



Photo courtesy Mohave County

Officials from Secretary of State Ken Bennett's office inspect Mohave County's handicap-accessible voting machines Thursday, July 22, at the Elections Department in the County Administration Building in Kingman. Pictured at the machines (from front) are Assistant State Elections Director, Elections Services Division, Kris Waite, Assistant Secretary of State Jim Drake, Chief Financial Officer Sandy Reilly and Network Administrator Ken Matta.

State tests Mohave County voting equipment

KINGMAN – Officials from the Arizona Secretary of State's Office visited Mohave County Elections Department in Kingman Thursday, July 22, to test voting equipment.

Assistant Secretary of State Jim Drake, Assistant State Elections Director, Election Services Division, Kris Waite, Chief Financial Officer Sandy Reilly and Network Administrator Ken Matta performed detailed testing on the handicap-accessible voting equipment.

"These are early voting machines," Mohave County Elections Director Allen Tempert said prior to the testing. "They will test two out of four early voting, handicap-accessible voting

machines which have all 73 precincts loaded on them."

Tempert has already performed extensive testing on the equipment, "and I know there will be no surprises when they come in. Everything will come out correct."

Tempert had also held his "public logic and accuracy test at nine this morning (July 22). We inform the public about that testing with advertising. We have an advisory board. We do what we can to get people here to witness that testing. In the past, we would at least get someone from the city or a political party to come in and witness the process. This time, nobody came."

Tempert tests more than just the portions of which the state is interested.

“They only check the state and federal offices during their testing,” he said. “I put other units into the mix and test local offices as well.”

The Secretary of State’s Office officials are traversing the state by airplane in their quest to test county election equipment quickly.

“This is our third county test today,” Matta said. “We will test all 15 counties, most of them in four days. The last county we test will be Maricopa.

“Before every election we will take two trips around the state,” he said. “We will take a trip to test the accessible equipment, like we are doing today, before early voting begins. And a week before the election, we will test the optical scanners.”

The state officials completed their testing Thursday afternoon and “the tests passed with flying colors,” Tempert said. “They left with smiles on their faces. But they will be back here in a couple of weeks to test the optical scan equipment and my central counting system, which counts all of the early ballots.”

The Mohave County Elections Department continues to test all equipment prior to and following testing by the state officials, he added.

According to Mohave County Voter Registration Administrative Supervisor Kim Stewart, early voting for the Primary Election will be held in all three cities.

“Early voting will be held from Thursday, July 29, through Friday, Aug. 20, in both Kingman and Lake Havasu City,” she said. “The Kingman site will be here in the Mohave County Administration Building, 700 West Beale Street, in the Cholla Room. Early voting in Lake Havasu City will be held at the Aquatic Center, 100 Park Avenue. Early voting in Bullhead City will be held at the Mohave County Annex Building, 1130 Hancock Road, from Monday, Aug. 9, through Friday, Aug. 20. All early voting sites will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.”