

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: David Stevens, Recorder
Heather Lopez, Chief Deputy Recorder
Monica Miranda, Finance Director
Juan Frisby, Budget Manager

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

Members of the public may also [attend this meeting](#) via Microsoft Teams computer or mobile app, or via phone by calling 602-609-7513 or 888-680-6714, Conference ID 620 442 53#. If you have trouble accessing this meeting remotely, call 520-432-9200 for direction.

Work Sessions are a time for County staff to inform and discuss agenda items with the Board of Supervisors and public comments will not be taken.

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 specifically: County Recorder's Office.

Recorder Stevens presented this item. Recorder Stevens stated the Recorders Office is getting a reimbursement of \$4,625 for the Presidential Preference Election (PPE), but it's a bit short of what they were expecting, so they might need to follow up. He noted that post-election matters and preparing for upcoming challenges and the primary election. Recorder Stevens stated that there are changes in procedures due to House Bill 2785, which includes extended office hours and increased ballot handling requirements. He noted temporary staff, mainly six people, will be hired to manage this workload, with a focus on utilizing existing poll workers for early voting. Recorder Stevens stated the budget increase accounts for estimated expenses, and any unused funds will be returned.

Recorder Stevens stated that there are 52,894 early voters who receive an early ballot. He stated that despite some complaints about missed opportunities to vote, particularly in the May election, where ballots weren't mailed to active voters, the number of undeliverable ballots has remained relatively low, around 3,000. He expects undeliverable ballots in the upcoming election to be around 4 or 500, but the list maintenance is currently restricted due to federal regulations regarding changes close to the election date.

In response to the Board, Mr. Stevens estimates cost for ballots returned to the post office is roughly a dollar each, covering the expenses of printing, mailing, and return postage. He noted using nonprofit stamps for mailing, which cost around 20 cents each, but there is no discount for return postage. He stated that overall, the county incurs the full cost for ballots that are returned, whether the ballots are undeliverable or successfully received.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board