

DATE 4/1/25

ITEM NO. ADD 7

Aliza Barraza

From: Don Hayles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 5:37 AM
To: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB_mail
Subject: April 1 Pima BoS meeting Addendum Item # 7, Elections Operations

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Hello all. Below are our comments on Addendum #7, the Elections Operations Report.. Thanks, Don & Pat Hayles 4-1-2025.

Addendum Item #7: Elections Operations Report.

Supervisor Christy is requesting Discussion/Direction/Action regarding the development and presentation of a two election-cycle operations review and cost/benefit analysis of Pima County's transition from precinct level voting to the countywide vote center model, as recommended by the Pima County Elections Director and Pima County Recorder, and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2022. (District 4).

The 2022 presentation attached to this item was basically a sales pitch for the new hybrid model of mail-in voting and vote centers, doing away with the traditional precinct-level voting model. Glowing recommendations for vote centers were included from the Elections Directors of Yavapai and Cochise Counties which emphasized convenience and cost savings. A Historical Voting Statistics table is included for Pima County which shows that same-day voting has been increasingly eclipsed by early voting (primarily mail-in voting but also on site), which is followed by a list of seven arguments for the Vote Center model. The presentation concludes with a several-page presentation on Tenex Software Solutions, the company with which Pima County contracts to manage the vote centers.

Our Comment: Our confidence in Arizona elections is very low. Proper elections are fundamental to a free country. ***We demand that we return to a one-day, one-ballot precinct-level voting structure for the sake of transparency.*** The key problems (and elephant in the room) that this presentation fails to address are the increasing centralization of the voting infrastructure coupled with increasing reliance on technology vendors and their products. Both of these severely curtail transparency in the voting process, something which is crucial to maintaining voter confidence in fair outcomes. Convenience and cost savings are both nice (although the latter has been debated), but neither of them justify a sacrifice in transparency in our voting system.