TRY AND STOP US

STATE REPORT
ARIZONA · OCTOBER 2026

SIX YEARS OF THE BIG LIE

ARIZONA REPUBLICANS TRIED TO OVERTURN TWO ELECTIONS THEY LOST — AND THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO REWRITE THE RULES.

Six years of refusing to accept the results: seven failed lawsuits, eleven fake electors, a Trump-funded "audit," armed watchers at the drop boxes, and nominees who still won't concede the elections they lost.

11
ARIZONA REPUBLICANS WHO POSED AS FAKE 2020 ELECTORS

218,000
VOTERS MARICOPA'S RECORDER TRIED TO CUT TO FEDERAL-ONLY BALLOTS

7
FAILED GOP LAWSUITS TO UNDO 2020, IN FIVE WEEKS

THE FRAME

SIX YEARS OF REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE ELECTIONS THEY LOST.

Arizona Republicans have spent six years refusing to accept elections they lost. It all began in November 2020, when they brought seven failed lawsuits in five weeks disputing the results, followed by top state GOP officials nominating false electors, and a GOP-controlled state senate "audit" paid for by Trump allies. Then, Arizona Republicans passed laws dropping voters from the early-voting list and cutting off the time to fix a missing signature. In Arizona's 2022 midterm election cycle, their nominees for governor, secretary of state and attorney general all refused to concede defeat, armed men in tactical gear stood watch over a ballot drop box, and two county supervisors refused to certify until a judge ordered them to. Since then, Arizona Republicans have sent the governor hundreds of anti-voter bills she has vetoed, handed 2020 ballot images to the FBI, and put a measure on this year's ballot to make it harder for mail voters. The men they nominated for governor, secretary of state and attorney general were there for all of it. They can't win a fair fight in Arizona, so they keep trying to change who gets to vote and who gets to count it. **Here is what they've tried, step by step.**

KEY FINDINGS

FOUR WAYS THEY REFUSED TO LOSE.

01

Top Arizona Republicans signed onto Trump's false elector scheme in 2020, then their own audit found Biden won by more.

Eleven Republicans, including the party chair and two men who now serve as state senators, signed a document on December 14, 2020, declaring themselves Arizona's "duly elected and qualified" electors for Trump and sent it to the National Archives. The GOP state senate's hand count of 2.1 million Maricopa County ballots, paid for with $5.7 million from Trump allies, reported in September 2021 that President Biden's margin was 360 votes larger than the county had certified.

02

Arizona Republicans refused to concede 2022, sent armed watchers to the drop boxes and refused to certify a county's results.

The party's nominees for governor, secretary of state and attorney general each sued to overturn their losses and each lost, and courts ordered their lawyers to pay more than $170,000 for false statements and groundless claims. Before the election, two armed men in tactical gear took up positions at a Maricopa County drop box after a Republican state senator cheered on drop-box "vigilantes." After it, two Republican supervisors in Cochise County refused to certify, which would have left 47,000 of their own voters out of the statewide count, until a judge ordered them to.

03

Arizona Republicans are trying to make mail voting harder.

Proposition 144, written by the party's nominee for secretary of state and sent to voters on a party-line vote in the last hours of the 2026 session, would amend the constitution to require government-issued ID from every voter in every election, including the roughly 80 percent of Arizonans who vote by mail. It does not say how a mail voter would provide it, and its author has refused to elaborate.

04

Arizona Republicans have run on the Big Lie ever since, with election deniers on the ballot in 2026.

Arizona Republicans nominated a congressman who voted to throw out Arizona's electors for governor. They also nominated an Arizona lawyer who led a bogus 2020 election lawsuit for secretary of state, and the Senate president who signed the audit subpoenas for attorney general.

· TIMELINE

SIX YEARS, STEP BY STEP.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2020

Arizona Republicans pushed seven failed lawsuits to undo the 2020 election and tried to stop the count.

In 2020, Arizona Republicans filed seven lawsuits about the 2020 election — all of which were thrown out.The Trump campaign sued first over Sharpie markers, then dropped the claim, then the state party chair asked a court to void Biden's electors. Another suit claiming voting machines had switched votes led the State Bar to discipline the top litigator. Meanwhile, the Arizona GOP chair texted the Republican chairman of the Maricopa County board, "We need you to stop the counting."

DECEMBER 2020

Eleven Arizona Republicans posed as false electors, and a top Arizona congressman voted to overturn the state's 2020 election results.

On Dec. 14, 11 Arizona Republicans met at the party's headquarters and signed a document falsely claiming themselves to be the "duly elected and qualified" electors of Arizona for Trump. The signers included the state party chair, a member of the Republican National Committee, and two men who still sit in the state Senate as committee chairmen. On the morning of January 6, Rep. Andy Biggs called the Speaker of the Arizona House to ask whether he would decertify the state's electors, and that afternoon Biggs and the state's other Republican House members voted to reject the votes of the state they represent.

2021

Arizona Senate Republicans audited the election results, on a Trump's ally dime, using a firm with no election experience. The recount found more votes for Biden.

A judge enforced Senate subpoenas, signed by the Senate president and by Judiciary Chairman Warren Petersen, for 2.1 million ballots and the county's tabulators, and the Senate handed them to a Florida firm it paid $150,000 and that collected another $5.7 million from Trump-allied groups. The hand count reported in September that Biden's county margin was 360 votes larger than certified, and the firm announced it was shutting down the day a judge began fining it $50,000 a day for withholding its records. Petersen is the Republican nominee for attorney general.

2021

Arizona Republicans made it harder for mail-ballot voters' ballots to be counted.

In 2021, Arizona Republicans passed a law ending the Permanent Early Voting List that roughly three-quarters of Arizonans relied on, so a voter who skips early voting in two consecutive cycles is dropped. They also passed a law requiring voters who forget to sign mail-ballot envelopes to fix it by 7 p.m. on Election Day, instead of up to five days later.

2022

Arizona Republicans passed proof-of-citizenship laws that left tens of thousands of registered voters unable to vote in state elections.

In Spring 2022, Arizona's GOP governor signed two laws barring Arizonans who registered without documentary proof of citizenship from voting for president or by mail and ordered county recorders to cancel the registration of anyone they had "reason to believe" was not a citizen. Subsequently, Arizona became the first state with two classes of voters: as of June, 43,894 Arizonans were registered as federal-only voters, able to vote for Congress but not for state elections like governor or the state legislature.

OCTOBER 2022

Republican legislators told "vigilantes" to watch the drop boxes, and armed men in tactical gear showed up.

In October 2022, after a Republican state senator praised vigilantes camping out at ballot drop boxes, armed men in tactical gear stood over a ballot drop box in Mesa until sheriff's deputies arrived, while other voters reported being filmed and followed. Six intimidation complaints went to prosecutors within days, and a federal judge barred the group behind the watches from carrying guns or wearing body armor within 250 feet of a drop box and from filming or following voters within 75.

NOVEMBER 2022 TO MAY 2023

Arizona Republicans lost the governor's race and spent six months in court trying to throw out the results.

GOP candidates for Arizona Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General all lost in 2022, and all asked courts to overturn the outcome in their favor. GOP governor candidate Kari Lake took 10 claims to court, got a trial on two, and lost both. The state Supreme Court later fined her lawyers for making "false factual statements" about so-called phantom ballots. Secretary of State candidate Mark Finchem filed a lawsuit a judge dismissed as resting on "a vague sense of unease." Attorney General candidate Abe Hamadeh lost three times in court on appeal.

Two Republican supervisors in Cochise County refused to certify the elections.

The two Republicans on the county board voted twice not to certify the county's 2022 results. A state grand jury indicted both a year later for conspiracy and interfering with an election officer; one pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and the other's trial has been pushed past the 2026 midterm elections.

Since 2022, Arizona Republicans have sent the governor hundreds of bills to restrict voting, and she vetoed every one of them.

Governor Katie Hobbs has vetoed 541 bills since 2023, more than any governor in state history, including 88 in a single day this June. The election bills on the list would have ended the Election Day drop-off of early ballots that hundreds of thousands of Arizonans use every cycle (House Bill 2703), closed the countywide vote centers that let a voter cast a ballot anywhere in the county, made it a felony to drop off a family member's ballot without showing ID, and barred the attorney general from prosecuting supervisors who refuse to certify. Biggs says he is "inclined" to sign many of them.

Maricopa County's Republican recorder tried to cut 218,000 longtime voters to federal-only ballots seven weeks before the 2024 election.

Seven weeks before the 2024 election, Maricopa County's Republican recorder asked the state Supreme Court to bar 218,000 voters who were allowed to register without a citizenship check due to a coding error, from voting in state and local races — even though they were longtime voters with valid driver's licenses. A court allowed them to cast full ballots.

Maricopa County's Republican recorder successfully sued for control of early voting in 2026 and threatened election workers with felonies over drop boxes.

The recorder sued the county's Republican-majority board in June 2025 to take over early voting, drop boxes, and election IT for the 2.5 million voters in the state's largest county. Hours before the board met in May to approve drop-box sites, his lawyer wrote that anyone operating a drop box the board approved "is committing a class 5 felony," a threat the board's Republican vice chair read as aimed at temporary election workers doing their jobs. A July settlement gave him the early voting sites and the drop boxes for the 2026 election.

Trump's Justice Department sued for every Arizona voter's records and lost, and the GOP Senate president handed the 2020 audit's ballot images to the FBI.

The Justice Department sued Secretary of State Adrian Fontes in January for the unredacted statewide voter file, birthdates and partial Social Security numbers included, the same file it has run through a federal database that has wrongly flagged naturalized citizens in other states. A federal judge dismissed the suit with prejudice in April, finding no federal law entitles the department to the file, and the department has appealed. In March, Petersen announced he had turned over the Senate's 2020 audit records, ballot images among them, to the FBI under a federal grand jury subpoena.

IN ARIZONA, OUR ELECTIONS ARE ON THE BALLOT

THE DENIERS ARE THE NOMINEES.

GOP Governor Nominee Andy Biggs Voted to Throw Out Arizona's Own Electors, Then Refused the Subpoena About His Role.

Biggs voted on January 6, 2021, to reject the electoral votes of Arizona and Pennsylvania after attending a December 21 White House meeting on pressuring the vice president, and that morning called the Speaker of the Arizona House to ask whether he would decertify. The House committee investigating the attack subpoenaed him over his role in planning the day, and he refused to appear. He won the July primary with Trump's endorsement and has said he is inclined to sign the GOP's anti-voter bills that Arizona's sitting governor vetoed.

GOP Secretary of State Nominee Alexander Kolodin Wants to Run the Elections After Suing To Overturn the 2020 Results.

Kolodin was the only Arizona-licensed attorney on the 2020 suit to decertify the state's result, filed the Sharpie and tabulator suits, defended the drop-box watchers in 2022, and was placed on probation by the State Bar after a disciplinary panel found he brought cases backed by no evidence and misrepresented Arizona law. He has said repeatedly that 2020 was stolen and wrote Proposition 144.

GOP Attorney General Nominee Warren Petersen Signed the Audit Subpoenas, Gave the Ballots to the FBI and Wants the Prosecutor Who Charged the Fake Electors Investigated.

Petersen signed the subpoenas that put 2.1 million Maricopa County ballots in the hands of the Senate's audit firm, kept two indicted fake electors as committee chairmen, handed the Senate's audit records to the FBI in March and asked federal prosecutors to investigate the state's attorney general and secretary of state. He has said he would drop the prosecution of the Cochise County supervisor who refused to certify.

Arizona Republicans put a measure on this ballot to require ID from every mail voter, and its author will not say how that would work.

In the final hours of the session, Republicans referred seven measures, including Proposition 144, which would amend the constitution to require every voter to present government-issued identification in every election, mail voters included, and lower the standard courts use to review election laws, starting in 2028. About 80 percent of Arizonans vote by mail, the measure does not specify how they would show ID. When asked how the system would work, the Proposition's author declined to elaborate.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US

ARIZONA'S ELECTIONS WORK — AND REPUBLICANS KEEP PROVING IT.

Arizona's Elections Work, and Republicans Keep Proving It Themselves

The Senate's own hand count of every Maricopa County ballot found Biden won by more than the county certified. The state Supreme Court's review of duplicated ballots found at most 153 misattributed votes against a margin of more than 10,000. Maricopa County's review of its rolls found eight noncitizens who had voted.

· WHAT ARIZONA VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

HOW TO VOTE IN ARIZONA

Voters pick our leaders, not the other way around. Arizona Republicans spent 2020 trying to flip that, lost seven times in court, lost their own audit and lost at the ballot box in 2022, then spent every year since trying to write the result they wanted into law. They can't win a fair fight here, so they are trying to shrink the electorate instead, rigging the game at our expense while Arizona families pay more at the grocery store and more for water, power and rent. Their plan only works if a missed deadline or a slow mail truck hands them our vote. They are counting on us to stay home. Don't give it to them. Here's what every Arizonan needs to know:

OCT 23	OCT 27	OCT 30	NOV 3
REQUEST A MAIL BALLOT	MAIL IT BACK BY	LAST IN-PERSON EARLY VOTE	ELECTION DAY · 6A–7P

1. **Early voting is underway now, in person through Friday, October 30.** Find your county's early voting sites at azsos.gov/elections or through the Citizens Clean Elections Commission's county pages. The registration deadline has passed, so check your status at the same site before you go.

2. **If you want a ballot mailed to you, request it by Friday, October 23.** That is the last day your county recorder can send one. If you missed it, vote early in person or on Election Day.

3. **If you vote by mail, put it in the mail by Tuesday, October 27, or hand it in yourself.** A postmark does not count; your ballot must arrive by 7 p.m. on November 3. After October 27, skip the mail and drop the signed envelope at any voting location or official drop box in your county, right up to 7 p.m. on Election Day. New this year: if you show ID when you drop it off at a polling place, your ballot skips the signature-verification queue and is counted sooner.

4. **Election Day polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and if you are in line at 7 you vote.** Arizona requires ID to vote in person: a driver's license, state ID, tribal ID or other government photo ID with your current address, or two documents such as a utility bill or bank statement from the last 90 days with your name and address. No ID is needed to vote by mail. Republicans want to change that, and it is still the law this year.

5. **If there is a problem with your signature, you can still fix it.** Counties must contact you if the signature on your envelope does not match, and you have five business days after the election to cure it, so answer the call or text.

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DON’T GIVE IT TO THEM.

Try And Stop Us is an organization fighting to defend elections in 2026 and beyond. As Donald Trump and his allies work to rig the game and sow distrust in our elections because they can’t win a fair fight, Try And Stop Us moves quickly to amplify the work of organizers and local leaders — helping their voices reach further, faster, as one unified story. For more information, please reach out to info@tryandstopus.org.

TRYANDSTOPUS.ORG

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