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9 Mohave County Recorder (Kristi Blair)

8 **ARIZONA SUPERIOR COURT**

9 **MOHAVE COUNTY**

10 ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY, et al.,)
11 Plaintiffs,) No. CV-2022-00594

12 v.

13 KATIE HOBBS, et al.,) **MOHAVE COUNTY RECORDER'S**
14 Defendants.) **ANSWER TO VERIFIED COMPLAINT**
15)
16)

16 DEFENDANT MOHAVE COUNTY RECORDER, by and through undersigned counsel,
17 hereby answers Plaintiff's Verified Complaint as follows:
18

- 19 1. As to the allegations in Paragraphs 24, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 37, and 84, Mohave County
20 Recorder admit the allegations.
21
22 2. As to the allegations in Paragraph 26, Mohave County Recorder admits that the Arizona
23 Supreme Court declined to hear plaintiff's case, but the reasons for its denial were
24 included in the Supreme Court's order.
25
26

- 1 3. As to the allegations in Paragraph 31, Mohave County Recorder admits that Defendant
2 Katie Hobbs is the Secretary of State, but denies that election officials are “inferior” to
3 her.
4
- 5 4. As to the allegations in Paragraph 34, no allegation is asserted and therefore no response
6 is required.
7
- 8 5. As to the allegations in Paragraph 35, Mohave County Recorder admits that this Court
9 has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the statutes and laws cited by Plaintiff with
10 the exception of A.R.S. § 12-2021.
11
- 12 6. As to the allegations in Paragraphs 1-23, 25, 27, 28, 38-41, 43-83, 85-105, 108-110,
13 112-115, 120-139, 141-143, and 145-197, Mohave County Recorder lacks sufficient
14 information from which to form a belief as to the truth or falsity thereof and, therefore,
15 denies these allegations.
16
- 17 7. As to the allegations in Paragraphs 42, 106, 107, 111, 116, 117, 118, 119, 140, and 144,
18 they state legal conclusions to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a
19 response is required, Mohave County Recorder denies the allegations.
20
- 21 8. Mohave County Recorder affirmatively alleges that she is a nominal party to this action.
22
- 23 9. All allegations not specifically admitted are hereby denied.

Affirmative Defenses

24 Mohave County Recorder affirmatively states that, while an indispensable party to this action,
25 her role is nominal in this action, and no award of costs is available against her. She will abide by all
26 orders issued by this Court.

1 Additional facts may be revealed by future discovery which support affirmative defenses
2 available to, but unknown by the Mohave County Recorder. Accordingly, Mohave County Recorder
3 hereby incorporates by this reference all applicable affirmative defenses pursuant to Rules 8 and 12 of
4 the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure and Title 16 of the Arizona Revised Statutes as though set forth
5 fully herein.
6

7 WHEREFORE, having fully responded to Plaintiff's Complaint, the Mohave County Recorder
8 requests the following:

- 9 1. That this Court issue orders consistent with the evidence presented and the laws of
10 the State of Arizona;
- 11 2. Deny any request for court costs and attorneys fees being issued against the Mohave
12 County Recorder
- 13 3. Such other and further relieve as the Court deems just and proper.
14

15
16 Respectfully submitted this 25th day of May, 2022
17

18 MATTHEW J. SMITH
19 MOHAVE COUNTY ATTORNEY

20 /s/ Ryan H. Esplin

21 Ryan H. Esplin
22 Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
23 Attorney for Mohave County Recorder
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1 The foregoing Mohave County Recorder's Answer to Complaint was electronically filed via
2 AZTurboCourt with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Mohave County this 25th day of May,
3 2022, and copies emailed to:

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By: /s/ Ryan H. Esplin