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NOTES ON ELECTION OBSERVERS

Per the Arizona Elections Procedures Manual, "Such observation (and observation at early voting locations, emergency voting centers, and County Recorder processing procedures, where permitted by the County Recorder or other officer in charge of elections)."

It is the practice of our department to accommodate observers at our ballot processing center as a courtesy. We intend to continue that practice as we have in past elections. We were asked by a member of the Board of Supervisors and subsequently by the Pima County GOP Chair to allow observers at our Early Voting sites. We are not able to accommodate party observers at our Early Voting sites for this election with such short notice. While we are under no obligation to allow observers, we wish to inform you of the reasoning for our policy.

Our priority is the voter and those who utilize our office for regular business. Our Downtown office is conducting nonvoter-related business during Early Voting, which includes document recording. Our office is a busy and thriving office and we cannot accommodate more people to observe the ballot issuing and voting process. In addition to the physical space issue, we do not have additional personnel available to oversee the observers. However, our ballot processing center has a clearly defined observation process as well as additional personnel to accommodate the observers that we welcome each election cycle.

Due to the shortage of election workers, we do not currently have additional personnel available to oversee observers and cannot accommodate these requests at this time. All our experienced staffers are busy ensuring a successful and secure Early Voting process. As stated, our greatest concern is for the voter, and if we do not have the staff who are trained to ensure that voter intimidation does not occur inside our Early Voting sites, we cannot accommodate anyone other than staff inside the 75-foot limit.

Be assured that our Early Voting process includes maintaining party balance at every step as part of our regular internal procedures:

- Members of the opposite party are always present when handling ballot stock, using voting equipment, issuing ballots and transferring ballots to our ballot processing center. No person or group of people of the same party are ever alone with ballots. All our permanent and intermittent staff are extensively trained on these measures and are always supervised by experienced and/or permanent staff.
- Our logging and security procedures for ballots, rooms and equipment are extensive and are part of the public record.

While we are unable to accommodate observers at our Early Voting sites at this time with such short notice due to staffing and space issues, we are happy to work with the public to find ways in which they can be certain that our processes are conducted in a fair and secure manner that may include a scheduled one-time visit or revisiting our policy for future elections contingent on conditions that will allow for it.

In the meantime, our ballot processing center will continue to accommodate observers as outlined in the attached policies.