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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Prepared by:
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PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 9:30 a.m. on August 27, 2020, at the State of Arizona, Clean Elections Commission, 1616 West Adams, Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the following Board members:

Mr. Galen D. Paton, Chairperson (telephonic)
Mr. Damien R. Meyer (telephonic)
Ms. Amy B. Chan (telephonic)
Mr. Mark S. Kimble (telephonic)

OTHERS PRESENT:
Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director
Paula Thomas, Executive Officer
Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director, (telephonic)
Mike Becker, Policy Director
Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager
Julian Arndt, Executive Support Specialist, (telephonic)
Avery Oliver, Voter Education Specialist, (telephonic)
Dustin Romney, Assistant Attorney General

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: 9:30:41-09:31:48

CHAIRMAN PATON: 9:31:50-09:32:40

CHAIRMAN PATON: Is there any discussion?

COMMISSIONER CHAN: 9:32:43-09:33:33

MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Chairman, Members.
Thank you all for -- for being here today.
I just wanted to -- you've got the Executive Director's report.  I think you can see we've had quite a lot of activity with -- in voter education.
We've had -- we've had -- Avery has been doing a tremendous amount of outreach.  He was featured on a PBS Horizon -- the news show on Phoenix PBS station on July 22nd.  That was -- that was really a great opportunity for us.
We did -- you know, we have a note about the turnout in the Primary.  Obviously, we're bearing down on the General Election.  We will be -- we're working right now on the Voter Education Guide, which is -- which will be coming out on October 7th.
And we're going to go to Item II: Discussion and possible action on Executive Director's report.

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1 and we are going to be sponsoring -- cosponsoring that with "The Republic" and KAET, which is the Phoenix PBS station, ASU and KJZZ, as well as the Southern Arizona affiliates. So, that's very exciting, and we -- that will be a first time for us. And that's -- and we're really pleased that that's coming together.

7 Alec has been working around the clock, as far as I can tell from my emails, on continuing to keep our website updated with respect to all of the information that we can generate from counties and local jurisdictions for our website, including information about the voting process for each county.

16 And I think that, you know, it's a lot of work. Alec has really been doing a lot of work on that, but we're really also, pleased that we're able to coordinate with the counties the way we have.

18 And so, we're still doing the social distancing in the office, and we've had -- I would say one thing I just want to highlight real quick is, you know, that we did have some issues with check delivery to candidates. Those situations are resolved. Those were partially due to COVID-19 issues, partially due to candidate issues, but we are going to be -- you know, we -- you know, by two years from now, we don't think that that will be an issue. We have had -- I mean, that is a line in there that -- for this purpose.

20 And, then, I think that, you know, the rest of the issues here, I just wanted to really quickly get those.

21 And, then, finally, the GRRC -- the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, staff has submitted in late June, and we had a study session on Tuesday, which went -- I think, which went well. They have their business meeting on Tuesday -- this Tuesday.

22 And, you know, we're hopeful that that will move forward.

22 So, those are the things I wanted to highlight. I don't want to go on too long. I'm, obviously, happy to take questions or, if you have any questions for anyone else on staff related to the
before I got here -- has been focused on getting the work done. And I think that that's just part of -- I mean, we're -- I'm lucky, in terms of being an executive director, to be able work with folks who, I think, are, you know, supremely competent and dedicated. And then -- but -- and, also, I hope we have a culture that allows folks to be able to talk to either their direct supervisor or to me about making sure things are going okay. So, if things aren't -- if things aren't, I don't know.

Mr. Chairman, Tom, I ask -- I mean, I guess, you know, theoretically, I think, if people weren't okay, I guess, an open meeting might not be the place they want to say it, but I just -- you know, I think -- I assume -- I won't presume to speak for the other commissioners, but you know, you all are very much on my mind. I think about you guys all the time. I mean, Clean Elections -- I follow our accounts on Twitter and on Facebook and, you know, you guys have been helpful in -- you know, Avery and Gina -- I know Avery created the toolkit with Gina. They worked hard to put together a toolkit for this high school civics club that I have come into contact with and, you know, -- so, you know, -- I mean, you know, we'll see what the --

I mean, Clean Elections -- I follow our many people approach me just to help with voter registration questions because we've got so many people interested. And I know our work goes on, but I worry about -- I guess, I'm not worried. I'm just concerned and I care about our staff's well being as human beings, and I want you all to know that. And I know the other commissioners must feel the same way. So, I just wanted to put that out there and let you guys know that that's how I'm feeling and just say thank you. Hopefully, you guys know that already.

MR. COLLINS: Well, I think -- I mean, I think I speak for everyone when I say I think we all -- I think we all appreciate that and we know that, but it's always -- it's always good to hear.

COMMISSIONER MEYER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Meyer.

CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes, Commissioner Meyer.

Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER MEYER: Just a couple of comments in the similar vein as to what Commissioner Chan just said. I do want to thank and commend Avery for all of the work he's done, and it's evident here on for all of the work he's done, and it's evident here on the -- -- on the report that Avery and Gina and Alec and the whole staff are out there, you know, promoting voter education, promoting awareness. And it's really, really appreciated during this -- during this time.

So, thank you.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman, this is Commissioner Kimble.

CHAIRMAN PATON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: First of all, let me echo what both of my colleagues said.

Second of all, Tom, under GRRC, were there any questions, or anything, at the study session?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Kimble, I don't want to jinx anything, but we got asked -- there were two questions -- well, one question but related to two items.

I will say this, that the chairperson of GRRC, who is, also, the council for the Department of Administration, has a, I think -- I think, you know, has asked -- she asked one question, which she asked of everyone who's got a 5-Year Report, which is an appropriate question to ask, which is, you know, to get more detail on the steps we proposed in the -- our 5-Year Report -- prior 5-Year Report to deal with some of the issues that we then had -- were then -- as part -- that were an issue with the prior Secretary of State administration.

You know, and it's sort of -- so, we went into some depth about that, not -- not the -- not the part of it that has to do with -- with GRRC, but the -- but just the -- some of the legal issues that we've gone through and that are currently subject to the Arizona Advocacy Network case that is pending at the Arizona Court of Appeals.

I thought that was a very appropriate and reasonable question. I think -- I mean, anybody who goes into a 5-Year-Review Report ought to be able to explain why they, you know, didn't do a thing that they had indicated they were going to do. And on that one, we had, I thought, an appropriate answer. And so, that was the only question that we got.

You know, we'll see -- you know, obviously, this is a process that all five of you and all seven of them have been through now for a couple of times. And so, you know, I mean, you know, we'll see what the -- what the next meeting brings, but I thought that -- you know, I think that the question we got was -- was more than reasonable and one we should have an explanation for and we do. So, you know, I felt comfortable about -- about that whole -- the whole exchange.
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Chairman, there was -- there was -- there was some voting?

MR. COLLINS: There was -- I mean, too long lines, or whatever?

CHAIRMAN PATON: Were there any issues? I mean, too long lines, or whatever?

MS. ROBERTS: Sure. Chairman -- Chairman Paton, Commissioners, from my understanding, there were not any issues that came to light. We did -- our office did receive a lot of inquiries with regard to finding their voting location. So, I think those were the most busy of the inquiries that we filled in, but as far as long lines or difficulties at the polls, we really did not hear of any issues.

CHAIRMAN PATON: That's great. And did they trumpet that in the media in Phoenix or the fact that we had high Primary Election counts or people voting?

MR. COLLINS: There was -- I mean, Chairman, there was -- there was -- there was some
Mail returns by voters.

1. Postal Service.

2. So, you know, just to sort of, look at this on a -- on a macrolevel, you know, as you all probably know, the -- I mean, and this has all unfolded over the course of the last few weeks. There were a number of reports about changes in the Postal Service delivery process and, then, that seemed to culminate with a letter to most states, you know, basically, putting those states on notice or imploring those states to understand how the Post Office delivers and the vote-by-mail issues might -- you know, how the Postal Service issues or Postal Service changes might impact the mail balloting process.

14. This week the Postmaster General was in -- testified in the House and the Senate. The -- you know, the -- you know, the testimony, I think -- if nothing else, what the testimony, I think, you know, sort of, helped to do, I hope, is to do -- is to at least put the postal changes in some context more broadly.

20. We -- in Arizona, the big change, which I think we even talked about -- I think we actually even talked about it in June, maybe, but maybe not. I can't remember, but the big change is when the counties and the Commission and the Secretary of State's Office are recommending that voters return their mail ballots by

1 if they are using mail to return their ballots. That will go from six days to seven days.

3 To put that in some context, over the past several election cycles, we've gone from five days to six or seven days. Then, we had a consensus that six days and, then, we ultimately went to seven days. So, that particular change is consistent with what we've experienced over the past several cycles as a state.

9 And then -- and, then, I think the other issue -- and this is one, Mr. Chairman, that you've highlighted in the past -- is that folks do -- when they've decided their vote, you know, we would encourage folks to get their ballot back to the -- to the counties they live in through whatever mechanism they want to, but obviously, conscious of the recommendation that if you were mailing back a ballot via mail, you're going to want to do that a week before the -- before election day because, at least as of now -- and I think there may have been another lawsuit filed about this yesterday, I think.

21 Did you guys -- was it Navajo? I don't mean to put you on the sport.

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 AG's office is here. I was just -- I put him on the spot a little bit.

3 There's been some litigation over the course of the last year over the question of what ballots will be -- when ballots that are returned count. As of now and, you know, until this will change -- and I'm not sure I see how it will -- ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on election day, period.

9 We don't have any other standard. There's not a -- there's not a -- there's not a grace period. And so, because of that, you know -- and if anyone has any concerns about return of ballots, you know, we are -- we are working to address that specifically.

14 So, that's, sort of, the overview. I did want to kick it over to Gina to talk a little bit -- to talk about some of the specific tactics that we're using and her over -- and her sense of what the -- what the counties are doing with respect to preparing voters for this eventuality as we work with them.
Tom, thank you.

Yeah, I think I'd like to just, kind of, start by providing some background information about the election process, in general, and how the Postal Service interacts with that.

So, in Arizona, our counties -- we send out ballots 27 days before the election. And in Arizona, about 80 percent of our voters already vote by mail.

So, this is a system that is well established. We have the infrastructure in place, the security measures in place, and we have great partnership between the election officials and between the Post Office. And we've had ballot by mail for over two decades in Arizona.

So, I understand a lot of the concerns that are happening or the discussion that has been occurring with the Post Office and their funding and their operations -- central operation changes. You know, all that could have more of a significant impact on other states. In regards to Arizona, you know, election officials and our partners at the Post Office, we, also -- we're at a very good place.

So, I wanted to start by talking about, again, those ballots go out 27 days before the election, and they are mailed first-class to voters and voters can, also, return their ballot in those drop boxes. Located throughout the county, as well. And, then, in addition to that, our counties have invested in secure ballot drop-off bins that are non-forwardable. So, they're going directly to the voter. And in that ballot packet comes a postage-paid return envelope. The voters can vote their ballot, and if they want to mail it back, they can do that and they do not have to put a stamp on it. It does not require postage from them.

And we have always had, in our education plans, voter education about those two dates and deadlines, so informing voters when early voting starts, when the ballots go out, but also, educating them on how to return that ballot and, if you want to do it by mail, what the recommended date is to mail it back or, if you don't want to return it by mail, here are the other options on how to return that ballot.

So, that's something we've always included in our voter education and -- especially with that note that Tom made about regardlessof how you return it, the hard deadline is it must be received by the county by 7:00 p.m. election day. Postmarks do not count in Arizona. It must be in hand by the counties by 7:00 p.m. on election day. So, then, our voter education plan has always covered that.

And, then, with regards to what the -- the lay of the land right now, as Tom mentioned and gave an overview of what's happening with USPS, right now we -- in the Primary Election and the General Election, our voter education plan included campaigns about how the ballot-by-mail process works, so how to request your ballot, how to sign up for the early voting list and, again, how to return that ballot, but it, also, included a campaign about the security of ballot-by-mail because that's been much of the discussion, as well, this year, our -- is voting by mail secure.

And we have a campaign explaining to voters all of the security measures that are in place by the states with their ballot-by-mail.

With respect to this new issue to the General Election, we are adding another layer to this campaign where we're now focusing about the urgency of returning that ballot by mail as soon as possible if you're going to be using the mail system. So, USPS is recommending 15 days for a roundtrip of a ballot. So, no later than 15 days before the election should the voter make the request for the ballot and return it.

So, with that said, there's a little bit of discrepancy in Arizona because our law allows 11 days before the election for a voter to make their request for their ballot, but if you were to take that time frame into amount and the time it takes to mail the ballot to the voter and, then, that voter voting and turn it around, it doesn't meet that 15-day mark.

So, we are educating voters about, you know, the timeliness and urgency of if they're going to be using the postal system, then don't delay. If you're not already set to get a ballot by mail, make your request now, vote it as soon as you can, return it as soon as you can. And, importantly, voters do have options. You do not have to use the postal system to return your ballot. In Arizona, a voter can return their ballot by dropping it off at any voting location in their county.

So, that's a really important part to remember because we have early voting locations that begin 27 days before the election and, then, of course, there's all of the voting locations on election day, as well. And, then, in addition to that, our counties have invested in secure ballot drop-off bins that are located throughout the county, as well. And so, voters can, also, return their ballot in those drop boxes.

So, we educate voters about all of the different ways that they can return their ballot if they're not comfortable or they don't have the time to utilize the postal system.

With that, you know, we have our paid media...
COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, this is those.

So, we're seeing a lot of engagement, in fact, on our website where voters -- our ballot-by-mail page was the second most popular page on our website in the Primary Election. The first was, of course, our Primary Election page with the specific election details. And, of course, right now, too, people are engaging with that ballot-by-mail content that we have posted on our website.

And I think, as far as what our counties are doing, you know, Yavapai County is a great example because they have the highest percentage of voters who are on the permanent early voting list in their county. They're, I believe, 83 percent, and they've been using ballot drop boxes for years. And so, they have the system well established, well in place, as do all our counties.

And I would, actually, like to call out specifically the Pima County Recorder, F. Ann Rodriguez. She's been doing a lot of public relations efforts. She's been doing interviews with the media explaining to voters, you know, Arizona doesn't have -- we've got this process well established and so, even if there is an increase in requests for early ballots, our system that we have in place can handle that increased capacity because again, 80 percent of our voters are already doing it.

We saw 88 percent of the voting in the Primary Election was done by early ballot. So, the communication that is occurring right now from election officials to voters at the county level is we've been doing this for over two decades. The system is well in place. We have a great relationship with the Post Office and we have the ability and the capacity to handle the early ballots and your early ballot request. And, then, also, comes to that later the safety and security of it, the transparency of it, how voters can track their early ballot. All of that is communicated in our voter education efforts.

So, that's kind of, you know, a bit of information about where we're at. And if there's specific questions or concerns, I'm happy to address those.

COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, this is days before the election to request their early ballot.

What we're -- what we're actually doing is we're saying don't delay; make it as soon as possible. That's, kind of, the terminology that we're using. So, we're not so much using -- the terminology that we're using.

What we're actually doing is we're saying don't delay; make it as soon as possible. That's, kind of, the law, but in fact that the election officials are going to recommend the electoral boards to recommend the ballot by-mail return seven days, rather than six days before election day.

When you mentioned the recommendation -- I'm sorry -- was, also, going to be to request the ballot no later than 15 days before the election, I don't know if I misunderstood, but maybe that's going to be the new advice -- is that no later than the 19th of October? I was trying to, kind of, do that math -- well, it's not math. I counted on the calendar, but do you know what that date would be if people -- if we were going to recommend that people request the ballot by mail no later than 15 days before the election, or do you have that information?

MS. ROBERTS: Sure, chairman, Commissioner Paton -- Chairman Paton, Commissioner Chan, Commissioners. So, we are still using -- we're still -- we're still using the statutory deadline because voters still have that statutory deadline of 11
10:09:00-10:10:26 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

10:10:28-10:12:01 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

10:12:03-10:13:35 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

10:13:39-10:14:52 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
people don't -- there's no -- I mean, we don't know basically like having a -- it's like any other
with the dual messaging there is simply, you know, it's through the messaging portion, through the -- you know, it's
know, it does make its way through the system faster than that. So, it's, kind of, like -- the discussion
among the election officials is, you know, just because that's the recommended deadline, don't wait, you know.
We always want people to get their ballots in as soon as possible because it has other impacts, as well, too,
such as the tabulation and the results.
So, that's, kind of, always been the message. If you're going to vote, vote as soon as possible, but as far as that seven days go, then, yes,
we are hearing from the postal system, from the Post Office, that that is the safest date to go by.
And I should -- Mr. Chairman,
Commissioners, I should, also, mention, too, we use the Postal -- we use USPS for the mailing of our Voter Guide. So, we're sending out over two million pieces
of mail that need to be -- that have a deadline of arriving in households before the start of early voting, and we work very closely with our partners. We
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 didn't have any issues with our mailing in the Primary Election.
 And we've been -- we've spoken with our reps, and they are very well prepared to handle our mailing, as well, for the General Election. So, we aren't -- we are not anticipating any delays with the mailing of our Voter Guide, as well. And I don't know if we're talking about that one, but I wanted to share that, too.
 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Meyer, I just want to -- I would just add to that on the specific messaging point, I think that from the questions we get and from our experience overall, if you -- if you -- if you just state the deadline, you know, you get -- we will get questions about when can you start. And if you just -- if you don't state the deadline, you know, then we get questions from -- on the -- what the last -- you know, what the last -- what is the deadline.
 And so, what we're trying to accomplish through the messaging portion, through the -- you know, with the dual messaging there is simply, you know, it's basically like having a -- it's like any other deadline. It's just to say you can always be early so people don't -- there's no -- I mean, we don't know
Postal Service, I just want to make sure that Arizona voters are comfortable, you know, voting by mail and understand that the process that we've been using is effective and going to allow them a vote. I appreciate that.
And, then, one other question I had is because I know that the -- in the Senator race between Senator Sinema and McSally, there was a long delay -- not a long delay, but at least a delay in counting ballots. And a lot of that was because of mail-in voters dropping ballots off on the day of the election. Do we know -- are we -- is part of our messaging, you know, encouraging the voting and, perhaps -- I won't say discouraging but saying that, you know, mailing it in is much preferred? And, also, do you know at what percentage -- I believe 88 percent of the Primary was mail-in voting. Do we know what percentage of that was actually mailed or what percentage was dropped off? I'm just curious what those numbers are, if you know.
MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Meyer, this is Gina. So, with regards to the U.S. Senate race and the time it took to tabulate the ballot, one of the things that we are doing this year in regards to our messaging -- and we've been doing
this more so from a public relations standpoint -- is we want to help inform voters about what their expectations should be about election night, and that's the election is not over on election night. So, with regards to the early ballot, I think Tom mentioned earlier that we have a new law that allows counties even more time to start processing and tabulating those early ballots. They can start doing that earlier this year than they've been able to in past years. And so, that will help, but with regards to those early ballots that are dropped off on election day, you know, those do come in. And I think -- I think I may have seen some numbers in the Maricopa County Recorder's canvas of election for how many were dropped off on election day. Counties do keep track of that. I don't have those numbers readily available, but even aside from the ones that are dropped off on election day, we still have all of those ballots that came in just a few days before, too. And so, because of the security measures that are in place for safeguarding a ballot by mail, they take time to process. And that's what we're trying to communicate to voters is, you know, it's easy to vote by mail. It takes time to process that out before being tabulated. Plus, post election day, there are, also, time periods for curing your signature now and then as well as if you vote a conditional provisional ballot, you have so many days to return it. And then, of course, there's the provisional ballot, dropping them off on election day, as well, too. So, I guess, one of the things that election officials have always struggled with is the reporters from the media who want to call elections or, you know, from the reporters who are constantly looking for those updates and election results, which is great, you know, but the counties -- the process is the process. And, you know, they have to go through all of those processes to make sure and confirm the accuracy of that tabulation and that only a voter who is registered to vote and eligible to vote in that election did, in fact, vote in that election. And so, all of that goes in the processing of those ballots. So, you know, in regards to what happened with the U.S. Senate race in 2018, the counties -- they have so many days by statute to complete the tabulation, and they did it. They used their allotted time. And so, it wasn't -- they didn't exceed or have a delay in tabulations, I guess, I should say. It was -- they followed the process, but we know that people want the results as soon as possible. And, of course, if you can submit your ballot earlier, that does help. It absolutely does help. So, you know, with regards to what voters should expect is we're trying to communicate the election is not done on election night. There will still be probably ballots that need to be processed and tabulated.

**Chairman Paton:** Okay. And do we have --

**Commissioner Chan:** Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman Kimble:** Okay.

**Chairman Paton:** Do we have a motion? Yes.

**Ms. Roberts:** Yes.

**Chairman Kimble:** By mail, right.

**Ms. Roberts:** Yes, to return it. If you're according to my calendar, is that right?

**Chairman Kimble:** Gina -- Gina, one days?

**Ms. Roberts:** Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Kimble, yes. That is correct.

**Chairman Kimble:** Gina. Thank you.

**Commissioner Meyer:** Thank you, Tom and Gina.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other comment?

**Commissioner Kimble:** Okay. Thank you.

**Ms. Roberts:** Thank you.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Meyer:** Thank you, Tom and Gina.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Kimble:** Okay. Thank you.

**Ms. Roberts:** Thank you.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Meyer:** Thank you, Tom and Gina.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Kimble:** Okay. Thank you.

**Ms. Roberts:** Thank you.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Meyer:** Thank you, Tom and Gina.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Kimble:** Okay. Thank you.

**Ms. Roberts:** Thank you.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Meyer:** Thank you, Tom and Gina.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Kimble:** Okay. Thank you.

**Ms. Roberts:** Thank you.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Meyer:** Thank you, Tom and Gina.

**Chairman Paton:** Any other discussion?

**Commissioner Kimble:** Okay. Thank you.

**Ms. Roberts:** Thank you.
10:25:51-10:26:48

1 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Commissioner Meyer, second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer seconds. So, let's do a roll call.
4
5 Commissioner Chan?
6 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
7 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer?
8 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Kimble?
11 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN PATON: And this is Commissioner Paton, and I vote aye, as well. And the dates pass.
14 And our final item, Number VI: Public comment.
15 Does any member of the public wish to make a comment at this time? You can, also, send comments to the Commission by mail or email at ccec@azcleanelections.gov.
16 (No response.)
17
18 CHAIRMAN PATON: No public comment? Then, we go to Item VII: Motion to adjourn.
19 Do I have a motion to adjourn?
20 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we adjourn.
21
22 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Chan has motioned to adjourn.
23 Do we have a second?
24 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Commissioner Kimble, second.
25
26 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Kimble seconds it, and we will have a roll call.
27 Commissioner Chan?
28 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I vote aye.
29
30 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Meyer?
31 COMMISSIONER MEYER: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRMAN PATON: Commissioner Kimble?
34 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Aye.
35
36 CHAIRMAN PATON: And this is Commissioner Paton, and I vote aye, as well.
37 We are adjourned. Have a good rest of the month.
38 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at 10:27 a.m.)
The State of Arizona
Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Public Meeting

Transcript of Proceedings
August 27, 2020

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