

From: Daniel Scarpinato
Sent: Mon, 21 Sep 2020 16:15:36 -0700
To: Patrick Ptak
Subject: Fwd: Procedure Questions

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From: **Robyn Stallworth Pouquette** <Robyn.Pouquette@yumacountyaz.gov>
Date: Sun, Sep 20, 2020 at 10:11 PM
Subject: Procedure Questions
To: Daniel Ruiz <druiz@az.gov>

Daniel,

Over the past several weeks, a few different procedures have been discussed and recommended to counties that I am concerned about. As a follow up to our conversation last week and given your experience in election administration in the years you have worked with many of us I would like to request your assistance in navigating these concerns with care and consideration to the voters. The specific procedures I've identified as problematic involve virtual assistance to voters via video-conferencing and/or telephonic assistance for voted ballots and telephonic voter registration.

Virtual assistance to voters via video-conferencing to vote an early ballot under the statutory language involving Special Election Boards has been implemented in Maricopa County and has been included in distributed recommendations from the Secretary of State's Office. As all counties have faced challenges due to the COVID-19, security and integrity remain a priority and I feel strongly that the recommendations diminish security and integrity and I do not feel I'm able to accommodate any such requests for the recommended procedures. The recommendations were provided with guidance from state health officials, however elections administration is complex and various components may not be considered in review from a public health perspective. Could you advise specifically what the process is for inclusions or amendments to the State Elections Procedures Manual for such recommendations?

Recently, counties were advised there would be a hotline established for voters to call the Secretary of State's Office for assistance on matters to include voter registration. County election administrators were advised that such calls would be handled by state staff available to address concerns and questions and in the event a prospective voters was requesting voter registration assistance, if online registration was unavailable to the prospective voter and time

did not permit mailing of a voter registration form to the voter and ample time for it's return, staff would offer to register the voter "telephonically" and return a form to the appropriate county absent a voter signature but with a staff signature as "voter assistant". I challenged such a procedure during our call when this was discussed and it is the State's position that such would be a "last resort" option for a prospective voter and would comply with statutory language requiring the Recorder to enter the registration form as received and held as eligible with the voter being permitted to appear by 7 p.m. on Election Day to maintain eligibility for current election. After reviewing statutory language, I understand the State's response in regard to incomplete voter registration forms, however I am extremely concerned that this procedure is being sampled absent specific authority for another individual to complete a registration form in the absence of the prospective voter via telephonic communication. With the prospective voter not personally present for the "assistance" I take issue with the ease of permitting this type of procedure although the statutory language provides authority for processing incomplete forms.

Again, security and integrity remain my concern and as you understand, county election administrators are conducting elections in an unprecedented time. I want to make every effort to remain vigilant and thoughtful of the public's trust in our offices and hope that you may find the time when available to further discuss these concerns and specifically the process of policy and/or procedure inclusions to the State Elections Procedures Manual.

Thank you for your time Daniel.

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