Madame Chair, Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today. I want to start by saying that the election of November 3rd, 2020, in Maricopa County, Arizona, was free, fair and accurate.

Maricopa County is the second largest voting district in the United States of America. I can guarantee you that the Board of Supervisors worked closely with our County Recorder to assure the elections of 2020 was run professionally and afforded each registered voter an opportunity to exercise their right to select their preferred candidate for many different offices, be they federal, state, county, or municipal.

I sit before you today as a Republican who was voted into office in November 2020. There is a member of this distinguished committee who was also successful in the November 2020 election held in Maricopa County.

I want to thank my fellow Board members as well as our previous County Recorder, Adrian Fontes and, of course, our current County Recorder Stephen Richer.

But the most important thank you I can give is to the men and women of the Maricopa County Elections Department. They executed a secure, accurate and efficient election for over 1.8 million voters in the nation's 4th largest County during a world-wide pandemic. Our election department was praised by election experts throughout the country and was given an award by the National Association of Counties.

Today's Committee should be focused on how to replicate the processes implemented by Maricopa County during three separate elections in 2020. Instead, I'm afraid the focus will be on the willful misinformation designed to put money in political coffers and spread fear amongst our fellow Americans.

Maricopa County began planning for 2020 immediately after the November 2018 election results were canvassed and submitted to the Arizona Secretary of State. The County began to assess staff, processes, and equipment needs in anticipation of the 2020 election cycle and taking appropriate action to complete that preparation. We also knew that the election results in Maricopa County would play a pivotal role in both the outcome of the Presidential race and the US Senate Chamber political make-up.

I am proud of the efforts we put forth to prepare. We worked closely with the Arizona Secretary of State, our legislative leaders in both the House and the Senate, the Attorney General and the Governor's office. We were also very inclusive of the political parties who participated fully in not only observing election day administration and tabulation, but also in pre and post-election logic and accuracy testing.

If you were in Arizona politics in November 2020 and didn't understand how Maricopa County was running elections, then you were not paying attention.

The County ran election bills at the legislature, which passed both chambers unanimously and were signed by the Governor. The County invested in a very robust PR campaign. If you watched TV, tweeted, instagramed or used You Tube, you saw our media campaign. We implemented the technology to educate our residents on when and how to register, how you can vote, where you can vote and wait times at the polling locations all by pushing a button on their phones.

We ran a Presidential Preference Election in February. All participants agreed it was well run and accurate. We ran the primary election in August of 2020, again, the public, the candidates and the political parties all agreed the county's election execution was excellent. We ran the 2020 General election in November and suddenly what to that point had been a great process was deemed fatally flawed by a small yet loud minority.

Why? Not because the County changed how it operated. Not because the equipment that is never connected to the internet was hacked. Not because the dedicated election officials, volunteer poll workers and political party observers changed how they operated. It is because one candidate lost.

I dare say, if you are student of Maricopa County republican election history, you were not surprised by the results. It was not a flawed election process, not a lack of security, it was a candidate that many Maricopa County republicans did not support. If that lesson is not clear to our state and county republican leaders then I'm afraid 2022 will not be favorable to my party.

During these last 10 months I have learned a lot about people. I was naive in thinking that if I could just sit down with our State Senate leadership and explain the answers to their questions and accusations, we could put this uncertainty behind us and move on with securing a fruitful future for our residents.

It has become clear that there are those who don't care what the facts are, they just want to gain political power and raise money by fostering mistrust of the greatest power an individual can exercise in the United States, their VOTE.

I'm sure there will be questions as to the impact the purposeful spread of disinformation has had upon County operations and officials. But again, the focus should be on the Election Department employees who have kept their heads down and continued to perform their jobs in the midst of all this chaos and noise. These employees have been trolled on their personal social

media pages. Pictures and identities of their husbands, wives, children and other family members have been posted on fake news websites. The spread of this personal information far and wide with no regard for the safety has nothing to do with execution of the November 2020 election. That needs to be addressed and those responsible held accountable.

I am an elected official. Some may say I signed up for this. That is true. I ran because economic development and maintaining our quality of life is important to me. Making sure the Valley of the Sun has the proper investment in infrastructure, technology and education is what drives me.

Relitigating a failed campaign is not what drives me.

It is time to move on. It is time to put our efforts into securing a greater future for our Country and that is what I plan to do.

Thank you.