



From the Office of Chairman Jack Sellers, District 1

www.Maricopa.Gov/Dist1

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Statement from the Chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

Senate President Karen Fann clings to a fiction that something went wrong in the 2020 General Election because it supports her outrageous expenditures on the poorly planned and executed “audit.” She repeats it in front of friendly live audiences, right-wing media pundits, and now in an interview on a respected local television news program. In her interview with Scott Pasmore, she repeated debunked accusations that defame our hardworking election employees saying election laws were not followed. The Cyber Ninjas’ circus and the report that followed have been repeatedly debunked by every major news organization in the country. In a time where disinformation is so prevalent in our society, we look to our local news to fact check what’s being said. Since AZ Family missed the mark on many of these, we’ve corrected the record again on these tired and false claims.

- *“We do know the chain of custody wasn’t followed...”*
Maricopa County has robust chain of custody documentation for ballots. What Senate President Fann failed to say was that the Senate never asked for those records. From precinct ballot reports, to ballot courier documentation, to early voting transmittal slips to tabulator logs, Maricopa County ensures ballots are tracked and security is upheld.
- *“We know they did not follow procedures on some of the duplicate ballots...”*
Maricopa County follows all federal and state laws when conducting elections. Senate President Fann says she “knows” many things based on the faulty analysis and assumptions made by the Cyber Ninjas. Their lack of understanding was turned into “anomalies” and false conclusions.

The accuracy and completeness of Maricopa County’s duplication process was confirmed in court, something Senate President Fann failed to share. The Arizona Supreme Court concluded unanimously on December 9, 2020 that *“the challenge fails to present any evidence of ‘misconduct,’ ‘illegal votes’ or that the Biden Electors ‘did not in fact receive the highest number of votes for office,’ let alone establish any degree of fraud or a sufficient error rate that would undermine the certainty of the election results.”*

- *“We know that when they said they only used four types of ballot paper, so there was no way there was bleed-through, there was no way there was any problem with the ballots, we know that’s incorrect.”*
This is Sharpie Gate all over again. If Senate President Fann read the Cyber Ninjas’ report she commissioned, she could find correct information on this claim on page 52. Her contractors confirmed that bleed through did not impact tabulation.

Maricopa County used 80lb VoteSecur paper for every ballot (early, Election Day, provisional and accessible voting devices) in the November 2020 General Election. Because ballots are designed with offset columns, ink that bleeds through the ballot does not impact tabulation.



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- *"We know there was over 200,000 adjudicated ballots because the machines couldn't read them. That's over 11%. The normal is less than 1%."*
Let me be clear. This statement is designed to create distrust in a legitimate process that is required by both federal and state law. There is no evidence or documentation supporting the Senate President's 1% claim.

Ballot counting equipment cannot read handwriting. As required by federal law, every ballot containing a write-in candidate, a correction made by voters, and a contest with more ovals marked by the voter than allowed must be reviewed by two people of differing parties. These boards track every action taken and review and sign off on the log prior to any results being tallied. This is an efficient, secure, and sound process that follows a state law unanimously approved by legislators in early 2020.

Finally, Senate President Fann once again brings up this notion that if the County had simply cooperated, allowing her partisan and unqualified contractors into our buildings to handle your ballots, this wouldn't have cost \$9 million. That is false. The Board of Supervisors worked with members of the Arizona Senate right up until the time they issued subpoenas after then-Chairman Clint Hickman testified with our Elections Director for six hours before a Senate committee. President Fann then insisted that body hold a vote of contempt as the Board sought clarification from Superior Court.

Threats of arrest are not the path to a productive working relationship. And the continued spread of misinformation is not a way to rebuild trust or improve elections.

Soon the Board of Supervisors will receive a technical response from our Elections Department that addresses the many other falsehoods in the Cyber Ninjas' reports. We look forward to receiving this information and sharing it with the public.