



May 20, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Recorder Justin Heap  
Maricopa County Recorder

**Re: Coordination Meetings for Upcoming Elections**

Dear Recorder Heap,

We invite you and your designated staff to participate in a series of structured election coordination meetings with Board leadership, County administration, Elections Department leadership and Recorder's Office personnel to work out our differences for the benefit of our mutual voters and the running of smooth, honest and fair elections.

In your public comment to the Board on April 22, you signaled that you are willing to work with the Board moving forward and in your May 6 letter to County Manager Pokorski you stated that you welcome a meeting "at the earliest practicable date." Additionally, in Judge Blaney's most recent order he again encourages us to find ways to work together and to resolve our differences.

With that in mind, we would like to set up our first meeting as soon as possible. The purpose of these meetings would be to:

- Coordinate operational responsibilities for upcoming elections;
- Identify and resolve implementation issues in advance;
- Clarify lines of communication and decision-making authority;
- Improve transparency and public understanding of election administration; and
- Demonstrate to voters that the Board and Recorder are committed to professional collaboration despite legal and political disagreements

To promote public confidence, we propose that the first of these meetings be public, subsequent meetings be video recorded, and that the parties jointly provide summaries to the public. Maricopa County voters deserve visibility into the work being done on their behalf and reassurance that election officials are focused on administration, preparation, and service.

Collaboration such as this has shown to be fruitful. Over the last several weeks, professional staff from the Elections Department and the Recorder's Office have demonstrated that this kind of operational coordination



**Chair Kate Brophy McGee**  
**Board of Supervisors, District 3**

301 W. Jefferson St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Phoenix,  
Arizona 85003

**P:** 602.506.7562

**E:** [district3@maricopa.gov](mailto:district3@maricopa.gov)



is both possible and productive. Elections Director Scott Jarrett and your designated representative, Sam Stone, worked together in good faith to address logistical and administrative issues related to the May Jurisdictional and July Primary Elections. Those efforts reflected a shared commitment to serving voters and ensuring continuity of election administration.

Unfortunately, in a subsequent letter to the County Manager, you invalidated all agreements our staff have made to coordinate both the May and the July elections. This has led to confusion and conflict in our joint elections administration. Confusion and conflict that would not have been present if our staff proceeded as agreed upon.

In our offer, we hope to regain and expand upon our previous level of collaboration. We cannot proceed through the remainder of an important election year with the status quo. The current level of confusion and conflict is not sustainable and does not serve the interests of County staff, election workers, or the public.

Given your publicly stated willingness to meet, we look forward to working constructively toward solutions. Our staff deserve clarity. Our poll workers deserve support. Most importantly, Maricopa County voters deserve elections that are professionally administered and worthy of their trust.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. You may work to schedule this meeting with County Manager Jen Pokorski or Assistant County Manager Zach Schira.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Brophy McGee".

**Chair Kate Brophy McGee**  
Maricopa County Board of Supervisor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debbie Lesko".

**Vice Chair Debbie Lesko**  
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

