

Defend Democracy Project

A photograph of two voters at a polling station. They are standing behind white voting booths. Each booth has a small American flag on top and the word "VOTE" printed on it. In the background, a large American flag is hanging. The image is dimmed and serves as a background for the text.

# Election Denying Voter Guide

November 2022

## Arizona Senate



**BLAKE MASTERS**



**U.S. SENATOR MARK KELLY**

**Blake Masters Refuses To Say Whether He Will Accept the Results of The Election.** “Blake Masters in Arizona...declined to commit to accepting the 2022 results. [...] Mr. Masters, the Trump-backed Republican nominee for Senate, baselessly predicted to supporters in July that even if he defeated Senator Mark Kelly, the incumbent Democrat, enough votes would somehow be produced to flip the result. ‘There’s always cheating, probably, in every election,’ Mr. Masters said. ‘The question is, what’s the cheating capacity?’” [New York Times, [9/18/22](#)]

- **Blake Masters Has Not Indicated Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Blake Masters fell in the “No/Did Not Respond” category. [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

**Senator Mark Kelly Will Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Mark Kelly answered “Yes.” [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

**Mark Kelly Trusts Arizona’s Electoral Process.** A spokesperson for Senator Kelly, Sarah Guggenheimer, told the New York Times that the Democratic candidate, “has total trust in Arizona’s electoral process.” [New York Times, [9/18/22](#)]

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**Blake Masters Is Casting Doubt On The 2022 Election Results.** “[D]uring the final stretch of his own 2022 race, Masters is starting to cast doubt on the outcome of this election—before the votes are even counted. At a campaign stop on Tuesday in a small town north of Phoenix, Masters was confronted with one voter’s concern that he could win by a ‘landslide’ but that voting machines would ‘flip the vote’ in Kelly’s favor, according to audio of the event obtained by The Daily Beast. ‘Unfortunately, we still have the machines in this election,’ Masters replied. [...] ‘But say you beat Mark Kelly by 30,000 votes,’ Masters said. To which his father responded: ‘I’m worried they’ll just find 40,000 for Mark Kelly.’” [The Daily Beast, [10/15/22](#)]

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## Arizona Governor



**KARI LAKE**



**SEC. OF STATE KATIE HOBBS**

**Kari Lake Has Repeatedly Refused To Say Whether She Will Accept the Results of The Election.**

“Emulating Donald Trump, the Republican candidate for governor of Arizona repeatedly refused to say Sunday whether she would honor the results of her election – if she lost. ‘I’m going to win the election and accept that result,’ Kari Lake said twice on CNN’s “State of the Union.” [USAToday, 10/16/22]

**Kari Lake: “I’m Not Losing.”** “Ms. Lake was asked in a radio interview this month whether she would concede a defeat to Katie Hobbs, her Democratic rival and Arizona’s secretary of state. ‘I’m not losing to Katie Hobbs,’ Ms. Lake replied.” [New York Times, 9/18/22]

**During the Primary Election, Kari Lake Indicated She Would Refuse to Concede.**

At a July fundraising event, Kari Lake said she would “absolutely” demand a 100% hand count if there’s the slightest hint that there’s an impropriety, noting that “Trump never conceded his 2020 loss.” [Axios, 7/12/22]

**Secretary Katie Hobbs Will Accept The Election Results.**

The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Katie Hobbs answered “Yes.” [Washington Post, 9/18/22]

- **Katie Hobbs Will Accept The Election Results.** A spokesperson for Sec. Hobbs, Sarah Robinson, told the New York Times that the Democratic candidate, “will accept the results of the election in November.” [New York Times, 9/18/22]

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## **Kari Lake Cast Doubt On Arizona's**

**Electoral Process.** During a March radio interview, Lake declared: "I mean, if the election's run like last one, where they blocked people off, you can't get in to observe, you can't get in to be a poll watcher. They stopped counting in the middle of the night. Then I think everyone should pause and say, what the hell just happened?" [99.9 KEZ, 3/19/22]

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## Arizona Secretary of State



**MARK FINCHEM**



**ADRIAN FONTES**

**During the Primary Election, Mark Finchem Indicated He Will Not Concede.**

At a July fundraising event, Mark Finchem said, “Ain’t gonna be no concession speech coming from this guy. I’m going to demand a 100% hand count if there’s the slightest hint that there’s an impropriety. And I will urge the next governor to do the same.”  
[Axios, [7/12/22](#)]

**Adrian Fontes Trusts Arizona’s Electoral System.**

As a former county recorder and election administrator, Fontes said he “unequivocally” trusts the state’s election system. [Cronkite News, [10/12/22](#)]

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## Michigan Governor



**TUDOR DIXON**



**GOV. GRETCHEN WHITMER**

**Tudor Dixon Refuses to Say Whether She Will Accept the Results of The Election.** During an interview with New York Magazine, Dixon’s campaign representatives refused to answer questions about accepting election results: “She pointedly did not say whether she will accept the results.” [New York Magazine, [10/16/22](#)]

- **Tudor Dixon Has Not Indicated Whether She Will Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Tudor Dixon fell in the “No/Did Not Respond” category. [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

**Tudor Dixon Does Not Trust The Electoral Process.** “An aide to Ms. Dixon, Sara Broadwater, said ‘there’s no reason to believe’ that Michigan election officials, including Jocelyn Benson, the Democratic secretary of state, ‘are very serious about secure elections.’” [New York Times, [9/18/22](#)]

**Governor Gretchen Whitmer Will Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Governor Whitmer responded affirmatively, pledging to accept the outcome. She also suggested that refusing to accept election results would “weaken our democracy, undermine trust in American institutions and silence the voice of Michiganders.” [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

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## Minnesota Secretary of State



**KIM CROCKETT**



**SEC. OF STATE STEVE SIMON**

**Kim Crockett Refused to Say Whether She Will Accept the Results Of The Election.** During an October debate, Crockett wouldn't say whether she would accept the election results, responding: "Will I? I think that's kind of an odd question. We aren't there yet. We are weeks out. And we will just have to see what happens between now and the certification of the election." In a Facebook video after the debate, Crockett denounced the encounter, stating "[T]hey ask you stupid questions like, 'Are you going to accept the results of the election?'" [ABC Kare11, [10/3/22](#)]

**Secretary of State Simon Said He Was Confident In The Results Of The Election.** "Simon said Minnesota's elections are fair and people have so much confidence in them that the state routinely leads the nation in voter turnout. We've got a great team system in Minnesota. Our office, the office of secretary of state has a role to play," Simon said. 'But so too do local governments. We are teammates. We have to have each other's backs and I'm in constant touch with our partners, our teammates at the county and city level to make sure that come what may, we are prepared just as we were in 2020.'" [Minnesota Public Radio, [10/3/22](#)]



## Nevada Senate



**ADAM LAXALT**



**SEN. CATHERINE CORTEZ-MASTO**

**Adam Laxalt May Sue To Challenge The Conduct Of The Election.** “Mr. Laxalt, a former state attorney general, helped lead the effort to overturn Mr. Trump’s 2020 defeat in the state, spoke last year about plans to file lawsuits to contest the 2022 election and called voter fraud the “biggest issue” in his campaign.” [New York Times, 9/18/22]

**Adam Laxalt Refuses To Say Whether He Would Accept the Results of The Election.** Adam Laxalt has declined throughout his campaign to commit to accepting the election results. [Nevada Current, 10/19/22]

- **September 2022: Laxalt Refuses To Say Whether He Would Accept the Results of The Election.** In mid-September, Laxalt refused to respond to a survey asking if he would accept the results of the election as part of a broader KTVN candidate questionnaire. [KTVN 2News, 9/20/22]

**Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto Will Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Sen. Cortez-Masto answered “Yes.” [Washington Post, 9/18/22]

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- **September 2022: Laxalt Affirms That He Would Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Laxalt said he would. [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]
- **October 2022: Laxalt Again Refuses To Say Whether He Would Accept the Election Results.** In early October, Laxalt again refused to respond to a question asking whether candidates would accept the results of the midterm election as part of a broader Las Vegas Sun questionnaire. [Las Vegas Sun, [10/9/22](#)]

## Nevada Secretary of State



**JIM MARCHANT**



**CISCO AGUILAR**

### **Jim Marchant Will Not Accept The Results Of The Election Without A**

**“Forensics Audit.”** Asked if he would commit to accepting the results of the general election, Marchant responded, “If we get an audit, if we get a forensics audit.” Asked again to confirm that he did not commit to accepting the results of the election, Marchant said, “Well, we’ll see. We’ll see if we get an audit.” [KRNV, [10/19/22](#)]

### **Jim Marchant Questioned The Results Of All Elections Held Since 2006, Except For His 2022 Primary Victory.**

“Nevada Republican Jim Marchant insisted there hadn’t been a legitimate election in his state in more than a decade. All of Nevada’s election winners since 2006, he said on a recent podcast, were ‘installed by the deep-state cabal.’ But when Marchant won the Republican nomination for Nevada secretary of state this week, he immediately celebrated the victory as legitimate.” [Associated Press, [6/16/22](#)]

### **Cisco Aguilar Trusts Nevada’s Electoral Process.**

During an interview with Democracy Docket, Aguilar said: “In Nevada, the secretary of state is the regulator of elections. It’s their job to call balls and strikes, to ensure that there’s a level playing field. As the former chairman of the Nevada Athletic Commission, I know how hard regulators have to work to keep the trust of the public. When you lose that trust, you lose faith in the whole system. Now more than ever, we need people to believe that their vote counts and their voice matters. America needs secretaries of state they can trust, not ones who will change the rules for political gain.” [Democracy Docket, [7/13/22](#)]

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**Jim Marchant Does Not Trust The Electoral Process.** Jim Marchant has spent months lobbying against electronic voting equipment in the state. In March, he told a panel of county commissioners, “the electronic voting machines are so vulnerable and so uncertifiable, I don't see how we can trust them.” [Nevada Independent, 9/13/22; Nye County Commission Meeting, 3/15/22]

## North Carolina Senate



**REP. TED BUDD**



**CHERI BEASLEY**

### **Ted Budd Refuses To Say Whether He Will Accept the Results of The Election.**

“Ted Budd in North Carolina...declined to commit to accepting the 2022 results. [...] Jonathan Felts, a spokesman for Representative Ted Budd of North Carolina, the state’s Republican nominee for Senate — who in Congress voted against certifying the 2020 election — declined to say if Mr. Budd would uphold the state’s results and claimed without evidence that Cheri Beasley, the Democratic nominee and a former State Supreme Court justice, might try to disenfranchise voters.” [New York Times, [9/18/22](#)]

- **Ted Budd’s Campaign Has Not Responded To Local Press Inquiries About Accepting Election Results.**

The Raleigh-based News & Observer reached out to Budd’s campaign, asking if he would accept the 2022 results; “Samantha Cotten, communications director for the Budd campaign, did not respond to the questions about accepting the 2020 and 2022 election results.” [The News & Observer, [9/20/22](#)]

### **Former North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Cheri Beasley Trusts Election Results.**

Beasley told the New York Times: “I trust that our 2022 election will be administered fairly.” [New York Times, [9/18/22](#)]

- **Cheri Beasley Will Accept The 2022 Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Cheri Beasley answered “Yes.” [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

## Pennsylvania Governor



**DOUG MASTRIANO**



**JOSH SHAPIRO**

**State Sen. Doug Mastriano Refuses To Say If He Will Accept the Results of His Election.** “At the top of the ticket for governor, Republican Doug Mastriano and his running mate have declined to say whether they’ll accept the results of the election. This uncertainty – coupled with Pennsylvania’s protracted vote-counting system – could produce chaos in the days, weeks or even months after ballots are cast Nov. 8.” [GoErie, [10/12/22](#)]

- **Doug Mastriano Has Not Indicated He Will Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Doug Mastriano reportedly “did not respond to The Post’s survey, and he is widely expected to contest his own result if he does not win.” [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

**Josh Shapiro: “I Will Accept The Results Of The Election Once The Votes Are Counted And The Election Is Certified, As I Always Have.”** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Josh Shapiro answered affirmatively, noting “I believe the integrity of our elections must be protected and every eligible vote must be counted. I will continue working to protect every citizen’s vote – and of course, I will accept the results of the election once the votes are counted and the election is certified, as I always have.” [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

## Wisconsin Senate



**SEN. RON JOHNSON**



**LT. GOV. MANDELA BARNES**

**Senator Ron Johnson Has Not Indicated Whether He Will Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Ron Johnson fell in the “No/Did Not Respond” category. [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

- **When Asked About Accepting Election Results, Ron Johnson’s Campaign Stated He Will “Be Monitoring Everything Closely.”** In response to an inquiry about whether Ron Johnson would concede if he loses, a campaign spokesperson told the Wisconsin State Journal, “He would feel much better about the 2022 election had Governor Evers signed bills the Legislature passed to restore confidence in our election system. [...] We will be monitoring everything closely.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [10/1/22](#)]

**Mandela Barnes Will Accept The Election Results.** The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Mandela Barnes answered “Yes.” [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

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**Ron Johnson Is Urging Supporters To Report Ballot-“Disqualifying” Election Procedures.** Senator Johnson has launched a website encouraging voters to report suspected “election integrity” problems and instructing poll workers in how to spot and report so-called “disqualifying issues” with absentee ballots to his campaign surrogates. [New York Times, [10/19/22](#)]



## Wisconsin Governor



**TIM MICHELS**



**GOV. TONY EVERS**

**Tim Michels Has Not Indicated Whether He Will Accept The Election Results.**

The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Tim Michels fell in the “No/Did Not Respond” category. [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]

**Tim Michels’ Campaign Refused To Unconditionally Accept The Election Results.**

In response to an inquiry about whether Tim Michels would concede if he loses, a campaign spokesperson told the Wisconsin State Journal he would only accept the Nov. 8 results, “provided the election is conducted fairly and securely,” an unlikely conclusion given Michels’ past statements opposing Wisconsin’s existing election laws. [Wisconsin State Journal, [10/1/22](#)]

**Tim Michels Does Not Trust The Electoral Process.**

“GOP gubernatorial nominee Tim Michels, a Trump protégé, has pledged to call a special session of the legislature ‘on day one’ to ‘clean up the election mess.’” [New York Magazine, [10/16/22](#)]

**Governor Tony Evers Will Accept The Election Results.**

The Washington Post surveyed numerous candidates on whether they will accept the results of their contests. Gov. Evers answered “Yes.” [Washington Post, [9/18/22](#)]