

Arizona Supervisors Push Reckless, Costly Election Schemes That Could Force Communities To Sacrifice Other Priorities

SUMMARY: In Arizona, county officials have continuously promoted election conspiracies and been involved in scandals that led to expensive court fights while they have pushed for costly, illegal ballot hand-count efforts. These unnecessary and unplanned expenses waste taxpayer money and put an undue burden on localities already strapped for cash.

- In **Pinal County**, Supervisor **Kevin Cavanaugh** alone cost the county [\\$145,000 in legal defense costs](#). Meanwhile, the county could hire two experienced deputy sheriffs and cover their annual salaries for less than Cavanaugh's legal fees.
- In **Cochise County**, the 2023 budget had a [\\$755,000 decrease](#), then infrastructure and maintenance projects totaling at least \$170,000 went unfunded for fiscal year 2024, while recent election-related lawsuits racked up [\\$175,000](#) in costs for the county.

In Pinal County, board members have pushed for [hand-counting ballots and supported a test run](#), while in Cochise, county officials support efforts to [hand-count election results](#) and have sought to develop [new "secure" ballot paper](#). Meanwhile another Arizona county has shown how costly hand-counts will prove to be. Mohave County [overcame a \\$4 million budget shortfall](#) for 2024 but faces an \$18 million deficit in 2025. The Board of Supervisors supported a test run of hand counting elections but later rejected the proposal when the [cost estimate broke \\$1 million](#).

The pursuit of baseless election conspiracies in Arizona wastes public resources and irresponsibly stretches already tight county budgets.

Pinal County Supervisors Accumulated Unplanned Legal Costs For The County Totaling \$145,000 In Just One Case—The Equivalent Of The Starting Salaries For Two Experienced Deputy Sheriffs.

Pinal County Budget Topped \$1 Billion In 2022-2023 Despite Tax Cuts, And Revenue Will Exceed Expenses By "Just Under \$197,000."

Pinal County's \$1 Billion 2022-2023 Budget Is An Increase Of \$282 Million Over The Current Year, Largely From Economic Development Debt. "The total budget of \$1,017,055,235 represents an increase of \$282 million over the current year. The biggest share of the increase, 45%, is economic development debt, which the board has yet to approve. Last month, the board held a public hearing on its plans to raise \$126.5 million through the sale of taxable revenue bonds. The board did not disclose the location or the industry but is expected to release more information by June 22 when it considers a resolution to sell bonds. This method sometimes is used for interim funding for major companies, which later pay it back." [Pinal Central, [6/8/22](#)]

After Cutting Taxes, Pinal's Revenue Will Exceed Expenses "By Just Under \$197,000, Which Is 'Pretty Darn Close To Being Balanced,' Pinal Budget Director Angie Woods Told The Board." "After cutting the tax rate by four cents per year in each of several recent years, the board approved a six-cent cut last year and a 13-cent cut for the 2022-23 fiscal year, resulting in a rate of \$3.56 per \$100 of net assessed value. The county expects to receive just over \$553 million in revenue. About 25% of this is from state and federal grants and 21% from primary property tax. Revenues are expected to exceed expenses by just under \$197,000, which is 'pretty darn close to being balanced,' Pinal Budget Director Angie Woods told the board." [Pinal Central, [6/8/22](#)]

In 2024, Experienced Candidates For A Pinal County Deputy Sheriff Position Could Make A Starting Salary As Much As \$72,000 Annually.

As Of January 7, 2024, An Experienced Candidate For A Deputy Sheriff Position In Pinal County Could Make As Much As \$72,167 Annually. “Deputy Sheriff - Lateral (Registry) [...] Salary \$55,001.00 - \$72,167.00 Annually [...] Plus, work with an amazing team of people who are committed to making Pinal County a great place for its citizens and its employees (Above listed benefits are in effect as of January 7, 2024).” [Pinal County Deputy Sheriff - Lateral Job Posting, Benefits, accessed [1/3/24](#)]

In 2023, An Audit Found That Pinal County’s Financial Reporting Was “Inadequate,” Revealing “Multiple Deficiencies” In The County’s FY2022 Financial Information, Warning That The Flaws Could Threaten Funding From Federal Programs, And Noting Major “Ongoing Issues From Prior Years.”

September 2023: An Annual Audit Showed That Pinal County’s Financial Reporting Resources Were “Inadequate For Its Accounting And Reporting Needs,” With The Audit Stating That “The Board Of Supervisors May Not Be Sufficiently Informed In A Timely Manner To Make Decisions.” “Pinal County government’s resources devoted to financial reporting seem inadequate for its accounting and reporting needs and are insufficient for the size of the organization, an annual audit concluded. ‘The effect is that critical deadlines are being missed and the Board of Supervisors may not be sufficiently informed in a timely manner to make decisions,’ says the audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, [09/23/23](#)]

Auditors Found “Multiple Deficiencies” In Pinal County’s FY2022 Financial Information, Putting The County “At Risk Of Losing Future Federal Funding” From Major Federal Programs. “Auditors found Pinal’s fiscal year 2022 financial information was reliable but noted multiple deficiencies across several major federal programs. ‘If these deficiencies are not corrected, the county could be at risk of losing future federal funding,’ says the audit report. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to discuss the audit on Sept. 6. Pinal’s annual financial reports and highlights may be found on the Arizona Auditor General’s Office website.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, [09/23/23](#)]

The Audit “Noted Ongoing Issues From Prior Years,” Including A “A Payroll Bank Account That Has Not Been Reconciled Since 2016” And The County Not “Recording Revenues And Receivables In The Correct Fiscal Year.” “The audit also noted ongoing issues from prior years, such as the need to reconcile cash balances monthly and investigate differences in a timely manner. Pinal has a payroll bank account that has not been reconciled since 2016. Another ongoing issue is recording revenues and receivables in the correct fiscal year.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, [09/23/23](#)]

Two Pinal County Employees Won A \$40,000 Settlement—\$20,000 Of Which Was Paid By The County—After Suing County Supervisor Cavanaugh For Complaints Of Quid Pro Quo In The Pinal County Attorney’s Office “Without Any Factual Basis,” And “The County Spent An Estimated \$145,000 In Defense Costs.”

Two Pinal County Employees Will Receive \$40,000 In A Settlement Following Complaints From Kevin Cavanaugh Of “Employee Quid Pro Quo In The Pinal County Attorney’s Office Last Year Without Any Factual Basis.” “Two Pinal County employees will receive \$40,000 after county officials resolved a lawsuit accusing a county supervisor of spreading retaliatory, false rumors. The settlement comes months after an independent investigation commissioned by the county found that Supervisor Kevin Cavanaugh made complaints of employee quid pro quo in the Pinal County Attorney’s Office last year without any factual basis.” [AZ Central, [5/2/23](#)]

The Lawsuit Against Cavanaugh Cost The County Insurance \$20,000 To Settle And “The County Spent An Estimated \$145,000 In Defense Costs.” “Cavanaugh and Pinal’s insurance pool each paid \$20,000 to settle the lawsuit, and the county spent an estimated \$145,000 in defense costs. County insurance paid another \$20,000 to settle a federal case brought by Cavanaugh’s former office administrator, who alleged age

and sex discrimination. Cavanaugh also reported possible corruption involving two of his fellow supervisors. The allegations were investigated and found to have no basis.” [Pinal Central, [8/18/23](#)]

- **Pinal Central: “Cavanaugh And Pinal’s Insurance Pool Each Paid \$20,000 To Settle The Lawsuit [...] County Insurance Paid Another \$20,000 To Settle A Federal Case Brought By Cavanaugh’s Former Office Administrator, Who Alleged Age And Sex Discrimination.”** “Cavanaugh and Pinal’s insurance pool each paid \$20,000 to settle the lawsuit, and the county spent an estimated \$145,000 in defense costs. County insurance paid another \$20,000 to settle a federal case brought by Cavanaugh’s former office administrator, who alleged age and sex discrimination. Cavanaugh also reported possible corruption involving two of his fellow supervisors. The allegations were investigated and found to have no basis.” [Pinal Central, [8/18/23](#)]

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An Investigation By Votebeat Found That Human Error Played A Role In Pinal County’s Midterm Election Miscount. “After human error in Pinal County’s midterm election caused officials to initially fail to count hundreds of ballots, the county’s supervisors now want to try counting ballots by hand. The county’s midterm mistakes weren’t caused by ballot tabulation machines, but rather because workers programmed machines incorrectly and overlooked machine errors as votes went uncounted. A Votebeat investigation published earlier this month found the county lacked procedures to properly track ballots cast at voting locations on Election Day and election officials didn’t adhere to safeguards to ensure each ballot was counted.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]

- **Cavanaugh Asked That The Board Discuss Counting All 2024 Ballots By Hand, Despite The County’s Elections Being “Plagued With Problems That Hand-Counting Ballots Will Not Solve,” Such As Running Out Of Ballots.** “Separately, Supervisor Kevin Cavanaugh during the supervisors’ meeting on Wednesday asked that the supervisors discuss counting all 2024 ballots by hand — which is currently illegal in Arizona. State law requires paper ballots to be scanned and counted by tabulation machines. Pinal County’s elections have been plagued with problems that hand-counting ballots will not solve. In the primary election, the county ran out of ballots or ran short at nearly one-fourth of voting locations on Election Day, causing massive delays for voters across the county.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]
- **Cavanaugh Said He Believed That Voting “Machines May Have Been Part Of The Problem.”** “Cavanaugh, who wants to discuss fully hand-counting all 2024 ballots, told Votebeat after the meeting that, despite county officials saying human error caused the mistakes, he wants to have a discussion about hand-counting because he believes machines may have been part of the problem. County officials have not said this, though, explaining that workers were responsible for the incorrect machine settings and unheeded error messages on tabulators that caused the inaccuracies, along with a two-page ballot that made counting difficult.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]
- **After Being Told That Hand Counts Are Less Accurate, Cavanaugh Acknowledged That He’s “Not An Elections Expert.”** “‘If we are having [issues with the machines], we should have a discussion about the merits of doing a manual count, or if there are machines that count better than the ones we’ve got,’ Cavanaugh said. Told that counting ballots by hand has proven to be less accurate than machine counting, Cavanaugh said ‘I’m not an elections expert.’ He said he believes that it’s a worthy discussion because he knows workers had problems when running the ballots through the machines.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]

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At The Time, Cavanaugh “Made It Clear He Was Not Seeking An All-Out Hand Count.” “Cavanaugh acknowledged the Cochise County lawsuit and made it clear he was not seeking an all-out hand count.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [11/11/22](#)]

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HEADLINE: “After Botching Election Results, Pinal County Wants To Try Hand-Counting Ballots.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]

In May 2023, Pinal County Supervisor Jeff Serdy Said That The County Was Doing A Trial Hand-Count To “See How It Would Go.” “Supervisors Chairman Jeff Serdy told Votebeat on Wednesday that the county is planning to do a trial hand-count using a sampling of ballots cast by voters in 2022 ‘to see how it would go.’ Supervisor Mike Goodman told Votebeat he supports the plan.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]

- **After the Board Of Supervisors Was “Hammered By Months Of Requests From Residents Who Want The County To Hand-Count Ballots,” Due To False Election Fraud Claims, They Wanted To See If It Was Feasible To Hand-Count Ballots.** “Still, three supervisors – all Republicans representing the GOP-leaning fast-growing suburban county just southeast of Phoenix – told Votebeat Wednesday they want to see if it would be feasible to hand-count ballots instead of using machines. [...] The supervisors, like many across the state and county, have been hammered by months of requests from residents who want the county to hand-count ballots because of false claims about vote switching that have swirled since the 2020 election.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]
- **Serdy Said That The Sample Hand-Count Would Make Pinal County “An Example For The State.”** “The sample hand-count of 2022 ballots is being planned alongside those fixes. Serdy said that it would make Pinal an example for the state, as state lawmakers attempt to pass laws to eliminate voting machines. He said the trial will be open to the public and press to observe.” [AZ Mirror, [5/25/23](#)]
- **Jeff Serdy Is The District 5 Chairman And Pinal County Supervisor.** [Pinal County, accessed [01/03/24](#)]

On August 2, 2023, The Pinal County Supervisors “Considered Moving Forward With Their Own Hand Count Plan.” “More rural counties toyed with the prospect of hand counting ballots in the 2024 election this

week, on the urging of two state lawmakers, a handful of board members and constituents with election trust issues. [...] In a meeting today, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors considered moving forward with their own hand count plan.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [8/2/23](#)]

- **While The Board Did Not Take Formal Action, Serdy Described The Issue As “Definitely Something We Are Going To Have To Address,” Adding “It’s Just A Matter Of When We Put It On The Agenda.”** “The board did not take any formal action today but intends to discuss creating a formal plan and taking further steps in an upcoming meeting. ‘We need to wait until a few things sort themselves out around the state,’ Chair Jeff Serdy said. ‘But it is definitely something we are going to have to address. It’s just a matter of when we put it on the agenda.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [8/2/23](#)]

In Cochise County, The Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Had A \$755,000 Decrease And Heading Into 2024, Infrastructure And Maintenance Projects Totalling \$170,000 Went Unfunded, While Recent Election-Related Lawsuits Racked Up \$175,000 In Costs For The County.

Cochise County’s Shrinking Population Caused A Reduction In Its 2023 Budget By \$755,000.

Due To A Drop In Population And A State Regulation, Cochise County Had A Budget Drop Of \$755,000. “For the kickoff of budget season, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was given the bad news — the county is losing \$755,000 due to the drop in population from the 2020 Census report. [...] The expenditure limit is based on an old state regulation set in 1980, according to the Arizona auditor general. ‘The Constitution required the Economic Estimates Commission to establish for each county a base limit from actual expenditures of local revenues of fiscal year 1980. Each year, the Commission calculates the constitutional expenditure limitation for all counties in accordance with A.R.S. §41-563 by adjusting their base limits for any voter-approved permanent base adjustments, changes in population, and inflation since the base year.’” [Herald Review Media, [4/22/22](#)]

As Of April 2023, Unbudgeted Election Lawsuits Had Recently Cost The County Almost \$175,000.

While Most County Departments May Be Under Budget, The Elections Department Will Be Over Budget “Due To Unbudgeted Payouts From The Lawsuits Filed Against The Board Of Supervisors And The County Recorder — Which Has Cost The Taxpayers Almost \$175,000.” “Juan Frisby, county budget manager, gave a brief presentation on the expected increase in costs the county will experience in part from inflation and rising costs to do business. He noted most of the county departments have kept costs down and may end up being under budget at the end of the year. However, the Elections Department will be over budget for the current fiscal year due to unbudgeted payouts from the lawsuits filed against the Board of Supervisors and the county recorder — which has cost the taxpayers almost \$175,000 — and the jail district special election.” [Herald Review Media, [4/14/23](#)]

In June 2023, Cochise County Supervisors Approved The Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, Which Failed To Fund Requested Infrastructure And Maintenance Projects Totalling At Least \$170,000.

In A May 2023 Working Session, Budget Requests Were Submitted To The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors For \$20,000 In “Mower Deck Replacement” Costs And \$150,000 To “Remodel Terminal Building CC Airport.”

COCHISE COUNTY

Funding Requests Operational

Department	One-Time Cost	Annual Costs	Description
Finance		\$ 25,456	Gravity Software payment 4 years
Finance/Procurement		\$ 41,670	Financial Advisory Services
Treasurer's		\$ 16,392	Professional Services
CAO		\$ 30,000	Prosecution Costs
CCHS		\$ 145,275	Expenses increases 27k FH,118k Det Med,8k mental
COURTS	\$ 75,000		Strategic Plan approved in FY20 def to 21
COURTS	\$ 82,000	\$ 7,900	Courtroom Audio Visual
Sheriff		\$ 13,801	Professional Services for Animal Shelter
Sheriff		\$ 154,768	Body camera/taser
Sheriff		\$ 20,000	Extraditions
Sheriff		\$ 15,000	Training
Constables	\$ 17,000	\$ 11,000	Radios 7k,laptop 1.5k,fleet 5k,Cell \$500 per
Development Services	\$ 20,000		Mower Deck Replacement
Development Services	\$ 150,000		Remodel Terminal building CC airport
Development Services	\$ 120,000	\$ 1,000	Replace the tractor at the Bb-Dg Airport
Totals	\$ 464,000	\$ 482,263	

- Total = \$946,262
- If funded with property tax = 3.29% increase or 0.088 rate increase

2

Public Programs...Personal Service



[Cochise County, FY24 Budget Work Session, [5/25/23](#)]

In June 2023, The Cochise County Tentative FY23/24 Budget Did Not Include Funding Requests For A Mower Deck Or Airport Terminal Building Remodeling.

COCHISE COUNTY

Funding Requests

In total, the Board of Supervisors received twenty requests, totaling \$389k in one-time costs, and \$757k in recurring costs. The following funding requests are included in the Tentative Budget:

- Constable – Radios/Laptops - \$17,000
- Constable – Fleet/Cellphone - \$11,000
- County Attorney's Office – Attorney IV - \$127,000
- County Attorney's Office – Paralegal - \$66,750
- County Attorney's Office – Prosecution costs - \$30,000
- Coordinated Courts – Court Assistant - \$44,248
- Coordinated Courts – Temp Court Assistant - \$16,804
- Coordinated Courts – Courtroom Audio Visual - \$89,000
- Development Services– Tractor Replacement- \$120,000
- Elections – Part-time employee - \$20,000
- Finance – Gravity Software - \$25,456
- Finance – Financial Advisory Services - \$41,670
- Health – Expenses operational increases \$145,275
- Sheriff's Office – Professional Services for Animal Shelter- \$13,801
- Sheriff's Office –Body Camara/Taser- \$154,768
- Sheriff's Office –Extraditions-\$20,000
- Sheriff's Office –Training-\$15,000
- Treasurer's Office-Professional Services- \$16,392

Public Programs...Personal Service



[Cochise County, FY 23/24 Tentative Budget Special Districts, [6/13/23](#)]

In June 2023, The Cochise County Supervisors Approved The Budget At The Same Exact Level As In The Tentative Budget, With No Changes Discussed. “The Cochise County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the tentative county budget of \$277,936,938, which is an increase of 11.2% over last year’s budget.” [AZPM, [6/14/23](#)]

- **The FY2024 Tentative Budget’s Total Was Also \$277,936,938:**

**FY24
Tentative**

[...]

277,936,938

[Cochise County, FY 23/24 Tentative Budget Special Districts, [6/13/23](#)]

- **The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors Unanimously Voted To Adopt The Tentative Budget At \$277,936,938, With No Discussion Of Changing Line Item Allocations.** “Adopt the Tentative County Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$277,936,938 (this amount is composed of \$105,461,808 in General Fund and \$172,475,130 in Special Revenue funds) and approve the Funding Requests as set forth in the attached exhibit. [...] Chairman Judd called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.” [Cochise County, [06/13/23](#)]

Two Recently Subpoenaed Cochise County Supervisors, Peggy Judd And Tom Crosby, Cost Cochise County “Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars In Legal Fees And Settlements” With At Least \$300,000 On One Case — \$170,000 For Fees In A Toxic Work Environment Case And \$130,000 Paid By The County’s Insurance.

Decisions Made By Two Recently Subpoenaed Cochise County Supervisors Has Cost The County “Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars In Legal Fees And Settlements.” “Peggy Judd and Tom Crosby, the two Republican supervisors in Cochise county who led these efforts, were recently subpoenaed as part of an investigation by the state’s attorney general. The Republican-led county on the US-Mexico border has had to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and settlements for the lawsuits it faced in the wake of Crosby and Judd’s decisions. They have lost in court multiple times in their quest to prevent machine counting – part of an ongoing rightwing effort to switch to hand counts – and stall election results.” [The Guardian, [11/25/23](#)]

- **One Lawsuit, To Settle “A Toxic Work Environment Caused By The Two Supervisors” Caused The County’s Insurance To Pay \$130,000 While Other Legal Fees Have Totalled “Nearly \$170,000.”** “To settle a lawsuit from the former director Lisa Marra, who left because of a toxic work environment caused by the two supervisors, the county’s insurance paid out \$130,000. Other legal fees, primarily in the form of paying the costs of the other side’s attorneys in losses, have totaled nearly \$170,000.” [The Guardian, [11/25/23](#)]

David Stevens Worked With the Cochise County Board of Supervisors To Support A Push For A Hand-Count Of Election Results And Develop Ballot Paper With Fraud Countermeasures.

On October 11, 2022, David Stevens Presented To The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors A Method By Which A Hand-Count Vote Could Take Place. [Cochise County, accessed [8/24/23](#)]

On October 24, 2022, Before The 2022 General Election, David Stevens Supported An Order For A Hand Count Of All Ballots Cast In The 2022 General Election By The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors.[Cochise County, accessed [8/23/23](#)]

On October 25, 2022, Before The 2022 General Election, The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors Approved \$1 Million From The Arizona Department Of Administration To Be Used To Develop Ballot Paper With Ballot Fraud Countermeasures, Which Was Requested By Stevens. [Cochise County, accessed [8/23/23](#)]

Arizona Local Officials Have Begun Pushing For Faulty And Potentially Illegal Hand-Counts That Could Cost Counties Like Cochise And Pinal Millions Of Dollars.

Pinal Board Members Push For Hand Counting Ballots After Elections Where “Plagued” With Unrelated Problems, Board Members Push For A Trial Hand-Count.

Despite Pinal County’s Elections Being “Plagued With Problems That Hand-Counting Ballots [Would] Not Solve,” Cavanaugh Pushed For Hand Counting All 2024 Ballots, But Later Acknowledged He’s Not An Elections Expert.

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Cavanaugh's Hand-Count Measure Was Opposed By Local Groups Who Said The Hand Count Was Aimed To Appease, "People Who Did Not Believe In Facts," And "A Fringe Movement Of Election Deniers."

The Hand Count Measure Was Opposed By All Voting Is Local, League Of Women Voters And Rural Arizona Action, Who Said The Hand Count's Was Aimed To Appease, "People Who Did Not Believe In Facts," And "A Fringe Movement Of Election Deniers." "All Voting is Local, League of Women Voters and Rural Arizona Action spoke against the measure, saying the hand count's aim was to appease, 'people who did not believe in facts,' and 'a fringe movement of election deniers.'" [Arizona Capitol Times, [11/11/22](#)]

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On August 2, 2023, The Pinal County Supervisors "Considered Moving Forward With Their Own Hand Count Plan." "More rural counties toyed with the prospect of hand counting ballots in the 2024 election this

week, on the urging of two state lawmakers, a handful of board members and constituents with election trust issues. [...] In a meeting today, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors considered moving forward with their own hand count plan.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [8/2/23](#)]

- **While The Board Did Not Take Formal Action, Serdy Described The Issue As “Definitely Something We Are Going To Have To Address,” Adding “It’s Just A Matter Of When We Put It On The Agenda.”** “The board did not take any formal action today but intends to discuss creating a formal plan and taking further steps in an upcoming meeting. ‘We need to wait until a few things sort themselves out around the state,’ Chair Jeff Serdy said. ‘But it is definitely something we are going to have to address. It’s just a matter of when we put it on the agenda.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [8/2/23](#)]

Cochise County Officials Supported Hand-Counts And Approved Development Of Ballot Paper With Fraud Countermeasures

On October 11, 2022, David Stevens Presented To The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors A Method By Which A Hand-Count Vote Could Take Place. [Cochise County, accessed [8/24/23](#)]

On October 24, 2022, Before The 2022 General Election, David Stevens Supported An Order For A Hand Count Of All Ballots Cast In The 2022 General Election By The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors.[Cochise County, accessed [8/23/23](#)]

On October 25, 2022, Before The 2022 General Election, The Cochise County Board Of Supervisors Approved \$1 Million From The Arizona Department Of Administration To Be Used To Develop Ballot Paper With Ballot Fraud Countermeasures, Which Was Requested By Stevens. [Cochise County, accessed [8/23/23](#)]

Mohave County Overcame \$4 Million Initial Budget Shortfall For 2024, But Faces \$18 Million Deficit Heading Into 2025; The Board Also Supported Test Run Of Hand Counting Elections, But Rejected Proposal When The Cost Estimate Broke \$1 Million.

Mohave County Overcame A \$4 Million Deficit For The 2024 Budget, But Faces \$18 Million Deficit In 2025; Property Taxes Increased By 5.2%.

In The 2025 Fiscal Year, Mohave County Will Likely Face A \$18.5 Million Budget Deficit, Prompting Supervisor Buster Johnson To Propose An 18% Budget Cut And A Hiring Freeze. “Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson wants the county to consider an 18% budget cut and hiring freezes as a possible answer to a predicted budget deficit during the 2025 fiscal year. ‘If nothing changes, we may not have enough money coming in to continue to fund county operations,’ Johnson said in his proposal. The Mohave County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday held its first in a series of monthly budgetary meetings, intended to address solutions and cost-saving measures to counter a predicted \$18.5 million budgetary deficit during the 2025 fiscal year.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, [8/20/23](#)]

- **Johnson Proposed Mitigating The Impact Of Next Year’s Deficit By Freezing Building Projects As One Money Saving Measure.** “Johnson said that the county will be forced to make hard choices over the next two years, but officials can work toward mitigating the potential impact of next year’s deficit by limiting expenditures. ‘If we put a freeze on all general fund positions and freeze all county travel (and state travel) until further notice, and pause all county general fund building projects, we can at least help the situation we are facing next year.’” [Mohave Valley Daily News, [8/20/23](#)]

The Mohave County Board Overcame A \$4 Million Deficit For The 2024 Budget, But The Board Worries There Will Be A \$18 Million Deficit For Next Year. “The Mohave County Board of Supervisors balanced this year’s budget this week, and overcame an initial \$4 million deficit for the 2024 fiscal year. But with a possible

\$18 million deficit predicted for next year, not all of the board's members are satisfied with this year's budget." [Mohave Valley Daily News, [7/20/23](#)]

- **Mohave County Property Taxes Increased By 5.2%, An Increase That Supervisor Angius "Didn't Object To."** "Meanwhile, taxes in Mohave County will receive a marginal increase in this year's budget. Primary property taxes are expected to increase by about 5.2%, to a rate of about \$175.47 per \$100,000 of a home's assessed value. [...] According to statements to Today's News-Herald by Mohave County Supervisor Hildy Angius last week, county tax revenue will increase this year primarily due to higher property values throughout the county. And although Arizona's 'Truth in Taxation Law' might be designed to prevent property taxes from rising too steeply as property values rise, Angius didn't object to those taxes increasing this year." [Mohave Valley Daily News, [7/20/23](#)]

After Discussing The County's Budget Shortfall, Supervisors Supported Exploring Hand Counting Election, Disregarding Election Director's Concerns.

The Mohave County Elections Director Explained That "Hand Counting Is Extremely Difficult To Do Accurately, Would Take Weeks, And Would Be Extraordinarily Costly." "The Mohave supervisors voted to hand-count ballots even after their own elections director explained to them, in detail, why it wouldn't work. Allen Tempert, who has been the county's elections director for more than two decades, told the supervisors hand counting is extremely difficult to do accurately, would take weeks, and would be extraordinarily costly. Election experts and numerous studies have also found hand-counting ballots to be far less accurate and less efficient." [AZ Mirror, [6/7/23](#)]

- **After Spending Hours Discussing The County's "Multi-Million Dollar Budget Shortfall," The Supervisors Supported The Hand Count With Hildy Angius, Who Previously Said The County Budget Is A Top Priority, Saying "It's Worth Investigating."** "The supervisors had just spent hours discussing how the county is facing a multi-million dollar budget shortfall. Still, they didn't seem deterred by the price tag. 'I think it's worth investigating,' said Supervisor Hildy Angius, who has previously said balancing the county's budget is among her top priorities. [AZ Mirror, [6/7/23](#)]

Supervisors Voted 3-2 Against Conducting Hand-Count After Test Run Showed Costs Over \$1 Million, More Than Yearly Election Budget.

Mohave County Supervisors Voted 3-2 Against Conducting A Hand-Count After A Test Run Showed "It Would Cost More Than A Million Dollars." "An Arizona county has decided not to hand-count its ballots in next year's elections, after discovering that it would cost more than a million dollars and leave it with inaccurate results. The all-Republican Board of Supervisors in Mohave County voted 3-2 against forgoing ballot counting machines in favor of hand-counting in 2024, after months of debate, questions on the legality, and a three-day test run." [NBC News, [8/2/23](#)]

- **The Total Cost Of A Hand-Count Would Be \$1,108,486, More Than The Budget To Run The Whole Election Currently.** "The total cost for the staffing, renting for a large venue for the counting, security cameras, and other associated costs was staggering: \$1,108,486. 'That's larger than my budget for the whole year, to run the whole election for the whole year!' Tempert said." [NBC News, [8/2/23](#)]

Completely Hand Counting Ballots In Place Of Using Elections Machines, A Push From Republicans And Elections Conspiracy Theorists Across The Country, Has Proven Wildly Expensive, Inaccurate, And Illegal In Arizona.

Following The 2020 Election, Election Deniers And Republicans Across The Country Have Pushed For Getting Rid Of Election Machines In Favor Of Hand Counting Ballots. "It's a common refrain from election deniers and the Republicans who support them this election cycle: Get rid of the machines. According to many conspiracy theorists, the 2020 election was stolen by an algorithm, therefore if you take computers out of the voting process you can further secure your election." [NPR, [10/7/22](#)]

After Counties In Arizona Floated Hand Counting Their Ballots, It Was Discovered The Process Would “Cost More Than A Million Dollars And Leave It With Inaccurate Results.” “An Arizona county has decided not to hand-count its ballots in next year’s elections, after discovering that it would cost more than a million dollars and leave it with inaccurate results.” [NBC News, [8/2/23](#)]

Elections Experts Oppose Hand-Counting Ballots As “It Takes Longer Than Counting With Machines, It’s Less Reliable, And It’s A Logistical Nightmare For U.S. Elections.” “Why do election experts oppose hand-counting ballots? It takes longer than counting with machines, it’s less reliable, and it’s a logistical nightmare for U.S. elections. A growing number of Republican lawmakers have pushed for switching to hand-counts, an argument rooted in false conspiracy theories that voting systems were manipulated to steal the 2020 election.” [AP, [11/3/23](#)]

- **The Push For Hand Counting Ballots Is “An Argument Rooted In False Conspiracy Theories That Voting Systems Were Manipulated To Steal The 2020 Election.”** “Why do election experts oppose hand-counting ballots? It takes longer than counting with machines, it’s less reliable, and it’s a logistical nightmare for U.S. elections. A growing number of Republican lawmakers have pushed for switching to hand-counts, an argument rooted in false conspiracy theories that voting systems were manipulated to steal the 2020 election.” [AP, [11/3/23](#)]

The Arizona State Court Of Appeals Ruled In October 2023 That Arizona Counties “Are Prohibited From Conducting Full Hand Counts In An Election.” “The state Court of Appeals has ruled Wednesday that Arizona’s counties are prohibited from conducting full hand counts in an election.” [KJZZ, [10/18/23](#)]