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SCOTT HOEN Carson City Clerk-Recorder Nevada



HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU SERVED IN YOUR CURRENT POSITION? WHAT POSITION DID YOU HOLD BEFORE BEING ELECTED CARSON CITY CLERK-RECORDER?

After 35 years as a title insurance executive, I retired and ran for office in November 2022. I have served since Jan. 2, 2023 as the elected clerk-recorder and public administrator.

IN AN AGE IN WHICH LOCAL ELECTION OFFICES ARE FACING SERIOUS CHALLENGES AND THREATS, WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO SEEK THIS OFFICE IN 2022? WHAT ARE THE GREATEST ELECTION CHALLENGES YOUR JURISDICTION HAS ENCOUNTERED SINCE YOU WERE ELECTED?

I was inspired to seek this office, because the previous clerk-recorder retired, and I have experience with the recorder and elections office. I decided to run, and I heard from voters about issues regarding voter rolls and wanted to make an impact.

As far as challenges go, when you're working in and for government, things just don't happen as quickly as you would like with regard to making change happen.

WHAT ARE YOUR GREATEST CONCERNS ABOUT THE 2024 ELECTION?

I don't have concerns about the June primary, but I'm apprehensive about the November general election with implementing a new <u>Secretary of State top-down voter registration system</u>.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR TRAINING YOUR ELECTION WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS THIS YEAR?

Just as in previous election cycles, we provide about 50 hours of poll worker training depending on the position they are working. We have been successful in the past and anticipate about 130 poll workers during the June and November elections.

WHAT ARE YOU AND YOUR FELLOW ELECTION OFFICIALS DOING TO COUNTER THE SPREAD OF ELECTION MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION, COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH VOTERS, AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC FAITH IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS?

We act as public information officers, attending all Carson City public meetings and community meetings to educate voters about what we are doing with elections. That includes voter roll maintenance, poll worker recruitment, ballot question committee formation, equipment preparation, submitting reports to the Secretary of State – it's a full plate of activity to build confidence in our election and be totally transparent.

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF YOUR ELECTION WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS? WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR ENSURING THAT YOU AND YOUR ELECTION WORKERS ARE PROTECTED?

I really don't, and our Sheriff is great with support. We have had our tabletop exercises on what to do if something were to occur. Carson City runs a safe and secure election!

WHAT RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, GRANT PROGRAMS, ETC. DO YOU RECOMMEND TO HELP PREPARE LOCAL OFFICIALS, ELECTION OFFICIALS, AND GOVERNMENTS FOR HOLDING FREE, FAIR, AND SAFE ELECTIONS?

There are trade groups that everyone should seek out. I recommend the <u>Elections Group</u>, <u>Election Center</u>, and YouTube for meetings on elections. Nevada has weekly calls with the clerk-recorders, and the Secretary of State is a resource for information along with Nevada Revised Statutes – NRS 203.

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS THAT ARE IMPORTANT FOR ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS TO ADDRESS IN THIS UPCOMING ELECTION CYCLE?

We verify and check signatures manually and not by machine. Two eyes and a third if necessary. If matches cannot be made, we take the next step to contact the voter to cure their signature and ensure their vote



counts. The post office is what it is – they do provide us ballots that are either not post marked, post marked after election day, or we receive the ballots past the four-day deadline to receive ballots.

ACROSS THE NATION, ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS ARE FACING HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, ABUSE, AND, IN SOME CASES, DEATH THREATS FOR DOING THEIR JOBS. MANY HAVE LEFT, OR ARE PLANNING TO LEAVE, THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT. HAVE YOU FACED ANY OF THESE ISSUES? WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED TO CONTINUE IN YOUR POSITION?

I have not experienced any of those things. I care about Carson City and want to leave this position better than I found it. The State must recognize the importance of the clerks running elections and compensate them appropriately – the elected officials now make less than their staff, in most cases.

DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF ADVICE AND/OR A CALL TO ACTION FOR OTHER ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND/OR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE THIS YEAR?

Be open and transparent, and communicate with the community often about the election process. Be patient, and explain solutions or answers when issues arise.

