



Walsh for Supervisor



Election Integrity

Regardless of what is said by certain elements of the public, Arizona and Cochise County has secure, fair and accurate elections. When we speak of election integrity let's not forget that.

Every eligible citizen in Cochise County has the right to vote and to know that their vote was counted as cast, no matter how they exercise that right by mail or in person at a polling center.

Since the elections of 2020, many in our State and Cochise County have said that votes weren't counted or weren't correctly counted, that election results were tainted, changing the outcome of races. As I learned as a pre-law student, you can't just say it, you have to prove it. And that hasn't happened. Because it didn't happen.¹ **We have election integrity, we have systems we can trust.**²

This year I attended presentations by Election Systems & Software, the vendor that provides voting equipment to Cochise County Elections. During this comprehensive presentation the steps that are taken to ensure the systems integrity were outlined from the physical to the digital security measures. Learn more watching the recording of one of two sessions at the link below.³

I observed the Cochise County Elections Department Logic and Accuracy Test. This public observation policy "provides the public a chance to observe how voting equipment is tested for security and integrity prior to voters casting ballots."

Testing was conducted by the Secretary of State's office, led by Arizona State Elections Director Colleen Connor. Representatives from both political parties were in attendance during the testing. The results were tabulated correctly. You can find the Logic and Accuracy Certificate for our County's systems at <https://tinyurl.com/Logic-and-Accuracy-Certificate>

It is also important to know that in addition to the Logic and Accuracy Test conducted prior to an election, testing is conducted after as well. From the Cochise County Elections F.A.Q*

“WHAT IS A HAND COUNT AUDIT?”

A limited hand count audit may occur before the results are confirmed and canvassed by the governing board. The purpose of the hand count audit is to compare the results of the machine count to the hand count to assure that the machines are working properly and accurately counting votes. This hand count is in addition to the logic and accuracy testing of the machines before and after ballot tabulation”

*This document provides loads of information from election dates, what to do if your ballot is damaged, and where to go to track the status of your ballot. Well worth the short time to read. <https://tinyurl.com/Election-FAQ>

We cannot be complacent. We should continue to review and enforce our laws to ensure that those who vote are legally able to do so and that the votes are counted and recorded as the voter intended. We must ensure that voters have access to registration, access to methods of voting, and not allow actions or laws to be taken or enacted that would seek to limit these rights unnecessarily or illegally.

The integrity of the voting systems, the software, must be constantly evaluated and updated as needed. These are the actions needed to protect our voting rights and our democracy, at all levels of government. Also, I will support state legislation and actions to protect poll workers, election department staff, and state elections officials including more specific penalties for doxing and intimidation of election officials at all levels.

Please email me your comments, questions to walshforsupervisor@gmail.com

1. <https://tinyurl.com/pa84v7tz>
<https://tinyurl.com/2zsfm4e7>
<https://tinyurl.com/46wsfwud>
<https://tinyurl.com/28trwpam>

2. <https://tinyurl.com/yzjr2ub4>

3. Link to the Election Systems & Software presentations -
<https://tinyurl.com/mr4ynmkn>