Subject: [Document Released to Requester] Maricopa County Recorder's Office public records request #26-87
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:37:18 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Maricopa County Recorders Office
To: AO Records
Category: PRODUCTION

EXTERNAL SENDER

-- Attach a non-image file and/or reply ABOVE THIS LINE with a message, and it will be sent to staff on this request. --

Maricopa County Recorder's Office Public Records

A document has been released for record request #26-87 along with the following message:

Good afternoon,

We are writing to inform you that your public records request is available. Please use the link below to access the records.

The files will be available for 14 days. After this date, the link will expire, and the records will become unavailable to download using the link.

Important Notice: The Maricopa County Recorder's Office refrains from interpreting records or data released from our office. Please note that certain records may be restricted from electronic posting or sharing, as outlined in A.R.S. §16-168. Should you have any

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inquiries, we advise you to seek guidance from your legal counsel.

Best regards,

Public Records
Recorder's Office

- 26-87_Redacted.pdf

View Request 26-87

https://mcro.nextrequest.com/requests/26-87

Document links are valid for one month. After March 18, you will need to sign in to view the document(s).

Questions about your request? Reply to this email or sign in to contact staff at Maricopa County Recorder's Office.

Technical support: See our help page

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From: "Justin Heap (REC)" [redacted]>
To: "maureen.riordan2@usdoj.gov" <maureen.riordan2@usdoj.gov>
Cc: "voting.section@usdoj.com" <voting.section@usdoj.com>
Subject: RE: Recorder's Response to Litigation Hold of Maricopa County Election Documents
Date: Fri, 05 Sep 2025 22:29:39 -0000
Importance: Normal
Attachments: Department_of_Justice_letter_9.5.2025_Election_Records.pdf; Recorder's_letter_to_Maricopa_County_Regarding_Retention_of_Records_-_8.13.2025.pdf; 09.04.2025_State_of_Arizona_(004).pdf
Inline-Images: image001.png

Dear Ms. Riordan,

This letter responds to Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon's correspondence to Secretary of State Adrian Fontes dated September 4, 2025, which also referenced my office. I write to provide the current status of the requested election records and to confirm my willingness to work with your office in support of your efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Justin Heap
County Recorder
Recorder's Office
301 W Jefferson St
2nd Floor, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
O: [redacted]
E: [redacted]
Recorder.Maricopa.Gov
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U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

September 4, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Adrian Fontes
Secretary of State
State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2808
adrian.fontes@azsos.gov
secretary.fontes@azsos.gov

Re: Litigation Hold of Arizona Election Documents

Dear Secretary Fontes,

On August 12, 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division informed you of proposed litigation against you in your official capacity as Arizona Secretary of State.

Please be advised that pursuant to Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this letter serves as notice to preserve all electronically stored election records, copies and backup, as defined by Rule 34, along with any paper files which the State of Arizona maintains. This notice covers the years 2020 through the present.

In addition to our recent litigation notice letter, we have received complaints concerning errors and malfeasance in the conduct of the Maricopa County elections. This letter serves as notice to preserve all election records in Maricopa County as well. This preservation request covers all records, including all staff emails, regarding elections that were held in 2020-2024. It has come to our attention that the Maricopa Elections Department and Recorder intend to destroy election records from the 2020 and 2022 federal elections, including staff emails. Please be advised that any attempt to destroy these and any other records will be construed by the Civil Rights Division as evidence of intentional spoliation of evidence.

If you need further clarification, please contact Maureen Riordan at maureen.riordan2@usdoj.gov.

Regards,

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

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cc:

The Honorable Justin Heap
Maricopa County Recorder
301 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
voterinfo@maricopa.gov
recordinginfo@maricopa.gov

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Attn: Chiefs of Staff
301 West Jefferson Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
garth.kamp@maricopa.gov
page.gonzales@maricopa.gov
peter.mains@maricopa.gov
scott.isham@maricopa.gov
john.gomez@maricopa.gov

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August 13, 2025

Jen Poroski
Maricopa County
301 W. Jefferson
10th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Subject: Concerns Regarding Email Retention and Archiving Practices

Dear Jen Poroski,

I am writing to formally raise concerns regarding our current email retention and archiving practices. Given the critical role that email plays in our daily operations and as an official record of County business, I believe it is essential to ensure that our policies and procedures meet applicable legal, regulatory, and operational requirements.

At present, it appears that:

- Retention periods and practices for certain categories of email may not align with statutory requirements, industry best practices, or the guidelines established by the State Library Archives.
- The archiving process does not consistently preserve all relevant messages, including attachments, in a readily retrievable format.
- The staff currently responsible for managing the County's email system do not have clear guidance or adequate documentation and training regarding which emails must be retained, for how long, and under what circumstances they may be purged.
- Due to the limitations of the current system, our office is unable to pull and fulfill public records requests in a timely manner, and we must rely on staff outside of our department to locate and provide the requested information.

These issues present potential risks in the areas of compliance, public records requests, litigation discovery, and the preservation of institutional knowledge. A well-defined and enforced retention policy, supported by a secure and verifiable archiving solution, is critical for mitigating these risks.

Because of these concerns, our department will be implementing its own email retention and archiving system to ensure that records under our purview are preserved in full compliance with applicable laws, best practices, and operational needs. This system will allow us to maintain control over retention schedules, ensure secure storage, and facilitate timely retrieval when required.

Sincerely,

Justin Heap
Maricopa County Recorder

Office of the Recorder
Justin Heap
301 W. Jefferson St.
7th Floor, Suite 705
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

P: 602.506.3535
Recorder.Maricopa.Gov

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Maricopa County
Office of the Recorder

Justin Heap
County Recorder

Maricopa County Recorder's Office
September 5, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Preservation of Election Records – Maricopa County

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon,

I am writing in response to your letter of September 4, 2025, addressed to Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and referencing the Maricopa County Recorder's Office.

First, I acknowledge receipt of the Department of Justice's notice and confirm that our office is in full agreement with the requirement to preserve all election-related records as outlined in your correspondence. We recognize the seriousness of this obligation and are committed to ensuring compliance.

It is important to clarify that shortly prior to my taking office, my predecessor, Stephen Richer, entered into a calculated agreement with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. As part of that agreement all electronic documents, communications, and related records from prior elections and administrations were transferred to the custody of the Maricopa County Elections Department and the Enterprise Technology & Innovation (ETI) division.

We are currently engaged in litigation against the Board of Supervisors and the return of these archived records to the lawful custody of the Recorder is one of several key contested issues in that lawsuit. At present, however, my staff does not have access to the referenced records, nor do we have control or oversight of their preservation.

In mid-August 2025, my office became aware of indications that Elections/ETI intended to delete certain archived records surrounding the 2020 and 2022 elections. In response, I issued the attached formal request to County Manager Jen Pokorski, demanding the preservation of all records under their control. This action was taken promptly to ensure that the preservation duties imposed under state and federal law were upheld.

301 W Jefferson St.
2nd Floor, Ste 200
Phoenix, AZ 85003

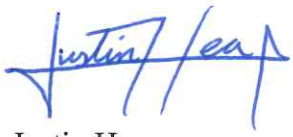
Recorder.Maricopa.Gov
(602) 506-3535

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Please be assured that my office is committed to full cooperation with the Department of Justice as it conducts its investigation. We share your goal of safeguarding election integrity and transparency, and we will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that no records are lost, compromised, or destroyed.

Should you or your staff require further clarification or wish to coordinate preservation protocols directly with my office, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Justin Heap

Maricopa County Recorder [Attachment: Letter to County Manager Jen Pokorski, dated August 13, 2025]

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