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THE STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona
February 19, 2026
10:00 a.m.

By: Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50666



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1 PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN
2 ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 10:00 a.m. on February
3 19, 2026, at the State of Arizona, Clean Elections
4 Commission, 1110 West Washington, Conference Room,
5 Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the following
6 Board Members:
7
8 Mr. Mark Kimble, Chairman
9 Mr. Galen Paton
10 Ms. Christina Werther
11 Mr. Sam Crump
12 Mr. Steve Titla
13
14 OTHERS PRESENT:
15 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director
16 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer
17 Mike Becker, Policy Director
18 Avery Xola, Voter Education Manager
19 Bill Richards, Richards & Moskowitz
20 Samantha Fox, Richards & Moskowitz
21 Craig Morgan, Taft Law
22 Cathy Herring, KCA
23 Renaldo Fowler, Member of the Public
24 Rivko Knox, Member of the Public
25

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1 P R O C E E D I N G
2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good morning. I'm
3 Mark Kimble, and Agenda Item I is the call to order.
4 It's 10:00 a.m. on February 19th, 2026, and I call this
5 meeting of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to
6 order.
7 With that, we will take attendance.
8 Commissioners, please identify yourselves for the
9 record.
10 COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton.
11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Werther.
12 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Christina Werther.
13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: And Commissioner Crump.
14 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sam Crump.
15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I don't believe we have
16 Commissioner Titla with us, but we have four Members,
17 which constitutes a quorum.
18 Item II, discussion and possible action on
19 meeting minutes for January 29th, 2026. Commissioners,
20 you have our meeting minutes from the January 29th
21 meeting in your packets. Is there any discussion?
22 (No response.)
23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none, do I have a
24 motion to approve the minutes for January 29th?
25 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll make a motion to

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1 accept the minutes for last week -- or, last month.
2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: It's been moved that we
3 approve the minutes for the January 29th meeting. Is
4 there a second?
5 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: I second.
6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Seconded by
7 Commissioner Werther. I will call the roll.
8 Commissioner Werther.
9 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.
10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.
11 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.
12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.
13 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The
15 minutes are approved 4-to-nothing.
16 Item III, discussion and possible action on
17 the Executive Director's Report.
18 Tom.
19 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
20 Commissioners. I wanted to briefly, at the beginning
21 of this -- as you know, in the Report we have a
22 notation about some of our ongoing litigation that may
23 not be -- have action associated with it, but this
24 morning we got a ruling in the case Montenegro v.
25 Fontes. And Montenegro v. Fontes is a case about the

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1 Legislature's challenge to Prop 211, so it's a
2 challenge that says that Prop 211 violates the
3 separation of powers and non-delegation-type rules --
4 constitutional rules the -- by basically essentially
5 imbuing the Commission with too much power over -- over
6 that area.
7 So the result there is that the court said
8 that one portion of the Act is unconstitutional, an
9 Act -- a portion of the Act that purports to say, at
10 least in the view of what we said in our paper, is that
11 the Legislature's own agencies can't interfere with the
12 Commission's rulemaking process, right. So the
13 Legislature has leg counsel and other kinds of
14 administrative agencies. That phrase that's used in
15 the Act is legislative governmental body. And the
16 court, like other -- like prior courts who have looked
17 at this, concluded that that includes the Legislature.
18 You can't pass a law that prohibits the Legislature
19 from legislating, so, therefore, that portion is
20 unconstitutional. But the remainder of the claims that
21 the Legislature brought on separation of powers and
22 delegation were rejected. And in addition, that small
23 portion of Prop 211 that was declared to be
24 unconstitutional is severable, according to the court.
25 So that's all a long way of saying that we've

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1 now had this case go up fully to the State Supreme
2 Court and come back down on remand, and the net result
3 on the merits now, instead of just on the question of
4 standing, is basically where we were coming out of the
5 trial court -- coming out of the Court of Appeals in --
6 a year ago. So the lack of an injunction basically
7 means that, at least in that case, Prop 211 continues
8 to be enforced.

9 And then we have still pending at the -- at
10 the State Supreme Court the challenge to it by some
11 groups and individuals arguing it violates their state
12 constitutional free speech rights and a challenge at --
13 that's pending at the Ninth Circuit regarding a
14 First -- the First Amendment.

15 So I wanted to mention that up front. I
16 think that's -- I mean, you know -- I mean, from our
17 perspective as staff members, it's -- it's not -- not
18 an unexpected result, but, you know, nevertheless, you
19 know -- you know, it means that we'll continue -- until
20 these other shoes drop, for the time being Prop 211
21 continues to be enforced. So I wanted to mention that
22 up front.

23 And obviously, Mr. Chair, if you would --
24 anyone wants to ask me questions about that specific
25 thing, I'm happy to do that, or I've got the rest of

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1 the Report, whatever you prefer.

2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Any questions from the
3 Commission specific to Tom's discussion?
4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Tom.

6 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Thanks. So getting back
7 to the Report, you know, since we last met, the
8 Legislature did pass the bill to change the primary
9 date to two weeks earlier than it had been. That moves
10 the qualifying period up for clean candidates up two --
11 up two weeks, it moves the filing period for candidate
12 up two weeks. So we'll be -- you know, we're working
13 on that and working on communicating that out.

14 I think that at this point candidates
15 hopefully are pretty well aware of this. My own
16 anecdotal experience is that they're learning about
17 this on a rolling basis, depending upon the
18 jurisdiction in which they're operating.

19 As far as voter education outreach events, I
20 think it's been -- this has -- this first quarter of
21 the year so far has been, I think, in my view, one of
22 the most active we've had, in terms of outreach, in
23 years. You know, Avery was at the -- down in Sells for
24 the Tohono O'odham Rodeo. He'll be out at -- out in
25 Lost Dutchman this -- what, next weekend?

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1 MR. XOLA: Yeah, the 28th.

2 MR. COLLINS: 28th. And then -- and then he
3 was at the -- and Captain Activate were at Youth Day at
4 the Capitol, so --

5 We'll have -- debate production is under way
6 and the Voter Guide process is under way. We're going
7 to have more different versions of the Voter Guide this
8 year than we have ever had. And we're continuing to
9 see candidate -- do candidate workshops. We've had
10 candidate -- 29 candidates attend those workshops.

11 I think those are really the highlights I
12 wanted to -- I wanted to hit, Commissioners. So if you
13 have any questions for me, I'm happy to take them.

14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Do any Commissioners
15 have -- excuse me -- any questions for Tom on the
16 Executive Director's Report?
17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you, Tom.

19 Item IV, discussion and possible action on
20 probable cause, MUR 25-03, Monica Timberlake. Item IV
21 is a discussion and possible action on whether probable
22 cause exists to believe violations occurred in MUR
23 25-03 involving Monica Timberlake, a 2024 legislative
24 candidate.

25 Commissioners, you have the Executive

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1 Director's Report. We'll hear from the Executive
2 Director and then hear from Ms. Timberlake or her
3 representative, if either of them are present.

4 Tom.

5 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Mr. Chair, just this
6 morning we got a communication from Ms. Timberlake
7 respecting -- she has an appointment today that -- it's
8 a medical appointment that requires her to travel this
9 morning, so she's not available. I have communicated
10 to her, you know, whether or not she'll be available
11 next month.

12 My sort of -- I think my -- my own sort of
13 gut is that it would be -- if there's a possibility
14 that she could make it here, it might be better to save
15 my presentation for when she is available and can
16 provide some response to the Commission, but I guess I
17 don't have -- I don't have very strong feelings about
18 that, but I -- but I think that may be the -- may be
19 the better course.

20 I'm a -- I'm -- obviously we want to make
21 sure that the candidates have notice. We think in this
22 case -- I think it's pretty clear that the -- that the
23 candidate has had lots of notice about lots of
24 different things. That said, you know, I mean,
25 obviously it's up to you. But before I started, I

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1 wanted to, you know, bring that up and, you know -- you
2 know, like I said, my -- my preference, but not a
3 strong preference, would be maybe we move this to next
4 month.
5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioners, do you have
6 a preference on this? Do you want to proceed? Do you
7 want to put it off for a month?
8 COMMISSIONER PATON: I have a --
9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.
10 COMMISSIONER PATON: -- comment.
11 This is like almost two years ago. I think
12 we should just get on with it.
13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Any other
14 Commissioners wish to make comments on this?
15 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chair, I would
16 say, I mean, I guess I almost kind of lean towards what
17 Tom just mentioned, right. I think if the notice has
18 been provided, we can move forward; if we want to
19 provide her with one more opportunity to show up next
20 time, I mean, that's fine too. I don't really have a
21 strong preference either way.
22 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.
23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you,
24 Commissioner Werther.
25 Tom.

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1 MR. COLLINS: One thing I will note is,
2 regardless, we will have to come back presumably at
3 least one more time for either a penalty phase or a
4 conciliation, so this won't be the last time you see
5 the matter.
6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump, do you
7 have a position on this?
8 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I kind of agree with
9 Commissioner Paton. I feel like it's time to move
10 forward with it.
11 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Yeah, Chairman.
12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla, yes.
13 The record shows that Commissioner Titla is attending.
14 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Yeah, thank you. I got
15 on -- I got on earlier and I didn't want to interrupt
16 our esteemed Director in his Report, so now I heard the
17 Report.
18 But anyway, thank you for the information,
19 Director, in this case. I think that we need to
20 provide some due process to the person. And if she's
21 unable to attend today for some reason, I don't know
22 why, I think we should give her another chance to come
23 next month. And then if, you know, she can provide
24 some response to the claim, as noted by the Executive
25 Director, then I'm inclined to follow that.

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1 I think that one of the fundamental aspects
2 of charges or hearings or notices is that we should
3 always try, as much as possible, to give the other
4 party an opportunity to respond to anything that we
5 have that goes forward. And after we have exhausted
6 our notices and opportunities given to the other party,
7 then I think that maybe at that point we can proceed to
8 the -- to the charges as presented by the Executive
9 Director. Thank you.
10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you,
11 Commissioner Titla. I tend to agree with you,
12 Commissioner Titla. Although I do feel that we've been
13 bending over backwards to make sure that she does have
14 due process, I don't see any -- any harm in putting it
15 off for another month, since it's going to come back
16 again anyway.
17 I think we're -- we seem kind of evenly split
18 on this. Commissioner Crump, Commissioner Paton want
19 to move ahead; Commissioner Titla and I want to wait
20 until next month. Commissioner Werther, I'm not
21 totally clear on what your wishes are. You could go
22 either way?
23 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Yeah. I mean,
24 Mr. Chairman, to me -- I mean, as long as we provided
25 all the notices, I think if the Commission wanted to

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1 hear it today I'd be comfortable doing that and moving
2 forward. But again, if we want to wait another month,
3 I also recognize that when someone comes back later and
4 tries to, you know, contest any type of, you know,
5 recommendation or penalty, it's always helpful if we
6 can show we were sort of above and beyond, right, that
7 we did everything we could to let them have as much
8 chance to respond as possible. So that's why, yeah,
9 I'm pretty squarely in the middle, so -- sorry.
10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Well, that's not
11 tremendously helpful, but thank you.
12 COMMISSIONER PATON: I would just say, I
13 mean, if it's that split, then I can wait. I mean, I
14 don't want to be an impediment or anything, so we can
15 -- you know, I can change my mind and just wait a
16 month.
17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I -- I think we ought to
18 wait a month. Since it's a medical issue, I'm tempted
19 to give her the benefit of the doubt, even though I
20 think we've given her the benefit of the doubt for
21 many, many months, as Commissioner Paton has pointed
22 out. But I don't see any harm in saying, okay, we'll
23 give you one more month, you better show up.
24 So we'll set aside Item IV for now and move
25 on to Item V, discussion and possible action, Clean

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<p>1 Elections Commission versus Fontes. Commissioners, 2 this item concerns our ongoing litigation with the 3 Secretary of State. As indicated in the Agenda, the 4 Commission may vote to go into executive session to 5 receive legal advice or consult with our attorneys. 6 Before we do that, are there any questions 7 from Members of the Commission that we want to deal 8 with in open session? 9 (No response.) 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none, is there a 11 motion to go into executive session on Item No. V? 12 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: I move to go into 13 executive session. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay, Commissioner Werther. 15 Is there a second? 16 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: It's been moved and 18 seconded that we go into executive session. I will 19 call the roll. 20 Commissioner Werther. 21 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 23 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 25 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.</p>	<p>1 deals with the Independent Party mess, where does that 2 stand and what is the outlook for it? I know that's an 3 impossible question, but that's why you get the big 4 bucks. 5 MR. BECKER: Hi, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. 6 That bill has not been heard. It's still kind of out 7 there. There's been a lot of press conferences about 8 it. The sponsor of the bill is -- he's not sure 9 whether or not he wants to have it apply to this 10 election cycle. He may amend it or have it amended on 11 the floor to apply starting in 2028 or 2030, so -- 12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: And as it's now written, 13 it's retroactive -- 14 MR. BECKER: Correct. 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: -- to 2024? 16 MR. BECKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, 17 yes, that's correct, it would -- it would be 18 retroactive to 2024. So the issue that we're 19 discussing on the -- about the Independent Party would 20 not be in existence at that point and the name change 21 would not work. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: So is it likely to die 23 or... 24 MR. BECKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, you 25 can never say never on bills. I mean, they -- they may</p>
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<p>1 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 2 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We're 4 going to go into executive session. Thank you. 5 (The following section of the meeting is in 6 executive session and bound under separate cover.) 7 * * * * * 8 (End of executive session. Public meeting 9 resumes at 10:53 a.m.) 10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We're back in open session. 11 We'll move on to Item VI, discussion and possible 12 action on 2026 legislation. Item VI is discussion and 13 possible action on election and campaign finance 14 legislation from the 2026 legislative session, 15 including House Bill 2022 and Senate Bills 1687 and 16 1609. There's a brief overview of some of the bills 17 that Mike is tracking in the packet. 18 Does anyone have any questions for Tom or 19 Mike? 20 (No response.) 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Any other questions or 22 discussions from the Commission on this? 23 (No response.) 24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I had one question, Mike. 25 I can't remember which number it is, but the bill that</p>	<p>1 not be heard in a committee, but then come back as a 2 striker somewhere, be brought back on the floor. So 3 until they sine die, you never know when a bill is 4 actually going to be dead, unfortunately. 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: And have we actively taken 6 a position on this? 7 MR. BECKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, no, 8 we have not. We've just been monitoring it. 9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. 10 COMMISSIONER PATON: So it's still in 11 committee? 12 MR. BECKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, 13 yes. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Tom, did you want to say 15 something? 16 MR. COLLINS: It's on the judiciary and 17 elections agenda for tomorrow. They have a special 18 meeting. They're running out of time in the house of 19 origin for bills, so -- but as Mike said, if it doesn't 20 go there, you know, there's still -- 21 COMMISSIONER PATON: Who's the sponsor? 22 MR. COLLINS: Senator Shope. 23 And Mike is right about the retroactivity 24 piece. I mean, it's also got an emergency clause, so 25 as it's drafted I think it would have to get a</p>

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<p>1 two-thirds vote, you know, so...</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>3 Thank you, Mike.</p> <p>4 Does any other Member of the Commission have</p> <p>5 any other questions?</p> <p>6 (No response.)</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>8 Item VII, discussion and possible action on</p> <p>9 amendment to Rule R2-20-113, Voter Education Guide.</p> <p>10 Item VII is discussion and possible action on an</p> <p>11 amendment to Rule R2-20-113 relating to the</p> <p>12 Commission's Voter Education Guide. This rule</p> <p>13 dovetails with the statutory provisions to implement</p> <p>14 preparation and publication of the Guide. The question</p> <p>15 before us is to publish this rule for public comment.</p> <p>16 Tom, do you want to talk -- take us through</p> <p>17 this proposed amendment?</p> <p>18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman,</p> <p>19 Commissioners, just really quickly, we were working on</p> <p>20 some items and -- so in 2025 the Legislature passed a</p> <p>21 bill that expanded the Voter Education Guide to include</p> <p>22 County candidates. We were working on some other stuff</p> <p>23 and realized that, in fact, the rule we have on --</p> <p>24 respecting the Voter Education Guide actually uses the</p> <p>25 statutory -- repeats the existing statutory language,</p>	<p>1 want to make sure that we don't have the problem going</p> <p>2 forward. And then secondly, as I say, we want to -- we</p> <p>3 thought while we're in there we may as well lay out</p> <p>4 precisely what we're doing currently, you know,</p> <p>5 including the photo, as I say, which we've been doing</p> <p>6 for -- for the entire existence of the Guide.</p> <p>7 So that's why we're asking for this to be</p> <p>8 advanced for public comment. You know, there's a whole</p> <p>9 process from here. You know, I don't anticipate</p> <p>10 substantive comments about this, but nevertheless, we</p> <p>11 will do that if you approve.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Tom.</p> <p>13 Does anyone have any questions for Tom on</p> <p>14 this proposed amendment?</p> <p>15 (No response.)</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: If not, do I have a motion</p> <p>17 to publish the proposed rule for public comment?</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Chairman, I make a</p> <p>19 motion to approve for public comment.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you,</p> <p>21 Commissioner Titla.</p> <p>22 Is there a second?</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Second.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Seconded by</p>
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<p>1 so that needs to be updated.</p> <p>2 It's superceded by the statute, so this is a</p> <p>3 formality change. I mean, I don't think a person could</p> <p>4 use the rule to say we cannot include County</p> <p>5 candidates, right. That's -- that would be --</p> <p>6 You know, but nevertheless, the way we would</p> <p>7 do this going forward would be by cross-reference</p> <p>8 between the rule and the statute so that we don't have</p> <p>9 the occasion where this -- if the Voter Education Guide</p> <p>10 were updated again, we would -- we wouldn't have to do</p> <p>11 that. So that's -- that's the change.</p> <p>12 It also adds in some additional items that</p> <p>13 we've added in over the years. Again, is that</p> <p>14 necessary? No. Under the rule language the rule says</p> <p>15 it shall -- it has a minimum of what shall be there.</p> <p>16 We've never specified, for example, the availability of</p> <p>17 a photograph, even though that's been in there since</p> <p>18 the inception of the Act. So, you know, we just</p> <p>19 thought maybe we should go ahead and add that in so</p> <p>20 everything matches up while we're -- while we're</p> <p>21 amending.</p> <p>22 So from my perspective, again, we don't</p> <p>23 anticipate anybody having a serious substantive concern</p> <p>24 or suggesting that the rule limits the statute in some</p> <p>25 way, but in the event that that were to come up, we</p>	<p>1 Commissioner Paton. I will call the roll.</p> <p>2 Commissioner Werther.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The</p> <p>11 motion is approved 5-to-nothing.</p> <p>12 Item VIII, discussion and possible action on</p> <p>13 the 2025 annual report. Item VIII is discussion and</p> <p>14 possible action on our 2025 annual report. You have a</p> <p>15 draft of the report in your packets. Is there any</p> <p>16 questions or discussions?</p> <p>17 Tom, did you want to say anything about this?</p> <p>18 MR. COLLINS: I don't -- I don't -- I don't</p> <p>19 think so. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, no. Mike</p> <p>20 coordinated putting this together, and thank you for</p> <p>21 doing it. And it features, you know, Captain Activate,</p> <p>22 you know, which -- you know, which I guarantee means it</p> <p>23 will get opened, which I can't necessarily say that is</p> <p>24 probably true about our prior annual reports.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yeah. I will note,</p>

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1 Captain Activate has totally hijacked the --
2 COMMISSIONER PATON: The all-star.
3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yeah. There's some
4 passing mention of the Members of the Commission, but
5 Captain Activate is front and center.
6 Do I have a motion to approve the 2025 annual
7 report for final proofing and distribution?
8 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Chairman, I make the
9 motion.
10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you,
11 Commissioner Titla.
12 Is there a second?
13 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Second.
14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: It's been moved and
15 seconded that we approve the 2025 annual report for
16 final proofing and distribution. I'll call the roll.
17 Commissioner Werther.
18 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.
19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.
20 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.
21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.
22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.
24 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.
25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The

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1 motion is approved 5-to-nothing.
2 Item IX is -- is recognition of Renaldo
3 Fowler, Senior Staff Advocate with Disability Rights
4 Arizona. Renaldo has worked in the disability advocacy
5 field for nearly four decades. He has been a voice in
6 the state regarding racial discrimination, as well as
7 the underserved needs of African American students in
8 special education. Renaldo also is co-founder of the
9 African American Conference on Disabilities, the
10 premier comprehensive disability conference in the
11 United States that addresses the intersection between
12 race and disability.
13 And importantly for us here at Clean
14 Elections, Renaldo has worked with Arizona elections
15 officials and advocates from the disability community
16 to improve access to the electoral process for
17 Arizonians with disabilities. Renaldo has been a
18 valued partner to the Commission and to voters across
19 Arizona, and we want to recognize his contributions.
20 Avery, I understand there's something you'd
21 like to say too?
22 MR. XOLA: Yes, Chairman.
23 Chairman, Commissioners, Gina couldn't be
24 here today. She's not feeling well. But she did write
25 some remarks out that I'm going to read on her behalf.

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1 MS. HERRING: Oh, Avery, click -- your mic is
2 muted.
3 MR. XOLA: Chairman, Commissioners, Gina
4 couldn't be here today because she's not feeling well,
5 but I'm going to read some remarks on her behalf that
6 talk about our distinguished friend Renaldo Fowler.
7 And I just want to say that I am blessed to have known
8 him, for him to -- you know, for all the things that I
9 learned from working with him, and it's really been a
10 privilege to, you know, work alongside him. But here's
11 the remarks.
12 It has been an incredible honor to work
13 alongside Renaldo over the years. More than just a
14 colleague, he has been a true champion for voters with
15 disabilities, working tirelessly to ensure that every
16 citizen can cast their ballot with the independence and
17 dignity they deserve.
18 In my experience as an election official,
19 I've never seen a discussion or an accessibility -- on
20 accessibility that didn't have Renaldo at its center.
21 His leadership didn't just invite collaboration, it
22 demanded it. He possessed a unique ability to bring
23 election officials together from across the state,
24 ensuring that accessibility was never an afterthought,
25 but the very foundation of our election planning.

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1 Renaldo's initiatives left a permanent mark
2 on Clean Elections. Together we launched a voter
3 education campaign for those without permanent
4 addresses, a project that remains a vital source on our
5 website today because of its enduring importance.
6 Beyond our office, his impact is felt
7 nationwide through his founding of the African American
8 Conference on Disabilities, now the premier event in
9 that field.
10 But while his resume is filled with
11 milestones, Renaldo's true legacy lies in his spirit.
12 To be in his presence is to witness a rare gentle
13 fierceness. He can command a room without saying a
14 single word because his integrity speaks for him. He
15 inspires you to be better, to work harder, and to
16 champion the cause with the same heart that he does.
17 The state of Arizona and the disability
18 community are profoundly better because of Renaldo's
19 dedicated 41 years to protecting the rights of others.
20 Renaldo, thank you feels insufficient. Instead, I
21 offer you this: My word that I will continue to serve
22 voters in a way that honors the legacy you've built.
23 Thank you for everything. Gina.
24 And Clean Elections, we also echo those
25 sentiments, Renaldo.

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1 MR. FOWLER: Thank you. Thank you.
2 MR. XOLA: Chairman, Commissioners.
3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you very much, Avery
4 and Gina. We appreciate it.
5 Mr. Fowler, we have a plaque we'd like to
6 give you.
7 MR. FOWLER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.
8 Appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you.
9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thanks for sitting through
10 all this meeting.
11 MR. FOWLER: Oh, no. It was a good
12 experience.
13 MR. XOLA: Can I take a picture?
14 MR. FOWLER: Yeah, could you take a picture?
15 MS. THOMAS: Can we get the picture with the
16 Commissioners too on the screen? Right in the center.
17 Thank you.
18 MR. FOWLER: I'll send one to my dad.
19 MR. XOLA: Perfect. Thank you, Chairman.
20 MR. FOWLER: Thank you. Appreciate it.
21 (Applause.)
22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Item X, public comment.
23 This is the time for consideration of comments and
24 suggestions from the public. Action taken as a result
25 of public comment will be limited to directing staff to

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1 study the matter, rescheduling it for further
2 consideration, or responding to criticism. Please
3 limit your comments to no more than two minutes.
4 Does any member of the public wish to
5 comment? Anyone here wish to say anything?
6 (No response.)
7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Anyone on Zoom wish to make
8 a comment? Ms. Knox, I see you are there. If you wish
9 to make a comment, you're welcome to.
10 (No response.)
11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing nothing, the public
12 may also submit comments by e-mail at
13 ccec@azcleanelections.gov.
14 Item XI, adjournment. At this time, I
15 would entertain a motion to adjourn.
16 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: I move to adjourn.
17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you,
18 Commissioner Werther.
19 Is there a second?
20 COMMISSIONER PATON: Second.
21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you,
22 Commissioner Paton.
23 It's been moved and seconded that we adjourn.
24 I'll call the roll.
25 Commissioner Werther.

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1 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.
2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.
3 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.
4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.
5 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.
6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.
7 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.
8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We are
9 adjourned. Thank you.
10 (The meeting concluded at 11:08 a.m.)
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)
3
4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings
5 were taken by me; that I was then and there a Certified
6 Reporter of the State of Arizona; that the proceedings
7 were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter
8 transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that
9 the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate
10 transcript of all proceedings had and adduced upon the
11 taking of said proceedings, all to the best of my skill
12 and ability.
13
14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related
15 to nor employed by any of the parties hereto nor am I
16 in any way interested in the outcome hereof.
17
18 DATED at Tempe, Arizona, this 20th day of
19 February, 2026.
20
21 
22
23 Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
24 Certified Reporter #50666
25

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