THE STATE OF ARIZONA

CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona

June 25, 2020

9:34 a.m.

COASH & COASH, INC.
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P R O C E E D I N G

CHAIRMAN PATON: This is the call to order for the June 25th, 2020 Citizens Clean Elections Commission. I call it to order. It's -- by my clock, it's 9:34. And so, we will take attendance.

COMMISSIONER CHAN: This is Amy Chan. I'm here by phone.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mark Kimble. I'm here in the Commission office.

CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. And this is Commissioner Galen Paton, and I'm here by phone. And I believe that's all we have right now.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, yes. That's correct.

MS. THOMAS: Let him know we have Mike and Gina on the line, too.

MR. COLLINS: And -- yeah, we, also, have -- Mr. Chairman, we, also, have -- Mike Becker and Gina Roberts are on the line.

CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. All right. So, let's go to Item II, discussion and possible action on minutes for the April 30th meeting.
CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes?

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that's -- and Gina is in addition to everything else that Tom has mentioned. That's just one thing that I would highlight, as well, that the Voter Education Guide itself will be hitting homes between now and July 8, and we'll be wrapping up our primary debates which, again, I have to credit Paula and Gina for --

THE OPERATOR: Joining the meeting --

COMMISSIONER MEYER: Damien Meyer.

MR. COLLINS: -- for their efforts to transition us into this online version of the debate, which I think has been productive and seems to be working very well for both candidates and the public, as measured by --

THE OPERATOR: Leaving the meeting.

MR. COLLINS: -- the questions we're getting.

COMMISSIONER MEYER: Damien Meyer.

MR. COLLINS: So, that's -- that's where we are.

Gina, I don't know if there's anything else that you want to highlight from voter education that I have missed.

MS. ROBERTS: Sure, Tom.

Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, this is Gina Roberts. And I want what I would just like to note is that staff, and particularly Alec, is working really hard right now on our website to accumulate all of the -- all of the information that voters need to vote. So, what we're really seeing is that based off of the relationship that Alec has built with the counties, we're getting a lot of great high in responses. And so, that's really helpful to us to be able to, basically, take all of this election information --

THE OPERATOR: Joining the meeting.

MS. ROBERTS: -- across the entire state --

COMMISSIONER MEYER: Damien Meyer.

MS. ROBERTS: -- and get that available to voters in a single place on our website, but I just wanted to highlight that our website is really a key tool for voters this year. And the voter education unit is putting a lot of work into that. And so, that's just one thing that I would highlight, as well, in addition to everything else that Tom has mentioned.

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that's -- and Gina is absolutely right about that.

CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes?
8.

The State then appealed, and so we just had

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granted judgment in favor of the -- in favor of us.

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This oral argument in June on the -- with the Arizona

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Voter Protection Act and a 2016 law passed -- well,

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the interaction of the Clean Elections Act and the

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and protective equipment available and masks, for

14.

And we are -- we are still -- you know, we

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and legislative stuff real quick.

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are still open.  We've been open throughout the COVID

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situation.  We are still dealing with monitoring our

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staffing and making sure that we're within the

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guidelines that are out there, and we do have cleaning

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and phone issues, but Commissioner Meyer is here now.

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are is I just had a couple -- if I'm not wrong, I think

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I just had -- I just wanted to just mention a couple of

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quick items on the -- on administration and then legal

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stuff and legislative stuff real quick.

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and protective equipment available and masks, for

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Commissioner Chan.

2.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Commissioner Kimble

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is here.

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COMMISSIONER MEYER: This is Commissioner

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Meyer.  I popped on.  I apologize.  I was having some

6.

phone issues, but Commissioner Meyer is here now.

7.

MS. THOMAS: Maybe Paton fell off?

8.

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think so.

9.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Yeah.

10.

MS. THOMAS: I think we have a quorum.

11.

MR. COLLINS: Should we -- should we -- I'm

12.

trying to figure out if he --

13.

MS. KARLSON: Yeah, we have a quorum.

14.

MR. COLLINS: I know.  I mean, do you want

15.

do you want me to --

16.

THE OPERATOR: Joining the meeting.

17.

MR. COLLINS: There we go.

18.

MS. KARLSON: There he is.

19.

CHAIRMAN PATON: Galen Paton.

20.

MR. COLLINS: So --

21.

CHAIRMAN PATON: I guess I'm back.

22.

MR. COLLINS: Okay.  Well, we had paused.

23.

So, the last thing we had --

24.

CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay.

25.

MR. COLLINS: We had -- I guess, where we
MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Kimble, based upon our experience thus far, I don't. I will -- I will simply -- the only caveat is -- and it's not a confusion point, but it's a desire point. I think that both parties would like to have the ability to coordinate more completely with their nominees. And, as I say, if we had brought this lawsuit, this is not the way we would have brought this, but at least the -- Mike and I certainly wouldn't have recommended the lawsuit be framed -- and I'm speaking for Mike here, but I assume he agrees. If you don't agree, let me know -- but we think there are some policy reasons why -- and administrative reasons why the nominee piece is not the worst thing in the world, but that's not how the -- that's neither how the bill was passed nor how the lawsuit was framed. And since we weren't really involved in either of those things, that's -- that's the one issue where surely nominees and the parties would like to be able to, you know, better harness the resources of the parties to coordinate with the nominees in a way that is more parallel with the way that the federal campaign finance law works.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Thank you.

MR. COLLINS: I think the other main point to coordinate more completely with their nominees.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. I guess, the reason I'm asking is we're waiting for a Court decision. Elections are approaching. Campaigns are ongoing, but you don't foresee any substantial issues of confusion coming up until this ruling comes down?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Chan, Commissioner Kimble, based upon our experience thus far, I don't. I will -- I will simply -- the only caveat is -- and it's not a confusion point, but it's a desire point. I think that both parties would like to have the ability to coordinate more completely with their nominees. And, as I say, if we had brought this lawsuit, this is not the way we would have brought this, but at least the -- Mike and I certainly wouldn't have recommended the lawsuit be framed -- and I'm speaking for Mike here, but I assume he agrees. If you don't agree, let me know -- but we think there are some policy reasons why -- and administrative reasons why the nominee piece is not the worst thing in the world, but that's not how the -- that's neither how the bill was passed nor how the lawsuit was framed. And since we weren't really involved in either of those things, that's -- that's the one issue where surely nominees and the parties would like to be able to, you know, better harness the resources of the parties to coordinate with the nominees in a way that is more parallel with the way that the federal campaign finance law works.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Thank you.

MR. COLLINS: I think the other main point to coordinate more completely with their nominees.
1 have been active in getting -- in terms of getting
2 their folks to engage with the $5 collection process
3 for the Corporation Commission. So, we anticipate that
4 number -- the number of funded candidates increasing
5 here in the near future.
6 So, that's -- I think that's about all I've
7 got, unless -- Mr. Chairman, unless you've got --
8 unless you or any Commissioners have any questions or
9 if anybody else -- Gina, Mike.
10 CHAIRMAN PATON: Actually, this is
11 Commissioner Paton now.
12 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.
13 CHAIRMAN PATON: I do have a question or, I
14 guess, it's really a concern for Tom and for Gina. I
15 was, kind of -- during some of these elections when
16 the -- across the country when these -- it seems like
17 after the -- after the election day, things go on on
18 weeks and weeks and weeks mainly because people are
19 dropping off their early ballots. I was wondering if
20 we could coordinate something with the Secretary of
21 State reminding people that things would go faster if
22 they would get their early ballots in early.
23 Is there some kind of public -- some kind
24 of advertising -- advertising campaign that we could
25 coordinate with the Secretary of State? I just think

1 that people think that there's something crooked going
2 on --
3 MR. COLLINS: Right.
4 CHAIRMAN PATON: -- when you can't call
5 elections for two or three weeks down the road.
6 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I think
7 there's -- I have a two-part answer to that and, then,
8 Gina or however you -- whatever else you want to add,
9 please do.
10 My answer would be twofold. First, we are
11 engaging in more -- more education efforts around vote
12 by mail. We anticipate the potential to coordinate
13 better with the Secretary, although, because of some
14 background issues with the Joint Legislative Budget
15 Committee, it's not totally clear what the Secretary is
16 or isn't going to do or be able to do. We know that
17 they have a campaign -- a public education campaign
18 devoted to issues related to election security and
19 election misinformation, particularly.
20 There's a second point, and I think that
21 it -- so, in that process, and I think that -- I think
22 that all the county officials involved, the Secretary
23 and us have all made -- tried to make clear that the
24 sooner you return your ballot, the sooner you -- the
25 sooner the counting can be done.

1 Relatedly, in a more -- in a more directed
2 effort, we've tried and I've tried to -- in forums
3 where we're engaging directly with the press
4 specifically, we've tried to stress that we have to --
5 that in order to properly cover elections at this
6 point, because of the expansion of vote by mail, we
7 need to both -- there needs to be attention paid by
8 reporters to why the delay exists in the first place.
9 In other words, we can engage in public
10 education on the issue as much as we can, but unless --
11 but if the -- if the press -- and this is -- this has
12 been -- this is something that everyone from, you know,
13 sort of nationally recognized election, you know, sort
14 of professor ivory tower types down to, obviously, the
15 election officials that we work with recognize that if
16 the -- if the education efforts on that issue do not
17 see a corresponding treatment by the press to prepare
18 the public to understand why delays are happening, they
19 won't be as effective.
20 So, we have -- you know. So, I've tried,
21 for example, in forums where I'm more likely to
22 interact with reporters, to hit that point again and
23 again. So, you know, it's, sort of, a two-prong issue.
24 One, what's the public's perception, how can we address
25 it through our -- through our paid and earned efforts;

1 and, then, two, how do we get it -- how do we get the
2 horse race, sort of, politics of calling races and
3 determining races to be -- to be less of an emphasis so
4 that folks understand what's going on.
5 So, that's -- that's, sort of, my answer,
6 which is it's not a -- I know it's not really, like,
7 a -- the short answer is yes. The longer answer is
8 here's how.
9 And, Gina, I don't know if there's anything
10 else you'd want to add.
11 MS. ROBERTS: Yes. Mr. Chairman,
12 Commissioners, this is Gina.
13 One thing I would add is we did have a
14 legislative change that allows the counties more time
15 now to start processing those early ballots. So, we
16 have Senate Bill 1054 that passed. So, now, once the
17 counties take care of the accuracy testing, they have,
18 I believe, seven extra days than they used to in the
19 past to actually start processing and tabulating those
20 early ballots that come in ahead of election day.
21 We -- and, Mr. Chairman, you are correct.
22 We do -- we do have voters who drop their ballot off at
23 the polls, and that's -- that is something that occurs.
24 And so, we do have reminders out there in our paid
25 media about the deadline to mail back your ballot and
1. The State of Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission
2. Transcript of Proceedings / Public Meeting
3. June 25, 2020

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1. what the recommended date is to do that, to get that
2. in, but if you don't, you can still drop it off at any
3. voting location in your county.
4. So, we do educate on how to return your
5. ballot, but to go more to your point, we could actually
6. develop some more material content for our website
7. talking about, kind of, those post-election procedures
8. that happen because, in addition to the early ballots,
9. there's, also, the processing of provisional ballots.
10. There's, also -- now we have this cure period for
11. signatures that don't match. We have our post-election
12. L & A's, our post-election audits.
13. And so, we could try to develop more
14. information so the public has that for a better
15. understanding about why it takes time to complete and
16. process the election results and, as Tom mentioned,
17. too, and working with the media. For example, in the
18. Executive Director's report, Tom mentioned that we have
19. a panel discussion coming up with the Arizona Capitol
20. Times.
21. That can definitely be one of our talking
22. points to explain to the public, you know, this is
23. something that needs to be expected, anticipated, but
24. hopefully this year -- and with this legislative change
25. that now allows more time for processing, hopefully

1. that will help speed things up. And a lot of counties
2. do have new election equipment that they purchased, as
3. well, but at the end of the day, there's still those
4. post-election procedures that exist for a reason to add
5. to the accuracy and legitimacy of the election.
6. But we can do more in terms of, sort of,
7. explaining that, if you will, and laying all of that
8. out so the public, the voters can see why all these
9. procedures are in place so they can have confidence in
10. the system with the understanding that, yes, it does
11. take time.
12. CHAIRMAN PATON: This is Commissioner
13. Paton. And I would just say that just from people that
14. I've come in contact with every day, this pushing off
15. two, three weeks down the road with post election, they
16. just voice that something is rigged and -- and we lose
17. confidence of the electorate that things are not, you
18. know, on the up and up, then hurry it up and our people
19. are gone all over the place. That can lead to even
20. more.
21. So, I would say that we could just do a
22. more concerted effort. I would suggest, maybe, Tom --
23. and I would be willing to see if we can be interviewed
24. on the major news cast maybe a week before, or
25. something like that, really putting out to average

1. people that, you know, they can really help in this
2. regard to get their early ballots in early so they can
3. be counted in a timely fashion.
4. So, I just -- I remember the last election
5. where all these things were pushed back, it was very
6. unnerving. And I would rather not see that happen
7. again.
8. MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. --
9. CHAIRMAN PATON: So, I don't know. Tom, do
10. you have anything else?
11. MR. COLLINS: No. But, Mr. Chairman,
12. that's -- that's a good idea. We can -- we can
13. definitely work on that, and I definitely -- there's
14. definitely a heightened sense of sensitivity on a -- on
15. a national level and a local level to precisely what
16. you're talking about. I mean, that's a real -- it's a
17. real -- it's a real concern. So, yeah. And that's
18. all --
19. CHAIRMAN PATON: Right. There was just --
20. MR. COLLINS: Yeah. 
21. CHAIRMAN PATON: There was just a
22. congressional primary that happened in New York, and
23. they think it may take two or three weeks. And people
24. just think that it's maybe like a Banana Republic kind
25. of thing where you can -- something is going on behind
1 CHAIRMAN PATON: Any questions from the Commissioners?
2 (No response.)
3 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. So, do I have a motion to submit the 5 Year Report?
4 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman --
5 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman, this is Commissioner Kimble.
6 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes. Commissioner Kimble, go ahead.
7 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: I move we approve submission of the 5 Year Report.
8 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. Do I have a second?
9 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll second that. This is Commissioner Chan.
10 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. We have a motion and a second. I will call the roll.
11 Commissioner Chan, how do you vote?
12 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Aye.
13 CHAIRMAN PATON: And, Commissioner Kimble, how do you vote?
14 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
15 CHAIRMAN PATON: And is Commissioner Meyer here still?
16 COMMISSIONER MEYER: I am on the phone.
And we are adjourned.

(whereupon, the proceedings concluded at 10:10 a.m.)

STATE OF ARIZONA  

COUNTY OF MARICOPA

be it known the foregoing proceedings were taken by me; that I was then and there a certified reporter of the state of Arizona, and by virtue thereof authorized to administer an oath; 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 and testimony had and adduced upon the taking of said proceedings, all done 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 thereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 27th day of June, 2020.

LILIA MONARREZ, RPR, CR #50699