

Mission of Citizens Oversight for Verifiable Elections, COVE: *To restore public ownership and oversight of elections, as per the Arizona constitution; to protect the "purity of elections", "run by the people". This will ensure the fundamental right of every American citizen to vote, and to have each vote counted as intended in a secure, transparent, impartial, and independently verifiable audited election process.*

Chair of PCBOS Sharon Bronson
130 W. Congress, 11th Floor, Tucson, AZ 85701
Phone: (520) 724-8051 Email: district3@pima.gov

Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez
240 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson AZ 85701
(520) 724-4350 Email: fann@recorder.pima.gov

OPEN LETTER

Brad Nelson, (CERA) Elections Director
6550 S. Country Club Road, Tucson, AZ 85756
Phone: (520) 724-6830 Email: Brad.Nelson@pima.gov

Monday, October 04, 2015

Dear Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair PCBOS, County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez and Election Director Brad Nelson:

We are pleased to announce that we have formed a coalition called "**COVE**" which stands for **C**itizens **O**versight for **V**erifiable **E**lections. At this point in time we have three committee members which are Gini Crawford, Chair of the "*Taxpayers Against Pima Bonds*", John Kromko Chair of "*Tucson Traffic Justice*" and Ignacio Gomez, Chair of the "*No on the Sunnyside Override*". We also expect to have several of the four certified legit non-partisan candidates from Oro Valley's recall joining COVE and naming our observers. We expect our observers to have the same rights and respect that you give the two political party observers. As you know most of the candidates and issues on the ballot are non-partisan.

Our members are invoking their rights as "*a political committee*" and/or "*nonpartisan*" under ARS 16-621 Proceedings at the counting center, "Excerpt from section A". *...and shall be conducted in accordance with the approved instructions and procedures manual provided for in section 16-452 under the observation of representatives of each political party and the public. The proceedings at the counting center may also be observed by up to three additional people representing a candidate for nonpartisan office, or representing a political committee in support of or in opposition to a ballot measure, proposition or question...."*

Here's a link to the history of what happened in that case back in the 2006 RTA Bond Election titled "Elections remain compromised" which cost taxpayers several million dollars in litigation and left the voters wondering if their vote "really counts". The only solution is to have a verifiable election.

We at "COVE" support the Pima County Election Integrity Commission letter to Sharon Branson Chair BOS, dated September 28, 2015, advising minimal hand count audits that they hope to have in the November Election. However, we must point out that this does not resolve the Vote by Mail problem of being unverifiable: video Mickey Duniho, (see problem below).

Your own Pima County Election Integrity Commission has been proposing solutions that "**you've been ignoring for years**". We refer to the April 17, 2015 letter from PCEIC to BOS titled, "Recommendation to Use Ballot Images to Enhance Early Ballot Audit", and the letter dated July 18, 2014, to the BOS "Recommendation for Early Ballot Sorting by Precinct on Early Ballots".

"*There is nothing in state law to preclude the County from doing a voluntary hand count*". Tom Ryan, Chair Pima Co. Election Integrity Commission.

The first Chairman of the Federal Election Assistance Commission, the Rev. DeForest Soaries, appointed by George W. Bush as the first chair of the commission created by the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA), otherwise known as the "Hack America Vote Act", in the wake of the 2000 Presidential Election Debacle, stated in Oct of 2006: "*We know more today about how to build a machine to take pictures of rocks on Mars than we know about how to build a machine to safeguard the American right to vote.*" Read what else Rev. DeForest Soaries has to say.

Today, thanks to the work of election transparency activists, scientists & statisticians, Secretary of State Debra Bowen of California, in 2006 called for: Top to Bottom review on voting system. From citizens on commissions like PCEIC, universities, and their reports generated, we now know that these machines must NOT be trusted. This short video of 8 minutes, gives the best overview, and is right on the money in every respect, when it comes to electronic voting --- be it via touch-screen computers, or paper ballot optical-scan systems.

Ronald Reagan said it best; "*Trust but Verify!*" Conversely, No Verify, means NO TRUST! The Board of Supervisors actions on this matter will show the citizens of Pima County whose side you're on?

On a closing note: Please demonstrate by action that this is not true in Pima County. History teaches us that elections without public accountability are nothing more than vote-counting in the dark, controlled by a county government, in the act of choosing itself and its cronies, while picking our pockets. Our message is simple: "We the People", must have elections that are 100% transparent, that are completely verifiable, with a documented 'chain-of-custody', followed by mandatory election verification! Nothing less!

Government can never be the sole verifier of its own secret elections.

Respectfully yours,

John R Brakey

John R. Brakey of Americans United for Democracy, Integrity, and Transparency, Arizona & Special task force leader for Citizens Oversight for Verifiable Elections.

JohnBrakey@gmail.com 520 578 5678 Cell 520 339 2696

<https://www.facebook.com/john.r.brakey>

Sites: www.RiggedNoMore.com

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AUDITAZ>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AUDIT.AZ>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Santa-Cruz-EIC>

CC

Gini Crawford, Chair of the "*Taxpayers Against Pima Bonds*" Email: GiniCrawford54@gmail.com

John Kromko, Chair of "*Tucson Traffic Justice*", Email: jkromko@dakotacom.net

Ignacio Gomez, Chair of the "*No on the Sunnyside Override*" Committee Email: TheYaquiTrader@live.com