THE STATE OF ARIZONA

CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona
October 29, 2026
10:00 a.m.

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Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50666

CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

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PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 10:00 a.m. on October 29, 2026, at the State of Arizona, Clean Elections Commission, 1110 West Washington, Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the following Board Members:

Mr. Mark Kimble, Chairman
Mr. Galen Paton
Ms. Christina Werther
Mr. Sam Crump
Mr. Steve Titla

OTHERS PRESENT:

Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director
Paula Thomas, Executive Officer
Mike Becker, Policy Director
Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director
Avery Xola, Voter Education Manager
Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager
Scott Jarrett, Maricopa County Elections
Sarah Frechette, Maricopa County Elections
Craig Morgan, Taft Law
Bill Richards, Richards & Moskowitz
Samantha Fox, Richards & Moskowitz
Cathy Herring, KCA
Shawn Dell Wildman, Member of the Public
Baron Glassgow, Member of the Public
Jennifer Liewer, Member of the Public
Bary Ingle, Member of the Public
Peshlakai Jamescita, Member of the Public

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P R O C E E D I N G

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good morning. I'm Mark Kimble and I call this meeting of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to order. It's 10:00 a.m. on October 29th, 2026. Today's meeting is being held in person and virtually.

With that, we will take attendance. Commissioners, please identify yourselves for the record.

COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Christina Werther.

COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sam Crump.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: And I'm Mark Kimble.

And we have four of the five Commissioners here, so we have a quorum.

Item II, discussion and possible action on 2026 meeting minutes for September 24th and October 6th.

Commissioners, you have the minutes from our September 24th and October 6th meetings in your packet. Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none.

Do I have a motion to approve the minutes?

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I move

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to approve the minutes from September 24th and October 6th, 2026.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Werther.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Paton.

It's been moved and seconded that we approve the minutes for our meetings of September 24th and October 6th. I will call the roll.

Commissioner Werther.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.

COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.

COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The minutes are approved 4-to-nothing.

Item III, discussion and possible -- excuse me -- discussion and presentation on general election day operations and post-election procedures from Scott Jarrett, Maricopa County Election Director.

We're pleased to have the opportunity to hear from Scott Jarrett, the Elections Director for Maricopa

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County. Maricopa County is the second largest voting jurisdiction in the country. Scott has led the Elections Department since 2019. Scott is responsible for directing all in-person voting, tabulation operations, candidate filing, campaign finance, and warehouse operations. Scott has a wealth of knowledge directing the department operations and implementing strategic direction. He works closely with Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Maricopa County Manager, Maricopa County Recorder, and reports directly to the Maricopa County's Executive Director.

Scott has been a nationally recognized leader in election administration. He is an elections task force member of the Bipartisan Policy -- Policy Center, a member of the Election Assistance Commission, Local Leadership Council, and has served as President of the Election Officials of Arizona. We're pleased to welcome him back to the Commission to provide us an overview of election day and post-election procedures. After his presentation we'll have an opportunity to ask some questions.

Scott, the floor is yours.

MR. JARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to be here.

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Just want to do an audio check. Are you able to hear me okay?

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We're able to hear you just fine, Scott.

MR. JARRETT: All right. So I'm going to go ahead and share my screen. I did prepare a slide deck. Let's -- I believe it should be sharing now, so let's get the slide deck started. Right.

Commissioners, are you able to see my slides?

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, we are, Scott.

MR. JARRETT: All right. Great. And I do welcome questions at the end of this.

So before we get started with election day operations and post-election-day operations and what voters can expect, did want to highlight the breakdown of election-related responsibilities in Maricopa County, which largely follow Arizona state statutes. And this is based off a settlement agreement that occurred in July between the Maricopa County Recorder's Office and the Board of Supervisors.

And so for election-related responsibilities the Recorder's Office is responsible for voter registration, mail-in voting, in-person early voting, special election boards, and serving military and overseas voters.

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Whereas the Board of Supervisors and then the Elections Department, which reports up to me, is responsible for recruiting and hiring all of our temporary workers and our wonderful community members that step up to serve Maricopa County voters, whether that's at our voting locations or also here at our central counting facility helping us process all those ballots, in-person voting for emergency voting and election day.

The drop box, we -- we jointly share this responsibility with the Recorder's Office. The Recorder's Office determines where those drop box locations will be, but then we jointly retrieve the ballots, making sure that we have a Republican and Democrat and a representative from the Recorder's Office and the Elections Department to retrieve those ballots from those drop boxes.

Pre tabulation processing, so that's separating that -- the ballot from the affidavit envelope so then it can be sent to our tabulation center. And then I oversee the tabulation processes, that includes all the logic and accuracy testing that goes into readying our tabulation equipment, to actually tabulating those ballots and reporting results, the campaign and candidate filing services.

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And then safety and security of all the buildings, including our central counting facility, but also our voting locations. And then lastly, the Board -- preparing the canvass to the Board of Supervisors so they can canvass that. And then any of the statewide and federal and legislative contests, forwarding that on up to the Secretary of State so that they can do the statewide canvass.

So as of the voter registration deadline and a few days after, when the Recorder's Office was able to work through all those paper forms that were submitted, this is where our voter registration stands in Maricopa County, with roughly about a third, a third, and a third falling to our independent voters, our party not declared voters, our Republican voters, Democratic voters. This is how our voter registration breaks down. We do have the highest, I guess, group of voters are those that are not affiliated with a party, so that's just right around -- just over 35 percent of our total voters don't affiliate with a political party.

And then as far as our turnout projections -- so I always like to -- when I talk about projecting turnout, especially for the Elections Department, what we're projecting turnout is to make sure that we have

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enough resources to be able to serve Maricopa County voters effectively and then also be able to, on the back end here at our central counting facility, have enough resources to be able to process and tabulate all those ballots.

So when we were looking to project turnout for this election, we landed on 65 percent. Now, if you go through all of history, the average turnout is right around 57 to 58 percent for midterm election cycles, but the two most recent midterm elections were in 2022 and 2018 and we just exceeded 64 percent turnout. So by projecting 65 percent turnout, that is really one of the all-time highs, or you have to at least go back to the 1970s or even elections that predate that time to get higher turnout rates.

And when we are making these projections, right, it was just based on these historical patterns, but now we actually have a lot of data of how voters are participating. And as of this morning, we are currently tracking ahead of 2022 and 2018 in both -- both the just raw number of voters that have returned their ballots, but also a turnout percentage.

So as compared to 2018, we're almost about 1 percent higher as far as turnout percentage. We have -- over 35 percent of our voters have already

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participated in this election. And then when you compare this to 2022, we're almost 3 percent -- percentage points higher as far as turnout. So does look like we're on target to hit that 65 percent turnout rate.

There's still quite a few voters that are left to participate. We usually have a high volume of voters that are choosing to vote in person or drop off their ballots on the last day of early voting, which is tomorrow, but then also through the weekend during emergency voting and on Monday and then on election day.

So this is how voters have participated, at least dating back to 2020. So roughly about 50 percent of our voters use or return their ballot through the U.S. Post Office. And that means the other 50 percent are bringing in their ballots and either voting in person on election day, getting a ballot printed and issued to them at the voting location, or bringing in that mail ballot and dropping it off at a drop box location or on election day or during the in-person early voting period.

And the Recorder's Office has been administering that in-person early voting period this election, and they are having a very robust turnout in

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voters choosing to vote in person and drop off their ballots. Roughly, we're seeing rates of well over a hundred to 200 percent turnout for in-person voting locations and drop offs above where we saw that in 2022 and 2018, where voters returning their ballots through the mail is maybe slightly lower than what we had seen in prior elections. So when we do the analysis after this election, it will be interesting to see if we break at that 50/50 rate or maybe we might transition to being 45 or 40 percent through the Post Office and then 55 to 60 percent through these other avenues for voters to participate.

So in-person voting. So for this election the Recorder's Office had 14 vote centers that have been open at 28 days -- or, for 27 days before the election, then they transitioned and opened an additional 32. So currently, as we speak today, there's 46 vote centers that the Recorder's Office is offering for voters to be able to participate early.

As we head into emergency voting weekend, so that is the Saturday before election day, I do get questions about what is emergency voting. And that is something that's set in statute, and that's if -- if a voter was experiencing an issue or an emergency that would prevent them from voting on election day, they're

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able to go and visit one of our emergency voting locations, check in, and have a ballot issued to them. And then they have to just sign an attestation, which is attached to the affidavit envelope, saying that they are, in fact, experiencing an emergency that would prevent them from voting on election day.

Now, the statute does not define what an emergency is, so that is really up to the voter. If they believe that they are experiencing an issue that would prevent them from voting, they are able to vote during this emergency voting period.

And then also of note, for a voter to bring in a ballot and drop it off at any of our emergency voting locations, there is no attestation.

And also, one other point. Our poll workers are trained not to try to verify what -- that a voter is experiencing an emergency, just to notify them that they are signing that attestation.

So we will have over 50 locations open on this coming Saturday before election day, we'll have over 150 locations open on the Monday before election day, and then on election day itself there will be 254 voting locations.

In Maricopa County we use vote centers, and we have since 2020. And this is a very popular model

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for voters, because it means that they're always in the right location. They're never issued a provisional ballot if they had gone to the wrong location. So that means that voters can go to our website, Locations.Maricopa.Vote, and identify a convenient location for them.

And this is an image of our website. And you -- voters can type in their address. There's actually a link that, if they're using their phone, that they can click on the link to say use my current location, and it will bring, using this map or through a list, what that closest voting location is to them.

We update our website every 15 minutes with wait times. So on election day if voters are concerned that maybe the location that they want to go to might have a long wait time, they'll be able to log in and it will tell them the number of voters that were in line as of the last time it was updated, which is 15 minutes ago -- or, a few minutes ago, but every 15 minutes, and then also what we're projecting as the wait time for those voters if they were to go to that location. And maybe they'll find an alternative one if there is a longer wait time. Maybe they'll choose to vote during their lunch break instead of closer to home.

So reporting results. So when we are

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reporting results, before we can even get there we have to have certified election equipment. And it has to be certified at the federal level through the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission, then it has to go through a state certification, and then before every election we have to recertify through something called the logic and accuracy test. So all of that was done on 29 days before the election, so early in October, and all of our equipment is ready.

And then in Maricopa County we also have our tabulation equipment that's available at our voting locations on election day, so that equipment has to go through those same certification and testing requirements as our central count equipment.

So as far as reporting results, there are -- sometimes folks believe Maricopa County is a little bit slow at counting ballots, which really the reality is, it's anything but that. We're actually very, very quick at counting ballots, at least compared to history. And that's what we're seeing here, the average time it takes Maricopa County to count ballots dating all the way back to 2006. And even if you take -- would have taken this chart earlier on, in those elections that occurred before 2006, it used to take anywhere from 12 to 17, even approaching 20 days to

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finish counting all of those ballots.

So in 2024 we were able to get that done -- completed in 10 days, but that 10 days is once we've gotten through all the ballots, like the ballots that maybe have had to go through curing with the Recorder's Office.

And a curing is the process of -- maybe if the Recorder's Office had questioned a voter's signature. Let's say that the voter is right-handed and they broke their right hand out skiing and they had to sign with their left hand. And if that signature didn't match, the Recorder's Office would contact them, giving them that opportunity to get that signature cured. Voters have five days after election day to cure that signature.

And likewise, if there's a provisional ballot, someone shows up on election day, maybe they don't have all the right ID requirements for them to be able to vote, then they can have five days after election day to come in and show the Recorder's Office that correct ID. We also have various clerks offices -- city and town clerks offices that are available that voters can take in that ID as well to show that, so they don't have to drive all the way to downtown, so that they can get that ballot to count if

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they didn't have the right ID on election day.

But we're anticipating being right in line with where we were in 2024, if not maybe even a little bit quicker, right. We've really focused on making sure we have our resources established, we have some night shifts that we'll be working just to make sure that we're getting these ballots processed and then counted as quickly as possible.

Right now we're focusing on -- on election night in our posts that evening at 8:00 p.m., that's the first post that every county posts when they post results, and we're hoping to include everything that's been returned at least through that Saturday in that 8:00 p.m. post. And then maybe, if we have the availability, have a second post after that that would maybe include everything through that Sunday and through the weekend. And then we'll be diligently working those next days after election day to get everything posted.

The one thing that voters are able to do in -- in Maricopa County and Arizona is bring in those mail-in ballots on election day and drop those off, and those do take time to process after election day. But there's this brand new law that's been implemented this year that actually allows voters that are bringing in

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that mail-in ballot, if they so choose, they can decide to check in, show identification, and then have that ballot skip signature verification, and then on election day have that ballot tabulated.

I've got a video that I'm going to show about that process in a second, but I did want to highlight one of the things that we're doing to educate voters so they can be prepared make a plan to participate in this election.

So we have our paid media campaign. It's a vote confidently campaign. I don't know if you've had the opportunity to see any of our commercials. I'll show one here in a second. But it's really taking these complex processes and trying to put a little spin on them to make them a little bit more entertaining so they resonate with folks, highlighting that we have bipartisan poll workers at every voting location and bipartisan workers here at central count; that we take security very, very seriously, where we have all -- all these different checks and balances and security protocols. So we've got a video commercial highlighting those.

And then one, that if voters are really, really interested in and they want to watch us as we do our work, it's our live stream videos. And that's what

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our next commercial is going to show, so I'm going to play this for you all.

(Video plays.)

MR. JARRETT: I think this is one of my favorite commercials of the bunch. And I like when we have tours. We have a Tour Tuesday -- not right now, because we're in a lockdown of our facility because we have live ballots. But as soon as we get through this election, we'll open up those Tour Tuesdays again. Folks can go to our website and sign up. We have newsletters.

But during those tours we like to highlight these live video streams and encourage people -- maybe they can even save a little money in their -- their pocketbooks by canceling some of their subscriptions, their streaming subscriptions and just watch us 365 days a year, 24 hours a day as we do work to prepare for elections. Because some people don't think --

Well, what are you doing in the off cycles? Well, there's a lot of preparation that goes into -- we start preparing for an election well over a year in advance to make sure we're ready to serve Maricopa County voters. So that's just one of our commercials.

And I do have one other video. So elections can be very complex, and we have a wonderful

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communications team here at Maricopa County that likes to take those complex processes and then put them into easy-to-understand short videos that are available on our website and our YouTube channel just to advertise or let the -- let folks know of how our processes work.

And this is one that's advertising that new process I was discussing about a voter, if they want to bring in that mail-in ballot and check in during early voting and bypass signature verification, or on election day have that ballot tabulated, this is how they can take advantage and what to expect in that process.

(Video plays.)

MR. JARRETT: These videos are just so fantastic. And I'm just so impressed with our communications team to be able to take all these complex processes and be able to explain them in easy-to-understand -- with nice little video graphics or the little messaging that goes along with them, to be able to ensure voters are educated on how they can participate in the election.

But with that, I'm happy to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Scott. Very impressive presentation. One question I have. I'm

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from Pima County. Your -- everything you focused on was Maricopa County, which is understandable. Do you think turnout statewide is going to mirror Maricopa County, has it in the past, or is Maricopa County an outlier?

MR. JARRETT: So, Mr. Chairman, Maricopa County usually is right in the middle. Sometimes we might beat the state average by a little bit. I think some of the counties that have the highest turnout in the state are like Yavapai County. I think that routinely is the highest turnout in the county. And they -- and I have looked at some of the other counties.

Pima County is usually right in line with Maricopa County. I don't know where we are statewide right at this point in time. I've been really focused on Maricopa County's returns. I have seen social media posts and others showing the turnout rates for those other counties, but I'm not sure how vetted those are.

So I can only speak to Maricopa County right now for this year. But usually we are right around the state average or maybe a couple percentage points higher, and then some counties fall below that, some are much higher, but Pima County is usually right in line with us.

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CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. And one other question. There's been a lot of concern about federal observers, whether they're from the Justice Department or some law enforcement agency. Is this a concern for you and have you taken any steps to work with poll workers to make sure they're prepared if this happens? How -- how concerned are you about this?

MR. JARRETT: Well, Mr. Commissioner, Department of Justice observers are not unusual for Maricopa County. In fact, since I've been in this role since 2019, every major federal election we've had, Department of Justice observers come to Maricopa County, and they're really associated with their Civil Rights Division, to make sure that -- and it's a good thing -- to make sure that we're offering voters that may have a disability an opportunity to be able to cast their ballot autonomously, right, without assistance, to make sure we're providing the correct language assistance.

In Maricopa County our -- one of our covered languages is Spanish. So all of our voting materials, whether that's the ballot itself, whether that's all the instructions that we provide, anything that we release from the Elections Department as far as a press release, all has to be translated in Spanish. So

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they'll be here making -- making sure that we're doing that to serve every voter, right, that wants to participate in this election. So having Department of Justice observers is a good thing, and I have been informed that they are planning to send observers here again.

Other types of observers that we've had in the past are congressional observers. And federal law allows if we have a congressional contest on the ballot, that they can send observers, and I do anticipate that they will be here.

But as far as at the voting locations, right, we try to account for every sort of eventuality. As election officials we're always worried about all sorts of different things, whether we're going to have a power outage at a voting location. You know, we've got a lot of rain coming this weekend. What is the rain going to do? Are we going to be able to deliver all of our equipment? But we train our poll workers on how to provide voters the best customer service, and if they encounter an issue, how they report that back up to the Elections Department.

One of the things that we do here in Maricopa County is we establish a command center, where we're answering questions for all of our poll workers. And

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in that command center we'll have our Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, the Arizona Counterterrorism Information Center in there helping us sort of troubleshoot different issues that we could have. But I'm confident, with all the wonderful training that we've provided our poll workers and then the amazing community members that are stepping up to serve Maricopa County voters, we'll be able to have a smooth election on election day.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. I'll ask my colleagues if they have any questions.

First I want to note that Commissioner Titla has been with us since the beginning of the presentation, so all five Commissioners are present.

Any Commissioners have any questions for -- for Mr. Jarrett?

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I don't have a question, but more just a comment. So when I lived in Maricopa County I used to serve as a troubleshooter and, you know, worked a lot with all the different poll workers at the different voting locations, and I was always just really impressed by the training and the amount of support that the County gives during that very intense period, especially right leading up to the election.

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And so I guess maybe this is a question. I mean, Scott, are you still on track? Like do you have enough poll workers? Because I know that's always been the struggle, right, to make sure that you have enough staffing for each location.

MR. JARRETT: Yeah. So we've had a great response from our community to step up and work. Sometimes we say volunteer in elections. Well, we -- we pay everyone that comes to work for us. But it is almost like a volunteer-type job, right, because it's a lot of -- enormous amount of work and even responsibility that we place on our poll workers.

And we've had fantastic response. The last I saw we're well over 90 percent hired for this election. So we've got great, great folks that are coming out and currently no significant staffing shortages of any kind.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you.

Any other questions from Commissioners?

Commissioner Paton.

COMMISSIONER PATON: I have a comment, I guess. I'm from Pima County as well. And just to let other people know, my wife got called about verifying her signature the other day. She has a signature she uses for nursing, because they have to actually know

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exactly who's taking the drugs and so on, and then she has a normal signature. And she signed with the one that's not on her official deal, and they called her and she verified it. And she started to complain. I said, no, no, that's good. That means it's working.

So, you know -- and I appreciate your -- your presentation. It looks so professional. And I'm -- I'm proud that you're able to put together such a thing where you anticipate issues and so on. And I'm -- I'm also very excited to see that people can get their vote vetted right there at -- at the deal, because that's where people think, well, I handed it in. I don't know, you know, if they did count it or whatever, so --

And I got a message from Pima County the other day saying they've already processed my -- and verified my signature and all that kind of stuff, so I'm just proud about how all that seems to be working. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you.

MR. JARRETT: Well, thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Paton.

Any other comments or questions from Members of the Commission?

(No response.)

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CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Well, Scott, I know this is an incredibly busy time for you. I appreciate you taking the time to talk with us and the members of the public to reassure them that their vote will be counted quickly, accuracy -- accurately, and securely. So thank you for all you do.

MR. JARRETT: Well, thank you. And I appreciate the time. And I'll let you get back to your regularly scheduled meeting.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you.

Okay. With that, we will move on to Item IV, discussion and possible action on the Executive Director's Report.

Tom.

MR. COLLINS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. Thanks to Maricopa County and Scott for bringing us that.

I just want to highlight a few things. Obviously, as we heard about, election day is around the corner. We have some tools on our website, including our what ID do I need at the polls tool. So, you know, for most folks either your state ID or your driver's license works. But in those -- in the event that you don't have a current license or state ID, there are options that the statute provides for, and we

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have a tool that you can click on which one of the documents you have and make sure that you're covered so that if you're voting in person on election day you've gotten that taken care of. It's one of my favorite things about the -- the website.

The -- you know, we've had a lot of activity on the voter education outreach side, as you can see. We had -- Avery hosted a discussion and a presentation on voting and propositions at a -- at a cafe at 24th Street and Van Buren and it was -- Gina and I were there. And it was -- it was really interesting. We had, I think, 28 people, 30, something like that, there, and, you know, younger voters, you know, who, you know, had questions about the ballot measures, some of whom had questions about, you know, how to get more engaged with -- with civics. So that was -- that was fun and, I think -- and a new -- new thing.

And then we've been out and about throughout the state. Gina was, for example, on Yuma Television KYMA to talk about the voter survey we do attendant to our -- to our debates.

And we also did a town hall on -- on affordability issues on Telemundo, which had, I think -- which was great. We had a really broad group of folks, including, you know -- you know, we had

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Rounds Consulting Group there. And, you know, for those of you who are familiar, they do advising to government agencies, to GLBC, those kinds of things. And we also had a professor -- or, a researcher from the Seidman Institute at ASU. So that was really, I think, really, really good. So anyways -- so that's -- that's what we've been doing.

We'll get to it later. We have -- the audits are on this Agenda, and then we have some legal developments which are also on the Agenda. I will need to update next month the docket on complaints.

And then one other thing I wanted to note, and you may recall this. We'll start the discussion around this at least at a Staff level and see how we -- how we proceed. But in the Arizona Supreme Court's decision on Prop 211 this summer there was a -- an issue regarding, under Prop 211, how you deal with sort of upstream donors and notice.

And the court had some language in there, you know, that seemed to invite the Commission to consider making a rule to address this -- this ambiguity they perceived in the statute or -- and they resolved it, in part, by, you know, saying how the statute ought to apply to upstream donors, but, you know, how that works in practice -- they talked about whether or not that's

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something you do by a rule or by as-applied challenge. They talked about both of those issues. So what the best way to address that is -- is something that we'll be engaging with folks about in order to determine -- if we do, in fact, bring a rule forward, that would then go through that public comment process.

And that's -- that's about -- I think that's it for the Executive Director's Report. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

Any questions or comments from Members of the Commission?

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I just had a comment.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Werther.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: So I just wanted to -- about voter education. So I was driving yesterday from home, so that's southeastern Arizona, all the way up to Payson for work, and I think I saw four different billboards that were about, you know, the Voter Education Guide for Clean Elections. And I was just very excited. I was passenger, so I took as many photos as I could, so I'll post that on my LinkedIn. But anyway, I was just really happy to see that type of advertisement and kind of directing voters in more of

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the rural areas of where they can get information, so I just want to give kudos.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Werther.

Any other comments on the Executive Director's Report?

COMMISSIONER TITLA: Yeah, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, Commissioner Titla.

COMMISSIONER TITLA: Steve Titla here. Thank you.

Mr. Collins, as you know, I'm a Native American, Apache, from San Carlos Apache Reservation. And in the past we have discussed reaching out to Native American voters on the reservations. We have 22 reservations in the state, different tribes from -- covering all of the -- all over the state of Arizona. And have you guys reached out to those reservations to get more voter participation in the elections coming up?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Titla, yes. I mean, so we've had sort of two modes. We've had some things that have come together and some things that haven't. For instance, you know, we -- we have been able to do, in conjunction with the counties that share jurisdiction with the

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Navajo Nation for voting purposes, we've done a couple of town halls there. We worked on -- we worked on doing something with the Yaqui -- at the Yaqui event this month. That didn't quite come together.

And we continue to go and meet with Native Vote and other umbrella organizations to make sure, at a minimum, that we're communicating directly with staff members who are out in the field and making sure they're aware of the resources that we have available.

So, you know, I don't think we've -- we haven't quite got to where we were prior to COVID still, but I think we are moving in that direction. And I think the relationships we have, particularly through some of the meetings we've gone to with Native Vote and other -- and with, you know, some of the tribal governments directly, are more mature than they were in that sense.

And so I feel like -- so the -- so I feel like, at a minimum, we've done a better job of establishing that we're available, the resources we have available, and I think that -- you know, I think that -- Avery at least I know is regularly in communication either with people who work on voting in tribal lands or with the counties that work directly with those voters.

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COMMISSIONER TITLA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Collins. And I just want to let you know that on the reservations there's going to be federal elections, state elections, and also tribal elections on the San Carlos at least, and I think that other reservations have their tribal elections also. But we're going to have a poll -- poll watchers out there for the federal and state elections on our reservation for all the poll -- polling places, for your information.

Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Titla.

Any other comments or questions about the Executive Director's Report?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

Item V, review, consideration, discussion, analysis, and possible action on legal update, court actions in Lombardo and Collier v. Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, Number CV26-0346-PR, and Lombardo and Collier v. Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, Number CV2026-037740, Arizona Superior Court, Maricopa County.

Commissioners, as you know, we received a ruling from the Arizona Supreme Court last week. We

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have an opportunity to discuss that with our attorneys, Bill Richards and Samantha Fox.

Before a motion to go into executive session, does any Commissioner have any comments or questions in -- in open session?

As a reminder, when we go into executive session it will not be open to the public and Executive Director Collins will not be present.

Any questions in open session?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none.

Does the Commission wish to go into executive session? If so, is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I move to go into executive session for this item.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: It's been moved and seconded that we go into executive session for Item V. I will call the roll.

Commissioner Werther.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.

COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.

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COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.
CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.
COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.
CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We will be in executive session.
* * * * *
(End of executive session. Public meeting resumes at 11:04 a.m.)
CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. We are back in open session and we will move on to Item VI, discussion and possible action on the 2026 primary election audit reports for 42 participating candidates. Mike and our auditors at Fester and Chapman have been reviewing primary election clean candidates' financial records as part of our compliance process. The rules require those audits to be approved by the Commission. Tom is going to approve -- to provide us with a summary.
Tom.
MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Thank you, Commissioners -- Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. If you saw the memo from Mike about sort of setting forth where -- you know, where this fits into the process of what -- of what we do, these -- these audits are done under agreed -- I already forgot the term. Anyways, we --

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What?
MS. THOMAS: AUP.
MR. COLLINS: AUP.
MS. THOMAS: Agreed upon procedures.
MR. COLLINS: Yeah, agreed uniform procedures.
And so what they're doing is they're testing the transactions that are in -- that are reported against the candidates' bank accounts and looking at whether or not those reconcile properly, you know. You know, most of the time these are -- are not going to, and they shouldn't, have serious issues, you know. You know, so -- and we try to, you know, assess those, you know, and follow up where there are issues to get the kind of amendments that we need.
Oftentimes what that will reveal is a data entry issue, right. So the reason you want the campaign finance report to correspond to the candidate account is because, you know, we want to make sure that the report that you're seeing is not -- you know, is accurate. And we have, through this process, been able to flag real problems in the past several different times, so -- you know, so that's -- that's the upshot.
You know, just to give one example, you know, which we already dealt with, in part, in an enforcement

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matter. So we had a -- you may recall -- and I'm not highlighting this. Just as an example, we had a complaint against a candidate where the complaint said that they must have over -- over spent because of the way their balance worked out, and that's because there was a double booking in their campaign finance report of an expense. And we went through that in the enforcement context.
And that shows up here, as it should, in the audit process, where you see, you know, that double booking problem, which we, you know, had at least identified as a double booking problem in the enforcement process. Obviously when you look at that in the context of the audit process, that shows up, because there's only one expenditure in the -- in the checking account, but there's two expenditures in the -- on their campaign finance report, so --
And then the process, you know, for backing that out is -- you know, takes some time, and that gets into some technical issues around -- when you're working within the Secretary of State's data entry system, Beacon, you can't just count on it to back out a transaction earlier in the process and have that follow through. You sort of have to follow the transaction through each report.

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So that -- it's a little bit of a cumbersome issue, but, you know -- but the bottom line is that, you know, I mean, that's just a good illustration of the fact that, you know, we looked at the campaign finance reports in the context of enforcement, identified this issue as not an enforcement issue. It happened to come back -- it goes a little backwards here, but, you know, you see the illustration, the same kind of thing there.
So -- so the request we have to approve these is -- is not -- is not insofar as you are -- well, it's essentially an acknowledgment that you've received them and had the opportunity to review them. And then, you know, we will be addressing some of the outstanding issues going forward in terms of -- as we try to work with candidates to make sure that their campaign finance reports are correct.
A couple other things I wanted to add real quick is, first, this is the fastest we've gotten done all of the primary candidate audits. So Mike and the auditors worked effectively here and had good communication with the candidates. And we -- obviously we appreciate the candidates who are here and we appreciate the candidates' response in this.
And we also -- you know, I want to be clear,

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we did each and every primary candidate, you know. There are -- if you notice, there's 47 participating candidates in the primary, there's 42 here. There are five candidates that we have not -- we're not submitting their audits for review at this point for other reasons.

So I think -- I think that's about all I have, but I'm happy to answer questions, and Mike is available too. And we would just ask that you approve the audits. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Tom. So there's 42 audits here, and in nine cases you have some issues that you are still resolving, is that accurate?

MR. COLLINS: That's right. And so the issue there is, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, is working with the candidate to assess two things. First, you know, there are some of those issues that, if we don't get those amendments made the way we need them made, you know, we -- we may have to bring those folks back and say, look, this is a serious enough issue that we need the Commission to look at this in a different context, which is to say, some kind of a complaint.

Some of them are more in the nature of, you know -- of, you know, correcting data entry issues. But because we've looked at the checking account that

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they're required to run all their transactions through, you know, we're confident that that's right. And then -- and then there is a judgment that we, you know, apply in terms of, you know, whether or not -- in terms of the amount of money that's at issue and whether or not they're able to -- we can't go into Beacon and do it for them, and there is a -- there is an issue with the amount of time they may have to take to do that versus the value of the -- the actual transaction.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you.

Are there any questions or comments from Members of the Commission for Tom or for Mike?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none.

I would entertain a motion to approve the audits identified in the appendix to the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve the 2026 primary election audit reports for these 42 participating candidates, along with the appendix.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Werther.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Paton.

It's been moved and seconded that we approve the audits identified in the appendix to the Agenda. I will call the roll.

Commissioner Werther.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.

COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.

COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.

COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The motion is approved 5-to-nothing.

Item VII, public comment. This is the time for consideration of comments and suggestions from the public. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, rescheduling it for further consideration, or responding to criticism. Please limit your comments to no more than two minutes.

Does anyone on Zoom wish to make a comment?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I don't see anyone.

The public may also submit comments by e-mail

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at ccec@azcleanelections.gov.

Item VIII, adjournment. At this time, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I move to adjourn.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Werther.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioner Paton.

It's been moved and seconded that we adjourn. I will call the roll.

Commissioner Werther.

COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.

COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.

COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.

COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We are adjourned. Thank you.

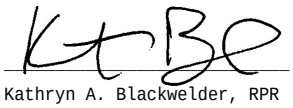
(The meeting concluded at 11:13 a.m.)

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken by me; that I was then and there a Certified Reporter of the State of Arizona; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate transcript of all proceedings had and adduced upon the taking of said proceedings, all to the best of my skill and ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to nor employed by any of the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

DATED at Tempe, Arizona, this 30th day of October, 2026.



Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
Certified Reporter #50666

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