



Riverside County Sheriff's Department
Chad Bianco, Sheriff-Coroner

4095 Lemon Street • Riverside • California • 92501
www.riversidesheriff.org

August 3, 2021

Honorable John M. Monterosso, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside
4050 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: Civil Grand Jury Report titled "Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General Election Administered Fairly and Impartially" Response to Recommendation #13

Dear Presiding Judge Monterosso,

This correspondence is in response to the Grand Jury's request for my official comment to Recommendation #13, which can be found on page 32 of the report.

The Sheriff's Department has always conducted its role in the election process within Riverside County in accordance with County policies and regulations. The Grand Jury's recommendation that the Board of Supervisors create a policy to require pre-election meetings between members of the District Attorney's Office, Registrar of Voters, Sheriff's Department, Information Technology, and the County Public Information Officer is outside of the authority of the Sheriff's Department. As the Sheriff, I do not set Riverside County Board of Supervisors policy and am not in a position to establish the recommended policy requiring said departments to participate in a coordinated meeting related to safe and fair elections. If such a policy is adopted and established by the Board of Supervisors, and such a meeting is scheduled, I will gladly participate at that time.

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chad Bianco".

Chad Bianco, Sheriff

cc: Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey Van Wagenen, Riverside County Executive Officer
Juan Perez, Riverside County Chief Operating Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County Clerk Recorder
Riverside County Civil Grand Jury

2020-2021 Grand Jury Report
Riverside County Sheriff's Department
"Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General
Election Administered Fairly & Impartially?"
August 3, 2021

Introduction

The Sheriff's Department has always conducted its role in the election process within Riverside County in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Sheriff's responses to the Grand Jury's recommendation and suggestions are discussed below.

Grand Jury Recommendation #13:

According to the Grand Jury Report "Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General Election Administered Fairly & Impartially?" dated June 28, 2021, page #33, "The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Riverside Board of Supervisors establish policy that requires the Riverside County Executive Office to schedule and preside over at least one coordinating meeting, per election, among various county departments that have direct or indirect responsibility for ensuring safe and fair elections, commencing prior to the next primary election, and continuing thereafter.

It is suggested the representatives from District Attorney's Office, Registrar of Voters Department, Sheriff's Department, Information Technology Department, and County Public Information Officer attend this meeting, so that logistical and communication issues can be addressed prior to each election held in Riverside County."

Response:

The Grand Jury's recommendation will not be implemented.

The Respondent Riverside County Sheriff's Department does not set Riverside County Board of Supervisors policy and thus is not in a position to establish the recommended policy, requiring particular County Departments to participate in a coordinating meeting related to safe and fair elections. If such a policy is established by the Board of Supervisors, and such a meeting is scheduled, Respondent Riverside County Sheriff's Department will participate.