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**Gabriella Cázares-Kelly, Recorder**

Greetings,

In 2022, Arizona lawmakers passed legislation changing state elections and increasing the margin of difference that triggers a mandatory recount from 0.1% to 0.5 %, which would mean more mandatory recounts.

As a result, the timeline between Primary and General elections would have to be expanded, or statutory timelines adjusted, to have enough time to complete any recounts, update the results and send out military and overseas ballots in time for voters to return their ballots by Election Day.

If the 2022 legislation isn't updated it would require massive changes to the 2024 Election timeline, disrupting voters.

To address the issue, one group has proposed HB 2785, which would move up the Primary by a week, to July 30. Another group proposed HB 2816, which offers other solutions but does not include moving the Primary.

Pima County Recorder Gabriella Cázares-Kelly opposes the stipulations in the recount-timeline proposal that will change the timeline and disenfranchise voters.

This is a statement she issued to be read on the floor during the legislative session:

When we have questions about a voter's signature, Recorder's offices call, email, text and send letters through the mail to alert voters. For those who live in areas where postal mail takes extra days to reach them, internet and/or phone services are unreliable, there's a lack a public transportation infrastructure, and a greater dependence on public computers and public wifi, taking a day away from a cure period could have a significant impact. My concern for voters who live in rural and rural tribal communities is why I have maintained my opposition to changing the cure deadline from business days to calendar days throughout these recount timeline conversations.

Even more concerning for me is the rush to include signature verification guidelines which the 15 County Recorders were interpreting just yesterday in multiple ways. We have not had enough time to check with our legal counsel or to provide thoughtful input on these items which do nothing to address the recount timeline issue. Including the signature verification piece does not make our processes more secure, it doesn't save money and most relevant in a timeline discussion, it doesn't save time. In fact, the proposed signature verification provisions could lead to more rejected signatures that need curing and bog down Recorders like me in lengthy litigation, delaying ballot processing and potentially delaying election results.

We need a clean and simple fix to the election timeline issue, not partisan politics. The Elections Community needs adequate time to deliver the results that truly reflect the will of the people. Arizona voters deserve legislation that protects their most fundamental rights and allows every eligible voter to participate in our democracy. I urge every member of the legislature to set their partisan agendas aside and pass a clean version of SB 1733 and HB 2785 that only focuses on the timeline.

Gabriella Cázares-Kelly  
Pima County Recorder  
624,931 Active Voters