

Vote Count Verification Committee

(A.R.S. § 16-602 (K))

Virtually via Zoom

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FINAL UNAPPROVED COPY

Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Morrell, CEO & Co-Founder, The Elections Group, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. Welcome and roll call.

Committee Members Present:

Chair Jennifer Morrell
Co-Chair Reynaldo Valenzuela
Laurin Custis
Eslir Musta
Helen Purcell
Thomas Collins
Rhonda Barnes

Committee Members Absent:

None

Committee Staff Present:

Renada Fisher – Deputy State Election Director, Staff
Tanner Robinson – Elections Constituent Services Manager & Minutes Coordinator, Staff
Karen Hartman – Assistant Attorney General
Kate Myers – General Counsel
Luke Douglas – Chief Legal Officer

Approximate Zoom Viewership: 12

Chair Morrell welcomed the committee members and staff.

Ms. Helen Purcell lost connection to the meeting shortly after it began and had sporadic connection throughout the meeting.

III. Discussion and possible action on Meeting Minutes for July 8, 2026.

The Chair asked for any discussion or motion regarding the previous meeting minutes.

Ms. Laurin Custis, Director of Elections, Yavapai County, motioned that the previous meeting minutes dated June 8, 2026, be approved. Co-Chair Reynaldo Valenzuela, Director of Elections (Mail-in Voting), Maricopa County, seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Votes:

Chair Morrell: Yes

Co-Chair Valenzuela: Yes

Mr. Collins: Yes

Ms. Custis: Yes

Mr. Musta: Yes

Ms. Purcell: Absent

Ms. Barnes: Yes

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

The minutes were approved.

IV. Discussion and possible action regarding establishing the designated margins to provide to the Secretary of State.

Chair Morrell wanted to congratulate Arizona on such transparent margin information in Arizona and reiterated that this was the first time all 15 counties participated.

The Chair noted the thresholds as they are currently set.

- 3 votes or 1% of early ballots, whichever is greater
- 3 votes or 1% of polling place ballots, whichever is greater

Co-Chair Valenzuela wanted to know if any county experienced any issues with the hand count in the primary election.

Ms. Renada Fisher, Deputy State Election Director, Secretary of State's Office, noted Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo, Pinal, Yavapai and Yuma counties had no discrepancies found. Gila, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties had discrepancies, but they fell within the acceptable margins.

The Chair asked for a motion to maintain the margins as currently established.

Co-Chair Valenzuela motioned to maintain the margins as currently established. Ms. Custis seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Votes:

Chair Morrell: Yes
Co-Chair Valenzuela: Yes
Mr. Collins: Yes
Ms. Custis: Yes
Mr. Musta: Yes
Ms. Purcell: N/A
Ms. Barnes: Yes

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
N/A: 1

The motion was passed.

- V. Call to the Public (Public Comments) – Please note: the Committee may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing study of the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Public comments may be sent to elections@azsos.gov, with the subject line: Vote Count Verification. Comments are limited to no more than 500 words per member of the public and must be received by 5:00 PM MST, September 9, 2026, to be included in the record. Comments will not be read at the meeting.**

No public comments were received.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Thomas Collins, Executive Director, Citizens Clean Elections Commission, motioned that the committee adjourn. Mr. Esliir Musta, Director of Elections, Coconino County Elections Department, seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Morrell: Yes
Co-Chair Valenzuela: Yes
Mr. Collins: Yes
Ms. Custis: Yes
Mr. Musta: Yes
Ms. Purcell: Yes
Ms. Barnes: Yes

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

The committee meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

DRAFT