



Saturday, September 30, 2023

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St., 9th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Kris Mayes
Attorney General of the State of Arizona
2005 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Re: 2023 Elections Procedures Manual

Dear Governor Hobbs and Attorney General Mayes:

Please find enclosed with this letter the 2023 Elections Procedures Manual for your review and approval pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-452.

The Arizona Elections Procedures Manual is one of the most important documents to ensure consistent and efficient election administration across our state. Reflecting its importance to safe, secure, and accurate elections in Arizona, my office made updating the Manual a top priority—holding a series of monthly meetings with local and county elections officials to suggest changes and garner feedback. As a former County Recorder, I understand how important this Manual is for the dedicated Arizonans who are entrusted with one of the toughest and most important jobs in our democracy. It is to these dedicated election officials, as well as to my equally dedicated and knowledgeable staff, that I attribute the high quality of today's submission.

In keeping with the good practice of the prior Administration, we posted an initial draft of this Manual for public comment, and received over 1,530 comments from 620 groups or individuals. During a rigorous period of consultation with county and tribal officials, as well as legislators from both parties and voting rights advocates, we carefully considered, and, where appropriate, incorporated these suggestions in our current draft.

The result of this collaborative process is an updated Manual that is reflective of the needs of local and county election officials—many of whom are new to their jobs, and subject to unprecedented scrutiny in an atmosphere of increased threats and intimidation by those with a vested interest in sowing doubt about our elections.

We look forward to receiving any constructive comments you might have. If you have any questions or concerns about the attached submission, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or State Elections Director, Colleen Connor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Fontes". The signature is stylized with a large initial "A" and a prominent "F".

Adrian Fontes
Arizona Secretary of State