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THE STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona

August 27, 2020

9:30 a.m.

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Page 2

09:31:50-09:32:40 Page 4

1 PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN
2 ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 9:30 a.m. on August 27,
3 2020, at the State of Arizona, Clean Elections
4 Commission, 1616 West Adams, Conference Room, Phoenix,
5 Arizona, in the presence of the following Board members:
6 Mr. Galen D. Paton, Chairperson (telephonic)
7 Mr. Damien R. Meyer (telephonic)
8 Ms. Amy B. Chan (telephonic)
9 Mr. Mark S. Kimble (telephonic)

6 OTHERS PRESENT:

7 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director
8 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer
9 Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director,
10 (telephonic)
11 Mike Becker, Policy Director
12 Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager
13 Julian Arndt, Executive Support Specialist,
14 (telephonic)
15 Avery Oliver, Voter Education Specialist,
16 (telephonic)
17 Dustin Romney, Assistant Attorney General

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1 Is there any discussion?
2 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, this is
3 Commissioner Chan.
4 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yeah.
5 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I move to approve the
6 minutes as written.
7 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. And do we have a
8 second?
9 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Commissioner
10 Kimble --
11 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Second, Commissioner
12 Meyer.
13 CHAIRMAN PATON: A second by Commissioner
14 Meyer. And we need to do a roll call.
15 Commissioner Chan?
16 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
17 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer?
18 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Aye.
19 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Kimble?
20 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
21 CHAIRMAN PATON: And Commissioner Galen
22 Paton, I vote aye, as well. And we are accepting the
23 minutes.
24 And Item III: Discussion and possible
25 action on Executive Director's report.

09:30:41-09:31:48 Page 3

09:32:43-09:34:33 Page 5

1 PROCEEDING

2

3 CHAIRMAN PATON: All right. This is
4 Chairman Galen Paton with the Clean Elections
5 Commission, and I am going to call our meeting to
6 order.
7 Agenda Item I to call to order is -- 9:30
8 in the morning, August 27, 2020, and I call this
9 meeting of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission to
10 order.
11 And we'll now take attendance. Each
12 Commissioner, please, state your presence for the
13 record.
14 Commissioner Chan?
15 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Thank you. This is
16 Commissioner Chan. I'm here.
17 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer?
18 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Here.
19 CHAIRMAN PATON: And Commissioner Kimble?
20 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: I'm here.
21 CHAIRMAN PATON: And this is Commissioner
22 Galen Paton, and I'm here, as well.
23 And we're going to go to Item II:
24 Discussion and possible action on minutes of the
25 June 25th meeting.

1 Mr. Collins?
2 MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Chairman, Members.
3 Thank you all for -- for being here today.
4 I just wanted to -- you've got the
5 Executive Director's report. I think you can see we've
6 had quite a lot of activity with -- in voter education.
7 We've had -- we've had -- Avery has been doing a
8 tremendous amount of outreach. He was featured on a
9 PBS Horizon -- the news show on Phoenix PBS station on
10 July 22nd. That was -- that was really a great
11 opportunity for us.
12 And -- and so, we're -- despite the
13 technologic -- or the various circumstances that, you
14 know, we've -- we've really been able to -- Avery and
15 Gina have really been able to still be out in the -- in
16 the community, talking to voters and other folks who
17 are involved in elections.
18 We did -- you know, we have a note about
19 the turnout in the Primary. Obviously, we're bearing
20 down on the General Election. We will be -- we're
21 working right now on the Voter Education Guide, which
22 is -- which will be coming out on October 7th.
23 And we are, also -- and this is one of the
24 ideas that, Mr. Chairman, you brought forth earlier in
25 the year was being involved in the U.S. Senate debate,

<p>09:34:37-09:36:25 Page 6</p> <p>1 and we are going to be sponsoring -- cosponsoring that 2 with "The Republic" and KAET, which is the Phoenix PBS 3 station, ASU and KJZZ, as well as the Southern Arizona 4 affiliates. So, that's very exciting, and we -- that 5 will be a first time for us. And that's -- and we're 6 really pleased that that's coming together. 7 Alec has been working around the clock, as 8 far as I can tell from my emails, on continuing to keep 9 our website updated with respect to all of the 10 information that we can generate from counties and 11 local jurisdictions for our website, including 12 information about the voting process for each county. 13 And I think that, you know, it's a lot of work. Alec 14 has really been doing a lot of work on that, but we're 15 really, also, pleased that we're able to coordinate 16 with the counties the way we have. 17 And so, we're still doing the social 18 distancing in the office, and we've had -- I would say 19 one thing I just want to highlight real quick is, you 20 know, that we did have some issues with check delivery 21 to candidates. Those situations are resolved. Those 22 were partially due to COVID-19 issues, partially due to 23 candidate issues, but we are going to be -- you know, 24 we -- you know, by two years from now, we don't think 25 that that will be an issue. We have had -- I mean,</p>	<p>09:38:01-09:38:58 Page 8</p> <p>1 report, obviously, please -- I think, you know, Avery 2 and Gina are here but on the phone, and Mike is here. 3 And Paula is here, as well. So -- Alec is taping us, 4 as you know. 5 So, anyways, if you have any questions for 6 anyone, please shoot, and I -- otherwise, that 7 concludes my report, Mr. Chairman. 8 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman? 9 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes, Commissioner Chan. 10 COMMISSIONER CHAN: This is Commissioner 11 Chan. I actually don't have any questions about the 12 report specifically. I just, kind of, wondered about 13 the well being of the staff, how everybody is doing. 14 MR. COLLINS: Well, I think that's -- I 15 think that's related to the report, and we do have a 16 section in there on our administrative staff we're 17 taking around. 18 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I guess, I shouldn't 19 say it's not related. It is related. Obviously, it's 20 related. 21 MR. COLLINS: Well, it is. It is. We have 22 a line in there that -- for this purpose. 23 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Okay. 24 MR. COLLINS: I would say this. I mean, we 25 have, I think, through the beginning of this --</p>
<p>09:36:32-09:37:58 Page 7</p> <p>1 these are things that come up occasionally, 2 notwithstanding COVID, but we just wanted to highlight 3 those. 4 And, then, I think that, you know, the rest 5 of the issues here, I just wanted to really quickly get 6 the -- there's a couple of cases out there that we are 7 either involved in or have been monitoring that we 8 don't -- we don't -- we're not expecting a resolution 9 anytime soon, necessarily, but could be. The one 10 update there on the Legacy Action Fund case is that 11 Legacy Action Fund did file their answering brief. So, 12 that case is -- you know, we're waiting for the 13 decision on that case now. 14 And, then, finally, the GRRC -- the 15 Governor's Regulatory Review Council, staff has 16 recommended approval of the 5-Year-Review Report we 17 submitted in late June, and we had a study session on 18 Tuesday, which went -- I think, which went well. They 19 have their business meeting on Tuesday -- this Tuesday. 20 And, you know, we're hopeful that that will move 21 forward. 22 So, those are the things I wanted to 23 highlight. I don't want to go on too long. I'm, 24 obviously, happy to take questions or, if you have any 25 questions for anyone else on staff related to the</p>	<p>09:39:00-09:40:27 Page 9</p> <p>1 Mr. Chairman, if I may, Commissioner Chan. 2 CHAIRMAN PATON: Sure. 3 MR. COLLINS: You know, at the beginning of 4 the summer, as we worked on accommodating and working 5 through some of the COVID issues, you know, we had -- 6 you know, I think that was very -- we worked very hard 7 to get us, as an agency, to a place where we can 8 continue where we would -- where no one would be able 9 to see any changes in our operations, other than the 10 changes we made, for example, in terms of debates in 11 order to actually facilitate them happening. 12 I think that over the course of the last 13 few months, we've been able to find, you know, places 14 where we can -- where we can make sure that we are 15 providing all the services we need to without putting 16 any unnecessary strain on anyone on staff. We do 17 try -- I mean, obviously, anyone is, I guess, free to 18 interject here or disagree with me if you're a staff 19 member, but we've tried -- we've tried to make sure 20 that we are in a position where we can optimize the, 21 you know, folks' -- staff members' ability to balance 22 all of the different issues that are being triggered 23 by -- by COVID. 24 And I think that the culture of the 25 Commission over time -- and certainly even dating</p>

<p>09:40:30-09:41:49</p> <p>Page 10</p> <p>1 before I got here -- has been focused on getting the 2 work done. And I think that that's just part of -- I 3 mean, we're -- I'm lucky, in terms of being an 4 executive director, to be able work with folks who, I 5 think, are, you know, supremely competent and 6 dedicated. 7 And then -- but -- and, also, I hope we 8 have a culture that allows folks to be able to talk to 9 either their direct supervisor or to me about making 10 sure things are going okay. So, if things aren't -- if 11 things aren't, I don't know. 12 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Well -- and, 13 Mr. Chairman, Tom, I ask -- I mean, I guess, you know, 14 theoretically, I think, if people weren't okay, I 15 guess, an open meeting might not be the place they want 16 to say it, but I just -- you know, I think -- I 17 assume -- I won't presume to speak for the other 18 commissioners, but you know, you all are very much on 19 my mind. I think about you guys all the time. 20 I mean, Clean Elections -- I follow our 21 accounts on Twitter and on Facebook and, you know, you 22 guys have been helpful in -- you know, Avery and 23 Gina -- I know Avery created the toolkit with Gina. 24 They worked hard to put together a toolkit for this 25 high school civics club that I have come into contact</p>	<p>09:43:07-09:44:38</p> <p>Page 12</p> <p>1 the -- on the report that Avery and Gina and Alec and 2 the whole staff are out there, you know, promoting 3 voter education, promoting awareness. And it's really, 4 really appreciated during this -- during this time. 5 So, thank you. 6 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman, this is 7 Commissioner Kimble. 8 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes. 9 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: First of all, let me 10 echo what both of my colleagues said. 11 Second of all, Tom, under GRRRC, were there 12 any questions, or anything, at the study session? 13 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner 14 Kimble, I don't want to jinx anything, but we got 15 asked -- there were two questions -- well, one question 16 but related to two items. 17 I will say this, that the chairperson of 18 GRRRC, who is, also, the council for the Department of 19 Administration, has a, I think -- I think, you know, 20 has asked -- she asked one question, which she asked of 21 everyone who's got a 5-Year Report, which is an 22 appropriate question to ask, which is, you know, to get 23 more detail on the steps we proposed in the -- our 24 5-Year Report -- prior 5-Year Report to deal with some 25 of the issues that we then had -- were then -- as</p>
<p>09:41:54-09:43:03</p> <p>Page 11</p> <p>1 with and, you know -- so, I know there's still so much 2 work going on. 3 And I felt bad even asking, but I've had so 4 many people approach me just to help with voter 5 registration questions because we've got so many people 6 interested. And I know our work goes on, but I worry 7 about -- I guess, I'm not worried. I'm just concerned 8 and I care about our staff's well being as human 9 beings, and I want you all to know that. And I know 10 the other commissioners must feel the same way. So, I 11 just wanted to put that out there and let you guys know 12 that that's how I'm feeling and just say thank you. 13 Hopefully, you guys know that already. 14 MR. COLLINS: Well, I think -- I mean, I 15 think I speak for everyone when I say I think we all -- 16 I think we all appreciate that and we know that, but 17 it's always -- it's always good to hear. 18 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Mr. Chairman, 19 Commissioner Meyer. 20 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes, Commissioner Meyer. 21 Go ahead. 22 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Just a couple of 23 comments in the similar vein as to what Commissioner 24 Chan just said. I do want to thank and commend Avery 25 for all of the work he's done, and it's evident here on</p>	<p>09:44:42-09:46:13</p> <p>Page 13</p> <p>1 part -- that were an issue with the prior Secretary of 2 State administration. 3 You know, and it's sort of -- so, we went 4 into some depth about that, not -- not the -- not the 5 part of it that has to do with -- with GRRRC, but the -- 6 but just the -- some of the legal issues that we've 7 gone through and that are currently subject to the 8 Arizona Advocacy Network case that is pending at the 9 Arizona Court of Appeals. 10 I thought that was a very appropriate and 11 reasonable question. I think -- I mean, anybody who 12 goes into a 5-Year-Review Report ought to be able to 13 explain why they, you know, didn't do a thing that they 14 had indicated they were going to do. And on that one, 15 we had, I thought, an appropriate answer. And so, that 16 was the only question that we got. 17 You know, we'll see -- you know, obviously, 18 this is a process that all five of you and all seven of 19 them have been through now for a couple of times. And 20 so, you know, I mean, you know, we'll see what the -- 21 what the next meeting brings, but I thought that -- you 22 know, I think that the question we got was -- was more 23 than reasonable and one we should have an explanation 24 for and we do. So, you know, I felt comfortable 25 about -- about that whole -- the whole exchange.</p>

<p>09:46:17-09:47:30 Page 14</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you. 2 CHAIRMAN PATON: This is Commissioner 3 Paton, and I do have a question about the Primary 4 Election. 5 How does that compare to Primary Elections 6 in the past, the turnout, and so on, and any issues 7 with voting? I didn't really hear anything about any 8 bad items. 9 Tom? 10 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And I 11 will -- I will -- I will give you an answer and, then, 12 obviously, there may be answers that Gina or Alec or -- 13 may know better than I do. 14 I think -- my understanding is that the 15 turnout was -- was at a record high for a Primary. I 16 think the highest prior turnout in the recent past was 17 somewhere around 32 percent, and I think that might 18 have been in 20- -- maybe 2008, maybe 2010. 19 MS. ROBERTS: Chairman -- Chairman Paton? 20 Tom? 21 MR. COLLINS: Yes. 22 MS. ROBERTS: I can -- I can help out with 23 that. 24 MR. COLLINS: Sure. 25 MS. ROBERTS: So, we did -- as Tom stated,</p>	<p>09:49:01-09:50:39 Page 16</p> <p>1 coverage, yes, on both television and in the newspaper 2 about the -- about the turnout, yes. I, also, think 3 there was -- "The Republic" had a column by -- 4 editorial column that's named Abe Kwok the other -- 5 last week about, you know, specifically focusing in 6 Maricopa County and the fact that there were not 7 significant issues with respect to the process of 8 voting. 9 As you might recall, the counties now have 10 more time to process early ballots, mail -- mailed 11 ballots, than they -- than they used to in prior 12 election cycles, and it looks -- I think that the 13 consensus is that that, also, helped with the results. 14 I think there was one Maricopa County race that was -- 15 that went into -- that, you know -- where it was close. 16 And so, the press was -- you know, didn't 17 make a call on that one until later, but overall, I 18 think that it was -- I think the consensus is that the 19 counties -- that all 15 counties continue to do -- to 20 improve the voting experience for voters and that so 21 far, you know, other than the fact there's been an 22 increase in overall voting via mail, none of the -- we 23 didn't have any of the -- none of the, potentially -- 24 you know, potential pitfalls that relate to the COVID 25 have occurred in the Primary.</p>
<p>09:47:34-09:48:59 Page 15</p> <p>1 it was a record turnout, and the highest turnout that 2 we had to date prior to this election was in 2018 where 3 we had a 33.2 percent -- or .26 percent turnout in the 4 Primary. So, yes, this was -- so, the Primary 5 Election, we did -- we did have a higher turnout than 6 we have in a very long time. So, that was some good 7 news. 8 MR. COLLINS: Okay. And as far as -- 9 MS. ROBERTS: And as far as -- 10 CHAIRMAN PATON: Were there any issues? I 11 mean, too long lines, or whatever? 12 MS. ROBERTS: Sure. Chairman -- Chairman 13 Paton, Commissioners, from my understanding, there were 14 not any issues that came to light. We did -- our 15 office did receive a lot of inquiries with regard to 16 finding their voting location. So, I think those were 17 the most busy of the inquiries that we filled in, but 18 as far as long lines or difficulties at the polls, we 19 really did not hear of any issues. 20 CHAIRMAN PATON: That's great. And did 21 they trumpet that in the media in Phoenix or the fact 22 that we had high Primary Election counts or people 23 voting? 24 MR. COLLINS: There was -- I mean, 25 Chairman, there was -- there was -- there was some</p>	<p>09:50:42-09:52:05 Page 17</p> <p>1 And, Gina, I don't know if you want to add 2 to that. 3 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, 4 the only thing that I would add to it is that, I think, 5 what's helpful -- or I don't know if "helpful" is the 6 right word, but Maricopa County went to a vote center 7 model for this election, as opposed to assigned polling 8 places. And so, I think that probably contributed to 9 the fact that voters could go anywhere and, you know, 10 perhaps didn't experience many difficulties, such as, 11 oh, they went to the wrong polling place or, you know, 12 had to get turned away, or something like that. So, I 13 think Maricopa County switching to a vote center model 14 was a positive impact. 15 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. And, then -- this 16 is Commissioner Paton. And I would say that our -- 17 this Clean Elections Commission and our voter outreach 18 has a lot to do with streamlining things, as well, 19 because we're educating people on the process. So, I 20 think everybody's efforts helps and who knows how much 21 it helps. 22 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, 23 Commissioners, I -- Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would 24 absolutely agree with that. 25 CHAIRMAN PATON: Any other questions for</p>

<p>09:52:07-09:53:32 Page 18</p> <p>1 Tom? 2 (No response.) 3 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. Then, we will go to 4 Item IV: Discussion and possible action on voter 5 education for the General Election. 6 Tom? 7 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, 8 Commissioners. So, the purpose of this agenda item is 9 twofold. First, to talk to you a little bit to give 10 you some background on what we're doing for the General 11 Election and how that fits into the broader world and 12 then -- and, then, to talk a little bit about what we 13 have -- you know, what -- you know, what we see as the 14 role we play here and, then, get, you know -- and take 15 any input that you have -- that you may have. 16 We don't have, like, a formal presentation 17 of this. You know, it's more of a discussion. If you 18 don't mind, I'd like to, sort of, kick that off by 19 talking about, you know, the two issues that make this 20 election itself different -- I mean, obviously, there 21 are a lot of issues going on, in general, but the two 22 issues that specifically come up with -- you know, are 23 part of the -- are specifically part of the voting 24 process and, therefore, voter education process are the 25 ongoing COVID-19 and, then, obviously, the issue of the</p>	<p>09:56:05-09:57:43 Page 20</p> <p>1 if they are using mail to return their ballots. That 2 will go from six days to seven days. 3 To put that in some context, over the past 4 several election cycles, we've gone from five days to 5 six or seven days. Then, we had a consensus that six 6 days and, then, we ultimately went to seven days. So, 7 that particular change is consistent with what we've 8 experienced over the past several cycles as a state. 9 And then -- and, then, I think the other 10 issue -- and this is one, Mr. Chairman, that you've 11 highlighted in the past -- is that folks do -- when 12 they've decided their vote, you know, we would 13 encourage folks to get their ballot back to the -- to 14 the counties they live in through whatever mechanism 15 they want to, but obviously, conscious of the 16 recommendation that if you were mailing back a ballot 17 via mail, you're going to want to do that a week before 18 the -- before election day because, at least as of 19 now -- and I think there may have been another lawsuit 20 filed about this yesterday, I think. 21 Did you guys -- was it Navajo? I don't 22 mean to put you on the spot. 23 MR. ROMNEY: We have heard of that lawsuit. 24 We have not received anything officially yet. 25 MR. COLLINS: So, Dustin Romney from the</p>
<p>09:53:44-09:56:01 Page 19</p> <p>1 Postal Service. 2 So, you know, just to, sort of, look at 3 this on a -- on a macrolevel, you know, as you all 4 probably know, the -- I mean, and this has all unfolded 5 over the course of the last few weeks. There were a 6 number of reports about changes in the Postal Service 7 delivery process and, then, that seemed to culminate 8 with a letter to most states, you know, basically, 9 putting those states on notice or imploring those 10 states to understand how the Post Office deliveries and 11 the vote-by-mail issues might -- you know, how the 12 Postal Service issues or Postal Service changes might 13 impact the mail balloting process. 14 This week the Postmaster General was in -- 15 testified in the House and the Senate. The -- you 16 know, the -- you know, the testimony, I think -- if 17 nothing else, what the testimony, I think, you know, 18 sort of, helped to do, I hope, is to -- is to at least 19 put the postal changes in some context more broadly. 20 We -- in Arizona, the big change, which I think we even 21 talked about -- I think we actually even talked about 22 it in June, maybe, but maybe not. I can't remember, 23 but the big change is when the counties and the 24 Commission and the Secretary of State's Office are 25 recommending that voters return their mail ballots by</p>	<p>09:57:44-09:59:01 Page 21</p> <p>1 AG's office is here. I was just -- I put him on the 2 spot a little bit. 3 There's been some litigation over the 4 course of the last year over the question of what 5 ballots will be -- when ballots that are returned 6 count. As of now and, you know, until this will 7 change -- and I'm not sure I see how it will -- ballots 8 must be received by 7:00 p.m. on election day, period. 9 We don't have any other standard. There's not a -- 10 there's not a -- there's not a grace period. And so, 11 because of that, you know -- and if anyone has any 12 concerns about return of ballots, you know, we are -- 13 we are working to address that specifically. 14 So, that's, sort of, the overview. I did 15 want to kick it over to Gina to talk a little bit -- to 16 talk about some of the specific tactics that we're 17 using and her over -- and her sense of what the -- what 18 the counties are doing with respect to preparing voters 19 for this eventuality as we work with them. 20 So, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I'd 21 like to, sort of -- I'd like to invite Gina to -- 22 CHAIRMAN PATON: Sure. 23 MR. COLLINS: -- provide another level of 24 detail there. 25 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners,</p>

<p>09:59:03-10:00:19 Page 22</p> <p>1 Tom, thank you. 2 Yeah, I think I'd like to just, kind of, 3 start by providing some background information about 4 the election process, in general, and how -- how the 5 Postal Service interacts with that. 6 So, in Arizona, our counties -- we send out 7 ballots 27 days before the election. And in Arizona, 8 about 80 percent of our voters already vote by mail. 9 So, this is a system that is well established. We have 10 the infrastructure in place, the security measures in 11 place, and we have great partnership between the 12 election officials and between the Post Office. And 13 we've had ballot by mail for over two decades in 14 Arizona. 15 So, I understand a lot of the concerns that 16 are happening or the discussion that has been occurring 17 with the Post Office and their funding and their 18 operations -- central operation changes. You know, all 19 that could have more of a significant impact on other 20 states. In regards to Arizona, you know, election 21 officials and our partners at the Post Office, we, 22 also -- we're at a very good place. 23 So, I wanted to start by talking about, 24 again, those ballots go out 27 days before the 25 election, and they are mailed first-class to voters and</p>	<p>10:01:37-10:02:55 Page 24</p> <p>1 now we -- in the Primary Election and the General 2 Election, our voter education plan included campaigns 3 about how the ballot-by-mail process works, so how to 4 request your ballot, how to sign up for the early 5 voting list and, again, how to return that ballot, but 6 it, also, included a campaign about the security of 7 ballot-by-mail because that's been much of the 8 discussion, as well, this year, our -- is voting by 9 mail secure. 10 And we have a campaign explaining to voters 11 all of the security measures that are in place by the 12 states with their ballot-by-mail. 13 With respect to this new issue to the 14 General Election, we are adding another layer to this 15 campaign where we're now focusing about the urgency of 16 returning that ballot by mail as soon as possible if 17 you're going to be using the mail system. So, USPS is 18 recommending 15 days for a roundtrip of a ballot. So, 19 no later than 15 days before the election should the 20 voter make the request for the ballot and return it. 21 So, with that said, there's a little bit of 22 a discrepancy in Arizona because our law allows 11 days 23 before the election for a voter to make their request 24 for their ballot, but if you were to take that time 25 frame into amount and the time it takes to mail the</p>
<p>10:00:22-10:01:33 Page 23</p> <p>1 they are non-forwardable. So, they're going directly 2 to the voter. And in that ballot packet comes a 3 postage-paid return envelope. The voters can vote 4 their ballot, and if they want to mail it back, they 5 can do that and they do not have to put a stamp on it. 6 It does not require postage from them. 7 And we have always had, in our education 8 plans, voter education about those two dates and 9 deadlines, so informing voters when early voting 10 starts, when the ballots go out, but also, educating 11 them on how to return that ballot and, if you want to 12 do it by mail, what the recommended date is to mail it 13 back or, if you don't want to return it by mail, here 14 are the other options on how to return that ballot. 15 So, that's something we've always included 16 in our voter education and -- especially with that note 17 that Tom made about regardless of how you return it, 18 the hard deadline is it must be received by the county 19 by 7:00 p.m. election day. Postmarks do not count in 20 Arizona. It must be in hand by the counties by 7:00 21 p.m. on election day. So, then, our voter education 22 plan has always covered that. 23 And, then, with regards to what the -- the 24 lay of the land right now, as Tom mentioned and gave 25 you an overview of what's happening with USPS, right</p>	<p>10:02:57-10:04:05 Page 25</p> <p>1 ballot to the voter and, then, that voter voting and 2 turn it around, it doesn't meet that 15-day mark. 3 So, we are educating voters about, you 4 know, the timeliness and urgency of if they're going to 5 be using the postal system, then don't delay. If 6 you're not already set to get a ballot by mail, make 7 your request now, vote it as soon as you can, return it 8 as soon as you can. And, importantly, voters do have 9 options. You do not have to use the postal system to 10 return your ballot. In Arizona, a voter can return 11 their ballot by dropping it off at any voting location 12 in their county. 13 So, that's a really important part to 14 remember because we have early voting locations that 15 begin 27 days before the election and, then, of course, 16 there's all of the voting locations on election day, as 17 well. And, then, in addition to that, our counties 18 have invested in secure ballot drop-off bins that are 19 located throughout the county, as well. And so, voters 20 can, also, return their ballot in those drop boxes. 21 So, we educate voters about all of the 22 different ways that they can return their ballot if 23 they're not comfortable or they don't have the time to 24 utilize the postal system. 25 With that, you know, we have our paid media</p>

<p>10:04:09-10:05:18 Page 26</p> <p>1 campaign where we use a number of packets to reach 2 voters and we have content on our website that 3 describes all of these processes. We have created a 4 Google map of all of the different ballot drop-off 5 locations that people can access so they can see the 6 one that's nearest to them. Of course, our Dashboard 7 has all of those voting locations included in it. 8 So, we're seeing a lot of engagement, in 9 fact, on our website where voters -- our ballot-by-mail 10 page was the second most popular page on our website in 11 the Primary Election. The first was, of course, our 12 Primary Election page with the specific election 13 details. And, of course, right now, too, people are 14 engaging with that ballot-by-mail content that we have 15 posted on our website. 16 And I think, as far as what our counties 17 are doing, you know, Yavapai County is a great example 18 because they have the highest percentage of voters who 19 are on the permanent early voting list in their county. 20 They're, I believe, 83 percent, and they've been using 21 ballot drop boxes for years. And so, they have the 22 system well established, well in place, as do all our 23 counties. 24 And I would, actually, like to call out 25 specifically the Pima County Recorder, F. Ann</p>	<p>10:06:36-10:07:51 Page 28</p> <p>1 Commissioner Chan. 2 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes, Commissioner Chan. 3 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Thank you. 4 Gina, I just had a quick question. Thank 5 you. That was a lot of great information, and I think 6 I already talked with you and Tom off-line about the 7 fact that the election officials are going to recommend 8 returning mail ballots seven days, rather than six 9 days, before election day. 10 When you mentioned the recommendation -- 11 I'm sorry -- was, also, going to be to request the 12 ballot no later than 15 days before the election, I 13 don't know if I misunderstood, but maybe that's going 14 to be the new advice -- is that no later than the 19th 15 of October? I was trying to, kind of, do that math -- 16 well, it's not math. I counted on the calendar, but do 17 you know what that date would be if people -- if we 18 were going to recommend that people request the ballot 19 by mail no later than 15 days before the election, or 20 do you have that information? 21 MS. ROBERTS: Sure, chairman, Commissioner 22 Paton -- Chairman Paton, Commissioner Chan, 23 Commissioners. So, we are still using -- we're 24 still -- we're still using the statutory deadline 25 because voters still have that statutory deadline of 11</p>
<p>10:05:21-10:06:34 Page 27</p> <p>1 Rodriguez. She has been doing a lot of public 2 relations efforts. She's been doing interviews with 3 the media explaining to voters, you know, Arizona 4 doesn't have -- we've got this process well established 5 and so, even if there is an increase in requests for 6 early ballots, our system that we have in place can 7 handle that increased capacity because again, 80 8 percent of our voters are already doing it. 9 We saw 88 percent of the voting in the 10 Primary Election was done by early ballot. So, the 11 communication that is occurring right now from election 12 officials to voters at the county level is we've been 13 doing this for over two decades. The system is well in 14 place. We have a great relationship with the Post 15 Office and we have the ability and the capacity to 16 handle the early ballots and your early ballot request. 17 And, then, also, comes to that later the 18 safety and security of it, the transparency of it, how 19 voters can track their early ballot. All of that is 20 communicated in our voter education efforts. 21 So, that's, kind of, you know, a bit of 22 information about where we're at. And if there's 23 specific questions or concerns, I'm happy to address 24 those. 25 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, this is</p>	<p>10:07:54-10:08:58 Page 29</p> <p>1 days before the election to request their early ballot. 2 What we're -- what we're actually doing is we're saying 3 don't delay; make it as soon as possible. That's, kind 4 of, the terminology that we're using. 5 So, we're not so much using -- you know, 6 adding the additional four days and looking at 7 October 19th instead of October 23rd. So, if we're -- 8 if we're communicating a specific date, we are 9 communicating the statutory date of October 23rd, just 10 because that is -- that is, in fact, the law, but in 11 our messaging to encourage people to do it as soon as 12 possible, that -- we're not using a hard date. We're 13 just saying make your request now, you know, don't 14 delay. 15 What we do say is if we do get past the 16 seven-day mail back recommended date, we do say don't 17 mail it back. We do, in fact, say, please drop it off 18 in person because you would ensure it's received by the 19 general election day. 20 So, hopefully, that answers your question. 21 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Yes. Thank you. 22 And, Mr. Chairman, I did have one other 23 question for Gina. 24 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes. 25 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Regarding, you know,</p>

<p>10:09:00-10:10:26 Page 30</p> <p>1 getting this messaging out. And I'm sorry to ask you 2 this because I know you guys are all on top of this, 3 but just an idea of whether we could ask all of our 4 elected officials -- federal, state, local -- I mean, I 5 don't know how much work that would be, but I was 6 thinking a lot about Kyrsten Sinema because she's been 7 so on top of the COVID stuff. I mean, she's been about 8 COVID, I mean, every day, multiple times a day and 9 about testing. And that's really stuck out to me, I 10 guess, as a constituent, as far as education goes. And 11 I see people tweeting about voter registration, too. 12 And I don't know how many other elected 13 officials I might be missing, but you know, different 14 people follow different elected officials on social 15 media and elected officials have different social media 16 they use. I just wondered if, once we get our 17 messaging, we could ask, you know, the governor and 18 different -- you know, obviously, the Secretary of 19 State has a lot of election-related messaging she's 20 going to be doing and all the county recorders and 21 election directors, but even, you know, the mayor, 22 senators, congressmen, those kinds of people that have, 23 you know, a good following on social media might be 24 helpful to get -- to add. 25 And I don't know. Maybe you guys already</p>	<p>10:12:03-10:13:35 Page 32</p> <p>1 steps there. 2 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN PATON: Any other discussion from 4 any other Commissioners? 5 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Commissioner Meyer. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, Commissioner Meyer. 7 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Mr. Chair, I have an 8 observation more than a question, and I'd just like 9 your comments on it. And, I guess, my observation is 10 if we're telling people that they need to mail their 11 ballot in seven days before the election but then 12 we're, also -- there's, also, a messaging that says, 13 you know, send that ballot in as soon as possible, to 14 me, that's a little bit of a mixed message. I mean, 15 implicit in that messaging is, hey, if you wait until 16 that seven-day deadline, it may not get there in time. 17 I mean, how confident are we -- or, you 18 know, how confident is Arizona that if folks put that 19 ballot in the mail on that last day, seven days before 20 the election, that it's going to get there? Are we 100 21 percent confident that that -- that it will be there on 22 time? 23 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner 24 Meyer, so, with the Post Office, their delivery time 25 for first-class mail is two to five days. So, that's</p>
<p>10:10:28-10:12:01 Page 31</p> <p>1 do that. I just thought I would mention it because I 2 know I, kind of, learned of it because of social media 3 over this whole pandemic. 4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner 5 Chan, I mean, yeah, I think we can -- we can 6 certainly -- we can certainly ask. I think that -- I 7 mean, we definitely have had -- over the course of the 8 last several years, we've had an increase in our 9 materials being used by city clerks, specifically, and 10 then, obviously, in working with -- in partnership with 11 the county recorders and election directors. So, I 12 certainly think that we can -- we can see how best to 13 expand that -- those relationships. 14 I do think that, you know, putting -- 15 putting -- putting all that in context, I think that to 16 the extent that, at the very least, we can make sure 17 that those folks who are government officials, who are 18 talking about voting, include -- you know, are 19 conscious of what the counties and the Commission are 20 telling voters about how best to make sure their ballot 21 is back in a timely manner is important. 22 So, we want to -- we would -- you know, we 23 would want to see as much as we can and as much as we 24 can help to make sure that messaging is consistent. 25 I'm sure we can -- we can look at that and take some</p>	<p>10:13:39-10:14:52 Page 33</p> <p>1 what the Post Office says that's our mail time for 2 first-class mail, and the counties use first-class mail 3 to send out those ballots. 4 My understanding is that the majority of 5 counties -- for those postage prepaid return envelopes, 6 they actually use business reply mail, and those come 7 with an intelligent mail bar code on the envelope. And 8 because of that, it actually is processed faster than 9 first-class mail. 10 So, the answer -- so, my answer to your 11 question of are we confident that seven days is 12 sufficient, yes, because we are -- there's a padding 13 there. There's a buffer. And the Post Office does 14 what they can -- I don't want to use the word 15 "guarantee," but it's where we can safely say that. I 16 mean, it creates -- and it depends on where you're 17 coming from. 18 So, if I mail something from my home 19 location and I'm here in the metro Phoenix area and I 20 send it to the Maricopa County Recorder, in the Primary 21 Election, it took my ballot two days to get there 22 through the postal system, but if I'm coming from 23 Navajo County or Apache County or even from Yavapai 24 County and that mail is going to go down to, maybe, 25 New Mexico or down to -- or the Phoenix processing</p>

<p>10:14:54-10:16:09 Page 34</p> <p>1 plant and then sent back up to the county, it's 2 different -- so, it's a different number of days, 3 depending on where you're mailing it in the state. 4 So, for statewide messaging as a whole, we 5 use that seven days because that's the safest date that 6 we can -- that we can utilize. I mean, I really -- you 7 know, it does make its way through the system faster 8 than that. So, it's, kind of, like -- the discussion 9 among the election officials is, you know, just because 10 that's the recommended deadline, don't wait, you know. 11 We always want people to get their ballots in as soon 12 as possible because it has other impacts, as well, too, 13 such as the tabulation and the results. 14 So, that's, kind of, always been the 15 message. If you're going to vote, vote as soon as 16 possible, but as far as that seven days go, then, yes, 17 we are hearing from the postal system, from the Post 18 Office, that that is the safest date to go by. 19 And I should -- Mr. Chairman, 20 Commissioners, I should, also, mention, too, we use the 21 Postal -- we use USPS for the mailing of our Voter 22 Guide. So, we're sending out over two million pieces 23 of mail that need to be -- that have a deadline of 24 arriving in households before the start of early 25 voting, and we work very closely with our partners. We</p>	<p>10:17:36-10:19:21 Page 36</p> <p>1 what a person who is coming to the process who's not 2 already versed in vote-by-mail issues knows and doesn't 3 know, but we do know that we've gotten more questions 4 over the course of the past two -- three weeks about 5 various issues related to return of mail ballots on a 6 variety of different subjects that, I think, are 7 triggered by both the USPS stuff nationally and then 8 some local state issues around that. 9 And so, I feel like -- I think that if we 10 don't -- if we don't talk about the beginning and the 11 end together, we're not necessarily meeting most voters 12 where they are, which is we have to assume, for 13 purposes of messaging, that they -- that given that the 14 whole context is built around that election day 15 deadline, you know, we don't -- if we just say by this 16 date, we don't want to -- we don't want the, sort of, 17 opposite implication, if you will, that that date is 18 both the beginning and the end of the period to mail a 19 ballot back or return a mail ballot. 20 Does that make sense? 21 COMMISSIONER MEYER: This is Commissioner 22 Meyer. Yes, that does make sense. I just wanted to 23 get a gauge for -- you know, with everything that's 24 being put on Twitter and all of our social media about 25 possible voter fraud and then the issues with the</p>
<p>10:16:14-10:17:34 Page 35</p> <p>1 didn't have any issues with our mailing in the Primary 2 Election. 3 And we've been -- we've spoken with our 4 reps, and they are very well prepared to handle our 5 mailing, as well, for the General Election. So, we 6 aren't -- we are not anticipating any delays with the 7 mailing of our Voter Guide, as well. And I don't know 8 if we're talking about that one, but I wanted to share 9 that, too. 10 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner 11 Meyer, I just want to -- I would just add to that on 12 the specific messaging point, I think that from the 13 questions we get and from our experience overall, if 14 you -- if you -- if you just state the deadline, you 15 know, you get -- we will get questions about when can 16 you start. And if you just -- if you don't state the 17 deadline, you know, then we get questions from -- on 18 where the -- what the last -- you know, what the 19 last -- what is the deadline. 20 And so, what we're trying to accomplish 21 through the messaging portion, through the -- you know, 22 with the dual messaging there is simply, you know, it's 23 basically like having a -- it's like any other 24 deadline. It's just to say you can always be early so 25 people don't -- there's no -- I mean, we don't know</p>	<p>10:19:24-10:20:59 Page 37</p> <p>1 Postal Service, I just want to make sure that Arizona 2 voters are comfortable, you know, voting by mail and 3 understand that the process that we've been using is 4 effective and going to allow them a vote. I appreciate 5 that. 6 And, then, one other question I had is 7 because I know that the -- in the Senator race between 8 Senator Sinema and McSally, there was a long delay -- 9 not a long delay, but at least a delay in counting 10 ballots. And a lot of that was because of mail-in 11 voters dropping ballots off on the day of the election. 12 Do we know -- are we -- is part of our 13 messaging, you know, encouraging the voting and, 14 perhaps -- I won't say discouraging but saying that, 15 you know, mailing it in is much preferred? And, also, 16 do you know at what percentage -- I believe 88 percent 17 of the Primary was mail-in voting. Do we know what 18 percentage of that was actually mailed or what 19 percentage was dropped off? I'm just curious what 20 those numbers are, if you know. 21 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner 22 Meyer, this is Gina. So, with regards to the U.S. 23 Senate race and the time it took to tabulate the 24 ballot, one of the things that we are doing this year 25 in regards to our messaging -- and we've been doing</p>

<p>10:21:01-10:22:21 Page 38</p> <p>1 this more so from a public relations standpoint -- is 2 we want to help inform voters about what their 3 expectations should be about election night, and 4 that's the election is not over on election night. 5 So, with regards to the early ballot, I 6 think Tom mentioned earlier that we have a new law that 7 allows counties even more time to start processing and 8 tabulating those early ballots. They can start doing 9 that earlier this year than they've been able to in 10 past years. And so, that will help, but with regards 11 to those early ballots that are dropped off on election 12 day, you know, those -- those do come in. And I 13 think -- I think I may have seen some numbers in the 14 Maricopa County Recorder's canvas of election for how 15 many were dropped off on election day. Counties do 16 keep track of that. 17 I don't have those numbers readily 18 available, but even aside from the ones that are 19 dropped off on election day, we still have all of those 20 ballots that came in just a few days before, too. And 21 so, because of the security measures that are in place 22 for safeguarding a ballot by mail, they take time to 23 process. And that's what we're trying to communicate 24 to voters is, you know, it's easy to vote by mail. It 25 is safe and secure and the reasons why means that it</p>	<p>10:23:51-10:24:43 Page 40</p> <p>1 followed the process, but we know that people want the 2 results as soon as possible. And, of course, if you 3 can submit your ballot earlier, that does help. It 4 absolutely does help. 5 So, you know, with regards to what voters 6 should expect is we're trying to communicate the 7 election is not done on election night. There will 8 still be probably ballots that need to be processed and 9 tabulated. 10 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Thank you, Tom and 11 Gina. 12 CHAIRMAN PATON: Any other comment? 13 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman? 14 Mr. Chairman, this is Commissioner Kimble. 15 CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes, Commissioner Kimble. 16 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Gina -- Gina, one 17 point of clarification. When you're talking seven 18 days, you're talking calendar days, right, not business 19 days? 20 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner 21 Kimble, yes. That is correct. 22 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. So -- 23 MS. ROBERTS: It has to be seven calendar 24 days. 25 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. So, your mail</p>
<p>10:22:24-10:23:48 Page 39</p> <p>1 takes time to process that out before being tabulated. 2 Plus, post election day, there are, also, 3 time periods for curing your signature now and then -- 4 as well as if you vote a conditional provisional 5 ballot, you have so many days to return it. And then, 6 of course, there's the provisional ballot, dropping 7 them off on election day, as well, too. 8 So, I guess, one of the things that 9 election officials have always struggled with is the 10 reporters from the media who want to call elections or, 11 you know, from the reporters who are constantly looking 12 for those updates and election results, which is great, 13 you know, but the counties -- the process is the 14 process. And, you know, they have to go through all of 15 those processes to make sure and confirm the accuracy 16 of that tabulation and that only a voter who is 17 registered to vote and eligible to vote in that 18 election did, in fact, vote in that election. And so, 19 all of that goes in the processing of those ballots. 20 So, you know, in regards to what happened 21 with the U.S. Senate race in 2018, the counties -- they 22 have so many days by statute to complete the tabulation, 23 and they did it. They used their allotted time. And 24 so, it wasn't -- they didn't exceed or have a delay in 25 tabulations, I guess, I should say. It was -- they</p>	<p>10:24:44-10:25:48 Page 41</p> <p>1 ballot should be in no later than October 27th, 2 according to my calendar, is that right? 3 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, to return it. If you're 4 returning it by mail, that's the deadline that we want. 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: By mail, right. 6 MS. ROBERTS: Yes. 7 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you. 8 Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN PATON: Any other discussion? 10 (No response.) 11 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. Item V: Discussion 12 and possible action on future meeting dates. 13 Paula? 14 MS. THOMAS: Hello, Commissioners. The 15 list attached, as I've coordinated with each 16 commissioner directly, this appears to be the best 17 dates where we have at least a quorum for the remainder 18 of the year. I just need your approval on this, 19 please. 20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. 21 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman? 22 CHAIRMAN PATON: Do we have a motion? Yes. 23 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I will move that we 24 adopt the meeting dates as written. 25 CHAIRMAN PATON: Okay. And do we have --</p>


10:25:51-10:26:48 Page 42

1 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Commissioner Meyer,
2 second.
3 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer
4 seconds. So, let's do a roll call.
5 Commissioner Chan?
6 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
7 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer?
8 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Aye.
9 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Kimble?
10 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
11 CHAIRMAN PATON: And this is Commissioner
12 Paton, and I vote aye, as well. And the dates pass.
13 And our final item, Number VI: Public
14 comment.
15 Does any member of the public wish to make
16 a comment at this time? You can, also, send comments
17 to the Commission by mail or email at
18 ccec@azcleelections.gov.
19 (No response.)
20 CHAIRMAN PATON: No public comment? Then,
21 we go to Item VII: Motion to adjourn.
22 Do I have a motion to adjourn?
23 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move
24 that we adjourn.
25 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Chan has

10:26:53-10:27:25 Page 43

1 motioned to adjourn.
2 Do we have a second?
3 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Commissioner Kimble,
4 second.
5 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Kimble
6 seconds it, and we will have a roll call.
7 Commissioner Chan?
8 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
9 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer?
10 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Aye.
11 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Kimble?
12 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
13 CHAIRMAN PATON: And this is Commissioner
14 Paton, and I vote aye, as well.
15 We are adjourned. Have a good rest of the
16 month.
17 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at
18 10:27 a.m.)
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Page 44

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)
3 BE IT KNOWN the foregoing proceedings were
4 taken by me; that I was then and there a Certified
5 Reporter of the State of Arizona, and by virtue thereof
6 authorized to administer an oath; 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 and testimony had and
11 adduced upon the taking of said proceedings, all done to
12 the best of my skill and ability.
13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way
14 related to nor employed by any of the parties thereto
15 nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.
16 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 29th day of
17 August, 2020.
18
19 
20 LILIA MONARREZ, RPR, CR #50699
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	<p>appears (1) 41:16 appreciate (2) 11:16; 37:4 appreciated (1) 12:4 approach (1) 11:4 appropriate (3) 12:22; 13:10,15 approval (2) 7:16;41:18 approve (1) 4:5 area (1) 33:19 Arizona (14) 6:3;13:8; 9:19;20:22;6:7,14,20; 23:20;24:22;25:10; 27:3;32:18;37:1 around (6) 6:7;8:17; 14:17;25:2;36:8,14 arriving (1) 34:24 aside (1) 38:18 assigned (1) 17:7 assume (2) 10:17; 36:12 ASU (1) 6:3 attached (1) 41:15 attendance (1) 3:11 August (1) 3:8 available (1) 38:18 Avery (7) 5:7,14;8:1; 10:22,23;11:24;12:1 awareness (1) 12:3 away (1) 17:12 aye (12) 4:16,18,20,22; 42:6,8,10,12;43:8,10, 12,14</p>	<p>bearing (1) 5:19 begin (1) 25:15 beginning (4) 8:25;9:3; 36:10,18 beings (1) 11:9 best (3) 31:12,20;41:16 better (1) 14:13 big (2) 19:20,23 bins (1) 25:18 bit (7) 18:9,12;21:2,15; 24:21;27:21;32:14 both (4) 12:10;16:1; 36:7,18 boxes (2) 25:20;26:21 brief (1) 7:11 brings (1) 13:21 broad (1) 18:11 broadly (1) 19:19 brought (1) 5:24 buffer (1) 33:13 built (1) 36:14 business (3) 7:19;33:6; 40:18 busy (1) 15:17</p>	<p>19;15:10,12,12,20,25; 17:3,15,22,23,25;18:3, 7:20;10:21;20,22,25; 27:25;28:2,21,22; 29:22,24;31:4;32:3,6, 23;34:19;35:10;37:21; 40:12,13,14,15,20; 41:5,9,11,20,21,22,25; 42:3,7,9,11,20,23,25; 43:5,9,11,13 chairperson (1) 12:17 Chan (35) 3:14,15,16; 4:2,3,5,15,16;8:8,9,10, 11,18,23;9:1;10:12; 11:24;17:22;27:25; 28:1,2,3,22;29:21,25; 31:5;32:2;41:21,23; 42:5,6,23,25;43:7,8 change (4) 19:20,23; 20:7;21:7 changes (6) 9:9,10; 19:6,12,19;22:18 check (1) 6:20 circumstances (1) 5:13 Citizens (1) 3:9 city (1) 31:9 civics (1) 10:25 clarification (1) 40:17 Clean (4) 3:4,9;10:20; 17:17 clerks (1) 31:9 clock (1) 6:7 close (1) 16:15 closely (1) 34:25 club (1) 10:25 code (1) 33:7 colleagues (1) 12:10 Collins (18) 5:1,2;8:14, 21,24;9:3;11:14;12:13; 14:10,21,24;15:8,24; 18:7;20:25;21:23;31:4; 35:10 column (2) 16:3,4 comfortable (3) 13:24; 25:23;37:2 coming (5) 5:22;6:6; 33:17,22;36:1 commend (1) 11:24 comment (4) 40:12; 42:14,16,20 comments (3) 11:23; 32:9;42:16 Commission (7) 3:5,9; 9:25;17:17;19:24; 31:19;42:17 Commissioner (98) 3:12,14,15,16,17,18, 19,20,21;4:2,3,5,9,9,11, 11,13,15,16,17,18,19, 20,21;8:8,9,10,10,18, 23;9:1;10:12;11:18,19, 20,22,23;12:6,7,9,13; 14:1,2;17:16,22;27:25;</p>	<p>28:1,2,3,21,22;29:21, 25;31:4;32:2,5,5,6,7, 23;35:10;36:21,21; 37:21;40:10,13,14,15, 16,20,22,25;41:7,16, 21,23;42:1,1,3,5,6,7,8, 9,10,11,23,25;43:3,3,5, 7,8,9,10,11,12,13 commissioners (11) 10:18;11:10;15:13; 17:3,23;18:8;21:25; 28:23;32:4;34:20; 41:14 communicate (2) 38:23; 40:6 communicated (1) 27:20 communicating (2) 29:8,9 communication (1) 27:11 community (1) 5:16 compare (1) 14:5 competent (1) 10:5 complete (1) 39:22 concerned (1) 11:7 concerns (3) 21:12; 22:15;27:23 concluded (1) 43:17 concludes (1) 8:7 conditional (1) 39:4 confident (4) 32:17,18, 21;33:11 confirm (1) 39:15 congressmen (1) 30:22 conscious (2) 20:15; 31:19 consensus (3) 16:13, 18;20:5 consistent (2) 20:7; 31:24 constantly (1) 39:11 constituent (1) 30:10 contact (1) 10:25 content (2) 26:2,14 context (4) 19:19;20:3; 31:15;36:14 continue (2) 9:8;16:19 continuing (1) 6:8 contributed (1) 17:8 coordinate (1) 6:15 coordinated (1) 41:15 cosponsoring (1) 6:1 Council (2) 7:15;12:18 count (2) 21:6;23:19 counted (1) 28:16 counties (20) 6:10,16; 16:9,19,19;19:23; 20:14;21:18;22:6; 23:20;25:17;26:16,23; 31:19;33:2,5;38:7,15; 39:13,21 counting (1) 37:9</p>
<p>A</p>				
<p>Abe (1) 16:4 ability (2) 9:21;27:15 able (9) 5:14,15;6:15; 9:8,13;10:4,8;13:12; 38:9 absolutely (2) 17:24; 40:4 accepting (1) 4:22 access (1) 26:5 accommodating (1) 9:4 accomplish (1) 35:20 according (1) 41:2 accounts (1) 10:21 accuracy (1) 39:15 action (6) 3:24;4:25; 7:10,11;18:4;41:12 activity (1) 5:6 actually (8) 8:11;9:11; 19:21;26:24;29:2;33:6, 8;37:18 add (4) 17:1,4;30:24; 35:11 adding (2) 24:14;29:6 addition (1) 25:17 additional (1) 29:6 address (2) 21:13; 27:23 adjourn (4) 42:21,22, 24;43:1 adjourned (1) 43:15 Administration (2) 12:19;13:2 administrative (1) 8:16 adopt (1) 41:24 advice (1) 28:14 Advocacy (1) 13:8 affiliates (1) 6:4 again (3) 22:24;24:5; 27:7 agency (1) 9:7 Agenda (2) 3:7;18:8 agree (1) 17:24 AG's (1) 21:1 ahead (1) 11:21 Alec (5) 6:7,13;8:3; 12:1;14:12 allotted (1) 39:23 allow (1) 37:4 allows (3) 10:8;24:22; 38:7 always (9) 11:17,17; 23:7,15,22;34:11,14; 35:24;39:9 among (1) 34:9 amount (2) 5:8;24:25 Ann (1) 26:25 anticipating (1) 35:6 anyways (1) 8:5 Apache (1) 33:23 Appeals (1) 13:9</p>	<p>approved (1) 12:4 approach (1) 11:4 appropriate (3) 12:22; 13:10,15 approval (2) 7:16;41:18 approve (1) 4:5 area (1) 33:19 Arizona (14) 6:3;13:8; 9:19;20:22;6:7,14,20; 23:20;24:22;25:10; 27:3;32:18;37:1 around (6) 6:7;8:17; 14:17;25:2;36:8,14 arriving (1) 34:24 aside (1) 38:18 assigned (1) 17:7 assume (2) 10:17; 36:12 ASU (1) 6:3 attached (1) 41:15 attendance (1) 3:11 August (1) 3:8 available (1) 38:18 Avery (7) 5:7,14;8:1; 10:22,23;11:24;12:1 awareness (1) 12:3 away (1) 17:12 aye (12) 4:16,18,20,22; 42:6,8,10,12;43:8,10, 12,14</p>	<p>calendar (4) 28:16; 40:18,23;41:2 call (9) 3:5,7,8;4:14; 16:17;26:24;39:10; 42:4,43:6 came (2) 15:14;38:20 campaign (4) 24:6,10, 15;26:1 campaigns (1) 24:2 can (39) 5:5;6:8,10;9:7, 14,14,20;14:22,22; 23:3,5;25:7,8,10,20,22; 26:5,5;27:6,19;31:5,5, 6,12,12,16,23,24,25,25; 33:14,15;34:6,6;35:15, 24;38:8;40:3;42:16 candidate (1) 6:23 candidates (1) 6:21 canvas (1) 38:14 capacity (2) 27:7,15 care (1) 11:8 case (4) 7:10,12,13; 13:8 cases (1) 7:6 ccec@azcleelections.gov (1) 42:18 center (2) 17:6,13 central (1) 22:18 certainly (4) 9:25;31:6, 6,12 Chair (1) 32:7 CHAIRMAN (81) 3:3,4, 17,19,21;4:2,4,7,13,17, 19,21;5:2,24;8:7,8,9; 9:1,2;10:13;11:18,20; 12:6,8,13;14:2,10,19,</p>	<p>19;15:10,12,12,20,25; 17:3,15,22,23,25;18:3, 7:20;10:21;20,22,25; 27:25;28:2,21,22; 29:22,24;31:4;32:3,6, 23;34:19;35:10;37:21; 40:12,13,14,15,20; 41:5,9,11,20,21,22,25; 42:3,7,9,11,20,23,25; 43:5,9,11,13 chairperson (1) 12:17 Chan (35) 3:14,15,16; 4:2,3,5,15,16;8:8,9,10, 11,18,23;9:1;10:12; 11:24;17:22;27:25; 28:1,2,3,22;29:21,25; 31:5;32:2;41:21,23; 42:5,6,23,25;43:7,8 change (4) 19:20,23; 20:7;21:7 changes (6) 9:9,10; 19:6,12,19;22:18 check (1) 6:20 circumstances (1) 5:13 Citizens (1) 3:9 city (1) 31:9 civics (1) 10:25 clarification (1) 40:17 Clean (4) 3:4,9;10:20; 17:17 clerks (1) 31:9 clock (1) 6:7 close (1) 16:15 closely (1) 34:25 club (1) 10:25 code (1) 33:7 colleagues (1) 12:10 Collins (18) 5:1,2;8:14, 21,24;9:3;11:14;12:13; 14:10,21,24;15:8,24; 18:7;20:25;21:23;31:4; 35:10 column (2) 16:3,4 comfortable (3) 13:24; 25:23;37:2 coming (5) 5:22;6:6; 33:17,22;36:1 commend (1) 11:24 comment (4) 40:12; 42:14,16,20 comments (3) 11:23; 32:9;42:16 Commission (7) 3:5,9; 9:25;17:17;19:24; 31:19;42:17 Commissioner (98) 3:12,14,15,16,17,18, 19,20,21;4:2,3,5,9,9,11, 11,13,15,16,17,18,19, 20,21;8:8,9,10,10,18, 23;9:1;10:12;11:18,19, 20,22,23;12:6,7,9,13; 14:1,2;17:16,22;27:25;</p>	<p>28:1,2,3,21,22;29:21, 25;31:4;32:2,5,5,6,7, 23;35:10;36:21,21; 37:21;40:10,13,14,15, 16,20,22,25;41:7,16, 21,23;42:1,1,3,5,6,7,8, 9,10,11,23,25;43:3,3,5, 7,8,9,10,11,12,13 commissioners (11) 10:18;11:10;15:13; 17:3,23;18:8;21:25; 28:23;32:4;34:20; 41:14 communicate (2) 38:23; 40:6 communicated (1) 27:20 communicating (2) 29:8,9 communication (1) 27:11 community (1) 5:16 compare (1) 14:5 competent (1) 10:5 complete (1) 39:22 concerned (1) 11:7 concerns (3) 21:12; 22:15;27:23 concluded (1) 43:17 concludes (1) 8:7 conditional (1) 39:4 confident (4) 32:17,18, 21;33:11 confirm (1) 39:15 congressmen (1) 30:22 conscious (2) 20:15; 31:19 consensus (3) 16:13, 18;20:5 consistent (2) 20:7; 31:24 constantly (1) 39:11 constituent (1) 30:10 contact (1) 10:25 content (2) 26:2,14 context (4) 19:19;20:3; 31:15;36:14 continue (2) 9:8;16:19 continuing (1) 6:8 contributed (1) 17:8 coordinate (1) 6:15 coordinated (1) 41:15 cosponsoring (1) 6:1 Council (2) 7:15;12:18 count (2) 21:6;23:19 counted (1) 28:16 counties (20) 6:10,16; 16:9,19,19;19:23; 20:14;21:18;22:6; 23:20;25:17;26:16,23; 31:19;33:2,5;38:7,15; 39:13,21 counting (1) 37:9</p>
	<p>B</p>	<p>C</p>		
	<p>back (9) 20:13,16;23:4, 13;29:16,17;31:21; 34:1;36:19 background (2) 18:10; 22:3 bad (2) 11:3;14:8 balance (1) 9:21 ballot (42) 20:13,16; 22:13;23:2,4,11,14; 24:4,5,16,18,20,24; 25:1,6,10,11,18,20,22; 26:4,21;27:10,16,19; 28:12,18;29:1;31:20; 32:11,13,19;33:21; 36:19,19;37:24;38:5, 22;39:5,6;40:3;41:1 ballot-by-mail (5) 24:3, 7,12;26:9,14 balloting (1) 19:13 ballots (24) 16:10,11; 19:25;20:1;21:5,5,7, 12;22:7,24;23:10;27:6, 16;28:8;33:3;34:11; 36:5;37:10,11;38:8,11, 20;39:19;40:8 bar (1) 33:7 basically (2) 19:8;35:23</p>	<p>calendar (4) 28:16; 40:18,23;41:2 call (9) 3:5,7,8;4:14; 16:17;26:24;39:10; 42:4,43:6 came (2) 15:14;38:20 campaign (4) 24:6,10, 15;26:1 campaigns (1) 24:2 can (39) 5:5;6:8,10;9:7, 14,14,20;14:22,22; 23:3,5;25:7,8,10,20,22; 26:5,5;27:6,19;31:5,5, 6,12,12,16,23,24,25,25; 33:14,15;34:6,6;35:15, 24;38:8;40:3;42:16 candidate (1) 6:23 candidates (1) 6:21 canvas (1) 38:14 capacity (2) 27:7,15 care (1) 11:8 case (4) 7:10,12,13; 13:8 cases (1) 7:6 ccec@azcleelections.gov (1) 42:18 center (2) 17:6,13 central (1) 22:18 certainly (4) 9:25;31:6, 6,12 Chair (1) 32:7 CHAIRMAN (81) 3:3,4, 17,19,21;4:2,4,7,13,17, 19,21;5:2,24;8:7,8,9; 9:1,2;10:13;11:18,20; 12:6,8,13;14:2,10,19,</p>	<p>19;15:10,12,12,20,25; 17:3,15,22,23,25;18:3, 7:20;10:21;20,22,25; 27:25;28:2,21,22; 29:22,24;31:4;32:3,6, 23;34:19;35:10;37:21; 40:12,13,14,15,20; 41:5,9,11,20,21,22,25; 42:3,7,9,11,20,23,25; 43:5,9,11,13 chairperson (1) 12:17 Chan (35) 3:14,15,16; 4:2,3,5,15,16;8:8,9,10, 11,18,23;9:1;10:12; 11:24;17:22;27:25; 28:1,2,3,22;29:21,25; 31:5;32:2;41:21,23; 42:5,6,23,25;43:7,8 change (4) 19:20,23; 20:7;21:7 changes (6) 9:9,10; 19:6,12,19;22:18 check (1) 6:20 circumstances (1) 5:13 Citizens (1) 3:9 city (1) 31:9 civics (1) 10:25 clarification (1) 40:17 Clean (4) 3:4,9;10:20; 17:17 clerks (1) 31:9 clock (1) 6:7 close (1) 16:15 closely (1) 34:25 club (1) 10:25 code (1) 33:7 colleagues (1) 12:10 Collins (18) 5:1,2;8:14, 21,24;9:3;11:14;12:13; 14:10,21,24;15:8,24; 18:7;20:25;21:23;31:4; 35:10 column (2) 16:3,4 comfortable (3) 13:24; 25:23;37:2 coming (5) 5:22;6:6; 33:17,22;36:1 commend (1) 11:24 comment (4) 40:12; 42:14,16,20 comments (3) 11:23; 32:9;42:16 Commission (7) 3:5,9; 9:25;17:17;19:24; 31:19;42:17 Commissioner (98) 3:12,14,15,16,17,18, 19,20,21;4:2,3,5,9,9,11, 11,13,15,16,17,18,19, 20,21;8:8,9,10,10,18, 23;9:1;10:12;11:18,19, 20,22,23;12:6,7,9,13; 14:1,2;17:16,22;27:25;</p>	<p>28:1,2,3,21,22;29:21, 25;31:4;32:2,5,5,6,7, 23;35:10;36:21,21; 37:21;40:10,13,14,15, 16,20,22,25;41:7,16, 21,23;42:1,1,3,5,6,7,8, 9,10,11,23,25;43:3,3,5, 7,8,9,10,11,12,13 commissioners (11) 10:18;11:10;15:13; 17:3,23;18:8;21:25; 28:23;32:4;34:20; 41:14 communicate (2) 38:23; 40:6 communicated (1) 27:20 communicating (2) 29:8,9 communication (1) 27:11 community (1) 5:16 compare (1) 14:5 competent (1) 10:5 complete (1) 39:22 concerned (1) 11:7 concerns (3) 21:12; 22:15;27:23 concluded (1) 43:17 concludes (1) 8:7 conditional (1) 39:4 confident (4) 32:17,18, 21;33:11 confirm (1) 39:15 congressmen (1) 30:22 conscious (2) 20:15; 31:19 consensus (3) 16:13, 18;20:5 consistent (2) 20:7; 31:24 constantly (1) 39:11 constituent (1) 30:10 contact (1) 10:25 content (2) 26:2,14 context (4) 19:19;20:3; 31:15;36:14 continue (2) 9:8;16:19 continuing (1) 6:8 contributed (1) 17:8 coordinate (1) 6:15 coordinated (1) 41:15 cosponsoring (1) 6:1 Council (2) 7:15;12:18 count (2) 21:6;23:19 counted (1) 28:16 counties (20) 6:10,16; 16:9,19,19;19:23; 20:14;21:18;22:6; 23:20;25:17;26:16,23; 31:19;33:2,5;38:7,15; 39:13,21 counting (1) 37:9</p>

<p>counts (1) 15:22 county (20) 6:12;16:6, 14;17:6,13;23:18; 25:12,19;26:17,19,25; 27:12;30:20;31:11; 33:20,23,23,24;34:1; 38:14 couple (3) 7:6;11:22; 13:19 course (11) 9:12;19:5; 21:4;25:15;26:6,11,13; 31:7;36:4;39:6;40:2 Court (1) 13:9 coverage (1) 16:1 covered (1) 23:22 COVID (6) 7:2;9:5,23; 16:24;30:7,8 COVID-19 (2) 6:22; 18:25 created (2) 10:23;26:3 creates (1) 33:16 culminate (1) 19:7 culture (2) 9:24;10:8 curing (1) 39:3 curious (1) 37:19 currently (1) 13:7 cycles (3) 16:12;20:4,8</p>	<p>delay (7) 25:5;29:3,14; 37:8,9,9;39:24 delays (1) 35:6 deliveries (1) 19:10 delivery (3) 6:20;19:7; 32:24 Department (1) 12:18 depending (1) 34:3 depends (1) 33:16 depth (1) 13:4 describes (1) 26:3 despite (1) 5:12 detail (2) 12:23;21:24 details (1) 26:13 different (11) 9:22; 18:20;25:22;26:4; 30:13,14,15,18;34:2,2; 36:6 difficulties (2) 15:18; 17:10 direct (1) 10:9 directly (2) 23:1;41:16 director (1) 10:4 directors (2) 30:21; 31:11 Director's (2) 4:25;5:5 disagree (1) 9:18 discouraging (1) 37:14 discrepancy (1) 24:22 Discussion (11) 3:24; 4:1,24;18:4,17;22:16; 24:8;32:3;34:8;41:9,11 distancing (1) 6:18 done (4) 10:2;11:25; 27:10;40:7 down (3) 5:20;33:24,25 drop (3) 25:20;26:21; 29:17 drop-off (2) 25:18;26:4 dropped (4) 37:19; 38:11,15,19 dropping (3) 25:11; 37:11;39:6 dual (1) 35:22 due (2) 6:22,22 during (2) 12:4,4 Dustin (1) 20:25</p>	<p>12:3;18:5,24;23:7,8,16, 21;24:2;27:20;30:10 effective (1) 37:4 efforts (3) 17:20;27:2, 20 either (2) 7:7;10:9 elected (4) 30:4,12,14, 15 Election (63) 5:20;14:4; 15:2,5,22;16:12;17:7; 18:5,11,20;20:4,18; 21:8;22:4,7,12,20,25; 23:19,21;24:1,2,14,19, 23;25:15,16;26:11,12, 12;27:10,11;28:7,9,12, 19;29:1,19;30:21; 31:11;32:11,20;33:21; 34:9;35:2,5;36:14; 37:11;38:3,4,4,11,14, 15,19;39:2,7,9,12,18, 18;40:7,7 election-related (1) 30:19 Elections (7) 3:4,9; 5:17;10:20;14:5;17:17; 39:10 eligible (1) 39:17 else (2) 7:25;19:17 email (1) 42:17 emails (1) 6:8 encourage (2) 20:13; 29:11 encouraging (1) 37:13 end (2) 36:11,18 engagement (1) 26:8 engaging (1) 26:14 ensure (1) 29:18 envelope (2) 23:3;33:7 envelopes (1) 33:5 especially (1) 23:16 established (3) 22:9; 26:22;27:4 even (9) 9:25;11:3; 19:20,21;27:5;30:21; 33:23;38:7,18 eventuality (1) 21:19 everybody (1) 8:13 everybody's (1) 17:20 everyone (2) 11:15; 12:21 evident (1) 11:25 example (2) 9:10;26:17 exceed (1) 39:24 exchange (1) 13:25 exciting (1) 6:4 Executive (3) 4:25;5:5; 10:4 expand (1) 31:13 expect (1) 40:6 expectations (1) 38:3 expecting (1) 7:8 experience (3) 16:20; 17:10;35:13</p>	<p>experienced (1) 20:8 explain (1) 13:13 explaining (2) 24:10; 27:3 explanation (1) 13:23 extent (1) 31:16</p>	<p>10,21;19:14;22:4;24:1, 14;29:19;35:5 generate (1) 6:10 Gina (15) 5:15;8:2; 10:23,23;12:1;14:12; 17:1;21:15,21;28:4; 29:23;37:22;40:11,16, 16</p>
D		F		
<p>Dashboard (1) 26:6 date (11) 15:2;23:12; 28:17;29:8,9,12,16; 34:5,18;36:16,17 dates (5) 23:8;41:12, 17,24;42:12 dating (1) 9:25 day (17) 20:18;21:8; 23:19,21;25:16;28:9; 29:19;30:8,8;32:19; 36:14;37:11;38:12,15, 19;39:2,7 days (33) 20:2,2,4,5,6, 6;22:7,24;24:18,19,22; 25:15;28:8,9,12,19; 29:1,6;32:11,19,25; 33:11,21;34:2,5,16; 38:20;39:5,22;40:18, 18,19,24 deadline (12) 23:18; 28:24,25;32:16;34:10, 23;35:14,17,19,24; 36:15;41:4 deadlines (1) 23:9 deal (1) 12:24 debate (1) 5:25 debates (1) 9:10 decades (2) 22:13; 27:13 decided (1) 20:12 decision (1) 7:13 dedicated (1) 10:6 definitely (1) 31:7</p>	<p>Director's (2) 4:25;5:5 disagree (1) 9:18 discouraging (1) 37:14 discrepancy (1) 24:22 Discussion (11) 3:24; 4:1,24;18:4,17;22:16; 24:8;32:3;34:8;41:9,11 distancing (1) 6:18 done (4) 10:2;11:25; 27:10;40:7 down (3) 5:20;33:24,25 drop (3) 25:20;26:21; 29:17 drop-off (2) 25:18;26:4 dropped (4) 37:19; 38:11,15,19 dropping (3) 25:11; 37:11;39:6 dual (1) 35:22 due (2) 6:22,22 during (2) 12:4,4 Dustin (1) 20:25</p>	<p>election-related (1) 30:19 Elections (7) 3:4,9; 5:17;10:20;14:5;17:17; 39:10 eligible (1) 39:17 else (2) 7:25;19:17 email (1) 42:17 emails (1) 6:8 encourage (2) 20:13; 29:11 encouraging (1) 37:13 end (2) 36:11,18 engagement (1) 26:8 engaging (1) 26:14 ensure (1) 29:18 envelope (2) 23:3;33:7 envelopes (1) 33:5 especially (1) 23:16 established (3) 22:9; 26:22;27:4 even (9) 9:25;11:3; 19:20,21;27:5;30:21; 33:23;38:7,18 eventuality (1) 21:19 everybody (1) 8:13 everybody's (1) 17:20 everyone (2) 11:15; 12:21 evident (1) 11:25 example (2) 9:10;26:17 exceed (1) 39:24 exchange (1) 13:25 exciting (1) 6:4 Executive (3) 4:25;5:5; 10:4 expand (1) 31:13 expect (1) 40:6 expectations (1) 38:3 expecting (1) 7:8 experience (3) 16:20; 17:10;35:13</p>	<p>Facebook (1) 10:21 facilitate (1) 9:11 fact (9) 15:21;16:6,21; 17:9;26:9;28:7;29:10, 17;39:18 far (8) 6:8;15:8,9,18; 16:21;26:16;30:10; 34:16 faster (2) 33:8;34:7 featured (1) 5:8 federal (1) 30:4 feel (2) 11:10;36:9 feeling (1) 11:12 felt (2) 11:3;13:24 few (3) 9:13;19:5;38:20 file (1) 7:11 filed (1) 20:20 filled (1) 15:17 final (1) 42:13 finally (1) 7:14 find (1) 9:13 finding (1) 15:16 first (4) 6:5;12:9;18:9; 26:11 first-class (5) 22:25; 32:25;33:2,2,9 fits (1) 18:11 five (3) 13:18;20:4; 32:25 focused (1) 10:1 focusing (2) 16:5;24:15 folks (7) 5:16;10:4,8; 20:11,13;31:17;32:18 folks' (1) 9:21 follow (2) 10:20;30:14 followed (1) 40:1 following (1) 30:23 formal (1) 18:16 forth (1) 5:24 forward (1) 7:21 four (1) 29:6 frame (1) 24:25 fraud (1) 36:25 free (1) 9:17 Fund (2) 7:10,11 funding (1) 22:17 future (1) 41:12</p>	<p>given (1) 36:13 goes (4) 11:6;13:12; 30:10;39:19 good (5) 11:17;15:6; 22:22;30:23;43:15 Google (1) 26:4 government (1) 31:17 governor (1) 30:17 Governor's (1) 7:15 grace (1) 21:10 great (7) 5:10;15:20; 22:11;26:17;27:14; 28:5;39:12 GRRC (4) 7:14;12:11, 18;13:5 guarantee (1) 33:15 guess (9) 8:18;9:17; 10:13,15;11:7;30:10; 32:9;39:8,25 Guide (3) 5:21;34:22; 35:7 guys (7) 10:19,22; 11:11,13;20:21;30:2, 25</p>
E		G		
<p>earlier (4) 5:24;38:6,9; 40:3 early (16) 16:10;23:9; 24:4;25:14;26:19;27:6, 10,16,16,19;29:1; 34:24;35:24;38:5,8,11 easy (1) 38:24 echo (1) 12:10 editorial (1) 16:4 educate (1) 25:21 educating (3) 17:19; 23:10;25:3 education (12) 5:6,21;</p>	<p>earlier (4) 5:24;38:6,9; 40:3 early (16) 16:10;23:9; 24:4;25:14;26:19;27:6, 10,16,16,19;29:1; 34:24;35:24;38:5,8,11 easy (1) 38:24 echo (1) 12:10 editorial (1) 16:4 educate (1) 25:21 educating (3) 17:19; 23:10;25:3 education (12) 5:6,21;</p>	<p>expand (1) 31:13 expect (1) 40:6 expectations (1) 38:3 expecting (1) 7:8 experience (3) 16:20; 17:10;35:13</p>	<p>Galen (3) 3:4,22;4:21 gauge (1) 36:23 gave (1) 23:24 General (10) 5:20;18:5,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>hand (1) 23:20 handle (3) 27:7,16;35:4 happened (1) 39:20 happening (3) 9:11; 22:16;23:25 happy (2) 7:24;27:23 hard (4) 9:6;10:24; 23:18;29:12 hear (3) 11:17;14:7; 15:19 heard (1) 20:23 hearing (1) 34:17 Hello (1) 41:14 help (7) 11:4;14:22; 31:24;38:2,10;40:3,4 helped (2) 16:13;19:18 helpful (4) 10:22;17:5, 5;30:24 helps (2) 17:20,21 hey (1) 32:15 high (3) 10:25;14:15; 15:22 higher (1) 15:5 highest (3) 14:16;15:1; 26:18 highlight (3) 6:19;7:2, 23 highlighted (1) 20:11</p>

<p>home (1) 33:18 hope (2) 10:7;19:18 hopeful (1) 7:20 Hopefully (2) 11:13; 29:20 Horizon (1) 5:9 House (1) 19:15 households (1) 34:24 human (1) 11:8</p>	<p>IV (1) 18:4 J jinx (1) 12:14 July (1) 5:10 June (3) 3:25;7:17; 19:22 jurisdictions (1) 6:11</p>	<p>location (3) 15:16; 25:11;33:19 locations (4) 25:14,16; 26:5,7 long (6) 7:23;15:6,11, 18;37:8,9 look (2) 19:2;31:25 looking (2) 29:6;39:11 looks (1) 16:12 lot (13) 5:6;6:13,14; 15:15;17:18;18:21; 22:15;26:8;27:1;28:5; 30:6,19;37:10 lucky (1) 10:3</p>	<p>36:24;39:10 meet (1) 25:2 meeting (9) 3:5,9,25; 7:19;10:15;13:21; 36:11;41:12,24 member (2) 9:19;42:15 Members (1) 5:2 members' (1) 9:21 mention (2) 31:1;34:20 mentioned (3) 23:24; 28:10;38:6 message (2) 32:14; 34:15 messaging (14) 29:11; 30:1,17,19;31:24; 32:12,15;34:4;35:12, 21,22;36:13;37:13,25</p>	<p>Navajo (2) 20:21;33:23 nearest (1) 26:6 necessarily (2) 7:9; 36:11 need (6) 4:14;9:15; 32:10;34:23;40:8; 41:18 Network (1) 13:8 new (4) 24:13;28:14; 33:25;38:6 news (2) 5:9;15:7 newspaper (1) 16:1 next (1) 13:21 night (3) 38:3,4;40:7 none (2) 16:22,23 non-forwardable (1) 23:1 note (2) 5:18;23:16 notice (1) 19:9 notwithstanding (1) 7:2 number (4) 19:6;26:1; 34:2;42:13 numbers (3) 37:20; 38:13,17</p>
<p>I</p>	<p>K</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>metro (1) 33:19 Mexico (1) 33:25 Meyer (28) 3:17,18; 4:11,12,14,17,18; 11:18,19,20,22;32:5,5, 6,7,24;35:11;36:21,22; 37:22;40:10;42:1,1,3,7, 8;43:9,10 might (7) 10:15;14:17; 16:9;19:11,12;30:13, 23 Mike (1) 8:2 million (1) 34:22 mind (3) 10:19;18:18; 21:20 minutes (3) 3:24;4:6,23 missing (1) 30:13 misunderstood (1) 28:13 mixed (1) 32:14 model (2) 17:7,13 monitoring (1) 7:7 month (1) 43:16 months (1) 9:13 more (10) 12:23;13:22; 16:10;18:17;19:19; 22:19;32:8;36:3;38:1,7 morning (1) 3:8 most (4) 15:17;19:8; 26:10;36:11 motion (3) 41:22;42:21, 22 motioned (1) 43:1 move (4) 4:5;7:20; 41:23;42:23 much (9) 10:18;11:1; 17:20;24:7;29:5;30:5; 31:23,23;37:15 multiple (1) 30:8 must (4) 11:10;21:8; 23:18,20</p>	<p>O</p>
<p>idea (1) 30:3 ideas (1) 5:24 II (1) 3:23 III (1) 4:24 impact (3) 17:14;19:13; 22:19 impacts (1) 34:12 implication (1) 36:17 implicit (1) 32:15 imploing (1) 19:9 important (2) 25:13; 31:21 importantly (1) 25:8 improve (1) 16:20 include (1) 31:18 included (4) 23:15; 24:2,6;26:7 including (1) 6:11 increase (3) 16:22; 27:5;31:8 increased (1) 27:7 indicated (1) 13:14 inform (1) 38:2 information (6) 6:10,12; 22:3;27:22;28:5,20 informing (1) 23:9 infrastructure (1) 22:10 input (1) 18:15 inquiries (2) 15:15,17 instead (1) 29:7 intelligent (1) 33:7 interacts (1) 22:5 interested (1) 11:6 interject (1) 9:18 interviews (1) 27:2 into (6) 10:25;13:4,12; 16:15;18:11;24:25 invested (1) 25:18 invite (1) 21:21 involved (3) 5:17,25; 7:7 issue (5) 6:25;13:1; 18:25;20:10;24:13 issues (23) 6:20,22,23; 7:5;9:5,22;12:25;13:6; 14:6;15:10,14,19;16:7; 18:19,21,22;19:11,12; 35:1;36:2,5,8,25 Item (8) 3:7,23;4:24; 18:4,8;41:11;42:13,21 items (2) 12:16;14:8</p>	<p>KAET (1) 6:2 keep (2) 6:8;38:16 kick (2) 18:18;21:15 Kimble (29) 3:19,20; 4:9,10,19,20;12:6,7,9, 14;14:1;32:6;40:13,14, 15,16,21,22,25;41:5,7, 20;42:9,10;43:3,3,5,11, 12 kind (8) 8:12;22:2; 27:21;28:15;29:3;31:2; 34:8,14 kinds (1) 30:22 KJZZ (1) 6:3 knows (2) 17:20;36:2 Kwok (1) 16:4 Kyrsten (1) 30:6</p>	<p>macrolevel (1) 19:3 mail (43) 16:10,22; 19:13,25;20:1,17;22:8, 13;23:4,12,12,13;24:9, 16,17,25;25:6;28:8,19; 29:16,17;32:10,19,25; 33:1,2,2,6,7,9,18,24; 34:23;36:5,18,19;37:2; 38:22,24;40:25;41:4,5; 42:17 mailed (3) 16:10;22:25; 37:18 mail-in (2) 37:10,17 mailing (7) 20:16;34:3, 21;35:1,5,7;37:15 majority (1) 33:4 making (1) 10:9 manner (1) 31:21 many (7) 11:4,5;17:10; 30:12;38:15;39:5,22 map (1) 26:4 Maricopa (6) 16:6,14; 17:6,13;33:20;38:14 mark (1) 25:2 materials (1) 31:9 math (2) 28:15,16 may (8) 9:1;14:12,13; 17:23;18:15;20:19; 32:16;38:13 maybe (7) 14:18,18; 19:22,22;28:13;30:25; 33:24 mayor (1) 30:21 McSally (1) 37:8 mean (24) 6:25;8:24; 9:17;10:3,13,20;11:14; 13:11,20;15:11,24; 18:20;19:4;20:22;30:4, 7,8;31:5,7;32:14,17; 33:16;34:6;35:25 means (1) 38:25 measures (3) 22:10; 24:11;38:21 mechanism (1) 20:14 media (9) 15:21;25:25; 27:3;30:15,15,23;31:2;</p>	<p>might (7) 10:15;14:17; 16:9;19:11,12;30:13, 23 Mike (1) 8:2 million (1) 34:22 mind (3) 10:19;18:18; 21:20 minutes (3) 3:24;4:6,23 missing (1) 30:13 misunderstood (1) 28:13 mixed (1) 32:14 model (2) 17:7,13 monitoring (1) 7:7 month (1) 43:16 months (1) 9:13 more (10) 12:23;13:22; 16:10;18:17;19:19; 22:19;32:8;36:3;38:1,7 morning (1) 3:8 most (4) 15:17;19:8; 26:10;36:11 motion (3) 41:22;42:21, 22 motioned (1) 43:1 move (4) 4:5;7:20; 41:23;42:23 much (9) 10:18;11:1; 17:20;24:7;29:5;30:5; 31:23,23;37:15 multiple (1) 30:8 must (4) 11:10;21:8; 23:18,20</p>	<p>observation (2) 32:8,9 Obviously (12) 5:19; 7:24;8:1,19;9:17; 13:17;14:12;18:20,25; 20:15;30:18;31:10 occasionally (1) 7:1 occurred (1) 16:25 occurring (2) 22:16; 27:11 October (6) 5:22;28:15; 29:7,7,9;41:1 off (9) 18:18;25:11; 29:17;37:11,19;38:11, 15,19;39:7 office (13) 6:18;15:15; 19:10,24;21:1;22:12, 17,21;27:15;32:24; 33:1,13;34:18 officially (1) 20:24 officials (11) 22:12,21; 27:12;28:7;30:4,13,14, 15;31:17;34:9;39:9 off-line (1) 28:6 once (1) 30:16 one (18) 5:23;6:19;7:9; 9:8;12:15,20;13:14,23; 16:14,17;20:10;26:6; 29:22;35:8;37:6,24; 39:8;40:16 ones (1) 38:18 ongoing (1) 18:25 only (3) 13:16;17:4; 39:16 open (1) 10:15 operation (1) 22:18 operations (2) 9:9;</p>
<p>N</p>	<p>L land (1) 23:24 last (8) 9:12;16:5;19:5; 21:4;31:8;32:19;35:18, 19 late (1) 7:17 later (7) 16:17;24:19; 27:17;28:12,14,19; 41:1 law (3) 24:22;29:10; 38:6 lawsuit (2) 20:19,23 lay (1) 23:24 layer (1) 24:14 learned (1) 31:2 least (5) 19:18;20:18; 31:16;37:9;41:17 Legacy (2) 7:10,11 legal (1) 13:6 letter (1) 19:8 level (2) 21:23;27:12 light (1) 15:14 line (1) 8:22 lines (2) 15:11,18 list (3) 24:5;26:19; 41:15 litigation (1) 21:3 little (6) 18:9,12;21:2, 15;24:21;32:14 live (1) 20:14 local (3) 6:11;30:4;36:8 located (1) 25:19</p>	<p>named (1) 16:4 nationally (1) 36:7</p>		

<p>22:18 opportunity (1) 5:11 opposed (1) 17:7 opposite (1) 36:17 optimize (1) 9:20 options (2) 23:14;25:9 order (4) 3:6,7,10;9:11 otherwise (1) 8:6 ought (1) 13:12 out (15) 5:15,22;7:6; 11:11;12:2;14:22;22:6, 24;23:10;26:24;30:1,9; 33:3;34:22;39:1 outreach (2) 5:8;17:17 over (16) 9:12,25;19:5; 20:3,8;21:3,4,15,17; 22:13;27:13;31:3,7; 34:22;36:4;38:4 overall (3) 16:17,22; 35:13 overview (2) 21:14; 23:25</p>	<p>percentage (4) 26:18; 37:16,18,19 perhaps (2) 17:10; 37:14 period (3) 21:8,10; 36:18 periods (1) 39:3 permanent (1) 26:19 person (2) 29:18;36:1 Phoenix (5) 5:9;6:2; 15:21;33:19,25 phone (1) 8:2 pieces (1) 34:22 Pima (1) 26:25 pitfalls (1) 16:24 place (11) 9:7;10:15; 17:11;22:10,11,22; 24:11;26:22;27:6,14; 38:21 places (2) 9:13;17:8 plan (2) 23:22;24:2 plans (1) 23:8 plant (1) 34:1 play (1) 18:14 please (5) 3:12;8:1,6; 29:17;41:19 pleased (2) 6:6,15 Plus (1) 39:2 pm (3) 21:8;23:19,21 point (2) 35:12;40:17 polling (2) 17:7,11 polls (1) 15:18 popular (1) 26:10 portion (1) 35:21 position (1) 9:20 positive (1) 17:14 possible (12) 3:24; 4:24;18:4;24:16;29:3, 12;32:13;34:12,16; 36:25;40:2;41:12 Post (10) 19:10;22:12, 17,21;27:14;32:24; 33:1,13;34:17;39:2 postage (2) 23:6;33:5 postage-paid (1) 23:3 Postal (13) 19:1,6,12, 12,19;22:5;25:5,9,24; 33:22;34:17,21;37:1 posted (1) 26:15 Postmarks (1) 23:19 Postmaster (1) 19:14 potential (1) 16:24 potentially (1) 16:23 preferred (1) 37:15 prepaid (1) 33:5 prepared (1) 35:4 preparing (1) 21:18 presence (1) 3:12 presentation (1) 18:16 press (1) 16:16 presume (1) 10:17 Primary (15) 5:19;14:3, 5,15;15:4,4,22;16:25;</p>	<p>24:1;26:11,12;27:10; 33:20;35:1;37:17 prior (5) 12:24;13:1; 14:16;15:2;16:11 probably (3) 17:8;19:4; 40:8 proceedings (1) 43:17 process (19) 6:12; 13:18;16:7,10;17:19; 18:24,24;19:7,13;22:4; 24:3;27:4;36:1,37:3; 38:23;39:1,13,14;40:1 processed (2) 33:8; 40:8 processes (2) 26:3; 39:15 processing (3) 33:25; 38:7;39:19 promoting (2) 12:2,3 proposed (1) 12:23 provide (1) 21:23 providing (2) 9:15;22:3 provisional (2) 39:4,6 public (5) 27:1;38:1; 42:13,15,20 purpose (2) 8:22;18:8 purposes (1) 36:13 put (9) 10:24;11:11; 19:19;20:3,22;21:1; 23:5;32:18;36:24 putting (5) 9:15;19:9; 31:14,15,15</p>	<p>recommended (4) 7:16; 23:12;29:16;34:10 recommending (2) 19:25;24:18 record (3) 3:13;14:15; 15:1 Recorder (2) 26:25; 33:20 recorders (2) 30:20; 31:11 Recorder's (1) 38:14 regard (1) 15:15 Regarding (1) 29:25 regardless (1) 23:17 regards (8) 22:20; 23:23;37:22,25;38:5, 10;39:20;40:5 registered (1) 39:17 registration (2) 11:5; 30:11 Regulatory (1) 7:15 relate (1) 16:24 related (7) 7:25;8:15, 19,19,20;12:16;36:5 relations (2) 27:2;38:1 relationship (1) 27:14 relationships (1) 31:13 remainder (1) 41:17 remember (2) 19:22; 25:14 reply (1) 33:6 report (12) 4:25;5:5; 7:16;8:1,7,12,15;12:1, 21,24,24;13:12 reporters (2) 39:10,11 reports (1) 19:6 reps (1) 35:4 Republic (2) 6:2;16:3 request (9) 24:4,20,23; 25:7;27:16;28:11,18; 29:1,13 requests (1) 27:5 require (1) 23:6 resolution (1) 7:8 resolved (1) 6:21 respect (4) 6:9;16:7; 21:18;24:13 response (3) 18:2; 41:10;42:19 rest (2) 7:4;43:15 results (4) 16:13;34:13; 39:12;40:2 return (20) 19:25;20:1; 21:12;23:3,11,13,14, 17;24:5,20;25:7,10,10, 20,22;33:5;36:5,19; 39:5;41:3 returned (1) 21:5 returning (3) 24:16; 28:8;41:4 Review (1) 7:15 right (10) 3:3;5:21; 17:6;23:24,25;26:13;</p>	<p>27:11;40:18;41:2,5 ROBERTS (14) 14:19, 22,25;15:9,12;17:3; 21:25;28:21;32:23; 37:21;40:20,23;41:3,6 Rodriguez (1) 27:1 role (1) 18:14 roll (3) 4:14;42:4;43:6 ROMNEY (2) 20:23,25 roundtrip (1) 24:18</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">P</p>				
<p>packet (1) 23:2 packets (1) 26:1 padding (1) 33:12 page (3) 26:10,10,12 paid (1) 25:25 pandemic (1) 31:3 part (7) 10:2;13:1,5; 18:23,23;25:13;37:12 partially (2) 6:22,22 particular (1) 20:7 partners (2) 22:21; 34:25 partnership (2) 22:11; 31:10 pass (1) 42:12 past (8) 14:6,16;20:3,8, 11;29:15;36:4;38:10 PATON (51) 3:3,4,17, 19,21,22;4:4,7,13,17, 19,21,22;8:9;9:2; 11:20;12:8;14:2,3,19; 15:10,13,20;17:15,16, 25;18:3;21:22;28:2,22, 22;29:24;32:3;40:12, 15;41:9,11,22,25;42:3, 7,9,11,12,20,25;43:5,9, 11,13,14 Paula (2) 8:3;41:13 PBS (3) 5:9,9;6:2 pending (1) 13:8 people (17) 10:14;11:4, 5;15:22;17:19;26:5,13; 28:17,18;29:11;30:11, 14,22;32:10;34:11; 35:25;40:1 percent (9) 14:17;15:3, 3;22:8;26:20;27:8,9; 32:21;37:16</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Q</p>	<p>quick (2) 6:19;28:4 quickly (1) 7:5 quite (1) 5:6 quorum (1) 41:17</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">R</p>		
		<p>race (4) 16:14;37:7,23; 39:21 rather (1) 28:8 reach (1) 26:1 readily (1) 38:17 real (1) 6:19 really (14) 5:10,14,15; 6:6,14,15;7:5;12:3,4; 14:7;15:19;25:13;30:9; 34:6 reasonable (2) 13:11, 23 reasons (1) 38:25 recall (1) 16:9 receive (1) 15:15 received (4) 20:24; 21:8;23:18;29:18 recent (1) 14:16 recommend (2) 28:7,18 recommendation (2) 20:16;28:10</p>	<p>reporters (2) 39:10,11 reports (1) 19:6 reps (1) 35:4 Republic (2) 6:2;16:3 request (9) 24:4,20,23; 25:7;27:16;28:11,18; 29:1,13 requests (1) 27:5 require (1) 23:6 resolution (1) 7:8 resolved (1) 6:21 respect (4) 6:9;16:7; 21:18;24:13 response (3) 18:2; 41:10;42:19 rest (2) 7:4;43:15 results (4) 16:13;34:13; 39:12;40:2 return (20) 19:25;20:1; 21:12;23:3,11,13,14, 17;24:5,20;25:7,10,10, 20,22;33:5;36:5,19; 39:5;41:3 returned (1) 21:5 returning (3) 24:16; 28:8;41:4 Review (1) 7:15 right (10) 3:3;5:21; 17:6;23:24,25;26:13;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>safe (1) 38:25 safeguarding (1) 38:22 safely (1) 33:15 safest (2) 34:5,18 safety (1) 27:18 same (1) 11:10 saw (1) 27:9 saying (3) 29:2,13; 37:14 school (1) 10:25 second (8) 4:8,11,13; 12:11;26:10;42:2;43:2, 4 seconds (2) 42:4;43:6 Secretary (3) 13:1; 19:24;30:18 section (1) 8:16 secure (3) 24:9;25:18; 38:25 security (5) 22:10;24:6, 11;27:18;38:21 seeing (1) 26:8 seemed (1) 19:7 Senate (4) 5:25;19:15; 37:23;39:21 Senator (2) 37:7,8 senators (1) 30:22 send (5) 22:6;32:13; 33:3,20;42:16 sending (1) 34:22 sense (3) 21:17;36:20, 22 sent (1) 34:1 Service (6) 19:1,6,12, 12;22:5;37:1 services (1) 9:15 session (2) 7:17;12:12 set (1) 25:6 seven (12) 13:18;20:2, 5,6;28:8;32:11,19; 33:11;34:5,16;40:17, 23 seven-day (2) 29:16; 32:16 several (3) 20:4,8;31:8 share (1) 35:8 shoot (1) 8:6 show (1) 5:9 sign (1) 24:4 signature (1) 39:3</p>

<p>significant (2) 16:7; 22:19 similar (1) 11:23 simply (1) 35:22 Sinema (2) 30:6;37:8 situations (1) 6:21 six (4) 20:2,5,5;28:8 social (6) 6:17;30:14, 15,23;31:2;36:24 somewhere (1) 14:17 soon (10) 7:9;24:16; 25:7,8;29:3,11;32:13; 34:11,15;40:2 sorry (2) 28:11;30:1 sort (7) 13:3;18:18; 19:2,18;21:14,21; 36:16 Southern (1) 6:3 speak (2) 10:17;11:15 specific (5) 21:16; 26:12;27:23;29:8; 35:12 specifically (7) 8:12; 16:5;18:22,23;21:13; 26:25;31:9 spoken (1) 35:3 sponsoring (1) 6:1 sport (1) 20:22 spot (1) 21:2 staff (8) 7:15,25;8:13, 16;9:16,18,21;12:2 staff's (1) 11:8 stamp (1) 23:5 standard (1) 21:9 standpoint (1) 38:1 start (6) 22:3,23;34:24; 35:16;38:7,8 starts (1) 23:10 state (9) 3:12;13:2; 20:8;30:4,19;34:3; 35:14,16;36:8 stated (1) 14:25 states (5) 19:8,9,10; 22:20;24:12 State's (1) 19:24 statewide (1) 34:4 station (2) 5:9;6:3 statue (1) 39:22 statutory (3) 28:24,25; 29:9 steps (2) 12:23;32:1 still (9) 5:15;6:17;11:1; 28:23,24,24,25;38:19; 40:8 strain (1) 9:16 streamlining (1) 17:18 struggled (1) 39:9 stuck (1) 30:9 study (2) 7:17;12:12 stuff (2) 30:7;36:7 subject (1) 13:7 subjects (1) 36:6 submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p>submitted (1) 7:17 sufficient (1) 33:12 summer (1) 9:4 supervisor (1) 10:9 supremely (1) 10:5 Sure (15) 9:2,14,19; 10:10;14:24;15:12; 21:7,22;28:21;31:16, 20,24,25;37:1;39:15 switching (1) 17:13 system (11) 22:9; 24:17;25:5,9,24;26:22; 27:6,13;33:22;34:7,17</p>	<p>tried (2) 9:19,19 triggered (2) 9:22;36:7 trumpet (1) 15:21 try (1) 9:17 trying (4) 28:15;35:20; 38:23;40:6 Tuesday (3) 7:18,19,19 turn (1) 25:2 turned (1) 17:12 turnout (9) 5:19;14:6, 15,16;15:1,1,3,5;16:2 tweeting (1) 30:11 Twitter (2) 10:21;36:24 two (12) 6:24;12:15,16; 18:19,21;22:13;23:8; 27:13;32:25;33:21; 34:22;36:4 twofold (1) 18:9</p>	<p>23;25:1,1,10;27:20; 30:11;34:21;35:7; 36:25;39:16 voters (29) 5:16;16:20; 17:9;19:25;21:18;22:8, 25;23:3,9;24:10;25:3, 8,19,21;26:2,9,18;27:3, 8,12,19;28:25;31:20; 36:11;37:2,11;38:2,24; 40:5 voting (23) 6:12;14:7; 15:16,23;16:8,20,22; 18:23;23:9;24:5,8; 25:1,11,14,16;26:7,19; 27:9;31:18;34:25;37:2, 13,17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>10:27 (1) 43:18 100 (1) 32:20 11 (2) 24:22;28:25 15 (5) 16:19;24:18,19; 28:12,19 15-day (1) 25:2 19th (2) 28:14;29:7</p>
<p>sort (7) 13:3;18:18; 19:2,18;21:14,21; 36:16 Southern (1) 6:3 speak (2) 10:17;11:15 specific (5) 21:16; 26:12;27:23;29:8; 35:12 specifically (7) 8:12; 16:5;18:22,23;21:13; 26:25;31:9 spoken (1) 35:3 sponsoring (1) 6:1 sport (1) 20:22 spot (1) 21:2 staff (8) 7:15,25;8:13, 16;9:16,18,21;12:2 staff's (1) 11:8 stamp (1) 23:5 standard (1) 21:9 standpoint (1) 38:1 start (6) 22:3,23;34:24; 35:16;38:7,8 starts (1) 23:10 state (9) 3:12;13:2; 20:8;30:4,19;34:3; 35:14,16;36:8 stated (1) 14:25 states (5) 19:8,9,10; 22:20;24:12 State's (1) 19:24 statewide (1) 34:4 station (2) 5:9;6:3 statue (1) 39:22 statutory (3) 28:24,25; 29:9 steps (2) 12:23;32:1 still (9) 5:15;6:17;11:1; 28:23,24,24,25;38:19; 40:8 strain (1) 9:16 streamlining (1) 17:18 struggled (1) 39:9 stuck (1) 30:9 study (2) 7:17;12:12 stuff (2) 30:7;36:7 subject (1) 13:7 subjects (1) 36:6 submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>tabulate (1) 37:23 tabulated (2) 39:1;40:9 tabulating (1) 38:8 tabulation (3) 34:13; 39:16,22 tabulations (1) 39:25 tactics (1) 21:16 talk (6) 10:8;18:9,12; 21:15,16;36:10 talked (3) 19:21,21; 28:6 talking (7) 5:16;18:19; 22:23;31:18;35:8; 40:17,18 taping (1) 8:3 technologic (1) 5:13 television (1) 16:1 telling (2) 31:20;32:10 terminology (1) 29:4 terms (2) 9:10;10:3 testified (1) 19:15 testimony (2) 19:16,17 testing (1) 30:9 theoretically (1) 10:14 therefore (1) 18:24 thinking (1) 30:6 THOMAS (1) 41:14 thought (4) 13:10,15, 21;31:1 three (1) 36:4 throughout (1) 25:19 timeliness (1) 25:4 timely (1) 31:21 times (2) 13:19;30:8 today (1) 5:3 together (3) 6:6;10:24; 36:11 Tom (13) 10:13;12:11; 14:9,20,25;18:1,6; 22:1,23;17,24;28:6; 38:6;40:10 took (2) 33:21;37:23 toolkit (2) 10:23,24 top (2) 30:2,7 track (2) 27:19;38:16 transparency (1) 27:18 tremendous (1) 5:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <p>ultimately (1) 20:6 under (1) 12:11 unfolded (1) 19:4 unnecessary (1) 9:16 up (4) 7:1;18:22;24:4; 34:1 update (1) 7:10 updated (1) 6:9 updates (1) 39:12 urgency (2) 24:15;25:4 use (9) 25:9;26:1; 30:16;33:2,6,14;34:5, 20,21 used (3) 16:11;31:9; 39:23 using (11) 20:1;21:17; 24:17;25:5;26:20; 28:23,24;29:4,5,12; 37:3 USPS (4) 23:25;24:17; 34:21;36:7 utilize (2) 25:24;34:6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>wait (2) 32:15;34:10 waiting (1) 7:12 way (3) 6:16;11:10; 34:7 ways (1) 25:22 website (6) 6:9,11;26:2, 9,10,15 week (3) 16:5;19:14; 20:17 weeks (2) 19:5;36:4 weren't (1) 10:14 what's (2) 17:5;23:25 Whereupon (1) 43:17 whole (6) 12:2;13:25, 25;31:3;34:4;36:14 who's (2) 12:21;36:1 wish (1) 42:15 without (1) 9:15 wondered (2) 8:12; 30:16 word (2) 17:6;33:14 work (10) 6:13,14;10:2, 4;11:2,6,25;21:19; 30:5;34:25 worked (3) 9:4,6;10:24 working (5) 5:21;6:7; 9:4;21:13;31:10 works (1) 24:3 world (1) 18:11 worried (1) 11:7 worry (1) 11:6 written (2) 4:6;41:24 wrong (1) 17:11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>20- (1) 14:18 2008 (1) 14:18 2010 (1) 14:18 2018 (2) 15:2;39:21 2020 (1) 3:8 22nd (1) 5:10 23rd (2) 29:7,9 25th (1) 3:25 26 (1) 15:3 27 (4) 3:8;22:7,24; 25:15 27th (1) 41:1</p>
<p>submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>32 (1) 14:17 33.2 (1) 15:3</p>
<p>submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>5-Year (3) 12:21,24,24 5-Year-Review (2) 7:16;13:12</p>
<p>submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>7:00 (3) 21:8;23:19,20 7th (1) 5:22</p>
<p>submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>80 (2) 22:8;27:7 83 (1) 26:20 88 (2) 27:9;37:16</p>
<p>submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>9:30 (1) 3:7</p>
<p>submit (1) 40:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">U</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>