



Maricopa County

Office of the Recorder

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Maricopa County Recorder Fontes Welcomes DHS Critical Infrastructure Designation for Elections

Phoenix, AZ – Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes welcomes the announcement by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson designating US elections equipment, processes and infrastructure as Critical Infrastructure under the USA Patriot Act of 2001.

“We welcome the designation and the additional assistance and expertise that DHS can supply to our department in securing the voting system here in Maricopa County,” Fontes said. “We have discussed the announcement with our security experts here in our department and will formally ask the DHS to review our systems and processes as soon as is practical.”

A leader in elections technology, Maricopa County has made an extensive investment in providing for secure voting systems.

The County is currently conducting internal and external penetration testing of its systems using a White Hat hacker team from a leading system supplier working with the Maricopa County Office of Enterprise Technology.

The testing is designed to look for weaknesses in systems security and to identify risk points for remediation.

Currently Maricopa County provides for several tiers of security for infrastructure. Upon assuming office, Recorder Fontes requested that his cyber security team look to move the Elections department up a tier to improve the level of security for the elections infrastructure and to increase the resources available to protect the voting rights and elections of Maricopa County’s 2.2 million registered voters.

“My first priority is to provide my fellow citizens with reliable, efficient, safe and secure elections. I full intend to follow through on that goal,” Fontes said.