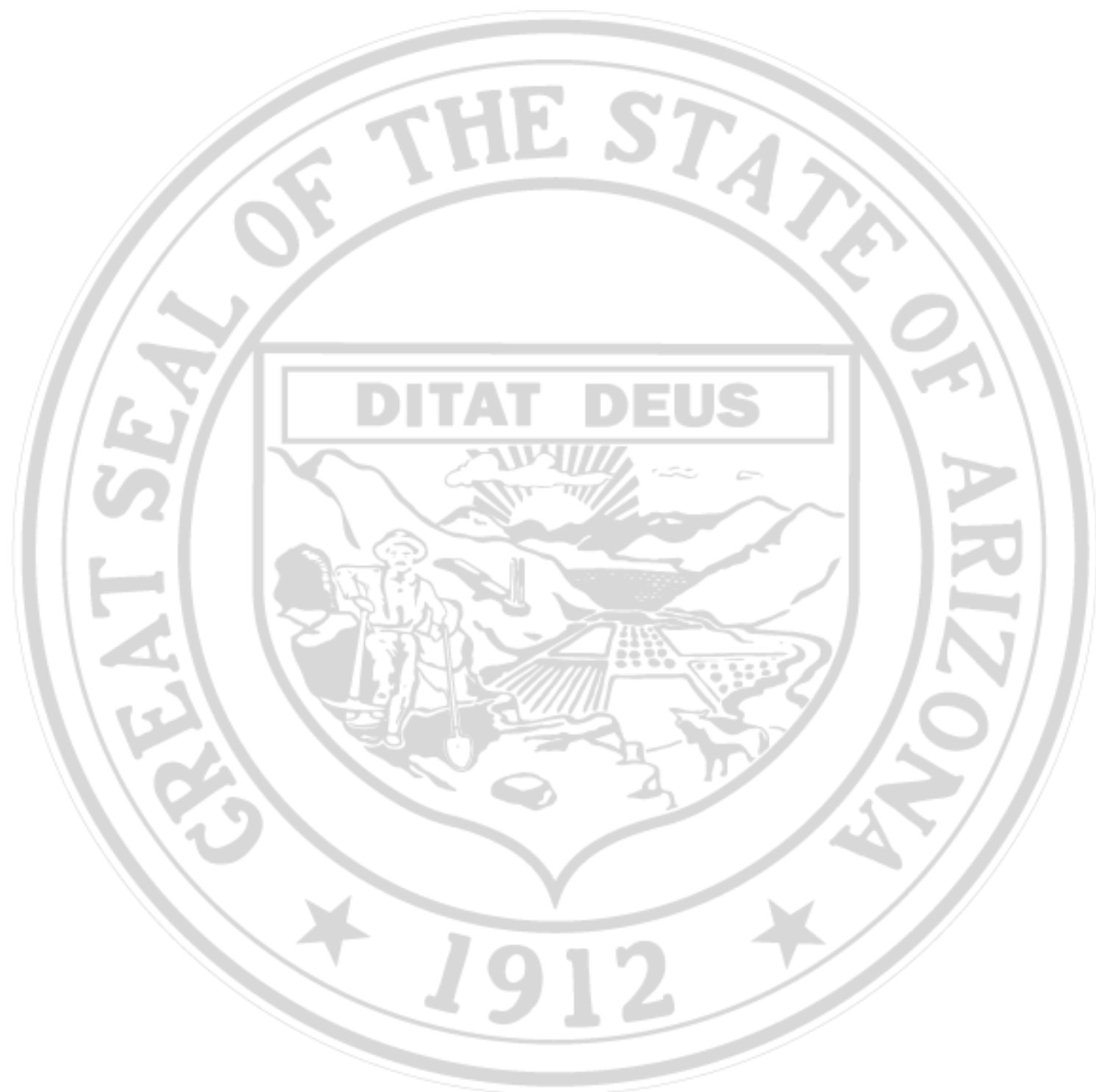


ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2025



My Fellow Arizonans,

Democracy does not run on autopilot. It is maintained—day after day—by people who show up, follow the law, and do the work, even when that work unfolds under a national spotlight.

In 2025, Arizona’s election system, public services, and democratic institutions were tested in real time—and in those moments, preparation mattered. The systems we built, the partnerships we strengthened, and the safeguards we put in place over the past two years were not theoretical—they were operational. They were used; and they worked.

Last year, Arizona administered complex elections, including a rare congressional special election. We finalized another Elections Procedures Manual, reinforcing the rule of law and providing counties with clear, lawful guidance. We strengthened election security in the face of evolving cyber and artificial-intelligence-driven threats. We protected voter data and personal privacy. We expanded business and notary services into rural communities. We safeguarded survivors of violence through the Address Confidentiality Program. We preserved Arizona’s history through historic investments in records modernization and digitization.

Equally important, we focused on clarity. In a year that included changes to party names and heightened public attention on elections, the Office worked to ensure voters had accurate, plain-language information about their registration, their choices, and their rights—because confidence in democracy depends on understanding, not confusion.

This work is carried out by election officials, cybersecurity professionals, librarians, archivists, business services staff, and outreach teams who believe that government works best when it is accessible, accountable, and fair.

This Annual Report reflects more than what we accomplished. It reflects how we approach public service: grounded in law, committed to transparency, and focused on access—for voters, for businesses, and for communities across our state.

It is an honor to serve the people of Arizona. Thank you for your trust, your engagement, and your partnership as we continue delivering on democracy for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian P. Fontes".

Adrian P. Fontes
Arizona Secretary of State



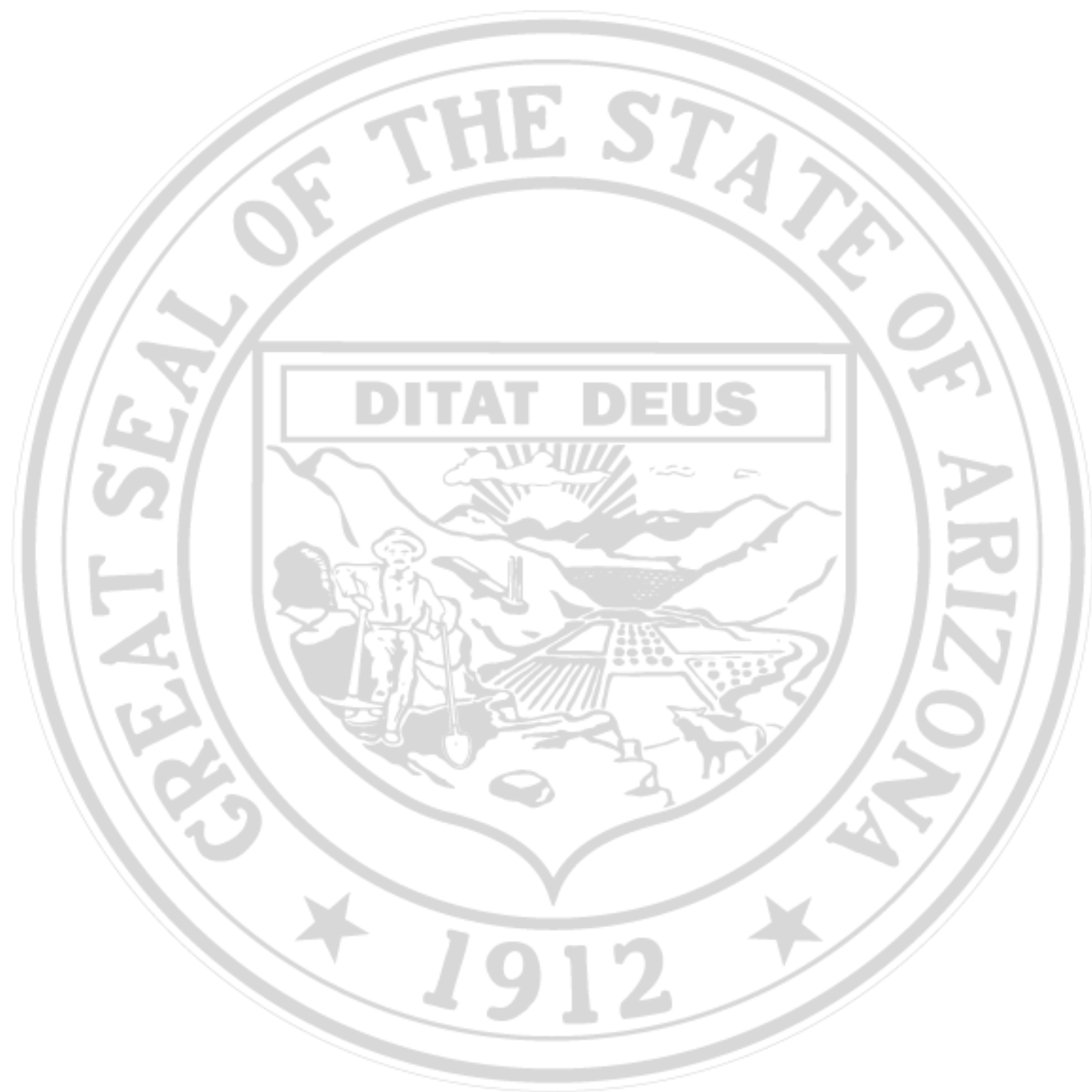
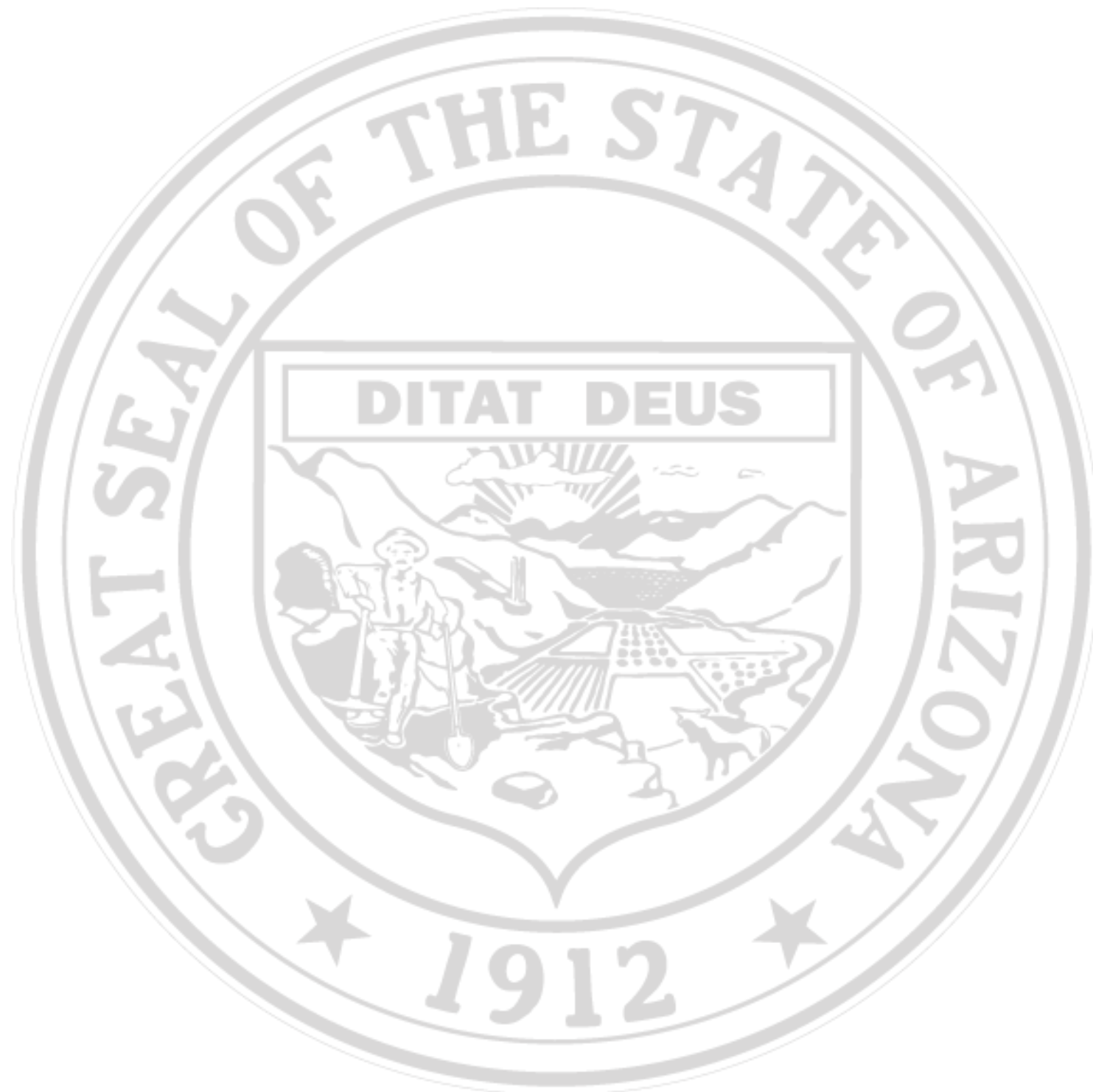


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OUR CHARGE

While mission, vision and values for the Arizona Secretary of State are not codified within Arizona statute, our office is charged with many state functions including:

- Overseeing secure and accurate elections as the state's chief election official;
- Acting as an integral partner with the economic engine that is the business community;
- Preserving Arizona's history and assisting the public with historical research and resources;
- Protecting victims of violence through the state's Address Confidentiality Program;
- Providing access to public records and state government regulations; and
- Serving as acting governor when the Governor is absent from the state.

In each of these areas, we are committed to providing efficient, friendly customer service.

OUR MISSION, VISION, VALUES

We adopt the following as guiding principles of our office:

Mission:

- To uphold and protect the democratic processes of the state
- To support Arizona election officials and ensure fair, accurate, transparent, and secure elections
- To facilitate transparent and efficient business registration and regulatory processes
- To safeguard and maintain public records and confidential personal information
- To promote and preserve Arizona's heritage

Vision:

- To be a trusted and innovative resource for Arizonans
- To foster a state where civic engagement is encouraged and our democratic system is robust
- To enhance service delivery by leveraging technology and best practices

Values:

- Teamwork: Collaborating with and investing in people and acknowledging the importance of public service
- Integrity: Upholding the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct
- Inclusivity: Embracing and respecting the diversity of Arizona
- Innovation: Continuously seeking improvements and efficiencies
- Service: Being committed to providing excellent voter and customer-centric experiences
- Transparency: Being responsible and accountable in all actions and decisions

2025 AT A GLANCE.

The Arizona Secretary of State's Office (the Office) serves as a cornerstone of Arizona's democracy and economy. In 2025, that responsibility meant delivering lawful elections, protecting voter data, strengthening cybersecurity, supporting businesses, preserving public records, and expanding access to essential services statewide.

Across every function, the Office focused on one goal: ensuring that Arizonans can trust their government to work—securely, transparently, and in service to the public.

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S ELECTIONS AND THE RULE OF LAW

Administering elections is one of the most visible and consequential responsibilities of the Secretary of State. In 2025, the Office supported counties through a complex election calendar that included a rare congressional special election, multiple jurisdictional elections, and continued implementation of reforms from prior cycles.

The Office finalized a new Elections Procedures Manual (EPM), and Arizona Supreme Court rulings provided critical legal understanding—affirming the statutory process for election administration and giving counties a clear operational roadmap as they prepare for future cycles. Together, these actions reinforced the rule of law and reduced uncertainty for election officials and voters alike.

Training and certification of election officials expanded, strengthening the statewide election workforce and ensuring consistent, professional administration across all 15 counties.



WORKING FOR *Arizonans*

STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY AFTER REAL-WORLD TESTS

Election security in 2025 extended far beyond Election Day. As cyber threats and AI-enabled risks evolved, the Office treated cybersecurity as a core operational responsibility.

When a sophisticated cyber incident targeted a public-facing system, the Office detected, contained, and resolved the threat without disruption to elections or voter data. Lessons learned from this real-world test informed system upgrades, training, and statewide coordination—strengthening Arizona's cyber posture moving forward.

PROTECTING VOTER INFORMATION AND PROVIDING CLEAR GUIDANCE

Safeguarding voter data is essential to election integrity. In 2025, the Office maintained a firm commitment to protecting sensitive personal information while ensuring transparency required by law.

The Office also prioritized clear voter information during a year that included changes to party names and heightened attention to voter registration. Through plain-language guidance and coordination with county partners, voters received accurate information about their registration status, party affiliation, and voting options—reducing confusion and reinforcing confidence.



SERVING BUSINESSES AND SUPPORTING ARIZONA’S ECONOMY

The Office also plays a critical role in Arizona’s economic life. In 2025, the Office’s Business Services Division focused on restoring access, reducing backlogs, and modernizing outdated systems.

Customer service counters in Phoenix and Tucson returned to full operating hours, notary and Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) processing times improved, and long-standing backlogs were significantly reduced. Technology upgrades replaced fragile legacy systems, improving reliability and setting the stage for continued modernization.

Through the Mobile Business Services (MBS) Outreach Program, the Office took services directly into communities across Arizona—particularly rural areas—meeting entrepreneurs and business owners where they are and reducing barriers to access.



PRESERVING PUBLIC RECORDS AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Through the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records Division, the Office preserved Arizona’s history while expanding access to information.

In 2025, the digitization and modernization of records accelerated, library programs reached communities statewide, and investments in electronic records preservation strengthened long-term accountability. Libraries, archives, and records management services supported researchers, students, government agencies, and the public, ensuring that Arizona’s story remains accessible and protected.

PROTECTING SURVIVORS THROUGH THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

For the thousands of Arizonans impacted by domestic violence, sexual offenses, stalking, and trafficking, safety depends on confidentiality. In 2025, the Address Confidentiality Program expanded to serve more households while also strengthening security, staff training, and outreach.

The Office prioritized trauma-informed service, operational integrity, and collaboration with community partners—ensuring that survivors can interact with government without risking their safety.



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AND STRENGTHENING CIVIC TRUST

In 2025, the Office expanded community outreach efforts to connect Arizonans with services, information, and civic opportunities. Outreach trips, partnerships, and voter-engagement initiatives strengthened relationships with communities across the state.

At the same time, Arizona launched its participation in America’s 250th anniversary through the Arizona America250 Commission. Programming and events emphasized civic responsibility, shared history, and participation—connecting Arizona’s past with its democratic future.



Together, these efforts reflect the everyday work of the Office in 2025: **delivering secure elections, supporting economic activity, protecting personal information, preserving public records, and serving communities statewide.**

State Highlight

SECRETARY OF STATE LEADS TRANSPARENT, BIPARTISAN ADOPTION OF ARIZONA’S ELECTIONS RULEBOOK

Providing accurate, timely information is essential in an environment where misinformation can spread quickly. In 2025, the Office continued to publish plain-language guidance to address common questions and misconceptions about elections.

Myth-versus-fact resources were aligned with the EPM and statutory requirements, giving voters a reliable reference grounded in law. These materials helped clarify issues related to voting procedures, ballot processing, and election administration—reinforcing confidence through transparency.

In December 2025, the Office completed and secured statewide approval of the EPM—the official rulebook that governs how elections are administered across Arizona. The EPM was developed through a rigorous, transparent, and bipartisan process, including line-by-line collaboration with county election officials from across the political spectrum, representing both urban and rural communities.

As Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes emphasized that the manual reflects broad input, public transparency, and a deep commitment to the rule of law, providing election officials with clear, consistent guidance as Arizona prepares for the 2026 election cycle.

The EPM requires formal approval from the Secretary of State, Governor, and Attorney General, ensuring statewide accountability and interbranch oversight. With the 2025 manual approved, Arizona enters the next election cycle with a stable, publicly vetted framework that strengthens consistency, confidence, and professionalism in election administration.

By prioritizing bipartisan collaboration and clear procedures, the Office reinforced a core principle of democratic governance: elections should be run under transparent rules that are fair, lawful, and trusted by voters of every political affiliation.

State Highlight

PUTTING VOTERS FIRST: A VISION FOR ARIZONA'S ELECTIONS

A forward-looking proposal to modernize Arizona's election system — strengthening access, security, and trust for every voter.

In 2026, the Office advanced a comprehensive legislative proposal designed to build on the state's strong election foundation while addressing the evolving needs of voters and election administrators. Known as the Voters First Act, the proposal reflects a clear principle: Election systems work best when they prioritize access and security and invest in both accordingly.

Developed in partnership with legislative leaders, the Voters First Act outlines a statewide framework to modernize, standardize, and strengthen election administration across all 15 counties. The proposal is grounded in research and informed by the real-world experiences of election officials, with a focus on improving how elections function for voters while ensuring continued integrity and trust in the system.



KEY PRIORITIES OF THE VOTERS *First* ACT

Expanding voter access and convenience

- Establishing vote centers statewide to provide greater flexibility
- Restoring and strengthening early voting options
- Extending early voting deadlines to reduce last-minute barriers
- Ensuring ballots are counted even when returned to the wrong county

Strengthening election security and infrastructure

- Investing in election cybersecurity and IT systems
- Modernizing voter protection zones at voting locations and drop boxes
- Supporting participation in multi-state data-sharing systems to maintain accurate voter rolls

Improving communication and transparency

- Expanding ballot tracking and curing notifications
- Providing voters with real-time updates on the status of their ballot

Ensuring sustainable election funding

- Supporting dedicated funding for election infrastructure and administration
- Allowing election offices to access additional resources for voter education and innovation

At its core, the Voters First Act reflects a fundamental understanding: strong elections require both access and security, and both require investment. By advancing a comprehensive, statewide approach, the Office is helping to ensure that Arizona's election system remains modern, resilient, and centered on the needs of its voters.

As Arizona looks ahead to future election cycles, this proposal represents a continued commitment to strengthening democracy by putting voters first.

ELECTION SERVICES

ADMINISTERING LAWFUL, SECURE, AND ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS

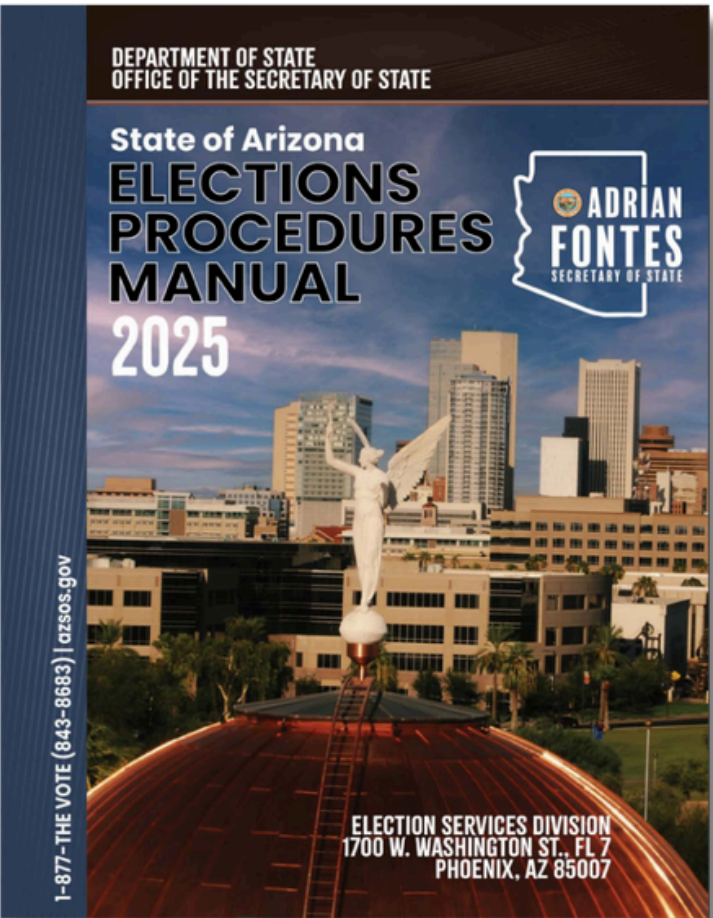
Administering elections is the Arizona Secretary of State’s most visible and consequential responsibilities. In 2025, the Office carried out that responsibility in an environment shaped by heightened public scrutiny, evolving legal standards, emerging cyber threats, and a demanding election calendar that included a rare congressional special election and dozens of local contests statewide.

Throughout the year, the Office prioritized legal clarity, operational readiness, election security, and voter confidence, reinforcing Arizona’s reputation as a national leader in election administration and strengthening public trust in the democratic process.

Providing Legal Clarity Through the Elections Procedures Manual

The EPM serves as the authoritative guide for how elections are conducted in Arizona. It carries the force of law and establishes uniform standards for counties, cities, and towns statewide.

In 2025, the Secretary of State submitted a revised EPM, with final approval completed by the Governor and Attorney General, a week before the statutory deadline. This marked the second EPM approved during this administration’s first term—something that has not happened in well over a decade. By providing a second updated EPM within a single term, the Office is restoring predictability and consistency for election officials across the state.



That progress builds on Arizona Supreme Court rulings issued in 2025, which affirmed that the EPM follows its own statutory approval process and is not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The Court’s decisions reinforced the legally defined roles of the Secretary of State, Governor, and Attorney General in approving election procedures, reduced lingering legal uncertainty, and provided counties with clear guidance as they prepare for future election cycles.

The 2025 EPM incorporated:

- Legislative changes enacted since the prior manual
- Court decisions affecting election administration
- Lessons learned from the 2024 General Election
- Input from county election officials, tribal governments, disability advocates, and voters

Key areas of clarification included ballot chain-of-custody procedures, logic and accuracy testing, election worker training requirements, recount timelines, and voter access protections. The manual was designed to be both precise and practical, recognizing that election officials must apply its provisions under real-world conditions and often under intense time pressure.

With legal questions resolved and an updated EPM in place, election officials across the state are better positioned to focus on training, planning, and service delivery—rather than litigation—strengthening readiness and stability in 2026.



Congressional District 7 Special Election

In 2025, the Office oversaw election administration for the Special Election in Arizona’s 7th Congressional District, the first congressional special election in Arizona since 2018 and the first in that period to involve multiple counties. The Office managed candidate filings and petition review, with eight candidates submitting nomination petitions, approximately 9,709 petition signatures accepted, and four write-in candidates filing for the race.

The Office oversaw both the Special Primary Election and the Special General Election, conducted logic and accuracy testing in all six counties within the district, and completed the official statewide canvass in partnership with the Governor and Attorney General before transmitting certified results to Congress.

Executing this election required intensive coordination with county election officials, rapid legal and logistical decision-making, and strict adherence to election integrity standards—providing a real-world test of Arizona’s readiness to administer complex, high-stakes elections.

Supporting Jurisdictional Elections Statewide

Beyond the congressional special election, election activity in 2025 included a significant number of local contests. Ten counties conducted a total of 60 jurisdictional elections in November, encompassing cities, towns, school districts, special districts, and other local entities.

- The Office supported these elections by:
- Providing guidance on election procedures and statutory timelines
 - Supporting logic and accuracy testing requirements
 - Assisting with ballot format compliance and chain-of-custody standards
 - Offering real-time technical and procedural support as needed

While counties are responsible for administering local elections, the Office plays a critical role in ensuring statewide consistency and compliance with Arizona law.



Election Officer Certification and Workforce Development

A professional, well-trained election workforce is essential to election integrity. In 2025, the Office conducted three initial Election Officer Certification trainings and five recertification trainings for election officials statewide.

New legislation enacted in 2025 authorized the Office to conduct Election Officer Certification annually rather than every two years. This change reflects the growing complexity of election administration and the need for more frequent training to address legal updates, cybersecurity risks, and evolving operational challenges.

Annual certification strengthens institutional knowledge, supports consistency across counties, and ensures that election officials are equipped with current information and best practices.

Operational Preparedness and County Partnerships

Throughout 2025, the Office maintained close coordination with county election officials through regular meetings, trainings, and direct technical assistance.

- Support included:
- Guidance on ballot reconciliation and chain-of-custody procedures
 - Assistance with voting equipment testing and certification
 - Coordination on election-night reporting and post-election audits
 - Collaboration with cybersecurity and physical security partners

The Office’s approach emphasized partnership rather than enforcement —recognizing that secure, accessible elections depend on strong collaboration between state and local officials.



Transparency, Communication, and Public Confidence

Public confidence in elections depends on clear rules, consistent procedures, and timely communication. In 2025, the Office prioritized transparent engagement with voters, candidates, and the media—particularly during high-visibility moments such as the congressional special election and court rulings affecting election administration.

By grounding election administration in statute, reinforcing the rule of law, and communicating clearly with the public, the Office strengthened trust in the electoral process during a year of significant legal and operational activity.

VOTER REGISTRATION, DATA PRIVACY, AND VOTER INFORMATION

Maintaining accurate voter registration records while protecting sensitive personal information is central to election integrity and public trust. In 2025, the Office continued to administer voter registration under a framework designed to balance transparency, privacy, and access.



Statewide Voter Registration System

Arizona maintains a centralized voter registration system that supports accurate voter records across all 15 counties. County recorders are responsible for entering and updating voter registration information, while the Office maintains the statewide infrastructure that ensures consistency, security, and coordination.

Throughout 2025, the Office continued to support counties in processing new registrations, address changes, updates, and cancellations in accordance with state and federal law. Ongoing data maintenance helped ensure that voter records remained current and accurate while preserving voter eligibility and access.

Protecting Voter Data and Personal Information

Safeguarding voter information is an essential component of election administration. In 2025, the Office reaffirmed its commitment to protecting sensitive personal data while complying with Arizona’s public records laws.

When requests for voter data raised concerns about privacy and statutory authority, the Office relied on existing law and established public-records processes to guide its response. This approach ensured that voter information was handled lawfully, responsibly, and consistently—reinforcing the principle that transparency and privacy are not in conflict but complementary obligations.

By adhering to statutory standards and long-standing disclosure practices, the Office protected voters’ personal information while maintaining public access to records as required by law.

Supporting Counties and Voters Through Transitions

Changes to election law, party status, and administrative procedures require careful coordination. Throughout 2025, the Office provided technical guidance and support to county election officials to ensure consistent application of voter registration rules statewide.

By prioritizing accuracy, communication, and partnership, the Office helped counties navigate transitions while maintaining uninterrupted service to voters.

Public Confidence Through Lawful Administration

Public confidence in voter registration systems depends on lawful processes, accurate records, and clear communication. In 2025, the Office focused on delivering all three—grounding voter registration administration in statute, protecting personal information, and ensuring voters had access to reliable, understandable information.

These efforts strengthened trust in Arizona’s voter registration system and supported the broader goal of secure, accessible elections for all eligible Arizonans.

POLITICAL PARTY ADMINISTRATION AND VOTER EDUCATION

Arizona law establishes specific criteria for political party recognition, which in turn affects candidate filing, ballot access, and how voters’ registrations are recorded. In 2025, the Office administered party recognition and related voter registration updates in accordance with statute, with an emphasis on accuracy, transparency, and clear voter communication.

Political Party Recognition and Implementation

In a nearly unprecedented development, a political party recognized under Arizona law changed its name from No Labels to the Arizona Independent Party. Implementing this change has required continuing coordination with the Arizona Department of Transportation’s Motor Vehicle Division, the counties, and other officials in state government. While the Secretary’s role in a political party name change is a case of first impression currently working its way through the court system, the Office remains committed to resolving the litigation expeditiously so that election administration will proceed without disruption.



Preventing Voter Confusion Through Clear Guidance

Changes in party recognition and naming conventions can create confusion for voters—particularly for those who identify as independent but are not affiliated with a recognized political party.

- In 2025, the Office prioritized plain-language voter education to help Arizonans understand:
- The difference between being registered as “independent” and being affiliated with the Arizona Independent Party
 - How party affiliation affects primary election participation
 - How to check and update voter registration information

The Office coordinated messaging with county recorders and the MVD to ensure consistency across registration and update processes. Clear guidance was provided through Arizona.Vote and other voter-facing materials so that voters could make informed choices about their registration.

Supporting Counties and Frontline Election Staff

County election officials are often the first point of contact for voters with questions about party affiliation and ballot eligibility. Throughout 2025, the Office provided technical guidance and support to counties to ensure that voter inquiries were answered accurately and consistently.

This coordination helped counties respond effectively to voter questions, reduce confusion at the local level, and maintain confidence in the voter registration system.



ELECTION SECURITY, CYBER RESILIENCE, AND THREAT PREPAREDNESS

Arizona continued to strengthen its election security posture in 2025 through statewide coordination, proactive threat monitoring, technology modernization, and targeted training.

The Office convened monthly Statewide Election Security Meetings, where election officials and partners addressed emerging risks such as AI-driven misinformation, insider threats, and synthetic media, including deepfake awareness and mitigation strategies.

The Office also conducted security tours in all 15 counties, strengthening local election infrastructure, providing targeted training to county officials, and supporting incident-response planning and tabletop exercises. These efforts reinforced coordination between state and local partners while improving preparedness for both cyber and physical threats.

In June 2025, the Office responded to a remote code execution attack targeting a candidate portal upload function. The incident was detected, contained, and remediated without any impact on voting systems, ballots, tabulation, or election results.

Following the response, the Office implemented enhanced logging standards, hardened database infrastructure, and strengthened overall system security. There were no election-day disruptions statewide.

PROJECT IMPROVEMENT: ARIZONA LAUNCHED UPGRADED UOCAVA VOTING SYSTEM TO ENSURE SECURE, ANONYMOUS BALLOTS FOR MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

In August 2025, the Office launched a new, secure voting system for military and overseas voters under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). This new program marked a major milestone in the state’s two-decade effort to modernize and enhance ballot access for military and civilian voters serving or living abroad, ensuring that every eligible voter, no matter where they are in the world, can easily cast a ballot that is both secure and truly anonymous. Historically, UOCAVA voters in Arizona were required to waive their right to a secret ballot to vote due to how those ballots were processed once they were returned to Arizona’s county election officials.

When used as designed, the new UOCAVA program guarantees ballot anonymity, placing UOCAVA voters on equal footing with state-side voters. It also makes it much easier for voters, particularly those in locations where they may not have access to a printer or scanner. The new system allows voters to complete the entire voting process from a personal device, including signing their ballot affidavit. However, the system still allows voters to print and mail their ballot, giving voters more flexibility and control over their voting experience while providing security for all choices. The system has undergone rigorous testing, and all ballots will be processed using Logic & Accuracy -tested tabulators using paper ballots.

The Office received a grant from the Department of Defense’s Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for \$2 million in 2023, and Enhanced Voting was the vendor chosen to provide the technology required to administer the new system. The grant was made available by FVAP to encourage states to improve the voting process of UOCAVA voters, many of whom are military personnel. According to FVAP, about three-quarters of the 1.3 million active-duty military members are eligible to vote by UOCAVA because they’re stationed away from their voting residence. However, as of 2022, only 63% registered and only 26% voted.

One of the reasons the state chose Enhanced Voting to provide support for this initiative is their excellent reputation for cybersecurity protection. The Enhanced Ballot received Rabet-V certification from the Center for Internet Security, the only product of its kind to receive this certification. Additionally, Enhanced Voting is SOC 2 Type II certified, ensuring that election and voter data is secure,, strong controls over availability, confidentiality, and privacy are maintained, and security monitoring and accountability is continuous.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) recently awarded the Uniformed and Overseas Voters: Exemplary Services to Assist Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) Voters Clearinghouse Award, or “Clearie,” to the Office for its work modernizing the Federal Post Card Application & Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot process as part of its online UOCAVA portal for military and overseas voters upgraded during the 2025 election cycle.

MAINTAINING ACCURATE AND SECURE VOTER ROLLS

A core responsibility of the Office, carried out in coordination with counties statewide.

The Office leads and oversees statewide efforts to ensure that voter registration records remain accurate, current, and secure across all 15 counties. While county recorders play a critical role in maintaining local records, the Office establishes standards, provides oversight, and ensures consistency across jurisdictions.

In 2025, the Office worked closely with county recorders to carry out voter list maintenance following the 2024 general election, following the legal provisions of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to ensure that registration records reflect only eligible voters, while protecting individuals’ rights. The office also maintained its membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which is a partnership with other states to ensure that Arizona’s voter registration records are current and accurate. In addition to constantly maintaining the voter rolls to remove voters that have died or moved out of state, the county recorders, under guidance provided by the Secretary of State’s Office, also confirms eligibility, and updates addresses within the state, and confirms documented proof of citizenship for voters.

Through this ongoing work, the Office ensures that Arizona’s voter rolls are actively maintained, statewide standards are upheld, and election systems continue to operate with accuracy, integrity, and accountability.

Arizona Voter Roll Maintenance By the Numbers

- 119,866 registrations moved from inactive to cancelled according to the NVRA process
- 51,091 registrations cancelled due to deaths
- Conducted across all 15 counties, coordinated through statewide standards and oversight
- Monthly updates reflect continuous list maintenance, not one-time actions



LEADING THE NATION: BUILDING THE FUTURE OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Recognized nationally in 2025 for innovation and impact, Arizona's election fellowship program is creating a sustainable pipeline of professionals to support secure, transparent, and trusted elections.

The Office earned national recognition in 2025 for a groundbreaking effort to strengthen one of the most pressing challenges facing election administration: building the next generation of election professionals.

Originally launched during the 2024 election cycle, the Arizona Election Administration Student Fellowship Program placed college students inside county election offices across the state, providing hands-on experience in real-world election administration while supporting counties during a high-demand period.

The program delivered immediate results:

- 18 Fellows placed across Arizona, including in county offices and the State Capitol
- Nearly 70 applicants for the inaugural cohort
- Fellows moving into full-time roles in public service, including election administration



In 2025, this work was recognized nationally with:

- The U.S. Election Assistance Commission "Clearinghouse Award" (Clearie) for Innovation in Election Administration
- The Election Center "Beacon Award" for excellence in election administration

And in 2026, it was recognized again by peers nationwide with the Election Center "People's Choice Award."

Building a pipeline in higher education

Building on this success, Arizona has moved to institutionalize the program for long-term impact.

Through a partnership with Northern Arizona University (NAU), Arizona State University (ASU), and the University of Arizona (UArizona), the state is establishing a first-of-its-kind, statewide pipeline into the election administration profession.

NAU is leading this effort through the creation of a formal Election Administration Certification Program, which incorporates the fellowship as an applied, on-the-job training component. ASU and UArizona are expanding this model through a broader university consortium—bringing curriculum, training, and professional development opportunities to students and election officials statewide.

Training Arizona's election officials

In addition to building a future workforce pipeline, the Office fulfills its state-mandated responsibility to provide certification training for election officials across Arizona. In 2025, this program reached hundreds of participants statewide, ensuring that those administering elections are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and training necessary to conduct secure, accurate, and transparent elections.

Together, these efforts position Arizona not only to meet its own workforce needs, but to serve as a national model for strengthening the infrastructure of democracy by investing in the people who administer it.

CYBERSECURITY MODERNIZATION, AND IT SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS

The Office made significant investments in cybersecurity and IT modernization to support election operations and strengthen resilience. Funding was secured for an enterprise Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) platform, enabling statewide log aggregation and improved threat detection. A 24/7 Managed Detection and Response service was deployed to enhance real-time monitoring and reduce internal workload.

Additional security enhancements included next-generation firewall upgrades, geoblocking and filtering to reduce foreign scanning activity, patching of critical vulnerabilities, server upgrades to modern operating systems, and the auditing of our identity and access management solutions to remove unnecessary accounts.

The Office's IT Department played a central operational role in supporting the CD7 special election and local elections, maintaining system uptime, upgrading infrastructure, and resolving IT support tickets with a satisfaction rate exceeding 99 percent—ensuring reliable technology performance for election-related platforms and services.



PREPARED FOR 2026: STRENGTH, STABILITY, AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

With a legally affirmed EPM framework, a successfully executed congressional special election, expanded Election Officer Certification authority, strengthened county partnerships, modernized cybersecurity infrastructure, and tested incident-response capabilities, Arizona enters the 2026 election cycle with strong legal footing, trained election officials, resilient systems, and proven operational readiness.

The Office remains committed to ensuring that Arizona's elections are secure, transparent, lawful, and worthy of public trust—delivering elections that Arizonans can approach with confidence.

PREPARING ELECTIONS FOR THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Recognized for forward-looking leadership, Arizona is helping define how artificial intelligence can strengthen election administration while safeguarding public trust.

As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes how information is created and shared, the Office has taken a proactive, national leadership role in preparing election systems for this new era.

In 2025, the Office released its Artificial Intelligence and Election Security Advisory Committee Final Report, outlining both the opportunities and risks AI presents for election administration—from improving operations to addressing emerging threats like deepfakes and disinformation.

A central recommendation of the report was the creation of an AI Elections Lab—a secure “sandbox” environment to test emerging technologies, develop best practices, and ensure that innovation in elections is guided by privacy, security, and constitutional protections.

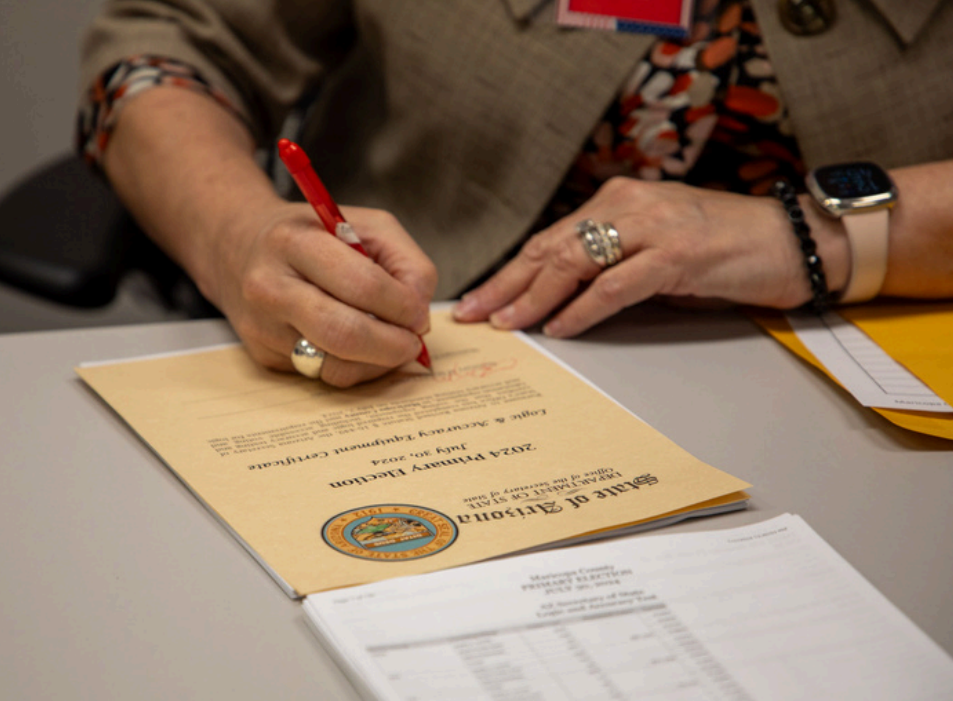
Arizona has already begun putting these recommendations into action through a partnership with ASU’s Mechanics of Democracy Laboratory (MODL), a first-of-its-kind initiative focused on improving transparency, resilience, and public trust in elections nationwide.

Through this collaboration, Arizona is helping lead a national training effort for election officials through:

- AI + Elections Bootcamps, which bringing together election administrators and experts from across the country
- Hands-on training in emerging tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and other AI platforms
- Real-world exercises addressing security risks, including deepfakes, misinformation, and ethical use of AI

In 2025 alone, these efforts convened election officials and experts from across the country to build the knowledge and tools needed to responsibly integrate AI into election administration. This work reflects a clear principle: emerging technology must be implemented thoughtfully, transparently, and with human oversight to ensure that innovation strengthens, rather than undermines, the integrity of elections.

By convening experts, developing actionable policy recommendations, and translating those recommendations into real-world training and partnerships, Arizona is establishing a national model for responsible AI in election administration—one that prioritizes security, transparency, and public trust.



VOTER EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ensuring that elections are accessible, understandable, and responsive to voters is a core responsibility of the Office. In 2025, voter experience and communications efforts focused on helping Arizonans navigate the voting process with confidence—before, during, and after elections.

These efforts emphasized clear information, accessible tools, and coordination with county partners to meet voters where they are.

Ballot Tracking and Voter Tools

Arizona continued to expand the use of ballot tracking tools that allow voters to monitor the status of their ballot—from issuance through receipt and processing. These tools provided voters with real-time information and reassurance that their ballot was received and counted as required by law.

Text and online notifications helped voters stay informed and reduced uncertainty, particularly during special and jurisdictional elections conducted outside the regular election calendar.

Accessible and Inclusive Voting Information

In 2025, the Office prioritized accessibility in voter communications, ensuring that election information was available in formats that meet the needs of voters with disabilities and those who prefer or require language assistance.

Voter-facing materials included:

- Accessible digital content compatible with assistive technologies
- Multilingual resources to support Arizona’s diverse communities
- Clear explanations of voting options and deadlines.

These efforts were designed to reduce barriers to participation and ensure that all eligible voters have access to the information they need.

Clear Guidance and Misinformation Response

Providing accurate, timely information is essential in an environment where misinformation can spread quickly. In 2025, the Office continued to publish plain-language guidance to address common questions and misconceptions about elections.

Myth-versus-fact resources were aligned with the EPM and statutory requirements, giving voters a reliable reference grounded in law. These materials helped clarify issues related to voting procedures, ballot processing, and election administration—reinforcing confidence through transparency.

Coordination with County and Community Partners

Effective voter communication depends on consistency across jurisdictions. Throughout 2025, the Office coordinated closely with county election officials to ensure that voter messaging was accurate, timely, and aligned statewide.

Community outreach efforts supported this work by sharing voter education materials through trusted local partners and events. This coordination helped amplify accurate information while ensuring that voters received consistent answers regardless of where they live.

A Voter-Centered Approach

The voter experience is shaped not only by systems and procedures, but by how information is communicated and how questions are answered. In 2025, the Office approached voter communications with a focus on clarity, accessibility, and responsiveness.

By investing in tools that inform voters, expanding access to clear information, and coordinating closely with counties and communities, the Office supported informed participation and strengthened trust in Arizona’s elections.



State Highlight

STANDING UP FOR ELECTION SECURITY AND ARIZONA VOTERS

Grounded in law and responsibility, the Office continues to protect election infrastructure, voter data, and the public servants who administer our elections.

Secure election administration is a cornerstone of American democracy and a recognized component of the nation's critical infrastructure. As threats to election systems have evolved in recent years, the Office has taken an active role in ensuring that Arizona remains prepared, protected, and resilient.

In 2025, the Office raised formal concerns with federal officials regarding changes that could weaken coordination and support for election security. In a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary emphasized the importance of maintaining strong partnerships with federal agencies responsible for cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, particularly as election systems continue to face sophisticated threats.

Arizona's experience underscores the stakes. Election infrastructure has been the target of foreign interference, misinformation campaigns, and threats directed at election officials and poll workers. Ensuring continued access to cybersecurity resources, intelligence-sharing, and operational support is essential to defending against these risks.



At the same time, the Office has remained steadfast in its responsibility to protect the personal information of Arizona voters and uphold the rule of law. This includes carefully evaluating and, when necessary, pushing back on requests or actions that could compromise voter privacy or the integrity of election systems.

NAVIGATING FEDERAL COORDINATION WHILE DEFENDING STATE AUTHORITY

In addition to advocating for strong security partnerships, the Office has continued to engage with federal agencies while clearly asserting Arizona's constitutional authority to administer its own elections.

In 2025 and 2026, the Secretary participated in national briefings and coordination efforts with partners including the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Postal Inspection Service. These engagements support information-sharing, threat awareness, and preparedness for upcoming election cycles.

At the same time, the Office has been clear and consistent: States are responsible for administering elections, and that responsibility must be respected. The Secretary has raised concerns when federal actions or narratives risk undermining public confidence, introducing misinformation, or diverting focus from the work required to prepare for future elections. This includes pushing back against efforts to relitigate past elections and emphasizing the importance of focusing on the systems, safeguards, and infrastructure needed to ensure secure and orderly elections in 2026 and beyond.

By maintaining strong partnerships while upholding the rule of law and Arizona's authority, the Office continues to balance collaboration with accountability, ensuring that election security efforts remain effective, coordinated, and grounded in public trust.



March 7, 2025

Via Email

Honorable Kristi Noem
U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of the Executive Secretary
Mail Stop 0525
Washington, DC 20528



Dear Secretary Noem:
As the Secretary of State of Arizona, I am writing to express grave concern for the ongoing reduction in vital security support of my state's, and the nation's, critical election infrastructure.

Secure election administration is the bedrock of American democracy, which makes it a prime target for physical and cyber threats against the United States. Information technology systems related to election administration are perennial targets of sophisticated cyber threat actors including nation-state and cybercriminal groups.

Since January 2017, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has designated election infrastructure as national critical infrastructure. I agree with this policy. While elections remain a state and local responsibility, this designation has allowed states to voluntarily partner with DHS and particularly with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), utilizing cybersecurity and physical security services prioritized for state and local election offices. CISA's prioritized services help election agencies defend against these national security threats.

I understand you have completed your review of DHS's operations, priorities, and resource allocation, and that you do not plan to make your findings public. Related to this evaluation, CISA has completely ceased coordination with my office on election infrastructure security and support. What was until just last month a longstanding partnership on critical security matters is now complete radio silence from CISA staff except via one designee.

This raises serious concerns for the security of Arizona's elections going forward. My state has faced numerous threats from both foreign and domestic actors, including:

- A breach of the Arizona voter registration database by hackers linked initially to Russia, later to unknown cybercriminals, causing it to be shut down for nearly a week just prior to the voter registration cutoff for the 2016 election. Arizona was one of seven states that suffered attacks at that time.

- Russian affiliated groups Storm-1516 and Foundation to Battle Injustice created AI-generated allegations that Arizona elected officials were orchestrating a plan to commit election fraud in the 2024 election in favor of specific candidates.
- The intelligence community assesses that Russian influence actors recently posted and amplified an article falsely claiming that U.S. officials across swing states plan to orchestrate election fraud using a range of tactics, such as ballot stuffing and cyberattacks.
- Bomb threats against polling centers in Arizona originating from Russian email domains during the 2024 election.
- Threatening phone calls, emails, and letters against individual Arizona election officials, leading to difficulties in recruiting poll workers.

Necessarily, these examples do not include any threats that may have been intercepted by DHS without becoming public knowledge, much less any prospective threats that were deterred by DHS's robust security operations support of our state infrastructure in the past.

My office's resources to anticipate and guard against threats to the integrity of Arizona's election system are limited. For us, DHS's withdrawal of the full cooperation and support of our partners at CISA means our capacity to conduct this important work will be severely compromised.

In light of these concerns, I am eager to discuss with you how DHS plans to address ongoing threats to the security of our election system. I ask for your continued commitment to leaving the services CISA provides to Arizona intact. These services are a key component of CISA's core mission, which has provided great support in the past. My staff and I are available at your convenience to further explain why CISA is an essential partner in Arizona and our country, and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

ADRIAN P. FONTES
Arizona Secretary of State

BUSINESS SERVICES

RUNS AT THE SPEED OF BUSINESS

The Office plays a central role in supporting Arizona’s economy by ensuring that businesses can form, operate, and grow with confidence. In 2025, Business Services focused on restoring access, improving processing times, modernizing technology, and expanding outreach—so services better match the pace and needs of Arizona’s business community.

These efforts centered on one priority: making it faster, easier, and more reliable to do business in Arizona.

Restoring Access and Improving Customer Service

In 2025, the Office restored full in-person service at Business Services counters in Phoenix and Tucson, expanding access for entrepreneurs, business owners, and legal professionals who rely on timely assistance.

- Staff also made significant progress in reducing backlogs and improving turnaround times:
- Notary application processing times were reduced from more than six weeks to fewer than three weeks
 - UCC backlog was reduced from 8,472 filings to approximately 2,500, cutting processing time from 2.5 to 3 months to about six weeks

These improvements increased predictability and reduced delays for businesses operating across Arizona.

Mobile Business Services: Bringing Services Statewide Through Partnerships, and Economic Engagement

In 2025, the Office launched the MBS Outreach Program, bringing essential business services directly to communities across Greater Arizona—particularly outside the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas.

Through this initiative, Business Services staff:

- Visited 79 of Arizona’s 88 Chambers of Commerce
- Engaged with all 11 Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)
- Connected with 24 additional business development organizations statewide

By taking services on the road, the Office reduced travel burdens for small business owners, expanded rural access, and strengthened partnerships with local economic development organizations.

Modernizing Systems for Reliability and Efficiency

Outdated technology can slow processing, increase downtime, and frustrate customers. In 2025, the Office secured legislative funding and approval to replace the aging, homegrown FACTS system—which had become increasingly unstable and crash prone.

The replacement system will use a modern, vendor-supported Low Code/No Code platform, enabling:

- Improved system stability and uptime
- Faster processing and fewer manual workflows
- Better scalability as Arizona’s business activity grows
- A stronger foundation for long-term modernization

This modernization effort represents a major investment in the reliability and future-readiness of Arizona’s business services infrastructure.



Operational Performance and Return on Investment

In 2025, Business Services processed 501,050 business filings and documents, supporting business formation, compliance, and commercial transactions across the state.

On an operating budget of approximately \$900,000, the division returned \$2.9 million in revenue to the state, demonstrating strong fiscal stewardship and a high return on investment for taxpayers.

Supporting a Growing Arizona Economy

By restoring service access, accelerating processing times, expanding outreach, and modernizing technology, Business Services helped reduce barriers for entrepreneurs and supported economic activity statewide.

In 2025, the Office continued to position Arizona as a state where businesses can start, operate, and grow efficiently, reliably, and at the speed of business.



BUSINESS SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS (FY25)

Customer Access and Processing

- Phoenix and Tucson counters restored to full working hours
- Notary processing time reduced from more than 6 weeks to less than 3 weeks
- UCC backlog reduced from 8,472 filings to roughly 2,500 filings
- UCC processing time reduced from 2.5 to 3 months to roughly 6 weeks

Outreach and Engagement

- 79 of 88 Chambers of Commerce visited
- 11 of 11 SBDCs engaged
- 24 additional business development organizations reached
- MBS Outreach Program launched statewide

Technology and Modernization

- Legislative approval secured to replace FACTS legacy system
- Transition underway to modern Low Code / No Code platform

Volume and Revenue

- 501,050 business documents processed
- \$2.9M returned to the state
- \$900K operating budget
- Roughly a 3.2 times return on investment for taxpayers

State Highlight

SECRETARY OF STATE MOBILIZES BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT ARIZONANS DURING SNAP PAUSE

When federal SNAP benefits were paused in late 2025, Arizona communities didn't wait—they acted.

The Office partnered with Local First Arizona to launch AZ SNAP Support, a statewide website and social media campaign spotlighting local businesses offering free meals, discounts, donation matches, and community assistance to families facing food insecurity.

Beginning November 1, nearly one million Arizonans were affected by the loss of federal food benefits. In response, the new Arizona SNAP support hub on the Office's website helped residents quickly find participating businesses, food resources, and donation opportunities while also giving businesses an easy way to join the effort.

Local restaurants and retailers across the state stepped in. Lovebite Dumplings in Phoenix launched a pay-it-forward meal program. Miracle Mile Deli in Phoenix expanded its longtime community support. Kingfisher Bar & Grill in Tucson committed to serving hundreds of free meals weekly to anyone in need.

As Secretary of State Adrian Fontes put it: "When the government fails, Arizonans step up."

The initiative highlighted a powerful truth: small businesses are more than economic engines; they are pillars of community resilience, stepping forward to ensure neighbors don't go hungry.

“WHEN GOVERNMENT FAILS, ARIZONANS STEP UP.”



ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

DEADLINES

The Division met all its statutory deadlines as required under the APA in 2025. These included preparing notices by formatting and editing each for style and publishing them in the weekly Arizona Administrative Register, and codifying final, exempt, and emergency rulemakings in the quarterly supplements of the Arizona Administrative Code.

The Division instructed agencies to review publication deadlines listed in each Register when it scheduled an oral proceeding because of the three-week turnaround from filing to publication of a notice. The APA states an oral proceeding for proposed rules shall take place at least 30 days after the publication date of the proposed rules in the Register, unless otherwise exempted by statute.

ARCHIVING AND MAINTAINING RECORDS

The rule managing editor entered notice information into a database and assigned each a file number for archiving purposes. A log providing information about the notice and when it was published in the Register was posted to the Office’s website providing transparency in agency rulemaking.

ARCHIVING AND MAINTAINING RECORDS

Staff reviewed notices to make sure an agency complied with APA filing standards. When filed, the editor checked whether an agency:

- Submitted a rulemaking package with an agency receipt and, when applicable, agency certificate signed by the agency head, acknowledging that it used the correct notice template
- Provided consistent information on its receipt, certificate, and in the notice preamble, table of contents; used the correct rulemaking actions; checked subsection label usage and inspected the corresponding section numbers and headings with those in the preamble and rulemaking text
- Received the Governor’s approval to proceed with its rulemakings and provided proof of approval under A.R.S. § 41-1039. In 2025, the Governor’s Office confirmed an agency shall receive approval from the governor at each stage of rulemaking, to include any supplemental notices filed
- Submitted a notice for publication in time for it to meet oral proceeding dates as provided in the notice

- Submitted the notice using the most current codified version of the rule text and was consistent amending a rule when striking and underlining rule text throughout the notice
- Provided other documents as required under the APA or exemption to the APA

If any of the items were missing or incorrect, the Division notified the agency and provided an opportunity for the agency to correct the item and submit revised documents.

When editing rules, the codification scheme was reviewed for the correct labeling and outlining of a rule, and checked for punctuation, spelling, and typographical errors.

When codifying rules in the Administrative Code, the Division maintained a chapter’s history, created a table of contents, and prepared historical notes that included the effective date of a rule. As part of the archiving process, the Division maintained electronic supplements, posted them online, and preserved rescinded Chapters.

The Division continued to perform courtesy reviews of agency notices, providing feedback on notice structure and APA compliance. After a notice was published in the Register, the Division provided information to an agency about edits made to a notice of proposed rulemaking so changes could be incorporated in the final rulemaking notice.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Division published the Register by calendar year, as volume number 31, with each publication assigned an issue number, published every Friday. The total page count of the Register was 4,772. The managing editor updated an index of notice filings, which was published in each issue of the Register. The index provided the notice type, page number, and, when applicable, the rulemaking action for each rule section.

The Division published final, exempt, and emergency rulemaking notices filed in an agency, board, or commission’s Code chapter.

In 2025, there were 268 chapters in the Arizona Administrative Code, separated under 21 titles. Out of the 268 chapters, 222 were active—46 chapters not being used as expired, recodified, repealed, or reserved. For 2025, there were 113 rulemaking notice filings with 1,246 sections codified in the Arizona Administrative Code. The Division released 90 Administrative Code chapters in four quarterly supplements. The Division processed 308 rulemaking packages and 108 legal notices.

LIBRARY, ARCHIVES, AND PUBLIC RECORDS

PRESERVING ARIZONA'S HISTORY

EXPANDING ACCESS

MODERNIZING RECORDS

The Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Division (LAPR) continued its mission in 2025 to preserve Arizona's heritage, expand public access to information, and modernize government records management. Under the leadership of the State Librarian and six branch administrators, the division advanced core values of accessibility, preservation, customer service, community engagement, and collaboration while delivering measurable gains across every branch.

Across all six branches, LAPR handled 39,390 reference transactions, supported more than 12 million digital item uses, facilitated 6,949 continuing education hours, and strengthened statewide partnerships that serve libraries, researchers, government agencies, and the public.



ARCHIVES BRANCH

Preserving Government Records and Expanding Digital Preservation

The Archives Branch made major strides in processing, conservation, electronic records management, reference services, and statewide outreach in 2025. Agencies across Arizona continued transferring permanent records, increasing public access to both historical and contemporary government materials.

A major milestone was the hiring of an Electronic Records Archivist in November 2024, who launched work on ASTER, the Arizona State Trusted Electronic Repository, a new digital preservation system designed to store born-digital government records.

ASTER will:

- Secure long-term preservation of digital records
- Reduce agency server storage burdens
- Improve statewide and national public access to Arizona records

A proof-of-concept phase is underway, with pilot projects launching with select agencies.

In 2025, the Arizona State Archives also continued to strengthen statewide records preservation and public engagement efforts. The Archives supported the Arizona Historical Records Advisory Board, including administration of a competitive statewide sub-grant program to advance historical records projects across Arizona. The Archives also produced the 2025 Arizona Archives Month poster, themed around disaster preparedness and historical resilience, highlighting the importance of protecting records in times of crisis.

Archives Branch by the Numbers (FY25)

- Reference Questions & Consultations: 1,517
- New Archival Records received: 567 boxes
- Conserved Items: 9,870

Volunteer programming expanded during the year, including a major effort to rehouse legislative records from the 54th Legislature. Volunteers contributed 202 hours and prepared 50 archival boxes to improve long-term preservation and accessibility. In addition, Archives staff delivered Archives 101 and Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Response workshops in Yuma, Tucson, and Kingman, strengthening records protection capacity and preparedness among local governments and community partners statewide.

ARIZONA TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

Expanding Access to Reading for Print-Disabled Arizonans

In 2025, the Arizona Talking Book Library (ATBL) continued to serve residents with visual, physical, or reading disabilities by providing access to reading materials in audio and Braille formats. The ATBL marked a significant milestone by celebrating its 55th anniversary, highlighted by a well-attended open house that brought together 150 patrons, partners, and supporters to recognize decades of service and community impact.

During the year, ATBL expanded both programming and outreach, including the launch of its first-ever podcast, From the Booth, featuring national leaders from the National Library Service and offering patrons new ways to engage with accessible reading services. ATBL also joined the Act One Culture Pass Program, broadening free access to 10 museums and botanical gardens across Arizona, accompanied by accessibility guides available in large print, Braille, and audio formats.

Outreach efforts extended into rural and northern Arizona through a second Librarian Roadshow, which visited 27 libraries to strengthen local partnerships and expand awareness of accessible services. ATBL also increased its digital presence and social media engagement to connect with users and supporters of this life-changing library service.

ATBL Branch by the Numbers (FY25)

- Circulation (Physical & Digital): 436,758
- NFB-NEWSLINE® Usage: 487,950
- Reference & Consultations: 4,818
- Outreach Interactions: 2,464
- Social Media Reach & Views: 7,359



ARIZONA SECRETARY OF STATE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

E-RATE ADMINISTRATION BRANCH

Expanding Broadband for Libraries and Schools

In 2025, the E-Rate Administration Branch continued to strengthen broadband access for libraries and schools across Arizona, supporting digital equity and connectivity in urban, rural, and tribal communities. During the year, Arizona libraries and school-library consortiums requested \$34 million in E-Rate funding, contributing to the state’s cumulative \$1.84 billion secured since 1998—approximately 2.71 percent of all national E-Rate allocations.

A major milestone in 2025 was progress on the Arizona Middle Mile Project, which completed 3,332 miles of fiber connecting 734 schools and libraries, and expanding high-speed internet access to more than 480,000 residents statewide, including communities that have historically faced connectivity barriers.

Beyond infrastructure investment, E-Rate provided hands-on technical support through one-on-one E-Rate application consultations, helped develop state master contracts to make broadband more affordable for public institutions, and partnered with Arizona universities and health organizations to expand telehealth access points. These efforts earned national recognition, including the SHLB Coalition Excellence Award, highlighting Arizona’s leadership in expanding broadband access and leveraging federal funding to strengthen education, healthcare, and community connectivity.

E-Rate Branch by the Numbers (FY25)

- E-Rate Funds Requested: \$34 million
- Miles of Fiber Built: 3,332
- Information Transactions & Consultations: 4,352
- Outreach & Continuing Education Hours: 4,055



LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

Supporting Libraries, Literacy, and Workforce Training Statewide

In 2025, the Library Development Branch continued to strengthen Arizona’s library ecosystem through grant funding, professional training, literacy initiatives, and statewide partnerships designed to expand access to learning and community services. Arizona received \$3.83 million in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding, with \$916,276.70 awarded across 71 library projects supporting collections, technology, and community engagement like America 250-related programs and events. The State also invested directly in local libraries by awarding \$530,000 in State Grants-in-Aid and \$205,500 in construction grants to five libraries, helping modernize facilities and expand services.

Literacy and learning remained central to the Branch’s work in 2025. Summer Reading participation increased by 14 percent, reaching 139,562 participants, who collectively read more than 142 million minutes—a strong indicator of growing community engagement with libraries and youth learning programs.

The Branch also delivered 6,353 hours of continuing education for library staff statewide, including specialized trainings such as Ryan Dowd’s Homeless Institute, Shauna Yusko’s Children’s and Young Adult Literature training, and the Arizona Library Leadership Institute in Prescott, which supports the development of emerging library leaders.

Feedback from library partners underscored the value of these investments, with 96 percent of survey participants strongly agreeing that State Library resources help them better serve their communities. Together, these efforts reinforced libraries’ role as essential community anchors—supporting literacy, workforce development, digital access, and lifelong learning across Arizona.



RECORDS MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Transforming Records Efficiency and Accountability

In 2025, the Records Management Branch (RMB) delivered significant operational improvements while supporting 130 state agencies and 466 local entities and overseeing 34,540 record series statewide. Through process improvements and customer-focused service enhancements, RMB achieved a 98 percent reduction in response time, cutting average turnaround from nine days to fewer than six hours—a transformational gain in efficiency and reliability.

RMB also earned its first-ever five-star customer satisfaction rating, reflecting stronger communication, faster service, and improved support for agency partners. During the year, RMB expanded off-site storage partnerships, helping agencies reduce costs while maintaining secure, compliant records storage.

RMB’s collaboration with the Arizona State Archives also deepened in 2025, strengthening the preservation of historically significant records and advancing digital preservation efforts that ensure Arizona’s public records remain accessible, secure, and properly managed for future generations.

RMB by the Numbers (FY25)

- Customer Inquiries Resolved: 700
- Record Series Maintained: 34,540
- Retention Schedules Maintained: 211
- Records Center Storage: 324,740 cubic feet

Library Development by the Numbers (FY25)

- LSTA Grants Awarded: 71
- SGIA Grants Awarded: 24
- Summer Reading Participants: 139,562
- Minutes Read: 142,436,247
- Reference & Consultations: 2,124

STATE OF ARIZONA RESEARCH LIBRARY

Expanding Digital Access and Genealogy Research

In 2025, the State of Arizona Research Library (Library) continued to strengthen its role as the state’s primary repository for government documents, legal history, genealogy resources, and historical newspapers. The Library expanded digitized collections through the Arizona Memory Project, increasing public access to historical materials for researchers, educators, journalists, and community members across the state.

Public programming and educational outreach remained a core focus throughout the year. The

Research Library by the Numbers (FY25)

- Physical items used: 3,298
- Information transactions: 1,652
- Physical items cataloged: 17,130
- Continuing education hours: 2,713
- AMP pageviews: 1,837,944
- Other online items used: 535,741

Library partnered with the Arizona Genealogical Advisory board to host the 5th Annual Arizona Genealogy Day, serving more than 800 registrants, and delivered 34 presentations and trainings to support historical research and information literacy. Staff also welcomed visitors through 21 on-site group tours, and held three Arizona Author Series sessions, broadening opportunities for

community engagement with Arizona’s history, literature, and public records. Customer feedback in 2025 reflected consistently high satisfaction, with 84 percent to 94 percent of patrons rating services as Excellent or Good. Testimonials frequently highlighted the Library’s timely, thorough, and compassionate assistance, underscoring its reputation as a trusted resource for historical research, legal inquiry, and public information.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ACROSS LAPR

Across all branches in 2025, the LAPR delivered a high volume of direct service to Arizonans, completing 39,390 reference transactions and recording more than 12 million digital item uses. These interactions reflect sustained demand for historical records, government information, library resources, and research support statewide.

Patron feedback throughout the year consistently praised the Division’s responsiveness, professionalism, and care, underscoring the public value of these services. As one Research Library patron shared, “The staff go above and beyond. The services they provide are invaluable—they are one of the state’s greatest resources for knowledge and information.”

Together, these outcomes highlight the Division’s role as a trusted steward of Arizona’s records and an essential public resource for information, education, and civic engagement.

“THE STAFF GO ABOVE AND BEYOND. THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE ARE INVALUABLE—THEY ARE ONE OF THE STATE’S GREATEST RESOURCES FOR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION.”



ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

PROTECTING SAFETY, PRIVACY, AND STABILITY FOR SURVIVORS

The Arizona ACP provides critical safety protections for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence, sexual offenses, and stalking. Administered by the Office, the program allows eligible participants to use a legally recognized substitute address when interacting with state and local government agencies—preventing disclosure of their actual home, work, or school location.

Under Arizona statute, all state and local government entities are required to accept the ACP substitute address as a participant’s official address, ensuring survivors can access public services without compromising their safety.

Supporting Survivors Across Arizona

In 2025, the ACP served more than 4,000 participants statewide, reflecting growing awareness of the program and increasing demand for privacy protections.

As of December 1, 2025, the program supported more than 3,000 active participants across 1,195 households. Participation increased by 21 percent in 2025, following a 22 percent increase in 2024, demonstrating sustained growth and highlighting the expanding role ACP plays in helping survivors maintain safety, housing stability, employment, and access to education and government services.

By shielding confidential location information, the ACP enables participants to vote as well as interact safely with courts, schools, utilities, financial institutions, employers, and public agencies—reducing risk while supporting everyday independence.

Mail Handling, Legal Compliance, and Third-Party Support

A core function of the ACP is managing and forwarding participant mail securely. In 2025, the program continued to accept and process first-class, registered, certified, election mail, and service of process, forwarding correspondence to participants at their confidential addresses.

Beyond mail services, ACP staff actively assisted participants when issues arose with third parties unfamiliar with the program. Team members worked directly with county offices, schools, banks, utilities, and other organizations to ensure compliance with state law and to align business practices with the safety needs and legal protections afforded to ACP participants. This advocacy helped prevent unnecessary exposure of confidential information while reinforcing statutory obligations among partner organizations.

Strengthening Security and Protecting Confidential Information

Protecting participant safety depends on maintaining strong operational security. In 2025, the ACP continued and expanded enhanced mail-processing safeguards, facility security measures, and confidential information protections designed to keep participant data secure.

Additional precautions were implemented at ACP’s confidential location, and staff maintained rigorous protocols to ensure that participant mail and personal information remained protected. These measures strengthened trust in the program and reinforced ACP’s role as a secure and reliable safety resource.

Trauma-Informed Care and Survivor-Centered Service

Recognizing the complex and deeply personal challenges faced by survivors, all ACP team members completed Trauma-Informed Care training in 2025. This training strengthened the program’s ability to deliver services in a way that acknowledges the impact of trauma, reduces the risk of re-traumatization, and promotes survivor dignity, empowerment, and well-being.

By adopting a trauma-informed, strengths-based approach, ACP staff improved service quality while ensuring that participant interactions remain respectful, compassionate, and responsive to individual circumstances.

Outreach, Training, and Community Partnerships

In 2025, the ACP expanded outreach and education efforts to increase awareness of the program among community partners, legal professionals, educators, and advocacy organizations. Staff conducted educational and tabling events during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, delivered presentations to the Arizona State Bar, and provided training to school districts, nonprofit organizations, and certified application assistant agencies.

The program also increased the number of application assistant training sessions, strengthening statewide capacity to help survivors enroll in ACP. In collaboration with the Office’s Community Outreach Division, ACP began expanding outreach to tribal communities, broadening access to services in historically underserved areas.

Stakeholder and Participant Satisfaction

Feedback from both community partners and ACP participants in 2025 reflects high levels of trust, effectiveness, and satisfaction.

Among community stakeholders, 100 percent rated ACP services positively, 94 percent reported that staff are courteous and respectful, and 93 percent expressed satisfaction with ACP’s responsiveness.

In addition, 96 percent of training participants reported learning new strategies to support survivor safety. Participant surveys also demonstrated meaningful impact: 90 percent reported increased safety knowledge, 90 percent said their personal safety improved after enrolling, and 98 percent expressed satisfaction with ACP services.

These findings underscore the program’s effectiveness in improving safety outcomes and delivering services with professionalism, care, and reliability.

Planning for Sustainable Funding and Continued Growth

As program participation continues to expand, the Office remains focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of ACP services. While the Arizona Legislature provided one-time funding in 2024, the Office continues working to transition the program toward a stable state funding structure and reduce reliance on short-term grants.

Ongoing efforts include educating policymakers about the program’s impact, monitoring participation trends, and aligning funding strategies with the growing demand for survivor protection and privacy services.

Protecting Safety, Preserving Privacy, and Supporting Survivors

In 2025, the ACP continued to serve as a lifeline for survivors across Arizona, expanding participation, strengthening security, deepening community partnerships, and improving trauma-informed service delivery.

By protecting confidential location information, supporting safe interactions with government and third parties, and planning for sustainable growth, the Office reaffirmed its commitment to privacy, safety, dignity, and stability for survivors and their families.



DEAR AMERICA, LOVE ARIZONA: CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA—THE ARIZONA WAY

A statewide initiative bringing together communities across all 15 counties to celebrate Arizona's role in the nation's past, present, and future.

As the nation prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Office has taken a leading role in shaping how Arizona participates in this historic milestone. Established by statute and chaired by the Secretary, the Arizona America250 Commission has been spearheaded through the Office to plan, develop, and coordinate a statewide commemoration that reflects Arizona's unique story and the contributions of its people.

Under the Secretary's leadership, America250 Arizona has grown into a broad, statewide civic initiative—bringing together local governments, nonprofits, educators, libraries, tourism leaders, veterans' organizations, and private-sector partners to ensure that communities across all 15 counties can participate. Designed to be inclusive, accessible, and community-driven, the initiative provides Arizonans with meaningful ways to engage, celebrate their communities, and connect with one another.

Guided by a vision to illuminate Arizona's "untamed spirit of independence," America250 Arizona reflects the state's distinctive character: forward-looking, community-centered, and rooted in civic participation. More than a commemoration, it is a collective effort shaped by Arizonans themselves, highlighting the people, places, and stories that define Arizona today and will carry it into the future.



SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

Traveling Museum

The traveling museum, a centerpiece of America250 Arizona, brings Arizona's replica Liberty Bell and interactive exhibits on American and Arizona history directly to communities across the state. Launched on Arizona Statehood Day, the museum will visit all 15 counties through more than 30 stops, and welcomed approximately 16,000 visitors in its first five weeks. Designed with accessibility in mind, including ADA access, Spanish-language materials, and audio resources, the museum ensures that history is available to all Arizonans.



Passport250

In partnership with the Arizona Office of Tourism, Passport 250 invites Arizonans to explore 250 community-nominated destinations across the state. Organized into six themed categories, Treasures250, Indigenous Travel250, Commemorate250, Dine250, Cheers250, and Dark Skies250, the program showcases Arizona's diverse history, culture, and landscapes while supporting local tourism. By incorporating Act One Culture Pass opportunities through public libraries, Passport 250 also expands access to cultural experiences for families statewide.



Civics Scholarship Program

Through partnerships with the Dougherty Foundation and Rotary Clubs, America250 Arizona is investing in the next generation of civic leaders. The initiative provides more than \$130,000 in scholarships for Arizona students who demonstrate civic knowledge, engagement, and leadership, supporting pathways into public service, education, and community leadership. The scholarship funds support high school students heading into higher education as well as current community college and university students.



Dear America, Love Arizona

This widely embraced classroom initiative invites students across Arizona to share their perspectives on their communities and the nation's future. With more than 26,650 postcards submitted from students in every county, the program gives young Arizonans a meaningful voice in the state's commemoration while fostering civic reflection and engagement.

Read250

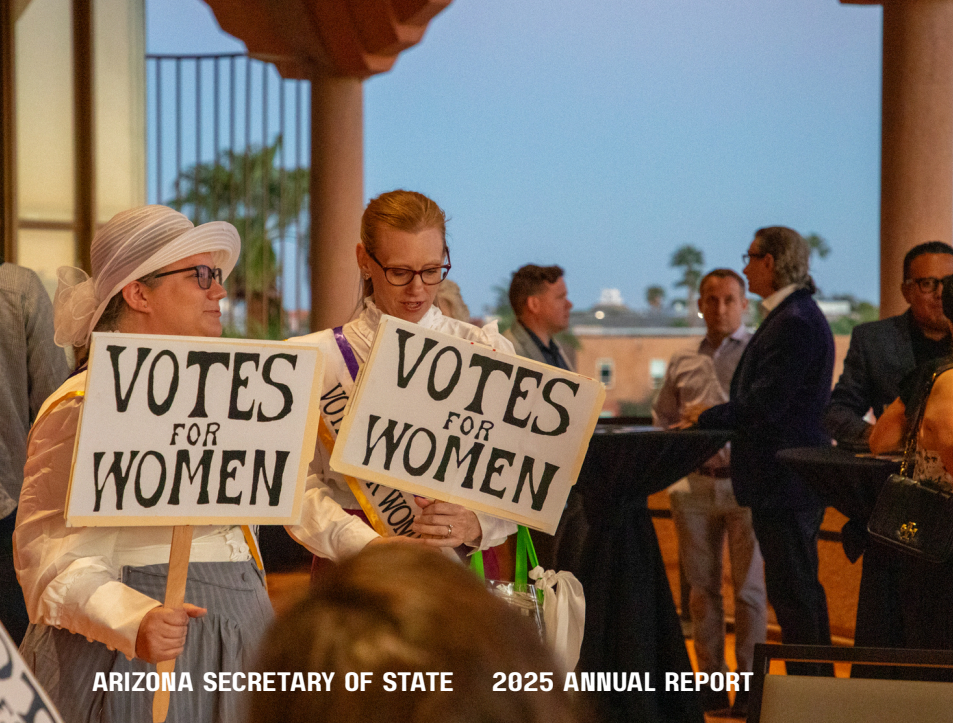
In partnership with LAPR and public libraries statewide, Read 250 encourages reading as a pathway to civic learning and connection. The initiative highlights the role of libraries in expanding access to knowledge and strengthening communities through lifelong learning.

And So Much More

America250 Arizona also includes a wide range of programs designed to engage communities across the state including:

- Operation Freedom March
- Youth Town Hall and Seal of Civics Literacy programming
- Outdoors 250 and Fitness 250
- Arizona Heritage Preservation Youth Council
- 5 C's Art Exhibition
- Vote250 voter outreach efforts
- SUFFS with ASU Gammage
- America's Potluck
- My America flag project
- Partnerships with local businesses and cultural institutions statewide

As planning continues into 2026, America250 Arizona will expand its reach and impact, ensuring that communities across the state remain engaged in this historic milestone.



Partner and Sponsor Support

America250 Arizona is made possible through the support of a broad network of partners and sponsors from across the state. The initiative does not receive state funding and instead relies on private-sector partners, nonprofit organizations, and community collaborators who have invested in bringing this vision to life.

The Office extends its sincere appreciation to the many sponsors and partners whose support has helped ensure that communities across Arizona can participate in this historic milestone.

Sponsors

- APS
- Aspire Counseling Services
- Avnet
- Banner Health
- Best Western Hotels & Resorts
- BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona
- City of Phoenix
- Dave the Drone Guy
- Desert Financial Credit Union
- Flinn Foundation
- Freeport-McMoRan
- Garrison 48
- Greater Phoenix Leadership
- Hensley Beverage Company
- HonorHealth
- Mayo Clinic
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Player 15 Group
- Resolution Copper
- SRP
- Sundt
- The Burton Family Foundation
- Vitalyst Health Foundation
- Walmart

State Highlight

SECRETARY OF STATE LAUNCHES ARIZONA'S AMERICA250 WITH 'TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW'

In April 2025, the Office launched the state's official America250 commemoration with a statewide kickoff event titled "Two Lights for Tomorrow" at the Arizona State Capitol.

Timed to the national remembrance of Paul Revere's April 18-19, 1775, ride, the event symbolized vigilance, civic responsibility, and the enduring role of citizens in protecting democracy.

The kickoff brought together elected officials, veterans, educators, historians, artists, students, community leaders, and members of the public, marking both a ceremonial milestone and the launch of Arizona's year-long Semiquincentennial programming.

The event featured:

- The lighting of two symbolic beacons, representing unity, vigilance, and democratic ideals
- Historical reenactments and interpretive exhibits connecting Revolutionary history to Arizona's path to statehood
- Musical and cultural performances honoring service, sacrifice, and shared heritage
- Interactive civic-learning activities for families, students, and community organizations

Statewide media coverage highlighted Arizona's commitment to making America250 inclusive, participatory, and reflective of the state's diverse communities and histories—positioning the commemoration not only as a celebration of the past, but as a call to renewed civic engagement.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BUILDING TRUST, EXPANDING ACCESS, AND STRENGTHENING CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Effective democracy depends on more than secure elections and sound laws—it requires public trust, accessible information, and meaningful engagement. In 2025, the Office expanded its Community Outreach Program to strengthen civic awareness, reduce barriers to participation, and ensure that communities across Arizona understand and can access the Office’s full range of services.

Community Outreach efforts emphasized presence, partnership, listening, and education, recognizing that trust grows when the government shows up consistently and responds to community needs.

Statewide Community Engagement and Outreach Trips

Throughout 2025, the Community Outreach Program conducted statewide outreach trips designed to connect directly with Arizonans where they live and work. These engagements prioritized outreach to seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, tribal nations, students, faith-based organizations, libraries, chambers of commerce, historical societies, advocacy groups, and community organizations.

These visits were structured not only to share information, but to listen, gather feedback, and build relationships. Outreach staff provided updates on elections, voter registration, business services, notary and apostille services, the ACP, and library resources, highlighting how these services intersect with everyday civic and economic life.



By meeting communities face-to-face, the Office strengthened trust, improved service delivery, and ensured that policy and operational decisions are informed by real-world community experience.

Vote 250 and Voter Registration Initiatives

In 2025, the Office launched the Vote 250 Voter Registration Program, a statewide initiative aligned with the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Vote 250 invites organizations, community groups, and local leaders to partner with the Office to expand voter registration and civic participation.

The program focuses on:

- Increasing voter registration through trusted community partnerships
- Empowering communities with training, materials, and technical support
- Expanding outreach to underserved and historically underrepresented populations
- Strengthening democracy by amplifying every eligible voice

Participating organizations received guidance and tools to conduct voter registration activities in compliance with Arizona law, ensuring both access and integrity.

Digital Engagement and the Online Unique URL Initiative

The Community Outreach Program also expanded the Online Unique URL Initiative, which provides partner organizations with secure, trackable voter registration links. This initiative improved access to voter registration while reducing reliance on paper forms and minimizing administrative burdens on county offices.

By combining community partnerships with secure digital tools, the Office improved participation, efficiency, and data integrity, demonstrating that access and security can advance together.

Voter Education and Public Resources

In 2025, the Office expanded voter education efforts by developing and distributing clear, accessible materials on election dates, registration deadlines, voting options, and election procedures.

Outreach included the:

- Promotion of Arizona.Vote as the central hub for voter information
- Creation of Tribal ID guides for voters and poll workers
- Distribution of educational materials to community organizations, schools, and partners

These efforts helped reduce confusion, improve access, and support informed participation.

Arizona Voter Engagement Advisory Board

The Arizona Voter Engagement Advisory Board, established by the Office, continued its work as a community-driven forum focused on improving voting access and participation. Composed of individuals from diverse backgrounds and regions, the Board provides feedback and recommendations to address barriers to participation and strengthen voter education.

After meeting quarterly in 2024 to establish its foundation, the Board transitioned to monthly meetings in 2025 to deepen collaboration and accelerate impact. Its initial focus is assessing system gaps and developing recommendations for the Secretary of State, with future initiatives potentially including legislative white papers, community forums, and voter education events.

Cross-Divisional Outreach and Mobile Business Services

Community Outreach efforts in 2025 were closely aligned with the MBS Outreach Program, allowing residents to access services such as notary commissioning, apostille processing, and trade name registration in their own communities.

Outreach events frequently included Business Services staff, reinforcing the message that the Office serves as a comprehensive public service agency—supporting both civic participation and economic activity.

Building Trust Through Presence and Partnership

Across all outreach efforts in 2025, the guiding principle was presence. By showing up consistently, listening actively, and responding transparently, the Office worked to strengthen trust in public institutions and expand meaningful civic participation.

Community Outreach is not a one-time campaign—it is an ongoing commitment. The relationships built in 2025 provide a foundation for continued engagement as Arizona approaches the 2026 election cycle and the America250 milestone.



MEETING ARIZONANS WHERE THEY ARE

In 2025, the Office expanded its digital outreach efforts to better engage voters in an evolving media landscape, including the launch of an official presence on TikTok.

Recognizing that more Arizonans—particularly younger voters—turn to digital platforms for information, the Secretary directed the Office to utilize emerging tools to communicate directly with the public. By sharing timely updates, voter education resources, and insights into how elections are administered, the Office is making information more accessible, understandable, and engaging.

While some government agencies have approached new platforms with caution, the Secretary emphasized the importance of using every available tool to reach voters, with appropriate safeguards in place to protect data and ensure compliance with state policies.

These efforts reflect the Office’s broader commitment to modernizing how it connects with the public, increasing transparency, and ensuring that accurate, trusted election information reaches Arizonans wherever they are.

You can follow us on social media for more at:

- X (formerly Twitter): @AZSecretary
- TikTok: @AZSecretary
- Instagram: @AZSecretary
- Threads: @AZSecretary
- Facebook: @AZSecretaryofState
- Bluesky: @azsecretary.bsky.social



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

READINESS, RESILIENCE, AND RESPONSIBILITY

As Arizona enters a high-intensity statewide election cycle and the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, the Office moves into 2026 with a focus on preparedness, modernization, public trust, and service continuity.

The progress made in 2025—across elections administration, cybersecurity, voter engagement, business services, and public records—provides a strong foundation for the demands ahead.



Preparing for the 2026 Statewide Election Cycle

The 2026 election cycle will bring statewide federal, state, and local races, along with potential ballot measures and elevated national attention.

The Office is entering this cycle with:

- An updated EPM
- Annual Election Officer Certification, increasing consistency and institutional knowledge
- Expanded county training, tabletop exercises, and operational guidance
- Stronger coordination with county election officials
- Improved readiness for recounts, litigation timelines, and surge-capacity demands

These efforts prioritize clarity, consistency, and support for the local election officials who administer elections on the ground.

Cybersecurity, AI, and Information Integrity

Cybersecurity and information integrity will remain defining challenges in modern election administration.

Building on 2025 lessons learned, the Office will prioritize:

- Completing enterprise SIEM deployment
- Expanding Managed Detection and Response coverage
- Strengthening overall security posture and threat monitoring
- Continuing AI-related election security training, including deepfake detection and misinformation preparedness
- Formalizing a statewide tabletop exercise program to test coordinated response to emerging threats

The Office will focus not only on technology, but on people, training, and shared situational awareness, ensuring preparedness keeps pace with evolving risks.





Voter Confidence, Privacy, and Public Education

Public confidence depends on clear rules, secure systems, accurate voter records, and transparent communication.

In 2026, priorities include:

- Continued voter education on registration, party affiliation, voting options, and deadlines
- Proactive communication to reduce party-name confusion and misinformation
- Strong protections for voter data privacy
- Expanded ballot tracking, accessibility tools, and multilingual outreach
- Ongoing engagement with the Arizona Voter Engagement Advisory Board

Clear, accessible public information will remain the most effective tool for countering confusion and building trust.

Sustaining Essential Public Services

Beyond elections, the Office will continue strengthening core public services:

- Business Services modernization and automation
- Expansion of the MBS Outreach Program to more communities
- Continued growth and long-term funding stability for the ACP
- Ongoing investment in digital preservation, records modernization, and trusted public archives
- Continued support for libraries, broadband access, and public programming statewide



America250 and Civic Engagement

As the nation approaches the Semiquincentennial, the Office will continue supporting America250 Arizona, using the milestone as an opportunity to strengthen civic participation, historical understanding, and community pride.

Libraries, schools, tribal nations, historical organizations, and community partners will remain central to connecting Arizona’s history with modern democratic responsibility.

A Commitment to Stewardship and Trust

Looking ahead, the Office remains guided by a core principle: stewardship—of elections, of public records, of sensitive information, and of public trust.

The Office enters 2026 prepared but not complacent, confident in its systems, grounded in law, strengthened by partnerships, and committed to transparency, service, and accountability.

ABOUT ARIZONA'S SECRETARY OF STATE

Adrian Fontes



In 2022, Arizonans elected Adrian Fontes as the 21st Secretary of State. Secretary Fontes is a proud Arizona native, an honorable veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and the father of three daughters. He has spent a lifetime dedicated to defending our democracy.

Secretary Fontes served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps from 1992 to 1996 and was nominated for a meritorious commission. His service to our country taught him the importance of dedication, discipline and sacrifice to forcefully support the American dream.

After graduating from law school, Secretary Fontes spent the first part of his career advocating for justice as a prosecutor with the Denver District Attorney and then at the Maricopa County Attorney's office. He later led the International Prosecution Unit at the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

He practiced law for 15 years before running for office in 2016 when he was elected Maricopa County Recorder.

As Recorder, he modernized the election system and prioritized access to the ballot for eligible voters. He enhanced ballot-tracking technology and increased process transparency. These efforts won recognition and awards from election organizations across the country. In 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and amidst violent protests, Maricopa County saw record voter turnout, as well as record numbers of new voters registered for both parties.

Secretary Fontes later testified before the U.S. House of Representatives to inform them of threats facing election officials. He has since returned to Capitol Hill several times to advocate for the safety of elections and election administrators, including testifying before the U.S. Senate this last year.

Secretary Fontes is committed to preserving integrity in our elections, making voting easier for registered voters and ensuring that Arizona's business community has a non-partisan partner in the Office.



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Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

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Phoenix, AZ 85009

Arizona Talking Book Library

1030 North 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008

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