Is he in attendance? I see Tom Collins saying no.
23 Okay. So we have four Commissioners. Good to see
24 everybody.
25 We'll move on to Agenda Item No. II, which is

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1 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Thank you, Chairman,
2 Commissioners. Happy new year.
3 MS. HERRING: Tom.
4 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Tom, if you could turn your
5 volume up a little bit. We can't really hear you.
6 MR. COLLINS: Let me try this. Can you hear
7 me now?
8 CHAIRMAN MEYER: We can.
9 MR. COLLINS: Okay. All right.
10 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Now you might need to turn
11 it down a little. It's like Goldilocks.
12 MR. COLLINS: All right. Different, same?
13 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Maybe it's me. I'll turn
14 mine down.
15 MR. COLLINS: All right. So as you can see
16 from the report that we have on the voter education
17 front, folks, Avery and Gina and -- as well as Julian
18 and Alec really and -- have -- have kept up a full
19 slate of various meetings with organizations around the
20 state. I think it was good to see that the, you
21 know -- you know, that our -- our staff and Avery were
22 able to meet with the redistricting commission chair.
23 I think that was a helpful thing. And I think that,
24 you know, continuing also to work and reach out to the
25 Maricopa County Recorder's Office I think is -- I think

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1 is a very, very good and helpful sign. I don't want to
2 belabor too much of voter education, because Gina's
3 presentation will get into that this -- today.
4 You all received, after our December meeting,
5 I believe, a letter from the Auditor General's Office
6 approving our audit under 16-949, so we're pleased with
7 that. And, you know, not that they're here, but I will
8 say that working with the Auditor General's Office was
9 great. I think that they had a -- you know, it was
10 very efficient, good questions. And Mike and Paula
11 were, you know, really helpful in making sure that they
12 got the information that they needed.
13 Couple of quick notes. One of the legal
14 matters that's been on the legal matters list for a
15 long time, we got at least an opinion from the Court of
16 Appeals. That's later in the Agenda.
17 And then we have one rule that we passed --
18 you all passed on -- on December 16th that's pending at
19 the Governor's Regulatory Review Council. We had their
20 study session on Tuesday and it went well, so we're
21 hopeful that that will -- that will be positive next
22 week, Tuesday, when they meet.
23 You can -- you can see Julian has put
24 together a comprehensive report on a number of
25 election-related bills that have been introduced.

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1 We'll talk more about that, I think, in the legislative
2 section. Again, I want to kind of get to the -- we
3 have kind of a lot of business ahead of us. But we --
4 Julian does compile this on an ongoing basis, and --
5 and what we'll probably do here is start sending it
6 out, I think, on a -- on a weekly basis is what we did
7 last session. So anyway, so that's there. If you have
8 questions about that, obviously here we can talk about
9 them, but we also have a specific item noticed on
10 legislative stuff.
11 So with that, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, if
12 you have -- you don't have any questions, that
13 concludes my -- my report.
14 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you. As far as the
15 chart of all the bills in progress, thank you for
16 preparing that, are there any that you feel kind of
17 need to highlight for us or make us aware of or are we
18 there yet on that?
19 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, I
20 think that the -- from a -- from an election
21 perspective, I think that the bills related to, you
22 know, reworking the election process, there's a --
23 there's a -- there's a variety of bills on a variety of
24 different scales. And so, you know, I think that -- I
25 think that those bills are what I think we want to

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1 focus our conversation about later in the agenda.
2 You know, there are bills to eliminate drop
3 boxes for ballots. There are bills -- there's one bill
4 that was introduced yesterday, although it hasn't yet
5 been assigned, that does, well, a whole heck of a lot
6 of stuff, including, you know, having hand counts over
7 machine counts and eliminating, for all intents and
8 purposes, early voting and eliminating the County --
9 County Recorders from the election process, et cetera.
10 So there's another bill that does -- gets rid
11 of mail voting, voting by mail, ballot by mail at the
12 city level. So there's just -- there really -- if
13 there's a touch point in the election process, there's
14 a bill about it right now, is the way I put it.
15 We haven't seen as many bills on the campaign
16 finance front yet. But in this legislature if there's
17 one thing that they've done, we've seen repeatedly over
18 the course of the last, you know, five or six years, is
19 that campaign finance bills get introduced late, either
20 on the last day to introduce bills or the last day to
21 hear strikers in the house of origin. So there's -- we
22 usually don't know about what's coming there until
23 quite late in the process.
24 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Any Commissioners have any
25 questions on the report?

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1 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman.
2 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Yes, Commissioner Chan.
3 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I just wanted to say, as
4 a general kind of statement, that I'm very concerned
5 with the things that we're seeing at the legislature
6 right now being introduced and even heard in -- in
7 committee. And, you know, I saw that, I think it was
8 yesterday or the day before, there were literal --
9 there was a literal Nazi on the Capitol grounds, who
10 Speaker Bowers subsequently barred from the House
11 building.
12 But I feel like this is just more -- I'm very
13 concerned that we are continuing to move in the wrong
14 direction as far as voter rights and -- and seeing a
15 lot of voter suppression ideas that the majority of the
16 legislature seem to support. And they have these folks
17 who are -- seeing that guy literally doing the Nazi
18 salute, I guess, was just kind of emblematic of the
19 whole problem to me. I mean, when you have those kinds
20 of people supporting these voter suppression tactics,
21 it's -- that kind of tells me everything I need to know
22 about, okay, if you're on the side of voter suppression,
23 maybe you need to look at yourself.
24 So I -- I just think that every year it just
25 seems more and more important to keep on top of all

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1 this stuff. And even if we don't have a huge voice at
2 the legislature, hopefully we can speak up against
3 bills as they are assigned to and heard in committee
4 and -- and make our support or not support known.
5 So that's it. Just kind of a general
6 statement, I guess, but I just wanted to highlight that
7 because I find it all very, very disturbing.
8 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you, Commissioner
9 Chan. And we are going to discuss that issue a little
10 later in the Agenda, but I appreciate you bringing that
11 up now.
12 Any other Commissioners -- Commissioner
13 Kimble or Commissioner Paton, do you have any questions
14 or thoughts?
15 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman.
16 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Kimble.
17 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Tom, I see here under
18 enforcement, The Power of Fives is pending. Any idea
19 when that will come back to us?
20 MR. COLLINS: Commissioner Kimble -- Chairman
21 Meyer, Commissioner Kimble, I -- I don't know the
22 answer to that question. There is a -- I can -- I can
23 say, with respect to the lawsuit, we had a standard,
24 you know, preliminary meeting among the lawyers in
25 December. The -- there will come a time here, probably

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1 in the next probably 30 to 60 days, where we will be
2 more engaged in the lawsuit aspect of this. I think
3 that that will be -- and then -- and then we will work
4 with, you know, with the AG's office and our
5 representation there, Kara and Kyle, to -- to make sure
6 that issue is handled. With respect to the enforcement
7 action, without TPOF here, I really don't have anything
8 I'm in a position to -- to offer.
9 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. My only concern
10 was, whichever way this goes, it seems like, with the
11 elections coming up, I don't want to put either side in
12 the position of not knowing where they stand. So I --
13 I hope it's something that we can resolve, one way or
14 the other, before the elections really get -- get
15 going.
16 MR. COLLINS: With -- Chairman Meyer,
17 Commissioner Kimble, with respect to the -- with
18 respect to the lawsuit, I think that we're in a
19 position where I think our position is -- is clear, and
20 I think that we're communicating that consistently to
21 all people involved, but --
22 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Yeah, I was -- I was
23 talking mostly about the enforcement action.
24 MR. COLLINS: I am -- Chairman Meyer,
25 Commissioner Kimble, yes, and I am trying assiduously

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1 to avoid talking about the enforcement in this context.
2 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
3 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Paton.
4 COMMISSIONER PATON: No, nothing.
5 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. Thank you.
6 Are there any comments from the audience at
7 this time on the Executive Director's report? If so,
8 can you please signal the Zoom moderator.
9 (No response.)
10 CHAIRMAN MEYER: I'm not seeing any, so we'll
11 go ahead and move forward with Agenda Item No. IV,
12 which is discussion -- excuse me -- discussion and
13 possible action on proposed meeting dates for February
14 through July of 2022.
15 Commissioners, everyone should have had a
16 chance to read the dates that Paula Thomas has
17 proposed. Unless there's any discussion, I'll
18 entertain a motion. But do we -- do we have final
19 dates? Because I know on some of those there were
20 options. Do we -- was there a final -- final date in
21 the materials that I perhaps missed?
22 MS. THOMAS: Chairman Meyer, Commissioners,
23 the dates that are proposed are the final ones based on
24 a quorum I could secure of what was provided to me
25 directly.

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1 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay.
2 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Well, Mr. Chairman,
3 they're -- they're all listed in the -- in the e-mail,
4 not as an attachment, but --
5 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. All right. Can I
6 have a motion on the dates for the meetings?
7 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman, I -- I
8 move that we approve the following meeting dates:
9 February 24th, March 24th, April 28th, May 19th,
10 June 30th, and July 28th, 2022.
11 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Is there a second on that?
12 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll second
13 that motion.
14 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. We have a first and a
15 second. We'll go ahead and call the roll in the vote,
16 starting with Commissioner Chan. How do you vote?
17 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
18 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Kimble.
19 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
20 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Paton.
21 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
22 CHAIRMAN MEYER: And I'll vote aye as well.
23 So the motion passes unanimously, and we have our
24 meeting dates set for the first half of the year.
25 Okay. Agenda Item No. V, discussion and

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1 possible action on the 2022 Voter Education Plan. Each
2 year the Commission has adopted a Voter Education Plan
3 designed to promote participation and increase
4 confidence of voters by providing them information on
5 elections and candidates. As we know, that's becoming
6 more and more challenging in these times. So 2022 is
7 an important election year in which almost all of our
8 statewide offices are on the ballot, including
9 Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State.
10 With that, Gina Roberts is going to present
11 our education plan for the day. Gina, you have the
12 floor.
13 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, Chairman Meyer.
14 Good morning, Commissioners. As the Chairman
15 mentioned, 2022 will be a big election year for the
16 state of Arizona because we do have all of our
17 statewides on the ballot, so --
18 With me today I also have Christina Borrego
19 and Christina Stone, who are with Riester. Riester is
20 our partner that we've been partners with for several
21 years now to execute our Voter Education Plan. So if
22 necessary, I may call on -- on one of them to -- to
23 speak. And also, of course, we have Avery too, who's
24 part of the voter education team. So I may need to
25 defer to one of them throughout the presentation, so I

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1 just wanted to make those introductions.
2 And I have a presentation here, so I will go
3 ahead and share my screen. And I can pull up my
4 PowerPoint. Let's see here. Share. Okay. Unless
5 somebody tells me otherwise, I will assume you can see
6 it.
7 Okay. So I wanted to start by giving a
8 little --
9 You can see it?
10 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Yes.
11 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.
12 I wanted to start by giving sort of a lay of
13 the land of what the Arizona electorate looks like. As
14 we know, we have 15 counties here in our state, and
15 each county runs the election directly there. So
16 depending on the county you're in, you may have a
17 slightly different voting experience. Perhaps you're
18 in a county that uses vote centers, as opposed to a
19 county that uses precinct-based polling places. And
20 then, of course, there are the considerations between a
21 rural voter and an urban voter.
22 So looking at the current voter registration
23 statistics, I wanted to showcase where we are today.
24 We've got about 4.3 million registered voters in the
25 state, and this is according to the latest voter

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1 registration stats, which were in October of 2021. I
2 went ahead and I included the stats from the 2020
3 general election as well just so we can kind of see
4 what the growth looks like overall -- or, actually,
5 maybe not growth in some of the areas -- the
6 differences, I should say.
7 But you can see there's not too many -- not
8 much of a big difference. We do continue to see that
9 our other voters, that OTH category, which is what we
10 consider independents, anybody who is not affiliated --
11 affiliated with a recognized party, that continues to
12 be one of our highest voting blocks in the state, so
13 those numbers do keep growing. So again, overall,
14 across the state of Arizona we've got about 4.3 million
15 registered voters.
16 Just as a reminder for how turnout looked in
17 the state for the 2020 general election, it was pretty
18 great. We -- we broke records. We had one of the
19 highest turnouts that we've had in decades, where we
20 almost hit that 80 percent mark statewide, and I -- for
21 the general election. And I think that's very
22 impressive because, as we know, voters had a lot of
23 challenges that they had to overcome in 2020, including
24 being -- COVID. And so it's great to see that the
25 numbers keep rising in terms of turnout. So I wanted

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1 to share that, because we want to continue to see that
2 trend. We want those numbers to keep climbing.
3 I do think it's important to talk about how
4 voters are voting. So in the 2020 general election, of
5 the votes that were -- of the ballots that were cast,
6 89 percent were cast early. So really we're seeing
7 11 percent of our voters across the state are actually
8 showing up on election day. And this is important
9 because it tells us when we need to be out there with
10 our voter education, how people are voting, you know.
11 It's not just an election day; it really is an election
12 season. Early voting starts 27 days before the
13 election. Obviously, if -- if there are changes that
14 come from the legislature that impact this, of course
15 we would make sure that we continue to educate voters
16 on what the applicable law is for them at that specific
17 election. But I do think it's important to share how
18 voters voted in the 2020 general election because it
19 tells us a lot about when they're thinking about
20 voting.
21 I have this information that I wanted to
22 share too. We don't have a lot of data on Native
23 American voting turnout. That's not something that's
24 necessarily collected by the County. But this
25 information was available from the ASU Indian Legal

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1 Clinic, and I thought this was great as well because,
2 again, it shows that the numbers are rising.
3 So with the tribes that they list here, and
4 when we look at the difference in turnout compared from
5 2020 to the previous Presidential election year of
6 2016, we can see that we're, again, going in the right
7 direction. We're seeing that increase across the
8 tribes. You know, one of them already -- let's see.
9 The Pascua Yaqui Tribe had a 19 percent increase -- or,
10 I'm sorry. I read the wrong one. The Kaibab Paiute
11 Tribe had a 19 percent increase.
12 And so I -- I thought this was important
13 because Native American outreach is a part of our Voter
14 Education Plan every year, and, you know, those
15 particular communities have certain challenges that,
16 you know, perhaps somebody in metro Phoenix wouldn't
17 have, such as the issue of nonstandard addresses, you
18 know, being able to collect their mail when, you know,
19 it comes to early voting, traveling, transportation,
20 WiFi even, the ability to access election information
21 if they can't get a good signal. So all of those
22 things are considerations as we develop our Voter
23 Education Plan, but I thought it was important to share
24 these statistics with you because, again, it shows that
25 we're going in the right direction in terms of turnout.

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1 The other thing that I wanted to show that
2 we --
3 CHAIRMAN MEYER: I'm sorry, Gina. Sorry to
4 interrupt you. Can we go back one slide where it had
5 the voter -- yes, this one. So I had a quick question,
6 as it looks like over 80 percent is early voter,
7 probably more closer to 85 or 90 percent is early
8 voters.
9 MS. ROBERTS: 89 percent of the ballots cast
10 were cast early. So that includes emergency early
11 voting, early voting in person, and ballot by mail.
12 CHAIRMAN MEYER: So my question was, if you
13 know, and if we don't know, I'd be interested to know,
14 how does that compare to 2016, when there wasn't a
15 pandemic? Is it similar or is it -- is it more early
16 voting because -- probably because of the pandemic?
17 MS. ROBERTS: I would say that there was
18 definitely an increase and -- but I wouldn't say it's
19 very significant. As a whole, the amount of voters who
20 are on the active early voting list, who automatically
21 get their ballot by mail for every election, were
22 almost at 80 percent, about 79 percent in -- in the
23 state of Arizona. As far as the ballots that were
24 actually cast in the 2016 general election, if I recall
25 off the top of my head, I want to say it was, again,

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1 around that 80 percent, 82 percent marker.
2 So it's definitely an increase. We're
3 definitely increasing in the amount of people who
4 choose to cast their ballot early, as opposed to
5 visiting the polls on election day. You know, and
6 again, could that be -- could that rise for the 2020
7 general election be attributed to the pandemic? I
8 think that's a logical assumption to make. But Arizona
9 has had ballot by mail for three decades now. It's
10 what voters are using. There's always a higher amount
11 of people who are voting early than they are coming out
12 on election day.
13 You know, when we look into talking to voters
14 about why they choose that method, it ends up being a
15 matter of convenience. That's what we hear in our
16 focus groups. You know, they have the time. They have
17 the -- and it's not just the time where, oh, you know,
18 I have to go on election day and I don't want to stand
19 in line, but the -- taking the time to consider the
20 candidates and the issues on their ballot as well. You
21 know, sometimes they like to vote with their family
22 members. They'll sit at the kitchen table because they
23 like to get the opinions of their family members. So
24 we hear a lot of different reasons, but it really comes
25 down to it's a matter of convenience for that voter to

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1 be able to have their ballot at home, and when they
2 have the time, sit down with it and, you know, whatever
3 their process is, they get to do it.
4 CHAIRMAN MEYER: And I just -- I just want to
5 put a pin in this because -- and I think we're going to
6 talk about this later, and I -- this is, I think,
7 obvious to the Commissioners, but, you know, one of
8 these bills would -- would not allow early voting, so
9 we're talking about processing, you know, three and a
10 half million votes in one day, and logistically is that
11 possible with voting machines tabulating this and much
12 less a hand count. So I just wanted to raise that as
13 some logistical issues we might need to discuss when we
14 talk about the current legislation later.
15 Thank you, Gina.
16 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, Chairman Meyer. And
17 yes, in terms of -- there's definitely several
18 components there when we talk about the administration
19 of elections, but with consideration of those bills,
20 there definitely would be an impact when it comes to
21 voter education.
22 Okay. On this slide here I also wanted to
23 showcase -- we do youth voter education and outreach,
24 and we also have some civic education that you'll see
25 in our plan as well too. And so what this slide shows

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1 here -- and this is data that I pulled from the Census,
2 the U.S. Census Bureau. It's in their current
3 population survey. And so this is self-reported data,
4 but it showcases the comparison of educational
5 attainment for a voter, how high they go, how far they
6 advance with their education, and the comparison to the
7 percent voted.
8 So as you can see, the higher this particular
9 demographic is, so an advanced degree or bachelor's
10 degree, the higher percentage that we'll see within
11 that particular demographic of them actually turning
12 out to vote. And so I think this is important too as
13 we consider our youth voter outreach, as we go into
14 classrooms, our civics curriculums. You know, we know
15 that if we can get kids excited about voting, you know,
16 we have a greater chance of developing that lifelong
17 voter.
18 Going on into that same vein, when we look at
19 the demographics for 18 to 24-year-olds, they continue
20 to be the lowest turnout for their age group. So when
21 we look at, if we're -- if we're doing apples to
22 apples, so the 2016 presidential election to 2020, we
23 can see that they are still the lowest percentage
24 turnout. 2018 would be a midterm, so we naturally see
25 lower turnout in our midterm elections. But again, 18

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1 to 24-year-olds, they do have that lowest turnout for
2 their particular age group. And so, again, this is,
3 you know, all the more reason why -- why we felt we
4 need to continue with our youth voter education
5 program.
6 So that kind of gives us the lay of the land
7 of the numbers of Arizona's electorate. When we
8 develop our Voter Education Plans, typically what the
9 Commission has invested in, in odd-number years, is we
10 do research. We want to make sure that we have a good
11 understanding of where voters -- where their minds are
12 at, what they tell us that they need so that they can
13 participate in the political process.
14 So working with Riestler, we -- we did a
15 post-general election survey where we went out and we
16 put a survey out to voters, and we also held focus
17 groups. And we wanted to talk to them again to get a
18 better understanding of how their election experience
19 was, how confident they feel about voting and the
20 voting process. We have a lot of data that is the
21 basis for our Voter Education Plan that I'll -- I'll
22 share with you shortly, but there are a couple of
23 highlights that I wanted to share.
24 In particular, only a third felt extremely
25 knowledgeable about voting. And with that, nonvoters

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1 refrained from participating mainly for the lack of
2 information and resources, and that results in them not
3 feeling knowledgeable or confident in the process. So
4 this is something that we've -- we've known for a
5 while, right. Voters need to have the information that
6 they need so that they can cast their ballot, but cast
7 it confidently. Confidence is a key issue there. An
8 informed voter is an empowered voter, and that's, you
9 know, kind of our motto that we've been going with. We
10 need to make sure that voters -- one, that the
11 information is available, but they know where to get
12 it, they know where to get trusted election
13 information, especially in this day and age of
14 misinformation.
15 Additionally, some of the insights that we
16 found were how voters interact when they're researching
17 their election information. And we know that Google,
18 it really dominates how people are getting their
19 election information. And I think it's important to
20 remember that Google is a search engine, it is not
21 technically a resource, and, you know, you can pay to
22 be the top link that shows up on your Google search
23 results.
24 And so I think with this comes the need for
25 media literacy too, especially when we're talking about

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1 educating our youth voters, but that also goes for --
2 for adult voters as well, youth voters, you know,
3 future voters. But this also showcases the need to
4 have media literacy so you understand the source of
5 your election information. And again, I bring this up
6 because of misinformation.
7 So it's important that voters know that they
8 can go to Clean Elections, that they know who our
9 agency is, our brand, that we are the state's
10 nonpartisan voter education agency, so that they can
11 trust the information that they're getting. They need
12 to know that they can go to our -- their 15 county
13 recorder's and election offices.
14 Additionally, one of the highlights here is
15 that young people -- young people have told us that
16 they don't feel that they are receiving adequate
17 education about the election process, including kind of
18 what to expect at the polls. We were talking with
19 voters and, you know, this young person indicated, you
20 know, we hear a lot about, oh, you need to get
21 registered, you need to do this, but they don't ever
22 actually walk you through how, you know, and sometimes
23 that can be intimidating, or what to expect when you go
24 to the polls. So we -- we know that we need to kind of
25 fill the void here and make sure that we offer this

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1 type of education.
2 So in addition to the post-general election
3 research, we also recently partnered with OH Insights
4 to conduct a survey across the state, and we did that
5 this past December. Now, the purpose of the research
6 that we did with Riestler was, again, to get a better
7 understanding of voters and how they felt about voter
8 education and being informed and what do they need to
9 learn about.
10 This particular survey is geared more towards
11 connecting voters and the candidates and the issues.
12 So we did an online survey, and what we wanted to do
13 was ask voters across the state, okay, what are the
14 issues that are important to you that you want to hear
15 candidates talk about. And the purpose for this was to
16 drive the discussion behind our debates. So we wanted
17 to utilize the data from this research to drive the
18 discussion and -- and give our moderators an idea of
19 what the voters are looking for, but also use it to
20 pick interests with both the voters in their district
21 and the candidates that are running to showcase, hey,
22 these are what the voters in this area are saying are
23 important to them. So, candidates and voters, you
24 know, come to the Clean Elections debate so that you
25 can address these issues directly.

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1 So some of the key takeaways from this survey
2 was, in regards to the issues, we know that day-to-day
3 items, issues dominate the topics voters want to hear
4 about. And while those issues can go across the
5 political ideologies here, we drill down deeper to see
6 specifically what those issues within those topics are
7 as they go across the political affiliation.
8 So, for example here, when we talk about
9 issues -- so Democratic primary voters wanted to hear
10 positions on minimum wage, whereas our GOP voters want
11 to hear about taxes, all under that main issue of the
12 economy, of jobs and economy, so we drill down into
13 those different nuances. And that's important for our
14 primary election debates, again, so we have a better
15 understanding of what the voters want to discuss.
16 Another key takeaway from this survey was
17 that voters get their information from TV. So we know
18 a lot of voters -- we know that that's one of the
19 primary sources. And so it's important that Clean
20 Elections also has a presence on TV as well, on
21 broadcast, so we can make sure we're meeting voters
22 where they are.
23 This is an idea -- this gives you an idea,
24 this survey too, with some of the issues that we
25 discussed. So you'll see, you know, some of the

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1 standards that we would expect, right, jobs, economy,
2 healthcare, education. And the difference between
3 wanting to know and needing to know, you know, we
4 really wanted to drill down what was truly important to
5 you. So people would talk about, okay, yes, you know,
6 I want -- this is an important issue. I want to know
7 about, you know, healthcare issues, but what I really
8 need to know about within that particular issue is, you
9 know, what is the State doing about COVID, that kind of
10 thing. Same with education. So, you know, when I say
11 education is important to me, am I talking about, you
12 know, dollars being allocated to schools or, you know,
13 am I talking about, you know, critical race theory,
14 that type of thing. So we drill down deeper into what
15 those particular issues are.
16 And we have all of that data available; I'm
17 not going to go through it here. But I think it's --
18 what I wanted to really clarify here is that we drill
19 it down by political affiliation, by topic, the issues
20 within the topic, and then we also do a regional
21 analysis. And I think that's really important for our
22 debates. Because we know that what's important to a
23 voter, let's say, who lives in Apache County is maybe
24 not going to be, you know, on the same level of what
25 our voters in the city of Phoenix are -- are saying

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1 that are important to them. So we have a regional
2 analysis as well too that will, again, drive the
3 discussion on our debate -- not just our debates, but
4 also our Candidate Compass Tool as well, and possibly
5 the Voter Guide. So we feel that that was important
6 research to, again, connect the voter to -- and the
7 candidates about the issues that are important to them.
8 So as we mentioned -- we already talked a
9 little bit about what will be on the ballot. It's our
10 midterms, so all of the statewide will be there.
11 We'll have our judicial retention elections, of course,
12 in November, ballot propositions, local elections as
13 well, and then, of course, our federal elections. We
14 have our one U.S. Senate seat that will be open, and
15 then we have our nine congressional districts that will
16 be open as well. And again, that's nine. We did not
17 get the tenth seat from redistricting. So we will have
18 those federal elections on the ballot too.
19 So a few more things that I wanted to share
20 for considerations before we jump into the specifics of
21 the plan. We talked about this a little bit already,
22 misinformation and disinformation. This was a big
23 issue in the 2020 election cycle. I actually wanted to
24 just kind of go back to the basics here, because I feel
25 like these words are used a lot and maybe out of

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1 context a lot. Misinformation would be information
2 that is spread regardless of whether there's an intent
3 to mislead. So maybe somebody is just uninformed, you
4 know, or they don't quite understand the process. And
5 of course disinformation, that's where we do have that
6 intent to mislead, so it is specifically trying to put
7 incorrect information out there.

8 And again, this is where we attribute the
9 need for media literacy. So Avery does a lot of this
10 in his grassroots outreach, the presentations that he
11 gives, you know, when we talk about where to go and
12 find official election information. We want to make
13 sure that we are empowering voters with the tools so
14 that they know where they can get that trusted
15 information from, such as looking for a dot gov and
16 making sure that the websites that you go to are from
17 an official source.

18 Because of misinformation and disinformation,
19 perceptions have changed, and so, you know, this is why
20 we feel that voter education is more important now than
21 ever. Again, going back to an informed voter is an
22 empowered voter. So really not much changed during the
23 election administration of 2020. Obviously, our
24 election officials had to make some adjustments based
25 off of the pandemic, off of COVID, but no laws or

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1 procedures were -- were really changed. And so, again,
2 it comes back down to the perception of elections.
3 And, you know, we've -- since the 2016 election, our
4 election officials have dealt with challenges, such as,
5 you know, foreign influence. Again, we're seeing, you
6 know, things going viral on social media as it pertains
7 to misinformation. And so all of these things can chip
8 away at the public trust of the electoral process. And
9 so not only do we want to provide voter education on
10 the logistics of voting, but we also want to empower
11 the voter as well so we can build back that trust in
12 the system.

13 Okay. So one of the other things that I
14 wanted to talk about, Riester provided this information
15 for us, is that we -- some of the considerations that
16 we have to take into account when we're developing the
17 Voter Education Plan is our budget. So Arizona has
18 been a target for lots of political dollars being spent
19 when it comes to media, especially in the 2016 and the
20 2018, the 2020 election. We're seeing more and more
21 dollars being spent -- media dollars being spent when
22 it comes to political advertising.

23 So in 2020, there was actually an
24 unprecedented \$260 million were spent on political
25 advertising in our state. And that -- actually, that

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1 was a doubled amount of what we saw in 2018.
2 So why is that important? This -- this pie
3 chart here shows you what we spend in terms of our
4 media dollars compared to what was spent in 2020 over
5 all the political dollars, and you'll see it's a drop
6 in the bucket. So we were at .9 percent in comparison
7 of all of the other media dollars that were spent
8 there. This is important because we know that, you
9 know, you have to pay to be heard when it comes to paid
10 media. There's -- you know, there's lot of competition
11 out there. We've gotten bumped before in some of our
12 TV ads and we've had to move those dollars into other
13 media buckets. So we have to make sure that we are
14 prepared for things like that and that we know that our
15 Voter Education Plan needs to be comprehensive, that it
16 doesn't just rely on paid media to get the word out.

17 So that's why you'll see a lot of those
18 grassroots efforts. Again, the work that Avery and
19 Alec do is so important because it's connecting voters
20 to the information outside of paid media ads. But of
21 course, we still need to do paid media, that's
22 definitely an important resource for us, but our budget
23 has not changed over the years. We continue to operate
24 off of the same paid media budget. And that is set by
25 statute, of course. But while our budget hasn't

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1 changed, the overall media budgets are.
2 So when you see on this slide here, we're
3 looking at the different platforms and how -- what the
4 anticipated changes are in advertising budgets for the
5 next year, they're increasing. And so that's something
6 that we're not necessarily able to keep up with.

7 When we, you know, look at what the
8 expectation is for this year, we're going to see,
9 again, that increase. We have the U.S. Senate race,
10 which is expected to garner a lot of attention for the
11 state. We'll see a lot of, again, those high media
12 dollars being spent here. So those are considerations
13 that we need to take when we develop our voter
14 education campaign. And one of the takeaways I
15 mentioned from the research we did with OH Insights was
16 that voters are going to TV, and we see TV costs,
17 broadcast costs are increasing as well too.

18 So again, we have to be as smart and as
19 creative as we can with our media dollars. And I'm
20 grateful to Riester because I think they've done an
21 amazing job for us in developing a smart media plan for
22 us that gets us the most for our dollars. But again, I
23 wanted to share that with you because it is a
24 consideration, but also it showcases the need for us to
25 develop additional partnerships. And I'll talk about

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1 how we can address some of these issues with the
2 partnerships we have been working on building for this
3 year. So --
4 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Gina, I'm sorry to
5 interrupt. I had another question.
6 MS. ROBERTS: Yes.
7 CHAIRMAN MEYER: When you went -- that
8 slide that showed the Clean Elections spending was
9 .9 percent --
10 MS. ROBERTS: Yes.
11 CHAIRMAN MEYER: -- does that include federal
12 election spending? And if so, do you know what
13 percentage we are of state elections, which is who
14 we're targeting primarily, right?
15 MS. ROBERTS: So this -- this particular
16 pie -- pie chart is all of the media dollars, the media
17 expenditures, the media buys that occurred for
18 political advertising, whether it is for a federal
19 candidate or a state candidate. So it's coming from
20 candidate campaigns, it's coming from nonprofits, it's,
21 you know, coming from political action committees, that
22 type of thing. So it's all of those dollars. So --
23 And thank you for that question, Chairman
24 Meyer, because I should clarify. What does this chart
25 really mean? It means that the voter is getting

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1 inundated with all of these messages. So the voter is
2 getting messages left and right nonstop, you can't
3 escape it, right, from all of these media ads targeting
4 them with election information. So in this big pool
5 here, again, we're a drop in the bucket. So how do we
6 make sure that voters pay attention to our message,
7 that they look at the nonpartisan Clean Elections
8 Commission, you know, information, where we just want
9 them to cast the ballot, we just want them to
10 participate? So how do they filter through all of
11 that? So I think that's maybe kind of the takeaway
12 that I was hoping to share here too. So thank you for
13 that question, Chairman, and hopefully I addressed your
14 question.
15 CHAIRMAN MEYER: You did. Thank you.
16 MS. ROBERTS: Okay. So now we'll jump into
17 what our specific plan is for 2022. The Commission,
18 you -- Mike presented the budget in December, and the
19 Commission approved our budget. So, again, we have our
20 budget of 1.9 million for our paid media cap. We have
21 an additional 1.5 million for the debates and the Voter
22 Education Guide.
23 And so the media tactics that we'll be
24 utilizing -- again, we developed a very comprehensive
25 campaign, so we'll -- we'll pretty much be using all

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1 the tactics that are available that we can get out
2 there. So, again, we will be on TV. We'll have our
3 radio reads, our print ads, outdoor.
4 What I mean by "outdoor," we're actually
5 going to be -- this is -- this is very exciting. And
6 again, this is where I want to acknowledge Riester for
7 their creativities. And if you've ever gone to the gas
8 station and you've pumped your gas and you have -- they
9 have those digital displays and you hear, you know, the
10 advertisement come up, we're actually going to be able
11 to run ads on there, which is fantastic, because that
12 particular platform, they don't allow political
13 advertising.
14 And so that's one of the other challenges
15 that we have with our media buys is we need to showcase
16 that, well, we aren't a political entity. We're -- you
17 know, we're -- we're an education entity, if you will.
18 We're doing more like a public service announcement.
19 And so in showing, you know, the types of messages that
20 we're offering, we were able to be allowed to use this
21 platform here, which is fantastic, because there won't
22 be any other type of political ads on there.
23 Of course, we'll have digital. We'll have a
24 very big presence that includes our banner ads, you
25 know, paid ads, our paid -- and then we'll have paid

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1 search too, which works very well for us too. So going
2 back to when someone goes to Google, we'll make sure
3 that we're on that top of the search results.
4 Some of the highlights that we wanted to
5 share for our youth outreach, again, this goes back to
6 meeting voters where they are, so we'll be on Snapchat,
7 Twitch, which is a game streaming platform, and TikTok,
8 which is exciting and scary too for us. So the
9 message --
10 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, Gina, what
11 are we going to do on Twitch? Are we going to have
12 like a -- I remember Tom did post-debate, you know,
13 shows on Facebook years ago. And what's the Twitch
14 stream going to be like? I'm so curious about that.
15 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner
16 Chan, Commissioners, so we actually were on Twitch
17 before too. And so it's really just running our
18 youth -- our youth commercials, our youth ads that we
19 develop. So we -- for Snapchat and Twitch it won't
20 really be kind of that type of content where you see
21 maybe us as staff members. You will see that in
22 TikTok, which is why I thought it was a little scary.
23 So Snapchat and Twitch, it will be more of our creative
24 assets that we develop, such as the -- the commercials
25 that we've developed for our youth outreach, for our

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1 youth campaign. TikTok is where you'll kind of see
2 more of that personal -- that personal touch there.
3 And then as far as what we're communicating,
4 So we've talked about, you know, the logistics of
5 voting. That will cover everything from A to Z that
6 the voter needs to know to cast their ballot, from
7 registering to vote, how to get their ballot, how to
8 return it, you know, where drop boxes are located at,
9 how to verify their ballot was counted, what those key
10 dates and deadlines are. We'll talk about election
11 security, again, building back that confidence, knowing
12 that your vote is protecting and counted, and how you
13 the voter can verify that. We'll talk about
14 independent voters, youth voters, official election
15 information, where to get it.
16 Then we'll talk about too -- so that's kind
17 of the logistics. And then we have, what's on my
18 ballot, so connecting voters with the candidates and
19 the issues. Therein you'll see our debates, our Voter
20 Education Guide, things like that, our Candidate
21 Compass Tool. And, of course, we'll be encouraging
22 voters to use the tools that we developed to get them
23 this information. So these are the catalysts for --
24 for transferring that information over. We have our
25 Voter Education Guide, our debates.

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1 Our website is a wealth of information, and I
2 think -- you know, this is where I truly give so much
3 credit to Alec, because our website is continually
4 utilized as a resource for voters, but also our
5 partners, our election officials and our -- our other
6 agency partners that we work with, nonprofits. We are
7 constantly getting feedback that our website has
8 basically everything that you need and it's written in
9 a way too so that it's easy to understand. We're not
10 just regurgitating statutes.
11 So we want to drive folks to our website. We
12 want them to use our Voter Dashboard Tool, which,
13 again, is that one-stop shop. You just enter in your
14 address, and you get everything that you need to know.
15 You get your districts, who's running, who's currently
16 in office, where the nearest vote centers are for you,
17 you know, verifying your voter registration, what your
18 specific district numbers are, things like that.
19 So we want to continue to promote the tools
20 that we have, and then we also have messaging on how to
21 run for office. Mike and Julian recently created some
22 really great video content for candidates that are
23 running with Riestler, such as, you know, how the \$5
24 qualifying contribution process works, you know, how to
25 qualify for the ballot, things like that. So we're

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1 continuing to update our website and our assets that we
2 have to help educate the public.
3 Of course, we'll have our debates. So we're
4 really happy to share that we're going to continue our
5 partnership with AZ PBS for our debates this year.
6 We've had a long-standing partnership with them. And
7 it's really great because we work with Arizona Horizon,
8 and the host is Ted Simons. He moderates our debates
9 for us. He's built trust with the candidates and the
10 elected officials, so we know that he does a great job
11 as a fair moderator.
12 In addition to our statewide debates with AZ
13 PBS, we will also sponsor the U.S. Senate debate again
14 this year. At the Commission's direction we -- we
15 sponsored the debate last year as well too -- or, I'm
16 sorry, 2020. And that actually ended up being -- I
17 think it received the third highest ratings that PBS
18 has ever experienced before, and that's fantastic. And
19 then the moderators for that debate, they -- they ended
20 up winning a Rocky Mountain Emmy Award for it too. So
21 we know voters tuned into that, we know it was
22 important, and we want to continue providing that
23 service.
24 In addition, AZ PBS has shared, you know,
25 they appreciate their partnership with us as well too,

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1 so they're going to list us as a sponsor for the
2 congressional debates that they host as well too. So
3 that's going to be another tool that we can provide to
4 voters.
5 In addition to our partnership with AZ PBS,
6 we've also been having conversations with the Arizona
7 Broadcasters Association and the Arizona Newspaper
8 Association. And that's really important going back to
9 when we talk about those paid media dollars and we know
10 that we need to be on broadcast. Partnering with these
11 associations to run our content, so to run these -- to
12 multi-stream these -- multi-cast the debates, it's
13 great because it increases our reach. So instead of
14 just the reach that we would get with AZ PBS, which
15 they have about 80 percent across the state, we'll be
16 able to strengthen and broaden our reach across the
17 state through these other broadcast channels, which is
18 fantastic. And also with the newspaper association as
19 well too, that will help us get more coverage -- media
20 coverage on our debates too.
21 And then, of course, we're very happy to
22 partner with Arizona Capitol Times again to not only
23 bring awareness about our debates, but also to serve as
24 moderators for our legislative debates.
25 And again, this goes back to the partnerships

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1 where AZ PBS, they want to also stream our legislative
2 debates on all of their channels too, on their social
3 channels.
4 So, again, it's, you know, being creative in
5 how we can continue to expand our growth and our reach.
6 And again, using that information from the OH survey,
7 that will drive the discussion in our debates, and
8 we'll use that to generate interest for those
9 particular regions, for those districts.
10 Then, of course, we jump into our Voter
11 Education Guide. That will go to every household with
12 a registered voter for both the primary and the
13 general, and we do send it by legislative district. We
14 do have a new vendor this year that we're working with,
15 and it's -- Paula has been great in helping to set that
16 up. Our previous vendor, they were bought out, so
17 we've had to transition. And it's going great because
18 thankfully a lot of their staff, they actually have
19 previous experience with our jobs with the old vendor.
20 So we're very excited about working with them and so
21 far everything has been -- we don't -- we don't expect
22 there to be any hitches between that transition.
23 We will continue to push the Voter Education
24 Guide out to the local libraries, schools, and
25 colleges. One thing that we did for the first time in

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1 2020, which we thought was very successful, was we sent
2 Voter Education Guides to the post offices that service
3 tribal communities too. Because, again, we know that
4 mail can sometimes be an issue in those areas with
5 nonstandard addresses. And so just kind of thinking
6 out of the box there, that was another tactic that we
7 were able to utilize to help reach those particular
8 voters. We'll continue to do that.
9 And the versions of the Voter Guide that
10 we'll provide -- we automatically mail out English and
11 Spanish. We'll continue with our large print. We have
12 translated the Voter Guide into Navajo in the past. We
13 also now are going to include Apache. In 2020, for the
14 first time ever, we developed an American Sign Language
15 version of our Voter Guide. That was done through a
16 partnership with the Arizona Commission for the Deaf
17 and Hard of Hearing. And it was -- it was really great
18 to -- to do that. I have to tell you, it was very
19 heartwarming, actually, to be able to provide this
20 content that has never before been done, as far as
21 ACDHH could tell us, even maybe at the national level,
22 to take a project of this magnitude, with the amount of
23 election information, and translate it into ASL for
24 that community. So we -- we want to continue doing
25 that. We'll, of course, have an audio version with our

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1 partnership with Sun Sounds Of Arizona, and of course
2 have plain text, which is available for screen readers.
3 So the goal -- the point of this here is
4 that, you know, we provide the information, but it's
5 never just one format. Our goal is to always make sure
6 that the voter education that we provide is accessible
7 and attainable to all voters across the state so we can
8 meet their needs.
9 So in addition to the logistics, you know,
10 the candidates, and the issues, the Voter Guide, and
11 the debates, we go a little bit back to promoting
12 participation in the political process as a whole,
13 right. It's not just voting. It's also learning about
14 how your government works for you, how elections are
15 conducted, civics, you know, our civics curriculum that
16 we've developed, again, that media literacy and
17 promoting that civic engagement. It's really all part
18 of the -- the circle, if you think about it, full
19 circle experience for the voter.
20 And again, we want to continue our
21 partnerships and our grassroots outreach. Again, as
22 you see in all of the Executive Director reports, Avery
23 is continuously out there in the community. Alec has
24 developed great relationships with the counties. And
25 that's really important because that gets us timely,

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1 accurate election information so we can have it
2 available on our website for voters. We're developing
3 a voter education program with AARP so we can put that
4 on their channels this year. Avery and I will continue
5 to work with the Civics Education Committee, which has
6 been phenomenal partners for us in pushing out our
7 civic curriculum. We're part of a Native American
8 communications group. So you can just see how this is
9 just -- this is by no means a full list, but it just
10 shows that, as part of that comprehensive Voter
11 Education Plan that we've developed, we will continue
12 being out there in the community.
13 And of course, we'll promote being more than
14 a voter. 16 years and older, hey, serve as a poll
15 worker. Get out there, understand how that process
16 works. We -- we want more poll workers. You know,
17 attend a logic and accuracy testing so you yourself, if
18 you have an concerns about how the machines are
19 tallying the votes, you can see directly how they're
20 working, that they're being certified. You can, you
21 know, work with your party, serve as a political
22 observer, participate in the hand count. And again,
23 you know, ultimately, we want to have voters find that
24 connection between them and their government and voting
25 so that they're more likely to cast a ballot.

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1 And then I do have our campaign videos here.
2 They're very quick, 30 seconds. So I'd love to
3 showcase those, if I could.
4 So this is our first one. This is Direct to
5 Vote, what we call it. And again, it's kind of cutting
6 through all that misinformation, you know, trying to
7 search and find that official election information.
8 We -- we want to get you directly to the official
9 voting information. So I'll go ahead and play that
10 now.
11 (Video plays.)
12 MS. ROBERTS: The next video that we have is
13 for our debates. And the purpose of this one is to,
14 again -- we know voters are being inundated with
15 campaign materials and, again, we want to cut through
16 that and show that direct bridge that Clean Elections
17 is providing with voters and candidates through our
18 debates.
19 (Video plays.)
20 MS. ROBERTS: And this one is for our Voter
21 Education Guide. The goal here is to show that you
22 don't have to search far and wide, that you are getting
23 official election information delivered directly to
24 your mailbox by Clean Elections. And it's not very
25 linear, so I would just -- here we go.

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1 (Video plays.)
2 MS. ROBERTS: And then finally, what I'll
3 show is our campaign video for our youth voters. We
4 took more of a gaming experience here. I will say it
5 did pass muster with my children, so...
6 (Video plays.)
7 MS. ROBERTS: We've also developed a specific
8 landing page for that on our website too.
9 And then a few other things that I wanted to
10 show. I am wrapping up soon here. We also developed
11 some key dates videos. I will thank Commissioner Chan
12 for serving as a voiceover for these. But basically,
13 these are the key dates that are relevant to the
14 primary and general election. And we developed them in
15 English, Spanish, American Sign Language, and Diné, in
16 the Navajo language. So I'll show you what the ASL and
17 Diné ones look like.
18 (Video plays.)
19 MS. ROBERTS: And again, I think it's
20 important to showcase that we're providing these
21 different formats, again, to reach the communities.
22 Again, we want to make sure our information is
23 accessible as possible.
24 So this is a -- a reminder of the civics
25 classroom curriculum we developed and launched last

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1 year, which so far we've been very happy with the
2 reception from it from the community. It was designed
3 with teachers in mind. But essentially, as a reminder,
4 what we did here was we saw a need that there needed to
5 be education about the voting process in the classroom,
6 but that we wouldn't be taking away from special
7 classroom time -- precious classroom time. And so we
8 knew it had to be compliant with State education
9 standards.
10 So we partnered with a curriculum expert and
11 we drafted this curriculum for Grades 4 through 6, 7
12 through 8, and 9 through 12. And it covers everything
13 from how do I register to vote to understanding the
14 different levels of government, the different branches,
15 your executive, legislative, and judicial branches,
16 understanding the roles and responsibilities of each
17 office, again, giving our students, our next generation
18 of voters, the education they need on voting and civics
19 so that they can be prepared when they are eligible to
20 vote and cast that ballot.
21 We also developed a voter education video
22 series, which -- again, as we talked about, in our
23 research, you know, we heard people say, well, I don't
24 know what to expect at the polls or how does this work.
25 These assets are -- are meant to address that, where we

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1 cover everything from how ballot by mail works, how
2 election security works, what to expect on election day
3 when you go into the polls. And to give you an idea,
4 I'll show you how our voter registration video looks.
5 Oh, sorry. That's the one on the -- with the five
6 there, and then you'll see different branches of
7 government and then, again, the election security and
8 the ballot by mail.
9 So with that, I end on this slide which
10 showcases our website. Our website is really our crown
11 jewel. And I touched on this briefly, but we'll be
12 continuing to update the content on our website,
13 redesigning our pages. Alec has worked on actually
14 restructuring our site to make it more user friendly.
15 We're developing new pages. We've just refreshed our
16 How Government Works content. We've developed an
17 election glossary of key terms. So, again, we will
18 continue to make sure that everything a voter needs is
19 listed on our website.
20 And this -- you know, these images here that
21 I share with you, this is information of the
22 performance of our website in the 2020 general
23 election. And we saw a 733 percent increase in website
24 traffic leading up to the general election. And then
25 we saw organizations, such as Cosmopolitan and Rolling

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1 Stone, linking to our website because they found it
2 useful and recognized it as a trusted source.
3 And then finally, right here, which I'm very
4 proud of this, this is the pie chart that showcases the
5 age demographic of who is engaging with our website.
6 And you can see, that's a pretty evenly cut pie. And I
7 think that's important because it shows that, again,
8 we're making sure the information we put out there is
9 accessible to all demographics. We're meeting the
10 needs of all the voters across the state.
11 So with that, I'm happy to answer any
12 questions. And I will stop sharing my screen. And I
13 apologize if that took too long, but it's a lot, so --
14 CHAIRMAN MEYER: No. Thank you, Gina. Great
15 job to -- to you and everyone who helped you out with
16 that.
17 I know I asked a couple questions during the
18 middle of that presentation. Open it up to any other
19 Commissioners with questions.
20 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman, this is
21 Commissioner Kimble.
22 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Go ahead.
23 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Gina, that was
24 unbelievable. A couple questions. First of all, could
25 you e-mail that PowerPoint? I don't know if everyone

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1 wants it, but I would certainly like it.
2 CHAIRMAN MEYER: I would like it too, yeah.
3 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Also, is there
4 anything -- that was great that Commissioner Titla
5 narrated that Native American spot. Is there anything
6 that Commissioners could or should be doing to help in
7 this effort?
8 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner
9 Kimble, Commissioners, absolutely, yes. And actually,
10 that was not Commissioner Titla. But he, of course, is
11 always a driving force for our Native American
12 outreach. Commissioner Chan actually did serve as a
13 voiceover for the key dates videos, which was
14 fantastic.
15 And so I do think -- absolutely. When --
16 when there are opportunities that arise with the
17 Commissioners, you know, we are happy to reach out.
18 Or, of course, if the Commissioners themselves have
19 ideas, please reach out.
20 So, for example, Commissioner Kimble, I could
21 see where we could definitely utilize your help in our
22 outreach to independent voters. We've called on you
23 before for that assistance. And again, we see those
24 numbers are growing, and so we know we need to make
25 sure that we push out information about how our primary

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1 system works, that independents can participate in a
2 primary election. So continuing to put that message
3 out there, you know, we'd be happy to work with you on
4 that, especially when it come comes to doing some
5 public relations on that. Commissioner Paton, he was
6 the driving voice behind us sponsoring the U.S. Senate
7 debate in 2020.
8 So I think, absolutely, the more feedback
9 that we can receive from the Commissioners on --
10 especially when it comes to your particular region too.
11 So I know, when we talk about Tucson, what's important
12 to Tucson voters, and we'll get them engaged, Green
13 Valley, things like that. So absolutely when we see an
14 opportunity we are happy to reach out to the
15 Commissioners to ask for specific help. I would say,
16 as much as you can, using your voice when it comes to
17 public relations would be very helpful for us. And, of
18 course, you know, again, with your particular ideas
19 that you have, we're happy to hear the feedback.
20 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. Thanks, Gina.
21 COMMISSIONER PATON: This is Commissioner
22 Paton.
23 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Go ahead, Commissioner
24 Paton.
25 COMMISSIONER PATON: Gina, I think you should

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1 run for office. That was great. We need people like
2 you in office.
3 Secondly, I do think that since I -- I think
4 our Voter Education Guide is so good, and then I
5 suspect a lot of people think that it's just a lot of
6 -- you know, it's more campaign trash to throw out.
7 Maybe we could do something before we send those out
8 saying, this is coming. This isn't -- this isn't
9 campaign trash. This is something that you could
10 really use, look for it, that kind of thing.
11 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner
12 Paton, absolutely. And -- and I think that's where we
13 can also work with the media too in letting them know
14 and maybe we can do some interviews there and engage
15 the media to help us reach those voters and let them
16 know, yes, you have this official election information
17 coming to your mailbox. So absolutely. And we do have
18 some -- we'll definitely make sure that we're out on
19 social media, that we have the presence out there.
20 We'll have some banner ads trying to showcase to people
21 too to keep an eye out for it because this is official
22 election information. So, yes, I appreciate that --
23 that direction and absolutely we will -- we will look
24 forward to doing that.
25 COMMISSIONER PATON: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN MEYER: I was just saying how even
2 small things like I -- you know, I follow the
3 Commission on Twitter and I try to retweet all of their
4 information to get that out to follows. I know -- I
5 know Commissioner Chan is on there. So I follow a lot
6 of you and try to retweet the Commission information.
7 So that's just a small thing we can do.
8 Any other questions or comments?
9 I agree with Commissioner Paton. You should
10 run for office, Gina. That would be great. Although,
11 we'd miss you too much.
12 So any other questions or comments from other
13 Commissioners or -- or Tom?
14 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I -- I
15 don't really have any questions. I just really
16 appreciate all the information that was contained in
17 that report and presentation and I'm just -- I don't
18 know. I mean, I probably sound like a broken record,
19 but I'm just so proud of all the work that you all put
20 into this and I'm -- I'm really happy with the
21 direction you've taken it and the growth that we've
22 seen of this program. And I think it's just doing
23 wonderful things for the people of Arizona and I
24 just -- I just can't say enough good things about it
25 and I -- I really just appreciate you all and respect

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1 you all so much. Thank you to the whole team.
2 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Well said.
3 So with that, do I have a motion for approval
4 of the Voter Education Plan.
5 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that
6 we adopt the Voter Education Plan as presented.
7 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Is there a second?
8 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Commissioner Kimble.
9 Second.
10 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. We have a motion
11 and a second. I'm going to go ahead and call the
12 roll on this motion whether to approve the Voter
13 Education Plan. I'm going to start with Commissioner
14 Chan.
15 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
16 CHAIRMAN MEYER: And Commissioner Kimble.
17 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
18 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Paton.
19 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
20 CHAIRMAN MEYER: And I vote aye as well.
21 Motion carries four to zero.
22 And just I'm -- just I'm calling the
23 Commissioners to vote in the order that you are on my
24 screen, so there's no -- nothing to the order there,
25 just so you all know.

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1 So now let's move on to Agenda Item No. VI.
2 And actually, let me check with the court
3 reporter. Do you need a break at all or are you doing
4 okay, Kaitlyn -- Kathryn?
5 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm doing okay. Thank
6 you for checking.
7 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. Item No. VI,
8 discussion and possible action on E-Qual electronic
9 system for candidate petitions and qualifying
10 contributions and process for collection and review of
11 qualifying contributions.
12 Commissioners, you may recall that there have
13 been some recent reports with respect to the online
14 system for collecting petition signatures and
15 qualifying contributions, as well as how qualifying
16 contributions are to be reviewed by the County
17 Recorders. A lot of this relates, I believe, to the
18 redistricting. So Tom is going to give us some
19 background on this, remind us about E-Qual and the
20 latest guidance from our friends at the Secretary of
21 State Office.
22 Tom.
23 Can't hear you, sir.
24 MR. COLLINS: Headphone jack, that's what
25 I've concluded is the issue.

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1 Can you hear me now?
2 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Yes, we can.
3 MR. COLLINS: Okay. All right. I tried a
4 different pair of headphones in an effort to get a mic
5 that worked.
6 Anyways, thank you. And thank you, Gina, for
7 that presentation. I -- I think that a lot of the
8 messaging in there we'll come back to as part of our
9 legislative discussion here shortly, because I think
10 there's a -- a real connection there.
11 I want to -- I want to talk quickly about the
12 E-Qual matter. I think -- I do think it's important
13 for the Commission to kind of be brought up to speed on
14 this. I will say I think that, in terms of the review
15 of qualifying contributions, we're in a place that's --
16 that's good with respect to that, which is, you know, a
17 different question from technology.
18 But I am now going to share -- hopefully I am
19 going to share screen. There we go. And -- all right.
20 Can you all see that? I'm hoping.
21 Okay. So real quickly, just to give you a
22 history of the E-Qual system, to the extent that some
23 of you may -- some of you may be more familiar than
24 others, this actually was developed while Commissioner
25 Chan was election director for the State, and it's been

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1 in place now for -- for -- essentially for -- since
2 2012. It was originally created as a pilot program for
3 allowing voters to both provide a signature to
4 statewide legislative candidates and provide a \$5
5 qualifying contribution form electronically. It was
6 originally capped at 50 percent in 2014. It was
7 codified as a permanent program. And then in 2016 it
8 was expanded to allow candidates to collect all of
9 their signatures, qualifying contributions, and to
10 expand the kinds of candidates who can use the
11 system.
12 How it fits together with redistricting,
13 redistricting, as I know you all know, occurs every 10
14 years. We have an independent redistricting commission
15 that draws up those ballot -- those districts. And
16 they were certified by that commission to the
17 Secretary of State last week, which brings us to where
18 we are now, where counties will begin implementing
19 those maps.
20 So where we are with E-Qual. So basically,
21 when you go on E-Qual or if you follow the link from
22 candidate, you know, it takes you to a landing page
23 where you fill in your information, your name,
24 birthday, driver's license number, typically, and it
25 pings that essentially off the voter -- the statewide

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1 voter registration database. So it's confirming, in
2 effect, who you are, and then it offers you candidates
3 whom you are eligible to select to sign their petition,
4 or, in the case of a Clean Elections candidate who's
5 using the system, also to do a contribution -- a
6 qualifying contribution.
7 So where we are now is, because we're -- the
8 redistricting commission has adopted those maps, the
9 way the system is set up, E-Qual is linked to people's
10 2020 districts, or the districts they've had for the
11 last 10 years. That -- and that is still operating.
12 The counties will start to upload the new maps, and
13 technologically my understanding is that the system can
14 only take one set of maps at a time. So on March 5th,
15 or around March 5th is when the Secretary's Office
16 predicts it, the candidate -- the E-Qual system is
17 going to go offline.
18 So -- so basically, you know, if a candidate
19 -- and this is really principally focused on
20 legislative candidates. There's no statewide effect,
21 and then congressional is really not in our
22 bailiwick.
23 For participating candidates, E-Qual will go
24 offline starting around March 5th, and there will be no
25 way for state representatives and state senators to --

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1 candidates to collect qualifying contributions
2 electronically through E-Qual. If a candidate were to
3 go into the system and flip over from 2022 to 2020,
4 they will lose access to E-Qual. And then once the
5 counties have finished, the E-Qual will be available
6 for the 2022 district, not for the 2020 district.
7 So, again, what's happening here is -- is
8 we've got an overlap -- overlap time, if you will,
9 where, you know, the districts are -- are in some --
10 are in a kind of a flux, and so -- but once those are
11 finally implemented, then that will be where you can
12 collect qualifying contributions from.
13 And then when qualifying -- and then post
14 March 5th, or around March 5th, candidates are going to
15 get notified -- or, voters, rather, will get notified,
16 you know, that -- that if they're -- if they can't do a
17 qualifying contribution online, they can contact the
18 candidate and do one on paper. And that's important to
19 bear in mind through this entire particular issue. You
20 know, E-Qual, although it allows up to a hundred
21 percent usage, you know, paper still works in -- in
22 this process both for petition signature gathering and
23 for qualifying contribution gathering, and it's -- and
24 it only affects legislative candidates and not
25 statewide candidates. So those are two -- two things.

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1 When we get to the process of reviewing
2 qualifying contributions, whether they come in on paper
3 or they come in through E-Qual, candidates file their
4 qualifying contribution slips and their petitions with
5 the Secretary of State's Office, and the Secretary of
6 State then sends a random sample of the qualifying
7 contribution signature to the County Recorders. From
8 that, they do a calculation, basically multiplying the
9 amount of signatures by five to see if that gets you to
10 110 percent of the amount you would have to have. If
11 it comes back at 110 percent or greater, under statute
12 and rules, then the candidate is authorized to be
13 funded. If not, they go to a full review and -- and
14 determine whether or not they've got all the qualifying
15 contributions necessary.
16 The review piece -- and this was -- we had a
17 little -- you know, you see some of the reporting on
18 this. There's been a little bit of muddle at one
19 point, but I feel like we're in a different -- we're in
20 a comfortable place now. You know, I -- I -- I can't
21 speak to necessarily the nuance of this. I can tell
22 you the Secretary's position, prior to issuing this
23 document, was that essentially candidates who collected
24 qualifying contributions from the 2020 districts would
25 face a difficulty in using those for the 2022

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1 districts.

2 I can tell you that what I've been -- what

3 I've been told by our attorney for this, who's not the

4 AG's office, is that this seems to be consistent with

5 the state law for petition signatures, which is that

6 the legislature passed the law for purposes of this

7 redistricting year that allows a person to use

8 qualifying contributions -- or, allows petition

9 signatures from either the 2020 districts or the 2022

10 districts. So we're hopeful that that won't be an

11 issue, and that's kind of where we are.

12 So, you know, you could -- so, I mean, that's

13 sort of the -- the quick background, and I don't want

14 to -- don't mean to move so quickly through it, except

15 that I want to -- I want to stop here. But I do want

16 to -- I did want to kind of -- kind of give you the

17 details. That's all kind of capsulating the e-mails

18 from the Secretary's Office that were in your packet.

19 So -- so -- so, you know, the reason to bring

20 this to you all as an agenda item is twofold.

21 Number one, it's -- you know, it's -- we've not had a

22 lot of attention on stuff related to this in the past,

23 and I feel like it's important. And then, two, you

24 know the candidates who -- and voters involved in this,

25 I think, need to know that, you know, the Commission is

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1 paying attention to this.

2 Our -- our plan going forward right now is

3 simply to try to communicate consistently with

4 candidates when we have the opportunity to. We have

5 made clear to candidates several times that it's really

6 their responsibility to coordinate with the Secretary's

7 Office and the County Recorders.

8 The Commission's role here, there are -- we

9 have some rules related to how the -- how the -- how

10 this is supposed to be done. But for the most part,

11 statutorily, and there's an AG opinion that backs this

12 up, this -- the Secretary's Office runs this process in

13 conjunction with the County Recorders. That's part of

14 the reason the communication issue here has been so

15 problematic, because people sometimes look to the Clean

16 Elections Commission for information that we don't

17 have. And we have not received information in a timely

18 fashion from the Secretary's Office throughout this

19 process. So, you know, now that we think we know where

20 we are, we're hopeful that the guidance will stay

21 consistent, and we will simply try to amplify that

22 guidance. But we've always said to candidates, look,

23 you can't come to us on this stuff. At the end of the

24 day, you've got to talk to the Secretary's Office.

25 So that's kind of where we are. We don't

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1 have a recommendation for action here. I can tell you

2 that, if you don't know, and I find no reason why you

3 would need to know, but, you know, the Attorney

4 General's office fired off a letter to the -- to the

5 Secretary's Office last week saying that if the

6 Secretary proceeds to turn off the E-Qual system during

7 March, that that would constitute a violation of its

8 duties.

9 You know, if it's a technological issue, I

10 don't know the answer to -- I mean, let me put it this

11 way. I'm not sure that that helps solve the problem

12 for candidates and voters if it's a technological

13 issue. I'm not sure that that approach is particularly

14 conducive to resolving this in a way that benefits

15 candidates and voters who are really ultimate

16 beneficiaries of this program.

17 It's -- so -- but it also kind of -- but it

18 also kind of, I think, helps to refocus, you know, what

19 our role here is, is to just make sure that folks

20 understand what the best available guidance is and

21 that, at the end of the day, they really need to just

22 make sure they're talking to the Recorder's Office or

23 the -- or the Secretary's Office, as applicable, to

24 make sure they're following instructions.

25 So that kind of concludes my presentation on

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1 this, Mr. Chairman. And if you all -- obviously, if

2 you have any questions, I'm happy to try to answer

3 them.

4 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you, Tom. Difficult

5 situation.

6 Any -- any Commissioners have any questions

7 or comments on this?

8 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman, this is

9 Commissioner Kimble.

10 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Sure. Go ahead,

11 Commissioner Kimble.

12 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: So, Tom, just to

13 summarize, the E-Qual system is going to be offline for

14 a period. The Attorney General says that's illegal,

15 but it sounds unavoidable.

16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner

17 Kimble, I think that's probably a fair -- the last --

18 that -- that is correct, and I think that last part is

19 -- is consistent with what the Secretary's Office

20 position is about the nature of the programming at

21 issue. In other words --

22 Now, there's a statutory piece here that,

23 I'll be honest, I don't understand, which is the

24 statute that the legislature passed says that the 2020

25 districts are supposed to be able to be usable for

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1 2022. Why the Secretary decided to have the counties
2 upload this in March, instead of waiting until after
3 the qualifying period for signature gathers or the
4 qualifying period for Clean Elections, which is a
5 different timeline, I don't know the answer to that. I
6 don't -- I don't know the -- there's a statutory
7 decision there, a legal decision there perhaps
8 underneath, that I'm not privy to.
9 But as a practical matter, once you're at
10 that place, the program doesn't allow two maps, is what
11 the Secretary has said, and you're right, so therefore
12 it's simply -- it's simply -- in their view I think
13 it's -- I mean, my understanding of their position is
14 that it's not possible.
15 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: So if the Attorney
16 General says this is illegal, what's he going to do
17 to -- he's just going to say it's illegal and then --
18 but it's going to happen?
19 CHAIRMAN MEYER: I'll object to that question
20 as it calls for speculation. But go ahead, Tom.
21 MR. COLLINS: Well, yeah, so -- Mr. Chairman,
22 Commissioner Kimble, I mean, I -- I mean, what the
23 letter to the Secretary's Office said was that the
24 Secretary -- that the Attorney General might seek
25 criminal charges against the Secretary of State's

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1 Office. I mean, I have never been a prosecutor, I've
2 only been a public defender, but, you know, I'm not --
3 I'm not super sure that that's a -- that that's a real
4 good way to go about trying to -- trying to fix a --
5 what the Secretary's Office says, whether they're right
6 or wrong, what they say is a technological issue.
7 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay.
8 MR. COLLINS: I mean, in other words -- in
9 other words, look, I mean, it -- we talk about this a
10 lot in the context of campaign finance, where we do
11 civil stuff. And there's not a lot -- there's some.
12 There's not a lot of criminal reporting. But there's
13 always been a concern in this area about
14 overcriminalization. I don't think that's any
15 different in the context of state government.
16 In other words, I will -- I can tell you,
17 having been an Assistant Attorney General, if you want
18 to, you can find a criminal law that every State
19 employee is violating every minute of every day.
20 That's the way our code is written. It's overbroad.
21 It's got antiquated language from the -- you know, from
22 statehood. And there are cases going back to statehood
23 where, I mean, you know, where the Auditor General at
24 that time, you know, went after Governor Hunt's estate
25 because he took some books with him when he left being

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1 Governor. You know, so there is -- there is a -- those
2 kinds of things are out there and can be utilized.
3 Generally speaking, though, you know, we haven't seen
4 these kinds of things evolve into criminal
5 prosecutions.
6 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Well, I guess all we
7 can do is what you're doing, and that's advise the
8 people running as Clean Elections candidates to get
9 their stuff done early or get them done on paper.
10 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner
11 Kimble, yeah, I think that's exactly right, and
12 that's -- and that's what we've -- we've been talking
13 about.
14 Now, you know, and I've said this to folks
15 who have asked about this, especially the press, you
16 know, I don't want to exaggerate the number of folks
17 affected by this. Right now we have not that many
18 candidates who have indicated that they're going to run
19 clean as legislative candidates. The caveat there is,
20 they don't have to tell the Secretary's Office up front
21 that they're doing that. So there's a -- so there's a
22 known number of folks that's maybe, what, I think --
23 and Mike or Julian, correct me if I'm wrong --
24 somewhere in the 10 to 12, maybe 15 range. There's an
25 unknown group that's maybe a little bigger than that,

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1 adds a few more people, we don't know.
2 You know, so it's not -- you know, it's not
3 like the -- you know, the way that this year has
4 developed, partially because of redistricting,
5 partially because of pandemic, and really partially
6 because the positions of the parties, especially the
7 Democratic party, are to discourage legislative
8 candidates from running clean -- so, so as long as the
9 Democratic party, which had been a prior -- you know,
10 prior bigger user of the system, believes that it's not
11 a good system for their candidates to use, you know,
12 we're always going to have fewer candidates than we had
13 before.
14 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you.
15 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Any other Commissioners have
16 any questions or comments on this issue?
17 COMMISSIONER PATON: This is Commissioner
18 Paton. I would just say that we know the shortcomings
19 of the Secretary of State's Office as far as
20 technology. And so when they're saying they can't do
21 it, I believe them.
22 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman and Tom,
23 I -- I want to thank you for the update, Tom. And, you
24 know, I was surprised to see the AG's letter
25 threatening possible criminal, you know, charges,

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1 because I feel like E-Qual is a wonderful modern
2 convenience, but the reality is everybody can still
3 circulate on paper. I just -- when you have a
4 situation like this where you have redistricting, and
5 the Secretary has made the determination that it's
6 desirable to upload the new districts, which in a way
7 makes sense, because that's where people are going to
8 be voting in the coming year, theoretically, as long as
9 everything stays the same, to me it just seems like
10 such an overreaction on the part of the AG to be so up
11 in arms about it.
12 And I understand candidates have really come
13 to embrace this modern convenience, and I think it's
14 wonderful, but, you know, this is a bump in the road
15 that redistricting causes every 10 years with a lot of
16 things, you know, circulating petitions, and of course
17 our qualifying contributions as well that we have to
18 have special accommodations for in session law.
19 So I just want to thank you for, you know,
20 updating us on it and just make that general comment.
21 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you, Commissioner
22 Paton and Commissioner Chan, for your comments.
23 Tom, are you recommending any action from the
24 Commission on this at this point in time? I don't
25 believe you are. I just want to confirm that.

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1 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, no. No, we're
2 not. I mean, we really just want to make sure that you
3 all are fully backgrounded on the issue in the event
4 that, look, I mean, something could come up. And I
5 think the one caveat to any action going forward would
6 be, there's a remote chance this ends in some kind of
7 litigation, and there's therefore a remote chance that
8 we might get -- either need to or more likely get drawn
9 into such a thing. But even if we were there, just,
10 again, it would be most likely in the capacity of a
11 staff member providing, you know, appropriate evidence,
12 as opposed to necessarily the Commission having to take
13 some legal position.
14 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. So I think we're
15 ready to move on to Agenda Item No. VII, Tom.
16 COMMISSIONER PATON: I have a question.
17 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Oh, go ahead, Commissioner
18 Paton.
19 COMMISSIONER PATON: Could we have a short
20 break?
21 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Sure. Let's take five. I
22 do need to try to wrap this up by 11:45 or so, so if we
23 can try to make it quick and then hop back on. Should
24 we leave the Zoom open, then, and I'll just --
25 COMMISSIONER PATON: Like five minutes.

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1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think Cathy will --
2 will take the conn here and --
3 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay.
4 MS. HERRING: Yes, we'll leave the Zoom open,
5 I will put up a recess screen, and we will come back at
6 11:05.
7 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. Thank you. All
8 right. See you in five.
9 (A recess was taken from 11:00 a.m. to
10 11:06 a.m.)
11 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Let's, I guess, go back on
12 the record here, as we say in my business.
13 The next item on the agenda is Item No. VII,
14 which is discussion and possible action on Legacy
15 Action Fund versus Clean Elections Commission. This
16 item concerns the recent Court of Appeals decision with
17 the 2-1 decision in favor of the Commission. I just
18 want to congratulate and commend our counsel. Mary
19 O'Grady and Joe Roth did a great job.
20 As you know, Commissioner Titla is the only
21 Commissioner who was on the Commission, which was hard
22 to believe, since we've all been here so long, when
23 this started. So we're going to get a brief background
24 and then --
25 Tom, I'll just hand it off to you.

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1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. And Commissioner Meyer,
2 in the interest of time, you know, I'll try to keep
3 this brief, because we don't -- we don't have anything
4 to do, per se. So just to -- just to sort of -- and I
5 have a brief PowerPoint, and I won't do it, but I'll
6 just send it to you, that sort of outlines some of the
7 statutory issues here in the background.
8 But the bottom line is, this case began in
9 2014. The Commission did an enforcement action, a
10 final -- and entered a final -- some of you may have
11 been here when we entered our final order. And then
12 under the statute, under the Clean Elections statute,
13 there's a specific statute of limitations on filing an
14 appeal from the final agency action. The Legacy
15 Foundation Action Fund didn't meet it. That case went
16 all the way up to the Arizona Supreme Court, where they
17 lost on that issue.
18 And then sometime the year after that,
19 probably within the year after that, we each -- we
20 filed simultaneous lawsuits. We filed a lawsuit to --
21 to convert the administrative ruling into a judgment
22 that we can naturalize in Iowa, where Legacy Foundation
23 Action Fund is based. Legacy Foundation Action Fund
24 filed a special action saying that there was a
25 jurisdictional issue that should supersede the

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1 statutory -- statute of limitations issue.
2 The Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision, the
3 majority held that -- that there was not -- that
4 that -- that that was not the rule, that they -- that
5 the Legacy Action -- Legacy Foundation was not entitled
6 to collaterally attack the Commission's jurisdiction,
7 having missed the statute of limitations, which is a
8 pretty basic finality principle. And they also said
9 that there was no clear abuse of authority in any
10 event.
11 There was a dissent from Judge Cynthia
12 Bailey, who -- the dissent is little bit -- well,
13 basically said they should have had an opportunity to
14 have the jurisdictional question reached. The dissent
15 really doesn't tell us what Judge Bailey might have
16 done had they done that, but there was a dissent. And
17 then the -- and the dissent really was on this finality
18 issue, as opposed to the merits. Because the majority,
19 again, said, you know, once you miss the statute, you
20 can't come back in the side door.
21 Finally, you know, the -- the Legacy
22 Foundation has a -- has until next month, toward the
23 end of the month, to file a petition -- or, seek a
24 petition for review in the Supreme Court, so we'll --
25 we will see.

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1 So that's really where we are. Like I said,
2 I think -- I have some materials on -- on just the --
3 what the underlying statutes are that go to the merits,
4 but I think it's probably better, in terms of time, to
5 save that for either another time or for your
6 information, so...
7 CHAIRMAN MEYER: And you'll let us know if
8 they -- if they do file a petition for review, I'm
9 sure. So thank you, Tom.
10 MR. COLLINS: Sure.
11 CHAIRMAN MEYER: We will -- I guess any --
12 any questions from the Commissioners on that topic
13 before we move on?
14 (No response.)
15 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. Seeing none, we'll
16 move forward to Agenda Item VIII, and that is
17 discussion and possible action on legislative bills on
18 the topics of election, voting, administration, and
19 campaign finance. And we talked a little bit about
20 some of these issues before, that they'd be on the
21 agenda. The legislature started earlier this month,
22 and already, as we see in the report attached -- the
23 legislative report attached to our Executive Director
24 report, there are a number of bills related to
25 elections that have been introduced. Staff has put

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1 together, you know, that approach suggesting -- the
2 report suggesting how we approach those bills.
3 And, you know, Tom, if there's any discussion
4 on specific bills, let me know.
5 MR. COLLINS: Sure.
6 CHAIRMAN MEYER: But go ahead, Tom, let us
7 know your thoughts.
8 MR. COLLINS: Sure. So Commissioner Meyer
9 and Members, you know, we -- we have tried, over the
10 course of the last few months, to start to pick up
11 where we kind of were interrupted from by the pandemic
12 in terms of our relations with the legislature. So we
13 have -- so working with -- with Mike Becker, who's
14 our -- you know, been our long-time policy director,
15 Julian Arndt and Avery Xola have been doing a lot more
16 meetings with lawmakers of both parties, lawmakers who
17 are fans of Clean Elections, lawmakers who aren't fans
18 of Clean Elections, and probably most importantly right
19 now, lawmakers who are new.
20 Because you'll recall that over the course of
21 the last year, if there was great resignation for
22 employees, there was certainly a greater resignation
23 among legislators. We have almost, what, I think a
24 dozen new legislators since last session or something
25 like that.

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1 So -- so we're working on that outreach.
2 And, you know, in the past we've done a legislative
3 report like this, and the first part of the legislative
4 report is really focused on campaign finance stuff and
5 commission of the stuff, which I think is kind of a
6 given and expectation.
7 One of the things we've talked about in the
8 past, from a supporting perspective, is, look, we ought
9 the support those efforts that try to enhance
10 participation and confidence in the system. But this
11 year it's pretty clear that the -- that the issue is
12 not nearly as much about improving things, in terms of
13 confidence and participation, but, you know,
14 potentially not improving them and making them
15 considerably worse.
16 And I think that, you know, in that context,
17 one of the other things that's happening is that within
18 the polarization of the legislature and the body of
19 politics at large there is a -- there is -- the
20 discourse around this is not getting to issues that
21 affect voters directly. And I think that -- and what
22 we tried to articulate in the report is, you know,
23 while, you know, sort of blanketly saying all bills are
24 bad might not be the position we want to be in as a --
25 as a Commission, we do, I think, have a voice that we

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1 are both statutorily expected to use and can use here
2 for all voters.
3 Because we know, at least the data shows and
4 the report mentions this, that voter confidence is
5 declining, especially among Republican voters. And
6 within a polarized legislature, there's no one to speak
7 for all voters, right. That's really kind of what --
8 you have a County -- the County Association speaks for
9 the County Recorders, they have their own vantage point
10 on things. And then there is a big block of
11 Democrat/progressive nonprofit lobbyists who -- who
12 have a -- who have their own role and their own agenda.
13 None of those things start necessarily from the place
14 of where -- where voters are, which is something that,
15 as Gina's presentation, you know, made very clear, we
16 know.
17 And so what we propose to do this session, in
18 an ongoing basis -- and these hearings have already
19 started, and we're not -- we haven't been there for
20 them so far, but we think we will want to, in our
21 talking to lawmakers, and in terms of getting out there
22 and talking from the podium at the legislature on
23 occasion, we do think that we have information that is
24 relevant to the analysis here and can help to amplify
25 and support County Recorders from both parties who

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1 understand that some of these changes are going to
2 result in problems of information, problems of access,
3 problems of confusion and disenfranchisement regardless
4 of intent.
5 And the big -- you know, one of the examples
6 that I think is really, really obvious and a good one
7 is that we have -- there are multiple bills going
8 through -- that are in the legislative process now,
9 some have been assigned, some have been heard, some
10 haven't, that talk about just the mere issue of drop
11 boxes, right. So we know, you know -- you know,
12 County -- County Recorders have used drop boxes for
13 early ballots for years. And the place that that
14 started and was -- and has been most successful is in
15 Yavapai County, which is the most Republican county in
16 the state. And Leslie Hoffman, who's been the Recorder
17 there for many years, has been very clear that, look,
18 this is -- we have the highest turnout in the state,
19 we're the most Republican county in the state, and this
20 is our tool. You know, and yet we -- there's a lot of
21 effort at the legislature to -- to try -- you know, to
22 try to get rid of that.
23 I don't think, quite frankly, that -- that
24 the -- that the -- that this is a partisan issue in the
25 sense that we know, because of people like Recorder

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1 Hoffman, because of people like Recorder Richer, and
2 because of some members of the legislature, that there
3 is a real divide in terms of the Republican party
4 elected officials' approach to this and election
5 officials' approach to this.
6 And so I think that -- so I think that -- to
7 that extent, I think that, you know, because we have
8 the information on what voters are thinking, what
9 issues are relevant to voters, and the -- and the costs
10 of this that go beyond just the administrative costs,
11 but really get to the confusion issue, right -- I mean,
12 the Monmouth poll that's cited in the memo basically
13 says that the more this issue gets talked about, the
14 less confidence voters have, and especially Republican
15 voters. So this is not an evenly distributed,
16 necessarily, consequence.
17 And -- and I think that you can see that also
18 in the -- in the numbers that Gina showed on voter
19 turnout. Voter turnout in 2020 was -- you know, as a
20 percentage basis was higher than ever. And as Gina
21 pointed out, we vote by mail. We've always voted by
22 mail. So this was not -- there was no radical
23 departure from -- in our processes due to the pandemic.
24 There was definitely changes, and election officials
25 had to work very, very hard to deal with the cost and

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1 the security and the -- and health issues related, now,
2 don't get me wrong, to pull it off with something, but
3 it was within a framework that works for voters. And
4 turnout ended up being even higher.
5 So -- so I think that's where we have room
6 to -- to work a little bit. And I also think that if
7 we're going to be in a position to show our relevance
8 to voters for purposes of voter education, it's
9 important, quite frankly, to -- at that point for
10 lawmakers to sort of understand what comes with that.
11 The -- the fact is that we have -- whether
12 you like it or not, and I think we don't have to be
13 immune to the reality that, you know, two -- two out of
14 the top three state elected -- state election -- state
15 elected officials are running for other offices.
16 They're running for other offices, that's a reality.
17 That changes the dynamic of the conversation. It makes
18 it more polarizing, it makes it more partisan, and it
19 takes it away from some of the core issues that matter
20 to voters that we are the most informed agency on.
21 So that's kind of my pitch on what I think we
22 ought to be doing. And so what we're looking for, not
23 necessarily a vote. Obviously, if you don't want us to
24 do anything, we -- we want to know that for sure. But
25 what we really want to be able to do is be in a

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1 position to -- to weigh in on some of these bills when
2 they are particularly problematic. And we don't, quite
3 frankly, want to have other people decide for the
4 Commission what the Commission's role is.
5 You are the most experienced election
6 officials in the state of Arizona right now, whether
7 you like it or not, and so there's absolutely no reason
8 for the Commission to sort of look to, you know,
9 outside voices who might say, well, we don't really
10 think that you have a voice here. We have the
11 information. We have the expertise. And it's not
12 really a matter of opposition or support so much as
13 making sure that the record is clear about what the
14 voter impact of the discussion itself is, as well as
15 the potential outcomes of some of these bills.
16 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman.
17 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Go ahead, Commissioner
18 Kimble.
19 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Tom, I guess as an
20 over -- overreaching principle, it seems to me that
21 unless there is a serious security issue, not a
22 suspected one, a serious one that can be shown, that in
23 all cases we ought to say we're -- we're on the side of
24 the voter. We're on the side of making it easier for
25 you, the voter, to register to vote, to cast your vote,

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1 to make sure that your vote is accurately counted.
2 Eight of 10 Arizonans have shown that they
3 want to vote early by signing up for what used to be
4 known as the permanent early voting list. Last
5 election, nine of 10 voters chose that option, chose
6 the option to vote early in some way. So I think, as
7 an example, we ought to be advocating that there be no
8 more barriers to early voting, unless there's some
9 proven security issue. There ought to be no more
10 barriers for making it more difficult to register,
11 unless there's some proven security issue. There ought
12 to be no more barriers to drop boxes, unless there's a
13 security issue that can be proven. I -- I guess if we
14 just say we're going to the legislature to be an
15 advocate for voters, I think that pretty much covers my
16 concerns.
17 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I think -- I mean, I
18 think that -- Commissioner Kimble, I think that makes
19 sense. I mean, I think that -- I think that's
20 consistent with the principles we've tried to have in
21 the past. I mean, we've always said in the past -- and
22 the memo that you have is, you know -- is basically,
23 you know, an updated version of prior memos. And we've
24 always said we should be out there supporting things
25 that are positive. And I think we probably -- you

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1 know, like I said, we want to kind of find spots to --
2 to be.
3 So I don't know. I don't know if you had a
4 question there or if you wanted me to comment at all.
5 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: No, I didn't really
6 have a question. I just think that that's the
7 principle that we ought to -- we ought to use to decide
8 what stance we're taking on bills.
9 I also think, and you're -- you and Mike are
10 far more knowledgeable about this than I am, that it's
11 so early that a lot of these things are just going to
12 fall by the wayside. So I don't know if, you know, if
13 we want to get out there and start opposing all the
14 crazy stuff that's already out there or -- or whether
15 it makes more sense to wait and see what shakes out for
16 a while.
17 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman.
18 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Tom, go ahead. Or, I'm
19 sorry. Commissioner Chan, go ahead.
20 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I just wanted to say, I
21 wholeheartedly agree with what Commissioner Kimble just
22 said. You know, I know there are a lot of new
23 legislators. And frankly, even the legislators who
24 have been there for a few terms may not have been there
25 when voters approved, you know, our voter ID law, our

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1 proof of citizenship law. You know, and I -- just
2 having worked in elections and been in and around the
3 policy area of elections since 2001, I -- seeing all of
4 the consternation on the part of the legislators, who I
5 frankly am cynical enough to think they use it as a
6 reelection technique or, you know, stool to sit on or
7 stand on, but it does damage to the voting population.
8 And I -- I just -- my desire would be for us
9 to wholeheartedly support anything and -- and be
10 against anything that that damages voter confidence. I
11 really think that if people really understood our
12 system, they would have confidence, the full confidence
13 that I do, in it. Nothing is perfect. Humans are
14 imperfect. There's always room for mistakes or people
15 who try to commit fraud. But I think that our system
16 is amazing and a wonderful model for -- for any state
17 in the union, and so I -- I just want to add that. And
18 I know we're short on time, so I --
19 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Chan, thank
20 you. And I -- you know, I appreciate you and
21 Commissioner Kimble's comments.
22 And I know, as far as Tom's proposal, I
23 support, you know, what's being set forth here. And I
24 know that -- that thought has been put into this and
25 this is intended to be, you know, a nuanced approach.

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1 You know, this is not just a blanket opposition to
2 everything. But I know that Tom and Mike are talking
3 about, you know, picking your spots here and really
4 looking at things that will really have an impact on --
5 on voters and their ability to vote, but also some
6 logistical issues like, you know, how are we going to
7 count -- you know, how is -- how is -- how are our
8 polls -- polling places going to handle 3.5 million
9 voters all coming in on one day, you know, things like
10 that that may be -- may be unintended consequences
11 or -- or I hope they're unintended consequences --
12 things like that where I think you're going to kind of
13 hopefully speak -- you know, I think the intent is to
14 speak to reason, appeal to reason, and just sort of,
15 you know, make sure that everyone understands the broad
16 impact that some of these bills that are being
17 discussed could have.

18 So that's what I understand is the objective
19 here, it's a nuanced objective, with of course keeping
20 those principles that Commissioner Chan, Commissioner
21 Kimble were just speaking of involved. But, I mean,
22 I -- I'm on board with this, I support it, and I --
23 and, you know, go out there and -- and do what you guys
24 do so well.

25 And I don't know, Commissioner Paton, do you

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1 have any thoughts on this?

2 COMMISSIONER PATON: Yeah, I do. I think
3 going to all these legislators and telling -- maybe
4 having a piece of paper or something that shows all of
5 our -- you know, our basic laws about elections, like
6 our voter ID law and our -- the early balloting, how it
7 exactly works, kind of like a synopsis of these things,
8 so -- because a lot of these people, they hear all
9 these -- these wild accusations. And like you said,
10 they don't -- they don't know what to believe. And I
11 think maybe if we can just get a synopsis of these
12 things and go to these legislators, you know, one by
13 one and say, this is -- this is the law on this. Why
14 do you need to change this? Or this -- you know, do
15 you really have a problem with -- with how we do this,
16 or is this you're just coming up with this out of, you
17 know, out of the ether or something.

18 But I think if we just do a blanket thing, I
19 think we'll look as being political. But I think if we
20 go one by one -- particularly these new people, I mean,
21 they don't know that much about it. And they hear all
22 this stuff on the Internet or on TV or something
23 where -- I mean, just the idea that you would count
24 things like they did in the 1800s, one ballot at a
25 time --

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1 I mean, one thing that I have an issue with
2 is how long it takes, once the polls close, before we
3 get an accurate count, because I believe that, the lag,
4 a week or two weeks, that's what gives people the idea
5 that you can't -- that something sinister is happening
6 behind closed doors. I mean, if you go back to the Al
7 Gore/George Bush thing, you know, it seemed sinister,
8 the whole thing, and because we didn't know for four
9 weeks who was the president. I think that's the bad
10 thing, if -- if it goes on and on and on. It just
11 gives these conspiracy things a chance to grow. So
12 that's my input.

13 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you, Commissioner
14 Paton.

15 Tom, have you -- have any thoughts on what
16 you've heard from the Commissioners? I think that's
17 consistent with what your approach is.

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah. Mr. Chairman,
19 Commissioners, yes, I think -- I think that's right.
20 And I -- and I do think -- I think Commissioner Paton
21 is exactly right, and he's mentioned this many times
22 before. I do think that like, you know, the counting
23 issue, I mean, that's -- that's one of the big -- I
24 mean, that's probably one of the biggest and strangest
25 myths that's developed out of this experience over the

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1 last several years.

2 If you have -- we have an issue with what
3 they call late earlyies or people who drop their --
4 their mail ballots off at the polling place that --
5 that could get -- would otherwise be eligible to be
6 ready to go on election day, and then they -- they hold
7 things up. If you go to some kind of hand count, not
8 only are you -- you're -- and to do it in a -- so this
9 very strange bill right now, and I don't know what will
10 happen to it, but it literally says you've got to do a
11 hand count and you've got to do it in a day. And
12 there's 7 million people in the state, or something
13 like that, and 3 or 4 million voters, and how many vote
14 -- it's not -- it's -- it will create precisely what
15 Commissioner Paton said. I mean, it would be a
16 disaster for -- for confidence, so...

17 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. Well, Tom, do you
18 feel comfortable that you -- you have any direction you
19 need from the Commission? I don't think you're asking
20 for a vote on anything. We're just --

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah. No, I think -- I
22 mean, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, yeah. No, I think
23 we're -- I think we're all kind of -- I think we're on
24 the same page. And I do -- and I'm cognizant -- I
25 think we're all cognizant of, I think, what

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1 Commissioner Paton said with respect to political.
2 We -- we want to be -- we want to be in a position to
3 depoliticize with facts some of these things that have
4 become more polarized by rhetoric.
5 CHAIRMAN MEYER: And, I mean, I think
6 getting -- I agree with Commissioner Paton, getting
7 that message to the -- to the legislators. But, I
8 mean, we always have to deal with the reality that
9 these people are being elected because of some of
10 these, you know, positions they're taking. So I think
11 we also need to push this out to the public as much as
12 we can too, which is where you're talking about
13 testifying at open hearings and things of that nature,
14 so --
15 Okay. So I am going to -- unless any other
16 Commissioner would like to offer any comment, I'm going
17 to wrap up Section VIII here. Anyone else have
18 anything to say on that?
19 (No response.)
20 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. Seeing nothing.
21 Now, I'm going to go to Section IX, which is
22 always fun. This is the recognition and appreciation
23 to Commissioner and past Chair Amy B. Chan for her
24 service to the Commission and the state of Arizona.
25 I would just like to say, you know, I really

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1 appreciate the work you did as Chair, Amy. And the
2 expertise that you brought to this that I frankly don't
3 have is always much appreciated. And I thought you did
4 a wonderful job. I thought you elevated our profile.
5 I thought you were engaged. And I know staff
6 appreciated it. I certainly appreciated it.
7 And with that, I'll leave it to the other
8 Commissioners to offer any comments they have. So
9 let's just start with Commissioner Kimble, I guess.
10 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chair, I echo
11 everything you said. I think Amy did an extraordinary
12 job during a difficult year of online meetings and
13 she's been very, very visible and very out there with
14 her expertise. And I appreciated her service to the
15 Commission and to the state for quite a few years.
16 Thanks, Amy.
17 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you.
18 Commissioner Paton.
19 COMMISSIONER PATON: I would just like to say
20 thank you. And we all have been in that position and
21 it's not easy, especially, you know, on this Zoom
22 stuff. I mean, it's enough to, you know, show up and
23 have all the materials there, and so thank you for
24 doing that in an exemplary fashion.
25 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you.

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1 Tom and anyone else from staff have any
2 comments or --
3 COMMISSIONER CHAN: No pressure, everybody.
4 MR. COLLINS: I don't know. I'm sure
5 everyone on staff can say, and I don't -- I think the
6 clock would probably be the only thing that would be
7 preventing us. Obviously, we've all benefited from the
8 experience that Amy has -- Commissioner Chan has as
9 a -- as an attorney and as election -- and as a former
10 election director and in this position and we all have
11 had the opportunity to work with her and it's -- it's
12 been good. And we are all -- you know, notwithstanding
13 the idiosyncrasies of you all serving a life sentence,
14 we all -- we do enjoy having the opportunity to work
15 more closely with each one of you as chairperson. It's
16 always -- it always creates a fun and interesting
17 experience for us every year.
18 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Well, I -- I really
19 appreciate all the kind words. It means a lot. And
20 I -- it is funny. My term -- my official term is up at
21 the end of the month, and so I know, you know, I'm the
22 newest member still, and I will be forever, I guess.
23 Like Tom said, it's a life sentence now. But I just
24 want to say thank you.
25 And Damien, it was a relief this morning. I

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1 was a little freaked out when you were a little bit
2 late, later than I expected, to get on the Zoom. I was
3 like, wait a minute. I was not expecting to have to
4 chair this one. Is Damien coming today? So --
5 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Listen, I was not late. I
6 just wasn't early.
7 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Correct, you just weren't
8 -- you know, Paula wants us to be on about 15 minutes
9 early, Dude. I don't know.
10 Anyway, so thank you all and just thanks to
11 the staff, because they are the ones that help make it
12 a success. So thank you, everybody. And good luck to
13 you, Commissioner -- Chairman Meyer, this year.
14 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you.
15 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I know it -- it isn't
16 easy. It's --
17 CHAIRMAN MEYER: It's deja vu all over again.
18 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Yep.
19 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Well, thank you, Amy.
20 And then now we'll go on to Section X, which
21 is public comment. This is our time for consideration
22 of comments and suggestions from the public. I know
23 there's a few people online. Action taken as a result
24 of public comment will be limited to directing staff to
25 study the matter or rescheduling the matter for further

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1 consideration and a decision at a later date or
2 responding to criticism.
3 Does any member of the public wish to make
4 any comment at this time? Please notify the moderator.
5 And of course, we always welcome comments that you can
6 send to the Commission by mail or e-mail at
7 ccec@azcleelections.gov.
8 So if there's any member of the public that
9 would like to comment, please let us know. Oh, I think
10 I see Ms. Knox.
11 MS. KNOX: Yes. Thank you very much,
12 Chairman Meyer and Commissioners.
13 Thank you, Amy -- or, thank you, Commissioner
14 Chan, for having chaired the Commission.
15 I -- I want to thank all of you for
16 continuing to serve. I'm just blown away by your
17 dedication. As you know, I have been watching,
18 participating, sitting in on meetings for, I don't
19 know, eight or 10 years now. I'm doing it now as just
20 an individual, as a voter, a citizen of the state of
21 Arizona. I'm very interested in election issues.
22 And I am really very happy and supportive of
23 this idea of the Commission, whether it's staff or the
24 Commissioners, speaking up to legislators. I'm not
25 even sure how many new legislators know there is a

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1 Clean Elections Commission and what the Commission is
2 statutorily responsible for doing.
3 And I love the line about you speak for
4 voters. I think that is a very important educational
5 function that you can serve to literally not only
6 educate the legislators, like I say, some of whom I
7 don't think know what you do or what you're supposed to
8 do, but hopefully the word will get out to the public
9 by appearing and speaking at hearings. And I know it's
10 no fun now with small rooms, no COVID -- I mean, no
11 COVID protection, et cetera, et cetera, but I urge you
12 to do that.
13 And I urge you also -- and I know,
14 Commissioner Chan, you have done this in the past -- to
15 try to see if more opinion pieces can be published,
16 whether it's in the Republic, other media sources,
17 Capitol Times, to stress this idea that -- the common
18 sense view of what -- what really encourages people to
19 vote, why it's so important, why it is so secure. And
20 I think your voices as a nonpartisan or a bipartisan
21 commission are very important. And so thank you for
22 your service, as the saying goes, and I'll be back next
23 month. Thank you.
24 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Thank you, Ms. Knox. We
25 always appreciate hearing from you.

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1 Anyone else in the public? I don't see
2 anyone else on the participant list. If there is,
3 please let the moderator know.
4 (No response.)
5 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Okay. I don't see anyone
6 else.
7 So that will come to Item No. XI, which is
8 adjournment. Can I get a motion to adjourn from one of
9 my Commissioners?
10 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that
11 we adjourn the meeting.
12 CHAIRMAN MEYER: All right. Is there a
13 second?
14 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Commissioner Kimble.
15 Second.
16 CHAIRMAN MEYER: All right. Let's call the
17 roll on the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Chan.
18 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
19 CHAIRMAN MEYER: Commissioner Kimble.
20 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
21 CHAIRMAN MEYER: And Commissioner Paton.
22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
23 CHAIRMAN MEYER: I vote aye as well. Four,
24 zero, we've all agreed to end this.
25 Thank you so much to staff. I know, Gina,

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1 that was a lot of work, and we really appreciate it.
2 Tom, you as well. So thanks so much. We'll see you
3 guys next month. And don't be a stranger, reach out if
4 you need anything. Bye.
5 (The proceeding concluded at 11:39 a.m.)
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