FILED
Christina Spurlock
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT
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BY: MVIGIL
DEPUTY

1 **Graham County Attorney** 800 W. Main Street 2 Safford, AZ 85546 3 (928) 428-3620 State Bar No. 021673 4 5 Jean A. Roof Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney 6 State Bar No. 033354 7 Attorneys for Graham County Defendants 8 THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA 9 10 IN AND FOR MOHAVE COUNTY 11 Case No: S8015CV202201468 **JEANNE** KENTCH, an individual; TED 12 individual: BOYD. ABRAHAM an 13 HAMADEH, an individual; and REPUBLICAN **GRAHAM COUNTY** NATIONAL COMMITTEE, a federal political **DEFENDANTS' JOINDER** 14 party committee, IN YAVAPAI COUNTY'S 15 RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION 16 Plaintiff/Contestants, TO EXPEDITE DISCOVERY AND PETITION TO 17 INSPECT BALLOTS v. 18 KRIS MAYES, (Assigned to Hon. Lee F. 19 Jantzen) 20 Defendant/Contestee, 21 and 22 KATIE HOBBS, in her official capacity as the 23 Secretary of State; et al., 24 Defendants. 25 Defendants Graham County Board of Supervisors and Graham County Recorder 26 (collectively, the "Graham County Defendants"), by and through undersigned counsel, join in 27

L. SCOTT BENNETT

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Yavapai County's Response in Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion to Expedite Discovery and Petition to Inspect Ballots filed December 15, 2022 ("Yavapai County's Response").

Without repeating Yavapai County's arguments, Graham County shares the view that:

(1) Plaintiffs' Motion to Expedite Discovery would create "insurmountable practical and logistical hurdles" for Graham County if granted, and (2) Plaintiffs' Petition to Inspect Ballots fails to recognize the statutory limitations on inspecting ballots and overreaches in its expectation that the Counites must pre-sort certain categories of ballots.

Graham County verified 7336 early ballots in the November 8, 2022 General Election (the "General Election"), and requests that the Court take judicial notice of its Election Canvass which supports this fact. *See* https://www.graham.az.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/398 (hereinafter, "Canvass") at 19. The County simply does not have the resources (e.g., employees) necessary to produce images of over 7,000 early ballots before the evidentiary hearing scheduled on December 23, 2022.

Additionally, handling the ballot inspection in the fashion Plaintiffs have suggested is contrary to A.R.S. § 16-677(A). In particular, nothing in the statute requires Graham County to pre-sort all 11,006 ballots cast in the General Election to find where there is a recorded undervote in the Arizona Attorney General contest, as Plaintiffs' Petition to Inspect Ballots suggests. *See* Canvass at 4.

For the reasons articulated in Yavapai County's Response and those discussed above, the Court should deny Plaintiffs' Motion to Expedite Discovery and Petition to Inspect Ballots.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 16th day of December, 2022.

L. SCOTT BENNETT GRAHAM COUNTY ATTORNEY

By: /s/ Jean A. Roof
Jean A. Roof
Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Attorneys for Graham County Defendants

1	The foregoing was e-filed via
2	AZTurboCourt on December 16, 2022.
3	Copies were e-mailed
4	December 16, 2022, to:
5	Honorable Lee F. Jantzen Mohave County Superior Court
6	Danielle Lechner, Judicial Assistant
7	DLechner@courts.az.gov Division4@mohavecourts.com
8	
0	David A. Warrington
9	Gary Lawkowski
10	DHILLON LAW GROUP, INC. 2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 608
11	Alexandria, VA 22314
	DWarrington@dhillonlaw.com
12	GLawkowski@dhillonlaw.com
13	Timothy A La Sota,
14	TIMOTHY A. LA SOTA, PLC
15	2198 East Camelback Road, Suite 305
	Phoenix, Arizona 85016
16	tim@timlasota.com
17	Dennis I. Wilenchik, Esq.
18	John D. "Jack" Wilenchik, Esq.
	WILENCHIK & BARTNESS
19	The Wilenchik & Bartness Building
20	2810 North Third Street Phoenix, Arizona 85004
21	admin@wb-law.com
22	Attorneys for Plaintiffs/Contestants
23	Daniel C. Barr
24	Alexis E. Danneman
25	Austin Yost
25	Samantha J. Burke
26	PERKINS COIE LLP
27	2901 North Central Avenue Suite 2000
28	Phoenix, AZ 85012
Z Ø	

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dbar@perkinscoie.com
    adanneman@perkinscoie.com
 1
    ayost@perkinscoie.com
    sburke@perkinscoie.com
 2
    Attorneys for Kris Mayes
 3
    Joseph La Rue
 4
    Joe Branco
 5
    Karen Hartman-Tellez
    Maricopa County Attorney's Office
    225 West Madison St.
    Phoenix, AZ 85003
    larue@mcao.maricopa.gov
 8
    brancoj@mcao.maricopa.gov
    hartmank@mcao.maricopa.gov
 9
    c-civilmailbox@mcao.maricopa.gov
10
    Attorneys for Maricopa County
11
    Celeste Robertson
    Joseph Young
12
    Apache County Attorney's Office
13
    245 West 1st South
    St. Johns, AZ 85936
14
    crobertson@apachelaw.net
    jyoung@apachelaw.net
15
    Attorneys for Defendant, Larry Noble, Apache County Recorder,
16
    and Apache County Board of Supervisors
17
    Christine J. Roberts
18
    Paul Correa
    Cochise County Attorney's Office
19
    P.O. Drawer CA
20
    Bisbee, AZ 85603
    croberts@cochise.az.gov
21
    pcorrea@cochise.az.gov
    Attorneys for Defendant, David W. Stevens, Cochise County Recorder,
22
    and Cochise County Board of Supervisors
23
    Bill Ring
24
    Coconino County Attorney's Office
25
    110 East Cherry Avenue
    Flagstaff, AZ 86001
26
    wring@coconino.az.gov
    Attorney for Defendant, Patty Hansen, Coconino County Recorder,
27
    and Coconino County Board of Supervisors
28
```

```
Jeff Dalton
 1
    Gila County Attorney's Office
    1400 East Ash Street
 2
    Globe, AZ 85501
 3
    jdalton@gilacountyaz.gov
    Attorney for Defendant, Sadie Jo Bingham, Gila County Recorder,
 4
    and Gila County Board of Supervisors
 5
    Scott Adams
    Greenlee County Attorney's Office
    P.O. Box 1717
    Clifton, AZ 85533
 8
    sadams@greenlee.az.gov
    Attorney for Defendant, Sharie Milheiro, Greenlee County Recorder,
 9
    and Greenlee County Board of Supervisors
10
    Ryan N. Dooley
11
    La Paz County Attorney's Office
    1320 Kofa Avenue
12
    Parker, AZ 85344
13
    rdooley@lapazcountyaz.org
    Attorney for Defendant, Richard Garcia, La Paz County Recorder, and La Paz County Board of
14
    Supervisors
15
    Ryan Esplin
16
    Mohave County Attorney's Office Civil Division
    P.O. Box 7000
17
    Kingman, AZ 86402-7000
18
    EspliR@mohave.gov
    Attorney for Defendant, Kristi Blair, Mohave County Recorder,
19
    and Mohave County Board of Supervisors
20
    Jason S. Moore
21
    Navajo County Attorney's Office
    P.O. Box 668
22
    Holbrooke, AZ 86025-0668
23
    jason.moore@navajocountyaz.gov
    Attorney for Defendant, Michael Sample, Navajo County Recorder,
24
    and Navajo County Board of Supervisors
25
    Daniel Jurkowitz
26
    Ellen Brown
    Javier Gherna
27
    Pima County Attorney's Office
28
```

```
32 N. Stone #2100
 1
    Tucson, AZ 85701
    Daniel.Jurkowitz@pcao.pima.gov
 2
    Ellen.Brown@pcao.pima.gov
 3
    Javier.Gherna@pcao.pima.gov
    Attorneys for Defendant Gabriella Cázares-Kelley, Pima County Recorder, and Pima
 4
    County Board of Supervisors
 5
    Craig Cameron
    Scott Johnson
    Allen Quist
    Jim Mitchell
 8
    Pinal County Attorney's Office
    30 North Florence Street
    Florence, AZ 85132
10
    craig.cameron@pinal.gov
    scott.m.johnson@pinal.gov
11
    allen.quist@pinal.gov
    james.mitchell@pinal.gov
12
    Attorneys for Defendant, Dana Lewis, Pinal County Recorder,
13
    and Pinal County Board of Supervisors
14
    Kimberly Hunley
    William Moran
15
    Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office
16
    2150 North Congress Drive, Suite 201
    Nogales, AZ 85621-1090
17
    khunley@santacruzcountyaz.gov
18
    wmoran@santacruzcountyaz.gov
    Attorneys for Defendant, Suzanne Sainz, Santa Cruz County Recorder,
19
    and Santa Cruz County of Board of Supervisors
20
    Thomas Stoxen
21
    Colleen Conner
    Yavapai County Attorney's Office
22
    255 Gurley St., 3rd Floor
23
    Prescott, AZ 86201
    colleen.conner.@yavapai.gov
24
    thomas.stoxen@yavapai.gov
25
    Attorneys for Defendants Yavapai County Board of Supervisors and Michelle M. Burchill,
    Yavapai County Recorder
26
    Bill Kerekes
27
    Yuma County Attorney's Office
28
```

1	198 South Main Street
2	Yuma, AZ 85364
3	<u>bill.kerekes@yumacountyaz.gov</u> Attorneys for Defendant, Richard Colwell, Yuma County Recorder
4	and Versian County Described of Services
5	COPPERSMITH BROCKELMAN PLC 2800 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1900 Phoenix, AZ 85004 agaona@cblawyers.com
6	
7	
8	
9	STATES UNITED DEMOCRACY CENTER 8205 S. Priest Drive, #10312 Tempe AZ 85284
10	
11	
12	Attorneys for Secretary of State
13	
14	/s/ Jean A. Roof
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
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