



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 21, 2020

Secretary of State Katie Hobbs  
1700 W. Washington St., 7th Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

I write today after receiving concerns expressed by a certified election officer regarding election policies and practices that have been proposed and/or recently implemented. Over the last two years, our offices have worked closely to maintain and strengthen the integrity of our election system. From the approval of the 2019 Election Procedures Manual, to fully funding and investing in the 2020 Presidential Preference Election, to a \$9 million investment to support safe and secure voting in Arizona during the COVID-19 pandemic— I appreciate your partnership.

As you are aware, the integrity of the election system is attributed in large part by the commitment of election officers to uphold our constitution, laws, and the state election procedures manual. The reports received by my office regarding the proposed election policies and procedures seem to break with that tradition, and appear in conflict with state law and the election procedures manual.

Specifically, my office received reports of the following:

- The establishment of a hotline by your office that would allow individuals to register to vote telephonically, without submitting a required registration form.<sup>1</sup> State law and the election procedures manual very clearly require a voter registration form to be submitted by a voter, precluding the ability of your office to register voters telephonically.
- The facilitation of special election boards in Maricopa County, by virtual means, in violation of state law, which requires that these services be, “delivered to the elector *in person* by a special election board...” (emphasis added).<sup>2</sup> Further, the \$9 million

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<sup>1</sup>2019 Election Procedures Manual, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> A.R.S. § 16-549(C)

investment in response to COVID-19 was, in part, to ensure election officials have adequate resources to ensure safe and secure *in-person* special election board services.

Across all spectrums, COVID-19 has changed the way we operate and we've had to quickly evolve to accommodate the unforeseen demands and challenges of this pandemic — but at no point in addressing these challenges should we disregard the laws, policies, and procedures that exist to protect the integrity of our election systems. Substantive policy changes such as the ones described by election officials should endure legislative scrutiny or approval by the attorney general and the governor through the rigorous election procedures manual process prescribed in state law.

These policy changes should be suspended immediately so that Arizonans can continue to have confidence and faith in the integrity of our election system. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas A. Ducey

Governor

State of Arizona

CC: Mark Brnovich, Attorney General