

PRESS RELEASE – Statement on Certification of Petitions for Recall of Mayor Uribe

DOUGLAS, AZ (April 3, 2019) — City Clerk Brenda Aguilar was notified on Monday, April 1, 2019, that the certified petitions regarding the Recall of Mayor Robert Uribe were ready to be picked up at the Cochise County Recorder’s Office. “The certified petition signatures are sufficient for the recall election of Mayor Robert Uribe and will be formally filed on or before the deadline of Friday, April 5, 2019, in compliance with Arizona State Statutes,” reports City Clerk Brenda Aguilar. “Our top priority is to continue to ensure the integrity of elections and to encourage community involvement in the democratic process.”

It was noted by City Clerk Aguilar that the certification of petitions had actually been completed on Friday, March 29, 2019, by the Cochise County Recorder, David W. Stevens, but the City didn’t receive the call until Monday after which the City Clerk went to pick up the official records. Mr. Stevens certified receipt of 61 petitions containing 801 signatures for the Recall of Mayor Robert Uribe. Of the 801 signatures 668 signers were found to be qualified at the time of signing the petitions with 133 signers found not to be qualified signers at the time of signing the petitions. Below is a summary of findings:

- 668 registered
- 44 not registered
- 23 outside of district
- 58 signature differs
- 2 duplicate
- 1 dated prior to registration
- 1 illegible
- 2 invalid date
- 2 no residence address

The following are ***the latest possible dates to comply with election deadlines based on the 03/29/2019*** petition certification date, according to the Election Manual which comes

directly from State Statute, with simplified language by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns as follows:

- **If there are sufficient signatures for verification**, the Cochise County Recorder's Office has 60 days after receipt of the signature sheets to check the signatures. This means that if Cochise County had taken their full 60 days, **their deadline would have been 5/07/2019. They beat the deadline by just over one month.**
- **Once the Recorder certifies the number of valid signatures**, the Clerk has 5 days to determine whether or not there are sufficient verified signatures to qualify for the recall. **If there are sufficient signatures the Clerk must officially file the petition with her office at City Hall and notify the Mayor** that a recall will be placed on the ballot. **The Douglas City Clerk concurs with the County Recorder that there are enough valid signatures.** In this process, **that deadline is 04/05/2019.**
- **If a registered voter wishes to challenge** the number of signatures certified by the County Recorder, they must begin an action in Superior Court within ten calendar days of when the Clerk notifies the Mayor that a recall has qualified and that an election is to be called. The Superior Court decision may be appealed to the State Supreme Court within ten calendar days after judgment. **That deadline is 04/15/2019.**
- Within 48 hours after the official filing, **notification must be provided to the officer being recalled. That deadline is 04/09/2019.** The officer has 10 days to file a statement of not more than 200 words defending their official conduct and will be printed on the ballot. **That deadline is 04/19/2019.**

If the officer does not resign within five days from the date of filing excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or other holidays (**that deadline is 04/12/2019**), the city or town council must call an election within 15 days (**that deadline 04/27/2019**) from the date of the filing. **As with the calling of all elections, the City Clerk will make that announcement and a press release will also go out at that time. THE ELECTION MUST BE HELD ON THE NEXT CONSOLIDATED ELECTION THAT IS NINETY DAYS OR MORE (A.R.S. 19-209) AFTER THE CALL (ELECTION DATE: 08/27/2019),** Except that a 120 days-notice (A.R.S. 16-226) must be provided.

Questions concerning this Special Election process may be directed to City Clerk Brenda Aguilar, 520-417-7303 or Brenda.aguilar@douglasaz.gov