

July 23, 2024

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

C/O Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

800 S. Victoria Avenue

Ventura, CA 93009

clerkoftheboard@ventura.org

Dear Members of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Dr. Steven Kozel, Pharm.D., an Oak Park resident since 1983. I am a clinical pharmacist and advanced practice pharmacist with considerable practice experience in drug information and analysis. I used data analysis in addressing clinical therapeutics, evaluating research, and in evaluating adverse events. I am now retired from UCLA after a 37-year career in both the private and public sectors. I provide this short professional bio to establish my credentials to comment on the topic that follows.

I have reviewed the public record of the Board of Supervisors meetings and noted comments by a local citizen group Restore the Vote Ventura County or RVVC. This group asserts there are significant problems with our counties' participation in the California Voter Choice initiative that expands voter access to voting in Ventura County. This organization's states goal is to withdraw from the Voter Choice initiative participation:

"It's simple. Return elections back to WE THE PEOPLE. Get rid of voting machines, ballot drop boxes, regional voting centers and other problematic parts of the process. Bring back neighborhood precinct polling places, paper ballots, hand counting and voter residential identification. Restore Voter Trust and Confidence." (<https://restorethevoteventura.org/> accessed 7-21-24)

County Counsel advised the Board of Supervisors at the June 18, 2024, meeting the county, not being a charter county, but a general law county must comply with the state Elections Code. The Board voted 5-0 to Receive and File Report on the Authority of the Board of Supervisors in the Administration of Elections. (County Counsel) *Board of Supervisor's Summary Minutes June 18, 2024*) accessed 7/21/24.

I am not aware of significant election irregularities documented in Ventura County to date. Yet, Restore the Vote Ventura County, continues to promote misinformation regarding our electoral process in Ventura County, and most recently supported public comment by a national organization, United Sovereign Americans ("USA") at the Camarillo City Council meeting on July 10, 2024 (<https://unite4freedom.com/action-plan/>) accessed 7-21-24). This group, comprised of local volunteers, requested Camarillo

support their "Resolution for a Legally Valid 2024 Election" based upon claims of election irregularities apparently uncovered by volunteers in California. The purpose? To produce an "election scorecard" to be used in support of filing legal action if their claims were not accepted by local and state election officials and their demands for change not implemented. If one carefully examines their presentations, one will note failure to include all the minimum components of research including research design, methods, and most importantly a presentation of their data and analysis. They do present aggregate results, however, there is no supporting explanation of how they arrived at those results. For example, what were the criteria for defining the results, are the results reproducible, what were the specific qualifications of the volunteers conducting the research, who peer-reviewed the results and what were their qualifications? For example, a figure reported to the Camarillo City Council on July 10, 2024, stated there were 2,776,939 votes cast in the 2022 election by ineligible or uncertain registrations in the State of California. What criteria were used, how were records identified and then selected, what were the results by locality, etc.? Their presentation demonstrated confusion between coincidence/correlation and correlation/causality. This is classic confirmation bias. They are collecting information to support pre-existing beliefs or opinions. Throughout their presentations and documents, they are careful to refer to potential errors. However, there is no supporting data or analysis to prove potential errors or irregularities translated to actual election errors. In my professional experience, I doubt their results could be confirmed, i.e. duplicated.

If United Sovereign Americans approaches this Board with a "Resolution for a Legally Valid 2024 Election" I urge the Board to ask the organization to produce actual data and analysis as I described in my previous comments. Please do not agree to accept a Gish Gallop of misinformation, disinformation, hearsay and unconfirmed results. To do so undermines confidence in our electoral process. Making changes advocated by groups such as Restore the Vote Ventura County and United Sovereign Americans will disrupt our electoral process. That will certainly undermine free and fair elections, not to mention potentially disenfranchise our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Kozel', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Kozel, Pharm.D.

Oak Park