



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2026

To: Melissa Manriquez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lester 
County Administrator

Re: **Agenda Item Request for the May 12, 2026 Board of Supervisors Meeting**

Please place an Agenda Item for the May 12, 2026 Board of Supervisors Meeting titled:

Discussion/Action

Elections 2026 Oversight Task Force

Appointment of a member of the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Elections Oversight Task Force in accordance with the Memorandum to the Board of April 27 (attached), which delineates the establishment of an Elections Oversight Task Force.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshor 
County Administrator

Re: **Elections Oversight 2026**

In the fall of 2020, Pima County established an Elections Oversight Task Force in advance of what was anticipated to be a highly contested and controversial election. While the Task Force ceased the limited operations for which it was established, discussions across the country about the integrity of the voting system have continued. For that reason, I am again establishing an Elections Oversight Task Force.

As noted in 2020, Pima County has long had safeguards in place to protect against election fraud. A coordinated plan for regular, robust communications is necessary, however, to ensure residents of Pima County that any occasional error or broader, systematic attempt to tamper with the election system will not be tolerated.

The Task Force is not intended to interfere with the operations of either the County Recorder or Elections Director nor will it diminish the importance of the Election Integrity Commission, which provides independent oversight of the County election process. It is intended to provide a collaborative vehicle to enable immediate, accurate and responsive community. The Task Force will lead a coordinated communications response, answering inquiries about early balloting, early ballot drop offs and Election Day voting.

The goals of the Task Force are to:

- Review and ensure that security plans for early voting, early drop off and Election Day polling take into account the steps necessary to ameliorate or deconflict any attempts to interfere with a free and fair election in Pima County;
- Provide rapid responses for any controversies, protests, voter intimidation attempts and more at early voting sites, early drop off sites, polling places and either the County Recorder's Office or the Election Department;
- Develop a Rapid Response media and social media plan to quickly respond to and/or quash any early-voting or voting-day controversies, rumors, misinformation or disinformation;

- Develop methods to provide the public and all County personnel who may be called upon to respond to inquiries from the public accurate information about voting. This will include, but is not limited to the development of Frequently Asked Questions, information provided on the website and media releases;
- Ensure that representatives of the County Attorney's Office are assembled and ready to act immediately to defend any action that might thwart the legal casting of a ballot.

The Task Force Shall Consist of the following:

- Javier Baca, Information Technology Director
- Sam Brown, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
- Gabriella Cázares Kelly, Pima County Recorder (or designee)
- Carmine DeBonis Jr., Deputy County Administrator
- Sandra Espinoza, Director, Pima County Office of Emergency Management
- Mark Evans, Communications Director
- Constance Hargrove, Elections Director (or designee)
- Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator (Chair)
- Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
- Jan Leshner, County Administrator
- John Stuckey, Security Manager
- A representative of the Board of Supervisors
- A representative of the Elections Integrity Commission

Timeline - Week of:

April 27	Task Force Announced
May 18	Board of Supervisors and EIC identify representatives
May 25	Formation and membership of Task Force released publicly
June 15	First meeting of the Election Oversight Task Force

The Task Force will establish a work plan and deadlines for the completion of key issues for both the Primary and General Elections. The Task Force may also clarify when a Joint Information Center will be activated.

A Joint Information Center (JIC) will be established at or adjacent to Pima County Elections Department no later than Monday July 20 for the Primary Election and Monday November 2 for the General Election. Each JIC will be in place until the election results are finalized. The

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JIC will be led by Pima County Communications personnel. Communications protocols and procedures will be established prior to July 20 and clarified or amended, if necessary, prior to November 2 to provide for coordination with the County Recorder and Pima County Elections Department, recognizing that these Departments may not have staff available to join the JIC. Further details of the composition and operations of the JIC will be recommended by the Task Force.

JKL/je

c: The Honorable, Gabriela Cázares Kelly, Pima County Recorder
Sam Brown, Chief Civil Deputy, Pima County Attorney's Office
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Javier Baca, Director, Information Technology
Sandra Espinoza, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Mark Evans, Director, Communications Office
Constance Hargrove, Director, Elections Department
John Stuckey, Facilities Safety & Security Manager, County Administrator's Office