

## **SIMPLIFY AND ADVANCE THE ELECTION PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Arizona's elections procedures manual is the rule book for elections in our state. It is the blueprint for counties to run successful elections. While this manual is written for election officials, it should be approachable for citizens and not just technically accurate. It is incumbent in our battle against misinformation and disinformation that the rules governing our elections be clear, concise, and understandable. Most importantly, we need the manual to be kept up to date in each election cycle. As Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes will ensure the Elections Procedures Manual is updated, simplified, and less subject to litigation by removing unnecessary elements and streamlining processes.

Bad politics has robbed Arizonans of an updated Elections Procedures Manual, which in its current form has antiquated policies that hamper our ability to advance the will of Arizona voters as efficiently as possible. The deadline to update this vital document expired on December 31st 2021.

Key [updates \(linked here\)](#) for the now stalled Election Procedures Manual would make democracy safer and more efficient in Arizona. Among some of the common sense changes are:

- Additional cybersecurity measures for Arizona elections.
- Requiring counties to consult with tribal governments on the placement of certain polling locations.
- Current policy disqualifies ballots cast in the wrong precinct. Proposed changes to the manual instead call for election officials to utilize a vote center model which has been successful in many counties going back nearly a decade.
- The proposed changes would have updated election procedures to include new laws passed by the Legislature in 2020, 21 and 22.

Without the updated manual, it falls on the State Legislature to adequately advance technical policies of the 2019 elections manual for future elections, the same legislature whose Senate body has spent the last year investigating the 2020 election on the premise of the big lie.

How did we get here?

Attorney General Mark Brnovich has opted to not fulfill his duty of approving the elections manual with the Secretary of State. As Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes will get this manual



updated, he will ensure we have elections procedures that match the decade we are living in and he won't play bad political games that hamper the institution of voting in Arizona..

Presently, Fontes encourages the Attorney General and the current Secretary of State to re-engage with each other despite their litigation so that this important manual can be enhanced and implemented for the sake of a healthy Arizona democracy.