

October 15, 1936.

Honorable Karl Mangum,
County Attorney,
Flagstaff, Arizona.

Dear Karl:

In response to your request for an opinion of the Attorney General, concerning the power of the Board of Supervisors over other departments of the county, particularly over the supervision of the County Recorder's office in handling absentee ballots, I herewith submit an opinion on this subject. I believe that your problem can be stated in the form of an interrogatory and that the following would cover the subject:

If the boards of supervisors have reasonable grounds to believe that there are irregularities in the handling of absentee ballots in the county recorder's office, do they have the authority to place an inspector in the office of the recorder to oversee and report back to the Board of Supervisors the handling of absentee ballots?

It is the opinion of the Attorney General that the Board of Supervisors has such authority. Chapter 7, Section 1, First Special Session of the 1931 Legislature says:

"The Board of Supervisors under such limitations and restrictions as are prescribed by law may: (1) Supervise the official conduct of all county officers and officers of all districts and other subdivisions of the county charged with assessing, collecting, safekeeping, management or disbursement of the public revenues; see that they faithfully perform their duties, direct prosecutions for delinquencies and when necessary, require renewals of their official bonds and make reports and present their books and accounts for inspection."

According to the foregoing section of the law, the board of supervisors have the authority to supervise the

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official conduct of all county officers. Therefore, the law in the premises considered, it is the opinion of the Attorney General that in lieu of the fact that the board of supervisors have had some information to the effect that irregularities have occurred in the office of the county recorder, there may be placed in the recorder's office an inspector for the purpose of overseeing the absentee ballots.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Sullivan,
Attorney General.

Richard F. Harless,
Assistant Attorney General.

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