

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

CV 2026-000232

03/12/2026

HONORABLE MICHAEL VALENZUELA

CLERK OF THE COURT
A. Villela
Deputy

EIL DALTON-WEBB

EIL DALTON-WEBB
5009 E IRONWOOD CIR
SIERRA VISTA AZ 85650

v.

ADRIAN FONTES, et al.

KAREN HARTMAN-TELLEZ

DYLAN HENDEL
DOCKET CV TX
JUDGE VALENZUELA

MINUTE ENTRY

East Court Building – Courtroom 812 – VC – CV

1:24 p.m. This is the time set for virtual Status Conference. Plaintiff, Eli Dalton-Webb, is present on his own behalf. Defendant, Adrian Fontes, in his official capacity as the Arizona Secretary of State, is represented by Counsel, Karen Hartman-Tellez. Defendants, Melissa Avant, in her official capacity as Officer in Charge of Elections in Cochise County, and Billy Cloud, in his official capacity as Cochise County Recorder, are represented by Counsel, Dylan Hendel.

A record of the proceedings is made digitally in lieu of a court reporter.

Plaintiff advises they are audio recording the proceeding.

The Court has received and reviewed the below:

- *County Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and Good Faith Consultation Certificate*, filed February 6, 2026

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- *Arizona Secretary of State's Motion to Dismiss*, filed February 6, 2026
- *Plaintiff's Response to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss*, filed February 28, 2026
- *Arizona Secretary of State's Reply in Support of Motion to Dismiss*, filed March 11, 2026

Arguments are presented.

Based on the matters presented and for the reasons stated on the record,

IT IS ORDERED taking the matters of the public records requests and the requests for costs under advisement.

LET THE RECORD REFLECT that there is no dispute that Cochise County recognizes the libertarian party.

LET THE RECORD REFLECT that the Plaintiff may rely on the A.R.S. § 16-804 determination by Cochise County that the libertarian party is recognized.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff's statement of interest is recognized as valid.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff's petition may be signed by libertarians and those that are not Democrats and Republicans.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff needs 293 signatures for their petition.

Plaintiff advises they have an interest in filing an amended complaint.

The Court advises that if the motion(s) to dismiss are granted, they will determine if it is appropriate to grant the Plaintiff leave to amend their complaint.

County Defendants' counsel advises there are no open records requests.

The parties are notified that, under A.R.S. § 16-351(A), any notice of appeal must be filed within five calendar days after the superior court's decision in a challenge to the nomination of a candidate. See *Bohart v. Hanna*, 213 Ariz. 480, 143 P.3d 1021 (2006). An appeal that is belatedly prosecuted, such as one filed on the last day of the statutory deadline, may be dismissed on grounds of laches even if timely filed. See *McClung v. Bennett*, 225 Ariz. 154, 235 P.3d 1037 (2010). Special procedural rules govern expedited appeals in election cases. Ariz. R. Civ. App. P. 10.

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2:18 p.m. Hearing concludes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Valenzuela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Valenzuela" clearly distinguishable.

HONORABLE MICHAEL F. VALENZUELA
JUDICIAL OFFICER OF THE SUPERIOR COURT