



Maricopa County

Office of the Recorder

County Recorder Adrian Fontes

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Press Advisory for Immediate Release

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Recorder Fontes appoints County Elections Director

Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes announced his appointment for Director of Elections, Reynaldo “Rey” Valenzuela, Wednesday afternoon.

Valenzuela, a 26-year veteran of the Maricopa County Elections Department, was named interim Elections Director when Fontes took office in January and former Elections Director Karen Osborne retired.

“After conducting a national search, I am confident Rey’s extensive knowledge of elections in our county make him uniquely qualified for this position,” Fontes said. “I look forward to continuing to work with and learn from him.”

Fontes had the authority to directly appoint an Elections Director without going through County Human Resources, but in the interest of accountability, worked with the HR Department to recruit and screen a pool of qualified applicants.

Valenzuela began his journey with elections at the City of Phoenix Elections Department during his summer breaks from Arizona State University. For the past 26 years he worked for the Maricopa County Elections Department and served as the Assistant Director of Elections for the past 7 years.

“I look forward to continuing to work with Fontes in making Maricopa County Elections Department the model to emulate for other counties, states and even nations,” Valenzuela said. “Now on to the mission of making sure every voice is heard through the sound of the vote.”

Valenzuela is a graduate of CERA (a professional education program from Auburn University and the Election Center) as well as a Maricopa County Management Institute. He was appointed and served for the past 6 years as one of two Arizona representatives on the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Standards Board. In 2015, he was elected by his Standard Board peers to serve on the Executive Board of the EAC Standards Board. He is also a Secretary of State Certified Election Officer.

Fontes and Valenzuela will be available for phone interviews today and for in-person interviews Friday.

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