

Dalton Danz

From: K BD [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2026 8:33 PM
To: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB_mail
Subject: Concerns Regarding the Structure and Governance of the Elections Oversight Task Force

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Dear Chair and Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing as a Pima County citizen with serious concerns about the governance structure of the newly announced Elections Oversight Task Force. While I support efforts to ensure election integrity, a body that is credible to all residents must be built on independence, transparency, and balanced representation. The current structure falls short on each of these standards.

Five specific problems require the Board's attention before this task force becomes operational:

1. NO DEFINITION OF "MISINFORMATION"

The task force has no written standard for what qualifies as misinformation, giving county staff unchecked authority to label citizen concerns as false with no evidentiary basis required.

Recommendation: **Require a documented, publicly posted definition before the first meeting.**

2. "QUASH" IS THE WRONG STANDARD

The stated goal of "quashing" controversies is the language of suppression, not public service, and is inconsistent with a government body's obligation to earn public trust.

Recommendation: **Replace with a commitment to respond using documented, verifiable evidence.**

3. THE MEMBERSHIP IS NOT INDEPENDENT

Ten of thirteen members are county employees, with four from the County Administrator's office alone. An oversight body dominated by the office it oversees cannot be considered independent by any governance standard.

Recommendation: **Add representatives from both major parties, a nonpartisan watchdog, and a public member selected through open application, all with full voting rights.**

4. THE CHAIR REPORTS TO THE OFFICIAL WHO CREATED THE TASK FORCE

The Chair is a Deputy County Administrator who answers directly to the official who established, staffed, and controls this body. This is not arm's-length oversight — it's self-supervision.

Recommendation: **The Chair should be the EIC representative or a Board of Supervisors member.**

5. THE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER LACKS INDEPENDENT REVIEW

The JIC will issue real-time public communications during active elections while being run entirely by County Communications staff, with no independent check on what is released.

Recommendation: **Require sign-off from at least one independent, non-county member before any statement addressing a controversy is released.**

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Good governance requires that oversight bodies be accountable to the public, not to the office they are meant to oversee. I strongly encourage the Board to table the appointment scheduled for May 21 and open a public comment period before the June 15 first meeting, so residents have a meaningful voice in how this body is structured.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to elections that every Pima County resident, regardless of party, can trust.

Respectfully,

Karen Barge Dykema,

 May 10, 2026