

September 27th, 2021

EZAZ.org REVIEW OF ARIZONA SOS ELECTION PROCEDURES MANUAL DRAFT

PURPOSE

This report documents concerns with Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobb's 305 page Election Procedures Manual (EPM) Draft.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rules for the Arizona election are created by the laws in the Arizona Revised Statutes that come from the State Legislature AND from the requirements documented in the Secretary of State EPM. The EPM draft is created by the Secretary of State before an election cycle. The EPM is meant to supplement the Arizona Revised Statute laws created by the Legislature so that County Recorders have clearer instructions on how to operate the election.

As we saw in the last election, the EPM is treated nearly equal to law by the courts. The Secretary of State can add additional requirements not included in the law that can actually contradict the spirit of the law. Unless these conflicts are caught and stopped in the draft process, the integrity of our elections can be severely impacted if such fiat administrative "laws" are left in the manual.

EZAZ.org organized hundreds of volunteers to submit over 4500 public comment emails on dozens of items volunteers found could make our elections vulnerable to fraud or misconduct.

2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CONCERNS

A Summary of Major Concerns:

- Same-day voter registration snuck in by leaving the closed vote books up to the Recorder's discretion
- Voter registration district skipping enabled
- Cancellation of hand counts allowed
- Lack of transparency on public observation and videos of hand counts
- Arbitrary hand count requirements that do not align with the statute
- No daily closeout procedures for vote centers or precinct voting locations
- No security, traceability, chain of custody, or transparency requirements for ballot printing, mailing, and receiving businesses contracted to facilitate the election
- Open USB ports not prohibited on voting machines in violation of new statute
- Enabled backdoor internet access to the Election Management tabulation machine
- Elimination of precinct voting by forcing out-of-precinct voting in all locations
- Very weak residency requirements for transients with a lack of documentation required
- No traceability, chain of custody, or observation required in the duplication and adjudication processes

The full report can be found at EZAZ.org or merissahamilton.com.

CONCLUSION

Secretary Hobbs used the Election Procedures Manual to override the will the of the Legislature with administrative fiat legislation built-into the draft. The next step is for General Brnovich to review the EPM Draft and provide revisions to Secretary Hobbs.

Since Secretary Hobbs added such egregious provisions violating our law, it's vital the Arizona Legislature is given a chance to review the draft and provide a recommendation to General Brnovich to make the proper modifications and secure our elections.

EZAZ.org recommends General Brnovich call for a joint special committee of the legislature to review the EPM and make a recommendation to General Brnovich of the sections that must be removed or revised for the EPM to stay in compliance and the spirit of the Arizona Revised Statutes.