



April 13, 2021

The Honorable Karen Fann  
President of the Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear President Fann,

As specialists in election administration and security, we share a desire for accurate and trustworthy democratic elections. Collectively, we have decades of election administration and election auditing experience in the United States and abroad.

We are deeply disturbed by the Arizona Senate's recent decision to engage Cyber Ninjas, a firm which news reports say was "[founded by a Trump supporter who promoted conspiracy theories as part of the Stop the Steal movement](#)," to audit ballots cast in Maricopa County's November general election. This is despite the fact that Trump administration officials described the 2020 election as "[the most secure in American history](#)."

Two earlier substantive audits, one by bipartisan teams and the other by federally accredited Voting System Test Laboratories, found no discrepancies. These audits provided assurance of the accuracy of the results, which included victories for both Democrat and Republican candidates at the federal, state and local level.

At this point, additional audits will have little value other than to stoke conspiracy theories and partisan gamesmanship – or worse. This troubling conclusion is further supported by the selection of a firm that appears to lack independence or technical expertise, both of which are required under the most [basic principles](#) of auditing. Moreover, the absence of these basic qualifications has contributed to proposed procedures, such as deploying agents acting on behalf of the government to physically appear at Arizonans' residences to "collect information," which are unlikely to be effective and may be a violation of state and federal law.

In short, this appears to be a decision driven by politics rather than a search for the truth. We urge the Arizona Senate to stop efforts that could undermine confidence in our elections and accept the Maricopa County election results. Arizonans and the American people deserve better.

Sincerely,

Paige Alexander  
CEO, Carter Center

Elizabeth Howard  
Senior Counsel, Brennan Center for Justice

Mark Lindeman  
Co-director, Verified Voting

Ryan Macias  
Owner, RSM Election Technologies