

## CCEC August 2017 Meeting

All five commissioners were present.

In summary, this was not an exciting or controversial meeting but I think it's very important for LWVAZ have a presence. Further, during an Executive Session, I got to talk with Joel Edman, AzAN, meet the new, third AzAN paid staff person, Morgan Dick, and talk after the status of plans for an automatic voter registration (AVR) initiative in 2018 to include polling on what types of revenue (as such has to be specified in the initiative) are the least objectionable and one of the new funding sources, a national family foundation that I've never heard about.

NOTES: a) Citizens Clean Elections Commission = CCEC; b) Governor's Regulatory Review Commission = GRRC; c) Secretary of State = SOS

### **A. Tom Collins, Executive Director's Report**

CCEC partnered with the ASU undergraduate student government to host a registration drive on the Tempe Campus on National Voter Registration Day supported by the new chatbot which was updated with election related trivia and was quite popular. Also, education materials prepared by the CCEC on National Voter Registration Day were used by Yuma County Recorder and the AZ Center for Disability Law.

CCEC has information on its website about November 7 school district bond, budget override, taxation franchises and candidate elections statewide and the Oct. 10 registration deadline, early voting etc.

At this point, there are 22 Clean Participating Legislative Candidates, 12 statewide Participating Candidates (which is par for this far in advance of the election itself in 2018) and 5 Clean Election Training Workshops have been presented.

### **B. Rule Amendments**

1. The first one, to conduct random audits (vs complete audits) on ALL Clean candidates was adopted after some very minor wording changes for clarification. The rule states that those candidates that win the primary will only be audited after the general election. No comments were received on this rule, which was out for public comment for 60 days (as all proposed rules must be.)
2. There was a long discussion about a proposed revised rule relating to how/when funds are distributed to certified candidates. Most of the proposed revisions related to when how left over funds would be returned, how - if at all - candidates could ask for additional reimbursements if they found documentation once a final report was submitted. A number of revisions were adopted, with a focus on making sure that it was clear to candidates what the rules were and that

it was their responsibility to understand such versus coming in with requests “after the fact.” The proposed revisions were adopted by the Commission for publication for a 60 day comment period.

### **C. Discussion and Possible Action on Four Issues**

1, 2 & 4 Clean Elections Act, GRRC Actions Relating to the Commission and the SOS’s Actions. Collins pointed out that all were related but... The essence of several was that the GRRC has determined several CCEC rules are not valid, while the CCEC has always maintained that as it was created by an Initiative and is protected by the VPA, it is not subject to the GRRC although it has submitted requested reports. In order to try to reduce the endless correspondence etc., Collins said he has worked out a compromise with eh SOS and GRRC in which the CCEC will republish all its rules in eh AZ Administrative Register as “Notices of Proposed Exempt Rule making.” Collins felt that it was important to have the rules republished as the GRRC has stated they have expired but make it clear that they are exempt from the requirements. He felt this was especially true for those that relate to non-participating / traditional candidates that GRRC has said are not subject to CCEC reporting etc. A lot of this is related to changes made by the Legislation in 2016 via SB 1516 that redefined how various non profits/PAC etc. were defined, what they had to file, if anything etc, etc. In keeping with is conciliatory approach, there will also be a 60 day public comment period on this republication.

#### **3. The CCEC/SOS Interagency Agreement (ISA)**

This agreement was to authorize the CCEC to make another progress payment to the SOS for the creation of another version of a financial reporting system, after the first such project fell through. (I have covered this issue in some depth in my prior CCEC reports.) After a terrific demonstration of this new website (see more below), the Commission went into executive session and then approved a \$150,000 payment/transfer to the SOS. Collins also said that he and his staff have been attending meetings with eh SOS staff creating the new website and it has been a “...very positive working relationship...” (editorial note: while other issues between the CCEC and SOS continue to be debated).

The system is titled “See the Money” (currently showing a clock counting down the days, hours, minutes and seconds until the BETA is available). What we were shown is a very comprehensive system, with a very easy search function, with graphics, etc, that will show all money contributed and expended by candidates, campaign, non-profits, PACs in real time, and searchable by the name of the donor or address (so many contributed by different people at the same address can be seen). It looks amazing and appears to be the kind of way to “see the money” that people organizations and the media have been asking for years. Exciting!!

PS: During the meeting I managed to scratch my elbow on the clipboard with the CCEC agenda, on which I realized - after the fact - that I bled all over. It barely hurt so I didn't think to look. Thus, at least I, for one, can now say "I've bled for the LWVAZ!!"