

Madame Chair, Ranking Member, thank you for having me here today to discuss a topic of great importance: the future of free and fair elections in the greatest country in the world.

The 2020 general election in Maricopa County, Arizona was the best election we have run to date. I can say that because it has also been the most scrutinized. Election professionals have said it. Hand counts and machine tests have affirmed it. Courts have reaffirmed it. Most people in Maricopa County agree— in fact, a poll of nearly 80,000 voters conducted after the November election found 90% were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience.

By all measures, our election was run securely and everyone who wanted to participate could.

But that is not what you hear from some members of my party. Instead, they have denigrated the good work done by our elections team and fanned the flames of conspiracy. This willingness to actively promote or quietly appease those peddling claims of election fraud—resulted in the first non-peaceful transfer of power in our history.

Somehow, election integrity has become a never-ending series of questions, designed to cast doubt, not restore trust. To these folks, widespread fraud is assumed as a reason for any political loss. Facts to the contrary are ignored.

Sadly, Arizona has been at the center of this attack on our American values.

Even though more Arizonans chose Joe Biden as their President, 20 Arizona legislators signed a resolution last December, attempting to get Congress to accept 11 alternate electoral votes for Donald J. Trump... a staggering act of defiance of the people's will.

State senators went to court to get the people's ballots and federally-certified election equipment quote "sufficiently in advance of the congressional review of the Electoral College returns on January 6, 2021."

When that failed, senators carried on... threatening to jail members of our Board... and casting doubt on the results of the two independent, professional

audits we authorized... which found no evidence of vote switching or hacking and no issue with elections equipment or software.

It should have ended there. It did not.

The Senate hired Cyber Ninjas to lead a team of firms with zero to little elections experience to conduct an extra-legal recount of the ballots in Maricopa County and what can only be described as an amateur review of our technical infrastructure. It was a mess.

They changed policies and procedures, chased conspiracies, and spread false claims. At one point, they even accused our staff of criminal activity, saying we deleted files they simply couldn't find. It was either a knowing lie, or a staggering display of incompetence.

I have been a member of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for four years. In that time, we have taken significant steps to help people vote when and how they want, developing new processes and organizational structures to ensure accountability and security.

Election integrity is not a new issue for me; as a former election attorney for the Arizona Republican Party, it is a passion of mine. That's why I'm here to tell you that what is happening across our country right now—the disinformation campaigns and calls to decertify fair elections—these efforts are the most serious threat to American democracy I have seen in my lifetime.

If elected officials don't put truth above party, private-funded, government-backed inquiries into legitimate elections will continue. Supporters of losing candidates will find financial backers to help them challenge the results. Trust in our democratic process will plummet.

Madame Chair and members, as a Republican who believes in democracy, I have dreamed of someday assisting a nation where democracy is taking hold. Perhaps a former Soviet Republic like Tajikistan or Belarus. I never thought I would have to do this same work in my home country, here in the United States of America. Thank you.