



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 2/18/2025

\*= Mandatory, information must be provided

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

**\*Title:**

Election Integrity Commission 2024 Annual Report

**\*Introduction/Background:**

On July 1, 2008, the Board of Supervisors established the Election Integrity Commission for the purpose of providing independent oversight of the county elections process. Ten members are appointed; one for each of the five County Supervisors, one for the County Administrator, and one for each of the four political parties recognized in Pima County. The Commission currently serves as the only Commission of its kind across the State of Arizona.

**\*Discussion:**

As required by their bylaws, the Election Integrity Commission produces an annual report to present to the Board of Supervisors detailing the activities and accomplishments of the EIC. Together with the help of the Communications and Elections department, the EIC has completed the 2024 annual report. The EIC unanimously accepted the annual report at the January 17th Election Integrity Commission meeting.

**\*Conclusion:**

The Election Integrity Commission would like to submit the 2024 annual report to the Board of Supervisors.

**\*Recommendation:**

The Election Integrity Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors accept the 2024 annual report.

**\*Fiscal Impact:**

None.

**\*Board of Supervisor District:**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- All

Department: Elections

Telephone: 724-6830

Contact: Vanessa Figueroa

Telephone: 724-6891

Department Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1/29/25

Deputy County Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1/29/2025

County Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





PIMA COUNTY

# Election Integrity Commission

2024 • Annual Report



# ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

*To provide independent oversight of the Pima County election process and to review and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding election information technology systems as well as technical and procedural matters.*





## I. INTRODUCTION

The Pima County Election Integrity Commission (EIC) was created on July 1, 2008, by Board of Supervisors' direction. The ten voting members are appointed in the following manner: one member appointed by each of the five sitting Supervisors for a total of five; one member appointed by the County Administrator; one member appointed by each political party with party recognition in Pima County for a total of four. In addition to the ten voting members, one non-voting ex officio staff member is appointed by Pima County.

The Election Integrity Commission posts schedules, agendas and minutes for all meetings on its website: <https://www.pima.gov/2801/Election-Integrity-Commission-Agendas-Mi>

The Election Integrity Commission Annual Report is a publication filed at the close of the calendar year. It is intended to keep Commission stakeholders, County executives/officials, and representatives apprised of important activities, election updates and other relevant information for those unable to attend monthly EIC meetings. The Annual Report will be distributed to the Board of Supervisors and Political Party officials via email and posted on the EIC website.

## II. EIC COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners are appointed to a term of two years from the date ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

Name	Office	District/Jurisdiction	Term Expiration
Misty Atkins		1	April 19, 2025
Connie DeLarge		2	May 2, 2026
Ryan Maese		3	July 5, 2025
Cheryl Caswell	Vice Chair	4	January 23, 2025
Barbara Tellman		5	September 30, 2024
Tiana Smith		County Administrator	December 18, 2025
Brian Bickel	Chair	Democratic Party	May 7, 2025
Scott Stewart		Libertarian Party	April 1, 2026
Joel Strabala		Republican Party	September 2, 2026
Matt Smith		Green Party	March 4, 2026
Constance Hargrove		Ex Officio – Elections Department	

Per the EIC Bylaws, officers were elected at the January meeting, resulting in the election of Commissioner Brian Bickel as Chairman. Commissioner Cheryl Caswell was later elected as Vice Chair at the October meeting following the resignation of commission member Thomas Berezny.





### III. 2024 MEETINGS SCHEDULE

All meetings were held in person at one set location during the year. Meetings were scheduled for every third Friday of the month and held at the Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S Country Club Road, on the following dates:

- Friday, January 19, 2024
- Friday, February 23, 2024
- Friday, March 15, 2024 (Canceled)
- Friday, April 19, 2024
- Friday, May 17, 2024
- Friday, June 14, 2024 (Canceled)
- Friday, July 19, 2024
- Friday, August 16, 2024
- Friday, September 20, 2024 (Canceled)
- Friday, October 18, 2024
- Friday, November 15, 2024 (Canceled)
- Friday, December 6, 2024

The Commission established an Ad Hoc Committee in March of 2023 to define the electoral process. The committee included four commission members appointed by Chairman Bickel. The committee met four times in 2023 and held their last meeting in January of 2024. Following the resignation of Commissioner Berezny who was appointed Chairman of the committee, remaining members did not continue to meet. The work of the ad hoc committee remains unfinished. The one meeting for the year was held at the Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S Country Club Road, on the following date:

- Friday, January 5, 2024





## IV. EIC WORK IN 2024

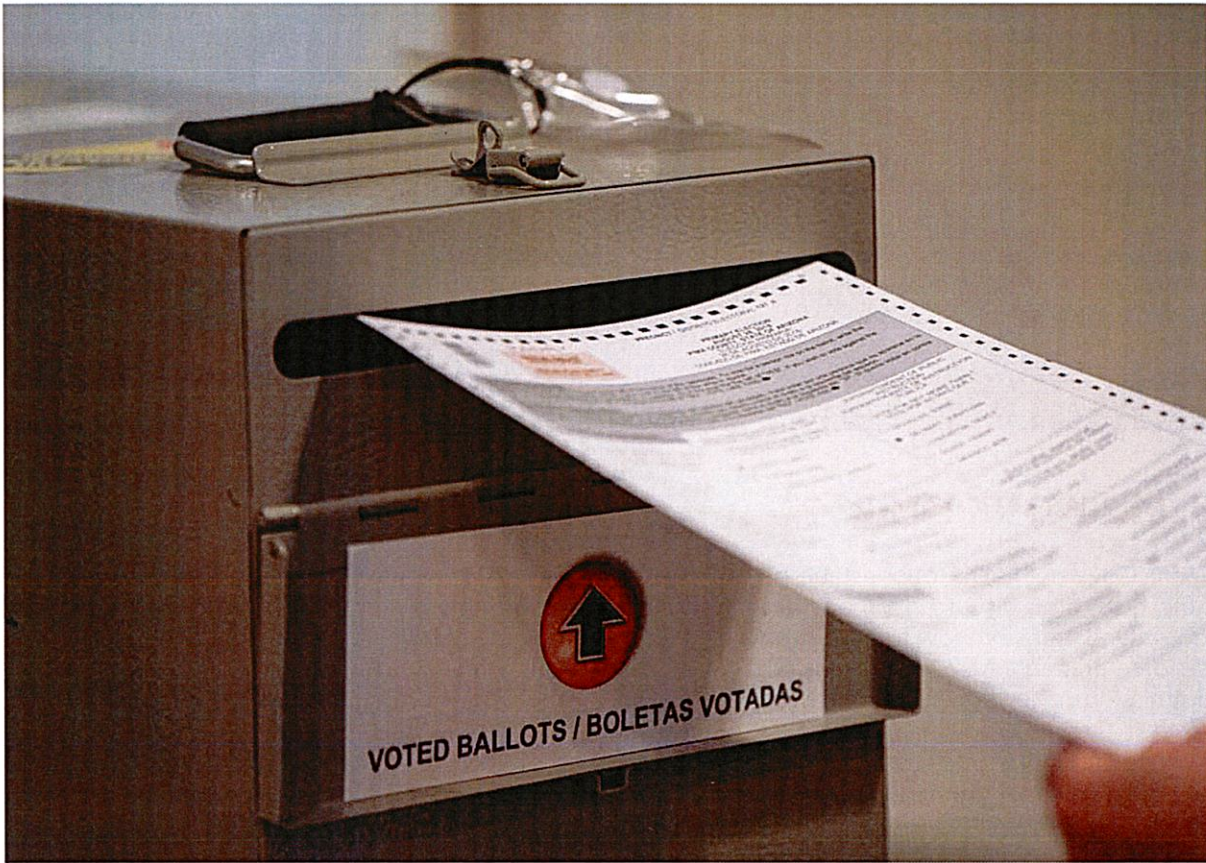
Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs established a Bipartisan Elections Task Force on January 6, 2023. Members of the task force discussed various aspects of the electoral process and were tasked with providing recommendations on how to better serve election officials and improve elections across the State. The task force drafted a final report that contained sixteen election-related proposals. The Election Integrity Commission reviewed two proposals at each monthly meeting throughout 2024 and discussed the impact the proposals would have on current election operations in Pima. Topics covered included the following:

- Poll Worker Communication Platform
- Incentives to Improve Poll Worker Recruitment
- Annual Election Officer Certification Trainings
- Election Fellowship Program
- Comprehensive Website for Voter Information
- Provisional Ballot Form as Voter Registration Form
- Cross-County Voter Registration
- Voting Rights Restoration
- AVID Funding
- Disability Resource Liaison
- Emergency Voting to Final Weekend Voting
- Ballot Return Interference
- Ensuring Timely Recounts
- Reconciliation Best Practices Guidelines
- Election Security Advancements
- Election Worker Code of Conduct

Discussions led to one recommendation to the Board of Supervisors during the year.

On August 16, 2024, the EIC unanimously voted to send a recommendation to the Board in support of the proposal regarding the State's voter registration database. Currently, Pima County is required to interface with the Access Voter Information Database (AVID) for voter registration. Use of the database is funded independently by each participating Arizona county. The task force proposal suggests the database be funded by the State's general fund with no cost incurred by the County. The EIC requested the Board of Supervisors to send a formal statement to Governor Hobbs in support of funding AVID using Arizona State general election funds. The recommendation went before the Board at the September 17, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting. The item was approved 5-0.





## V. TRACKING NEW LEGISLATION

The First Regular Session of the Fifty-Seventh Legislature has begun, and the Commission will monitor the process and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on elections related legislation.

The single most significant issue impacting elections is the number of ballots dropped off at the vote centers on election day. Coming up with a solution that may or may not require legislative action will be a focus of the Commission in 2025.

## VI. 2024 ELECTIONS CONDUCTED BY PIMA COUNTY

There were three elections held in 2024.

- Presidential Preference Election – March 19, 2024
- Primary Election – July 30, 2024
- General Election – November 5, 2024
  - General Election recount for the Pima County sheriff race.

The general election was the first election in Pima County with a multi-card ballot. With thirteen statewide propositions and eleven local propositions, a two-card ballot was created to accommodate all contests. While there were some issues unique to the multiple card process, the overall election was conducted in an efficient, professional and timely manner.



## VII. PUBLIC INPUT

The Election Integrity Commission allows members of the public to address the Commission during monthly meetings. There is a designated "Call to the Public" segment that allows presenters to speak. Presentations are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. By law (ARS 38-431.01H) Commission members may not discuss or take action on matters raised during the call to the public but public participation is encouraged.

### JANUARY 19, 2024

**Speaker** – Provided commentary about communications with the Pima County Recorder's office and using the EIC to request information.

**Speaker** – Provided commentary on the 2023 Elections Procedures Manual and equipment certification.

### FEBRUARY 23, 2024

**Speaker** – Provided commentary on voter registration, voter roll maintenance and early voting.

### JULY 19, 2024

**Speaker** - Provided commentary on voter registration and chain of custody documents from the Pima County Recorder's office.

**Speaker** - Provided commentary on chain of custody documents and violations in 2022.

**Speaker** - Provided commentary on the sample ballot mailing with the incorrect election date.

### AUGUST 16, 2024

**Speaker** - Provided commentary on vulnerabilities in the tabulation and adjudication rooms at the Pima County Elections office.

## VIII. IN SUMMARY

The EIC met over the year to discuss election related procedures and identified the impact current legislation has on processes in Pima County. The Commission maintained communication and participation with the Pima County Elections Department and the Pima County Recorder's office at every meeting to gain understanding and provide feedback to the departments. Elections in Pima County in 2024 saw some significant changes such as the first election in the county with a multi-card ballot. Members of the Commission served as observers in the Elections and Recorder's offices to view and participate in the elections process. The Commission will continue its work in 2025 as we continue to strive for free, safe and fair elections.





**PIMA COUNTY**

**Board of Supervisors**

Adelita S. Grijalva, *Chair*, District 5

Rex Scott, *Vice Chair*, District 1

Dr. Matt Heinz, District 2

Dr. Sylvia M. Lee, District 3

Steve Christy, District 4

**Pima County Administrator**

Jan Leshner