

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance
Field Hearing: “The Monitoring Racket: The Grift that Keeps on Giving”
February 27, 2026
Phoenix, Arizona

Representative Gosar Statement for the Record:

This field hearing is timely and appropriate to examine whether federal judicial oversight of the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office remains necessary or serves the public interest. The oversight imposed following *Ortega Melendres v. Arpaio* was intended to be remedial—not perpetual—and the record now shows that its objectives have been achieved.

Since the court’s 2013 findings, MCSO has implemented sweeping and durable reforms to its policies, training, supervision, and accountability systems. These include comprehensive bias-free policing policies, mandatory and recurring civil-rights training, improved data collection and documentation of traffic stops, strengthened internal investigations, and regular integrity audits reviewed by independent monitors. These reforms are now embedded into MCSO’s daily operations and internal oversight structures.

There is no evidence of ongoing constitutional violations, and MCSO has established durable internal systems to safeguard civil rights without continued federal supervision. Despite this progress, Maricopa County taxpayers have borne an extraordinary financial burden to maintain an oversight regime that has outlived its purpose. This prolonged monitoring has diverted limited public resources, reduced operational efficiency, harmed recruitment and retention, and constrained MCSO’s ability to deliver essential public safety services.

This hearing provides a necessary forum to recognize MCSO’s substantial compliance, reaffirm that federal judicial intervention must have a clear endpoint, and ensure that accountability is balanced with fiscal responsibility, local governance, and effective law enforcement.