

Fight Disinformation: Provide Counties With The Necessary Resources To Enact Ballot Imaging Procedures

The cancer in our democracy is disinformation. Too many Americans believe that the 2020 presidential election was stolen. That lie continues to be spread by selfish, irresponsible actors in elected office, on the campaign trail, and in national media.

We must kill conspiracies through transparency. This can be achieved by making Arizona elections publicly verifiable with ballot images without sacrificing voter privacy.

Every voting system in Arizona already takes a picture of every ballot, these pictures are called ballot images. The votes are counted from these images. There is proposed legislation that would make the images, which cannot be traced back to the original voter, accessible public records. This legislation also means each image could be matched up with its corresponding paper ballot, allowing for more verifiability and transparency.

This legislation will allow the public to see for themselves the good work that election officials in Arizona continue to do on their behalf, and would go a long way towards improving transparency by shining a light on every ballot. It will effectively undermine those who try to confuse the public with misinformation.

Whether or not this legislation passes in this current session, the Fontes Administration will do everything in its power to ensure that County Recorders have the resources they need to archive ballots for public records.

***THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON EVOLVING SECURITY, LEGAL, AND TECHNICAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY OF COURSE REQUIRE ADJUSTMENTS TO THESE POLICIES IN THE FUTURE. FLEXIBILITY MUST ALWAYS BE PART OF ANY PLAN.**