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**MAGA REPUBLICANS IN ARIZONA
WORKED WITH TRUMP TO OVERTURN
THE 2020 ELECTION AND ARE RUNNING
TO RIG FUTURE ARIZONA
ELECTIONS**

JUNE 2022

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FACT SHEET: **MAGA Republicans in Arizona Worked With Trump To** **Overturn The 2020 Election And Are Running To Rig** **Future Arizona Elections**

The Arizona GOP has always been a core aspect of the MAGA criminal conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election. Trump's campaign convinced Arizona GOP chairwoman Kelli Ward to organize a slate of illegitimate electors in a fraudulent attempt to certify the 2020 election for Donald Trump. Meanwhile, House members Paul Gosar (AZ-4), Debbie Lesko (AZ-8), and Andy Biggs (AZ-5) worked alongside MAGA Republican Secretary of State candidate Mark Finchem to organize the 'Stop the Steal' movement rally outside the Capitol on January 6th.

In 2022, it's clear that Arizonans' right to elect their leaders is on the ballot. A leading gubernatorial candidate Keri Lake has pursued an ongoing campaign to 'decertify' and delegitimize the election, which has culminated in a joint lawsuit with Mark Finchem seeking to ban electronic voting infrastructure in Arizona. Both intend to tamper with election law and manipulate Arizona's electoral system if elected, with Finchem supporting dramatic restrictions to ballot access and Lake promising a return to 20th century election policy by replacing voting machines entirely with paper ballots. As part of their push for 'reform', many GOP candidates in Arizona are engaged in an ongoing campaign to delegitimize the 2020 election. Senate candidates Mark Brnovich, Jim Lamon and Trump-endorsed Blake Masters have both proposed sweeping so-called 'election integrity' reforms after questioning past election results and used 'election fraud' lies to push for audits and legislation restricting voting access in future elections. These MAGA Republican candidates intend to use dangerous conspiracy theories to threaten Arizona's election infrastructure for years to come.

Arizona Republicans Attempted To Overturn The 2020 Election

January 2021: Members of Arizona's House Delegation Conspired to Overturn The 2020 Election. Arizona Representatives Paul Gosar (R, AZ-4), Debbie Lesko (R, AZ-8), and Andy Biggs (R, AZ-5) [objected](#) to Arizona's 2020 Electoral College results on Jan. 6, 2020. Ali Alexander, the architect of the 'Stop the Steal' movement that culminated in the Capitol insurrection, said he [schemed](#) with Andy Biggs and Paul Gosar to organize the 'Stop the Steal' movement. Trump has [endorsed both](#) Gosar and Lesko for re-election this year. [NPR, [1/7/21](#); Donald J. Trump, [11/18/21](#), [3/15/22](#)]

- **Rep. Paul Gosar Helped Organize 'Stop the Steal' On January 6th.** Gosar attended the 'Stop the Steal' rally on Jan. 6, and [posted](#) a photo captioned, "Biden should concede. Don't make me come over there..." tagging Ali Alexander. Alexander publicly [proclaimed](#) that Gosar had been "the spirit animal of this movement," and later testified to having several "phone conversations" with him. Gosar was [familiar with](#) Alexander

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prior to the insurrection, having [labeled](#) him a “true patriot” on Twitter in November 2020. Gosar’s chief of staff also [admitted](#) that he had asked Pence “to remand the electors back to Arizona pending a full forensic audit of the Maricopa County tabulations.” In February 2022, Gosar [defended](#) white nationalist Nick Fuentes after his [subpoena](#) was made public by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack. [Paul Gosar Twitter, [1/6/21](#); AZ Central, [4/18/22](#), [1/7/21](#); CNN, [1/8/21](#); Paul Gosar Twitter, [11/6/20](#); MSNBC, [2/2/22](#); Select Committee, [1/19/22](#)]

- **Rep. Andy Biggs (AZ-5) Under Subpoena For Involvement In January 6th Attack.** Biggs has been named in a [subpoena](#) by the January 6th Committee for his [involvement](#) in “plans to bring protestors to Washington on January 6th and efforts to persuade state officials that the 2020 election was stolen,” as well as ‘potential involvement’ in “the former President’s efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election.” While Biggs [denied](#) his involvement with Alexander, he [reportedly](#) met with Trump to discuss challenging the Electoral College as well. [Select Committee, [5/12/22](#); Washington Post, [1/13/21](#); AZCentral [1/10/21](#)]

Mark Finchem Under Subpoena For Involvement In ‘Stop the Steal’ Events Of January 6th. In February 2022, Finchem was [issued](#) a [subpoena](#) by the January 6th Committee for being [invited](#) to speak at the ‘Stop the Steal’ rally on January 6th and alleging that the election was “rigged” due to unsubstantiated [claims](#) of election interference by foreign powers. He also met with Pence to [ask](#) him to postpone the award of electors and to discuss “key evidence of fraud” in Arizona. Finchem was spotted on Capitol grounds [during](#) the insurrection on Jan. 6. [Select Committee, [2/15/22](#); Mark Finchem for Secretary of State, [2/15/22](#); Representative Mark Finchem Press Release, [1/11/21](#); Mark Finchem Twitter, Archived [12/22/20](#); AZ Mirror, [6/2/21](#)]

December 2020: Arizona Republican Party Retweets Violent Call-to-Action Over Election. In early December 2020, the Arizona GOP Twitter account [quote-tweeted](#) an “activist associated with the so-called #StoptheSteal movement” who wrote “I am willing to give my life for this fight.” Arizona Republicans captioned Alexander’s tweet, “He is. Are you?” The account then shared, in a now-deleted tweet, a quote and video clip from the 2008 film “Rambo IV:” “Live for nothing, or die for something.” [CNN, [12/9/20](#)]

November 2020: Trump Campaign Pressured Arizona GOP To Investigate ‘Election Fraud’ Claims. Rudy Giuliani [pressed](#) chairwoman Kelli Ward to investigate claims of fraud. Party Chairwoman Kelli Ward was issued a [subpoena](#) by the January 6th Committee for speaking with Trump and his campaign officials about “election certification issues in Arizona, after [alleging](#) that the election had been “stolen” due to third-party election interference, and [suggesting](#) that Congress recall Arizona’s electors while adjourned during the insurrection on Jan 6. [New York Times, [7/2/21](#), [1/19/21](#); Select Committee, [2/15/22](#); Dr. Kelli Ward Twitter, [1/6/21](#)]

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- **Trump Personally Asked Maricopa Election Officials To Reverse Election Results.** Shortly after the election, former President Trump [attempted](#) to speak on the phone with Clint Hickman, Chair of Maricopa County’s Board of Supervisors. He reportedly left a voicemail asking Hickman to “reverse Biden’s narrow lead” in Arizona’s largest county. [New York Times, [7/2/21](#)]
- **The Trump Campaign Sued Maricopa County To Bar Certification Of 2020 Election Results, Alleging Election ‘Irregularities’.** In November 2020 the Trump Campaign [filed](#) a lawsuit with Maricopa County Superior Court, alleging that ballots with facial irregularities cast in-person on election day were “illegally disqualified without additional review.” After the ballots were counted one week later, the Trump campaign [dropped](#) the lawsuit. [Donald J. Trump For President Inc. v. Katie Hobbs, [11/7/20](#), [11/14/20](#)]

November 2020: Ginni Tomas Contacted Arizona State Representatives Seeking To Overturn Arizona’s Election. On Nov. 9, Virginia “Ginni” Thomas [contacted](#) 29 Arizona lawmakers, urging them to “take action to ensure that a clean slate of Electors is chosen for our state.” The day before Arizona’s electors were scheduled to certify Biden’s victory, Thomas emailed 22 state House members and one state senator, “Before you choose your state’s Electors ... consider what will happen to the nation we all love if you don’t stand up and lead.” [Washington Post, [6/9/22](#)]

- **Ginni Thomas Requested Personal Meeting With Secretary of State Candidate Rep. Shawna Bolick.** Thomas [requested](#) a personal meeting with Rep. Shawna Bolick by email, seeking to “ensure our state’s vote count is audited and our certification is clean.” After the email, Bolick said she “[signed every letter](#)” calling for partisan audits of the 2020 election results in Arizona. She has since claimed to represent [voters](#) who believe in fraud, and [alleged](#) that unspecified ‘gaps’ in election law and “the failings of our elected officials have opened the door wide for fraud.” Most recently, Bolick signed onto a [resolution](#) to Congress “calling for the state’s electoral votes to go to Trump or ‘be nullified completely until a full forensic audit can be conducted.” [Washington Post, [5/20/22](#); Shawna Bolick for Arizona, Accessed [6/6/22](#); Shawna Bolick for Arizona, Accessed [6/6/22](#); Washington Post, [5/20/22](#); Congressional Record, [1/6/21](#); [SCR 1002](#), [1/5/21](#)]

The Trump Campaign Organized A Slate of Illegitimate Electors From Arizona

December 2020: Trump Campaign Organized 11 Illegitimate Arizona ‘Electors’ To Overturn The 2020 Election. Trump campaign officials, led by Rudy Giuliani, [arranged](#) for Arizona to send a [slate](#) of 11 fraudulent electors to the Electoral College certification. The signing ceremony was [widely publicized](#) by the Arizona GOP. Three leading Arizona Republicans— party

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Chair Kelli Ward, head ‘delegate’ Nancy Cottle, and Vice President Loraine Pellegrino of the Arizona Federation of Republican Women—are [all under subpoena](#) by the January 6th Committee for their involvement in the Trump campaign’s false elector plot. Senate Candidate Jim Lamon [was also involved](#) in the elector scheme. The Trump campaign had [planned](#) to unconstitutionally send competing electors from each ‘swing state’ to the Capitol on January 6th as a pretense for Pence to invalidate enough Electoral College results to send the election to the House of Representatives, and re-elect Trump through the Republican-majority state delegations. During Arizona’s illegitimate signing ceremony, Chairwoman Ward [claimed](#) to believe that she was acting among “the electors for the legally cast votes here in Arizona.” In a January 2022 interview, Pellegrino [reportedly said](#) she signed the paperwork “to be ready in the event that something was overturned.” [CNN, [1/20/22](#); AZ Mirror, [2/1/22](#); Arizona GOP Twitter, [12/13/20](#); Select Committee, [2/15/22](#), [2/15/22](#), [2/15/22](#); AZCentral, [1/28/22](#), [1/31/22](#)]

Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich Publicized Dozens of Unproven ‘Voter Fraud’ Complaints During Arizona GOP’s False Elector Ceremony. On the [same day](#) that the Arizona GOP illegally submitted a slate of Republican false electors, Brnovich released a [statement](#) that his office was reviewing “hundreds of complaints and has dozens of open criminal investigations related to election integrity and allegations of voter fraud.” He then [posted](#) nearly 30 tweets, detailing unproven complaints of voter fraud. [AZ Mirror, [12/14/20](#); Attorney General Mark Brnovich Twitter, [12/14/20](#), [12/14/20](#)]

[Republicans On the Ballot in Arizona Are Trying To Sabotage Election Integrity](#)

MAGA Republican Candidates Mark Finchem and Kari Lake Want To Ban Voting Machines. In April 2022, Arizona state Representative Mark Finchem and gubernatorial candidate Keri Lake [jointly](#) filed a [lawsuit](#) against incumbent Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, [seeking](#) a preliminary injunction to ban the use of voting machines in Maricopa and Pima counties’ upcoming elections. The lawsuit is being [financed](#) by Mike Lindell, MyPillow CEO, and has been [praised](#) by Trump. If elected Governor, Lake [intends to](#) ban “all equipment that uses software” and require ‘analog optical scanners’ instead. She has also promised voter ID restrictions and exclusively pre-printed paper ballots. [Kari Lake for AZ Governor Twitter, [4/23/22](#); Arizona Daily Star, [4/23/22](#); Mark Finchem for Secretary of State, [4/24/22](#), [4/25/22](#); New York Times, [6/5/22](#); Kari Lake For Governor, Accessed [6/3/22](#)]

- **Mark Finchem Has Big Plans To ‘Pull Apart’ Arizona Elections If Elected Secretary of State.** Rep. Finchem has announced [plans](#) to implement a “[Ballot Integrity Project](#),” a proposal to spend millions on “currency-grade fraud countermeasures” in Arizona ballots, including ‘UV light-reactive paper’ and holographic watermarks. If elected, Finchem would also [save](#) digital images of all ballots to be released as public records, “searchable by precinct.” He has [claimed](#) a religious mandate to tear down Arizona’s election infrastructure, claiming that elections are a system

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“ordained by God” that must be ‘pulled apart’ in order to “try and figure out what is it that happened.” In the Arizona legislature, Finchem has introduced legislation [allowing](#) the Arizona legislature to “accept or reject” the results of any future presidential election. [Mark Finchem for Secretary of State, [6/12/21](#), [10/6/21](#), [12/28/21](#), [12/18/21](#); [HB 2596](#), Accessed [6/7/22](#)]

- **Mark Finchem Has Ties To QAnon Influencers And The Oath Keepers.** Finchem has [joined](#) an ‘America First’ coalition seeking to elect QAnon-friendly Republican secretaries of state in the 2022 midterm elections. The slate [consists](#) of “more than a dozen candidates who falsely claim the 2020 election was stolen from Donald J. Trump.” The coalition was [co-founded](#) by prominent QAnon influencer Wayne Willott (aka Juan O. Savin), described as the voice of a “proto-fascist movement” in the Republican Party. Finchem also has [ties](#) to the Oath Keepers, one of [the largest](#) far-right antigovernment groups in the country. Oath Keepers’ leadership has been [charged](#) with seditious conspiracy in the ongoing January 6th trials. [America First Secretary of State Coalition, Accessed [6/2/22](#); New York Times, [6/5/22](#); Daily Beast, [6/1/22](#); InMaricopa, [7/30/14](#); Southern Poverty Law Center, Accessed [6/7/22](#); Salon, [2/7/22](#)]

Trump-Endorsed Senate Candidate Blake Masters Supports Election ‘Reform’ Based On MAGA Conspiracy Theories. Blake Masters has [prioritized](#) so-called ‘election security’ in his messaging, and suggested that states should ban drop boxes and end mail-in voting. He [supported](#) [HB 2289](#), an Arizona bill [abolishing](#) early voting for most citizens and requiring “all ballots to be counted by hand.” Masters also [favors](#) nationwide voter ID restrictions, and would eliminate unspecified “bizarre loopholes” that supposedly allow people to vote “without ever proving they were a U.S. citizen.” He is [endorsed](#) by [Trump](#) and a handful of MAGA Republicans who voted to overturn the 2020 election, including Josh Hawley, Marjorie Taylor Greene, and Madison Cawthorne. Masters was on the Trump transition team, where he [reportedly](#) “holed up in Trump Tower trying to help Steve Bannon staff the government.” Masters is also supported by right-wing public figures Tucker Carlson and Peter Thiel. [Blake Masters for Senate, Accessed [6/8/22](#); National Review, [6/2/22](#); AZ Central, [6/2/22](#)]

Senate Candidate Gen. Mark Brnovich Has A History of Prosecuting Elections. Incumbent Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich has [touted](#) his record of prosecuting election officials. In 2021, Brnovich [defended](#) a restrictive Arizona election law in the Supreme Court. The law requires county officials to reject ballots submitted in the wrong precinct, even if all other applicable fields were filled out correctly. [Blake Masters Twitter, [9/23/21](#); [HB 2289](#), [3/15/22](#); Associated Press, [3/21/22](#); Blake Masters For Senate, Accessed [6/8/22](#); Brnovich for U.S. Senate, Accessed [6/8/22](#); Brnovich v. DNC, [7/1/21](#)]

Arizona GOP Candidates For Governor and Secretary of State Plan To Manipulate Future Elections. Gubernatorial candidate [Karrin Taylor Robson](#) [supports](#) voter ID

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restrictions and a ‘universal ban on ballot harvesting’. She has ‘wholeheartedly’ [endorsed](#) the restrictive Arizonans for Voter ID initiative and [announced](#) plans for voter ID restrictions, prohibition on policy changes before elections, improved ‘maintenance’ of voter rolls, tighter cybersecurity, preservation of vital election records. Another GOP gubernatorial hopeful [Matt Salmon](#) has proposed a so-called ‘[Voter Bill of Rights](#)’ including a ballot harvest ban, voter ID restrictions, and mandatory poll watchers, mandatory live-streaming. He also [attended](#) a press conference supporting the ‘Arizonans for Voter ID Act’, and has [implied](#) that voter ID restrictions and a ‘permanent’ ballot harvesting ban are necessary. State Senator [Shawwna Bolick](#), a candidate for Secretary of State, has [sponsored](#) numerous bills [seeking](#) to change Arizona election law to make it more difficult for citizens to vote. She [claims](#) that the election audit “exposed weaknesses” that ‘never happen again’. Bolick’s ‘Roadmap to Restore Election Integrity’ [would](#) tamper with Arizona’s electoral system by restricting emergency voting centers, centralizing state power over elections, making voter purges more frequent, requiring photo ID for all forms of voting (including by mail), banning ballot drop boxes, establishing an unchecked “citizen audit review board.” [Karrin for Arizona, Accessed [6/7/22](#), Accessed [6/7/22](#), Accessed [6/7/22](#); Matt Salmon For Governor, Accessed [6/3/22](#); Matt Salmon Twitter, [10/22/21](#), [8/18/21](#), [7/17/21](#); Shawwna Bolick for Arizona, Accessed [6/6/22](#), [6/6/22](#); [HB 2793](#), [2/25/21](#)]

[MAGA Republicans Are Trying Decertify Arizona’s 2020 Election Results](#)

MAGA Republican Mark Finchem Leads The Arizona Legislature’s Decertify Campaign . Finchem has [publicly called](#) for the [decertification](#) of Arizona’s 2020 election results on dozens of occasions. He [spoke](#) at an Arizona Trump rally in January 2021, and has [made frequent appearances](#) with criminal conspiracist Steve Bannon on far-right media networks to promote his movement. He has also [supported numerous](#) unfounded election conspiracies to [justify](#) these demands, including [allegations](#) of third-party tampering. In February 2022, Finchem sponsored a [resolution](#) to decertify the election and “reclaim the 2020 Presidential Electors,” co-sponsored by thirteen other Republicans. Arizona Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers [refused](#) to consider it, calling the resolution “obviously unconstitutional and profoundly unwise.” Finchem has since circulated a [petition](#) to decertify the elections in Maricopa, Pima, and Yuma Counties and nullify millions of legally-cast votes by “setting aside” Arizona’s electors and the 2020 election. [Mark Finchem for Secretary of State, [2/21/22](#), Accessed [6/6/22](#), [4/13/22](#), [2/9/22](#); [2/23/22](#), [2/10/22](#), Accessed [6/6/22](#), [2/22/22](#), [11/28/21](#), [12/10/21](#), [4/15/22](#); [HCR 2033](#), [02/22](#); Fox News Facebook Live, [1/15/22](#)]

Kari Lake Continues To Call For Decertification. Lake has [called](#) for Arizona’s 2020 election results to be decertified, [alleging](#) ‘deep and wide’ corruption. She has [said](#) Governor Ducey, “shouldn’t have certified the 2020 election” citing unspecified ‘corruption’, and [reportedly](#) embraced fringe far-right figures—including figures linked to QAnon. Lake also [stated](#) that so-called ‘ballot traffickers’ should be “arrested, prosecuted, and thrown in jail!” In March 2022, Lake [filed](#) an Amicus brief with the state Supreme Court in a case seeking to overturn the 2020 election. The case was [dismissed](#) less than a month later. [Kari Lake for AZ

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Governor Twitter, [4/3/22](#), [3/1/22](#); [3/10/22](#), [5/13/22](#), [4/12/22](#); CNN, [11/8/21](#); Democracy Docket, [4/5/22](#)

[The Ongoing Campaign To Delegitimize The 2020 Election in Arizona](#)

Arizona GOP Attempts To End Mail-In Voting. The Arizona Republican Party [filed](#) a lawsuit in Mohave County Superior Court, home county of GOP Chairwoman Kelli Ward, seeking to roll back Arizona's no-excuse absentee voting system. The mail-in system was adopted by a Republican trifecta in 1991, and is currently [used](#) by about 90% of Arizona voters. The lawsuit was quickly [dismissed](#) by a county judge. [Associated Press, [6/5/22](#); AZ Central, [6/6/22](#); KPNX News, [6/6/22](#)]

Senate Candidate Blake Masters Continues To Use Election Conspiracy Theories To Delegitimize The 2020 Election. Masters has shared numerous conspiracies and baseless allegations about the 2020 election through his campaign. He [called](#) the 2020 election a "rotten mess," and claimed that Trump would still be president "if we had a free and fair election. He has [shared](#) election conspiracies about voting by mail, and [claimed](#) that Trump lost because America's "most powerful institutions" supposedly manipulated the election. Masters [alleged](#) that "no matter what the audit finds, we know this election wasn't fair," but also [said](#) "there's lots of evidence, just no clear proof of outcome-changing fraud." He also [suggested](#) that Arizona's 2020 election procedures were 'skeptical' because "we do use Dominion voting machines, the Sec of State has the BLM hashtag in her bio." Masters has [floated](#) a conspiracy theory that the events of Jan. 6 were a "false-flag operation set up by the FBI." [Blake Masters For Senate, Accessed [6/8/22](#); Blake Masters Twitter, [11/9/21](#), [9/4/21](#), [9/23/21](#), [12/2/20](#), [12/2/20](#); CNN, [6/8/22](#)]

Kari Lake Lies About 'Fraud' On The Gubernatorial Campaign Trail. Lake has repeatedly claimed the 2020 was '[stolen](#)', "[Corrupt, Rotten & Rigged!](#)", a '[sham](#)'. In a February 2022 campaign ad, she [attacked](#) Fox News for refusing to cover "the rigged election of 2020" and has [suggested](#) that journalists who reject the "stolen election" conspiracy should be "locked up." Lake has also [called](#) Trump "the true winner," [claiming](#) President Biden to be 'illegitimate'. She [alleged](#) without evidence that the Maricopa County 'audit' revealed "deficiencies and issues with our elections, on a scope and scale sufficient to have changed the outcome of 2020." Lake also [suggested](#) that "open fraud cases in Yuma County" were "a step in the right direction," falsely [predicting](#) imminent law enforcement raids on "non-profits potentially involved in ballot trafficking." [Kari Lake For Governor, Accessed [6/3/22](#); Kari Lake for AZ Governor Twitter, [5/11/22](#), [5/20/22](#), [2/21/22](#), [4/14/22](#), [3/17/22](#), [4/20/22](#), [5/8/22](#); Kari Lake YouTube, [8/27/21](#)]

GOP Gubernatorial Candidates Have Falsely Alleged 'Election Fraud'. [Karrin Taylor Robson](#) has [suggested](#) that Arizona does not have free and fair elections, and [supported](#) the Arizona Senate's extended partisan audit of Maricopa County. Likewise, [Matt Salmon](#) has also

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[claimed](#) without evidence that Arizona allowed non-citizens to vote, [suggested](#) the election [was](#) “very, very compromised,” and [declared](#) that the Maricopa audit supposedly [found](#) “real problems” [with](#) the 2020 election. He has also been [endorsed](#) by prominent election conspiracy theorists Andy Biggs, Jim Jordan, Ted Cruz, and Cynthia Lummis. [Karrin for Arizona, Accessed [6/7/22](#), Accessed [6/7/22](#); Matt Salmon Twitter, [9/28/21](#), [9/27/21](#), [9/24/21](#), [9/1/21](#), [9/23/21](#), [7/18/21](#); Matt Salmon For Governor, Accessed [6/3/22](#)]

GOP Candidate for Secretary of State Mark Finchem Campaigns On Lies About 2020 ‘Election Fraud’. Finchem has [alleged](#) that Democrats used “software to flip votes” in the 2020 election, and has [claimed](#) there was a ‘reallocation of votes from one candidate to another. He has [spoken](#) at length [about](#) unsubstantiated voter fraud, [claimed](#) that “Trump won,” and [called](#) for audits for over a year after the election. In January 2022, Finchem [published](#) an op-ed alleging “rampant fraud” in voter rolls, tabulation equipment, and so-called ‘ballot stuffing’, in “the irredeemably compromised 2020 General Election.” [Mark Finchem for Secretary of State, [4/27/22](#), Accessed [6/6/22](#), [3/22/22](#), [12/23/22](#), [1/18/22](#), [3/15/22](#), [1/12/22](#)]

Arizona’s Endless Audit

Arizona GOP Legislators, Senate Candidate Jim Lamon Paid MAGA Cybersecurity Firm ‘Cyber Ninjas’ To ‘Audit’ Maricopa County’s 2020 Election Results. The Arizona Senate [paid](#) \$150,000 to Cyber Ninjas, a cybersecurity firm founded by pro-Trump election manipulator Doug Logan, to lead the audit of the 2020 election. Cyber Ninjas led a highly partisan process, allowing right-wing activists to [choose](#) political partisans to count the ‘audited’ ballots. Under Logan’s purview, five organizations led by Trump-aligned election conspiracists [contributed](#) \$5.7 million to investigate Maricopa County. Former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne’s ‘America Project’ contributed \$3.2 million. Former national security advisor Michael Fynn’s nonprofit ‘America’s Future’ contributed nearly \$1 million. \$605,000 came from ‘Voices and Votes’, founded by Christina Bobb of the pro-Trump One America News Network. Jim Lamon also [helped pay](#) for the audit. \$550,000 was contributed by former Trump lawyer Sidney Powell’s ‘Defending the Republic’ non-profit. The remaining \$280,000 came from the Trump-aligned non-profit ‘Election Integrity Funds for the American Republic’. [AZ Mirror, [3/31/21](#), [7/28/21](#); AZCentral, [6/10/22](#); American Oversight, [5/12/22](#)]

- **Maricopa County Disputes ‘Audit’ Findings, Refutes Allegations.** In September 2021, the Senate-funded Cyber Ninja ‘audit’ report [made](#) unsubstantiated allegations that “files were deleted, equipment was improperly connected to the internet, signatures weren’t properly verified and ineligible voters may have cast ballots.” The audit’s hand-count tally [reportedly](#) deviated from official results enough that Senate President Karen Fann purchased paper-counting machines to check the hand count, concluding that the audit hand-counted 260 more Biden votes than the official election results indicated. Maricopa County [disputed](#) the audit’s allegations as “inaccurate, misleading or

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patently false.” The county’s [report](#) on the Senate Inquiry found that the election “was administered with integrity and the results were accurate and reliable,” as proven through accuracy tests, court cases, hand counts, and county-level post-election audits. [AZ Mirror, [9/24/21](#), [1/5/22](#); AZ Central, [4/25/22](#); Maricopa County Elections Department, [1/5/22](#)]

- **Independent Audit of Maricopa County Found No Evidence of Fraud.**

Maricopa County's Board of Supervisors [hired](#) Pro V&V and SLI Compliance to conduct independent field and forensic audits of voting machines and election results. The audit cost the county \$56,815, and [found no issues](#) with tabulation machines, malware, or closed network connectivity. [AZCentral, [2/23/21](#); SLI Compliance, [2/23/21](#); Pro V&V, [2/23/21](#)]

Attorney General Mark Brnovich Supported Partisan Audits, Oversaw Baseless ‘Voter Fraud’ Investigation. Brnovich supported the Arizona Senate’s partisan audit of Maricopa County in a [letter](#) to the Department of Justice, alleging ‘interference’ and ‘federal overreach’ after Attorney General Garland [expressed](#) skepticism about the proceedings. Brnovich oversaw an ‘election fraud’ [investigation](#), but failed to uncover any evidence of mass voter fraud. [Brnovich for U.S. Senate, Accessed [6/8/22](#); AZ Mirror, [6/11/21](#), [4/6/22](#); Office of the Arizona Attorney General, [6/14/21](#)]

Republican Yuma County Sheriff Debunked Far-Right ‘Ballot Harvesting’ Claims.

Yuma County Sheriff Leon Wilmot [debunked](#) claims made by far-right ‘documentary’ *2000 Mules*. A conservative filmmaker claimed there “will be arrests very soon,” to which Wilmot responded: “I am not familiar with, nor have I ever communicated with, any individuals who may now be claiming I am investigating on their behalf or because of any supposed inspiration from a documentary film.” The film falsely alleged that ‘mules’ were paid to ‘harvest’ ballots in Yuma County during the 2020 election. [AZ Mirror, [5/19/22](#)]