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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 11, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Elections Campaign Finance Database**

Concerns have been expressed regarding the current [Campaign Finance Reporting](#) used by the Pima County Elections Department. The attached February 10, 2020 memorandum from Elections Director Brad Nelson explains some of the background leading to our current reporting system.

The Elections Department is awaiting a permanent solution from the State. To date there has been no communication from Secretary Hobbs regarding this matter and if no action is taken by the end of this election cycle, the County will pursue its own database solution.

CHH/lab

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
John Voorhees, Assistant County Administrator  
Brad Nelson, Director, Elections Department



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# MEMORANDUM

## ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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February 10, 2020

To: John Voorhees  
Asst. County Administrator

From: Brad R. Nelson  
Elections Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

Re: Pima County Campaign Finance Software – past/present/future

You asked me recently to provide some information regarding the Campaign Finance software Pima County is currently using. What follows is my attempt to inform you where we have been, where we are now and where we intend to be in the near future.

Previous to the current ability to file campaign finance reports online, all committees filed hard copies of their reports. Those reports were thereafter scanned by Election Staff and made available as a PDF on line. This effort was cumbersome, error prone and time consuming for both the committees and the Election Office.

In December 2011, the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved a request from the Election Department to obligate all candidates and committees to file campaign finance reports in an electronic format prescribed by the Election Dept. Prior to that action, the Election Office sought out a software solution. That solution was a scaled down version of the Campaign Finance Reporting System that had been used by the Arizona Secretary of State. The vendor that supported the State system, and our current system provider, was Arizona-based CFSolutions.

The CFSolutions system was a great improvement over the previous labor intensive scanning process when it was first used in 2012. However, we knew that we would need a better system in the near future.

Just two years after the launch of the CFSolution in Pima County, a newly elected Secretary of State, Michele Reagan, took office. Shortly after taking office, Secretary Reagan set about setting up a "One Stop Shop" or otherwise called as the "SeetheMoney" application for campaign finance reporting that could be used for all jurisdictions for all candidates and committees at no cost to the jurisdictions.

Indeed, the statutes were amended in 2016 in preparation for the promised "One Stop Shop" as follows" (emphasis added)

*ARS 16-928.C A filing officer shall provide the option for electronic filing and shall make all statements and reports publicly available on the internet. A filing officer may comply with this section by opting into the secretary of state's electronic filing system.*

Secretary Reagan was defeated in her attempt to be elected to a second term in 2018 and there has been no effort from the current Secretary of State to pursue a "One Stop Shop" for campaign finance reporting.

Like many others, the Election Department is not satisfied with the current system and will be exploring improvements after the 2020 election cycle is complete. As the county launches its search for a new system, we will reach out to stakeholders in an attempt to procure a system that meets the needs of candidates, committees, media and the public.

# *Certificate of Clerk*

*Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona*

*State of Arizona*

*County of Pima* <sup>ss</sup>

*I, Robin Brigode, the duly appointed, and qualified, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, hereby certify that the following is a true, correct, and compared extract of the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on the 6th day of December, 2011, and that a quorum was present thereat.*

## **ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

Staff recommends approval to require all candidates and committees that are required by law to file campaign finance reports in Pima County to do so only in the electronic format prescribed by the Pima County Election Department.

On consideration, it was moved by Supervisor Elias, seconded by Supervisor Day and carried by a 5-0 vote, to approve the recommendation.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, this 6th day of December, 2011.*

*Robin Brigode*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Clerk*

# Critics slam Michele Reagan over election funding site 'that doesn't work'

Dustin Gardiner, The Republic | [azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com) Published 4:48 p.m. MT June 6, 2018 | Updated 11:56 a.m. MT June 7, 2018

When Michele Reagan ran for secretary of state in 2014, she pledged to build a new website to help voters track money in political campaigns and learn more about dark money groups.

Four years later, the website has become a key talking point for Reagan's opponents as she campaigns to keep her job as Arizona's top elections official.

Reagan's website, [SeeTheMoney.com](http://SeeTheMoney.com), is in beta-testing mode, the financial data on it is outdated and the project is expected to cost \$1 million more than originally anticipated.

Democrats took aim at the website Tuesday in their first video ad of the campaign cycle targeting Reagan. Entitled "[See the Failure](#)" (a dig at the site's name), the ad contends Reagan has "wasted taxpayer money on a website that doesn't work" and that her 2014 campaign promise was "not worth the wait."

Reagan's chief opponent in the Republican primary, millionaire businessman Steve Gaynor, has also lampooned the site, calling it a "big waste."

But Reagan's office has called the website a "groundbreaking" success. While campaign finance information already is online, the site allows users to display and group money in new ways.

Her spokesman, Matt Roberts, said it's curious that critics are complaining about efforts to improve transparency in campaign spending. He said the site is a national model.

"We're pretty proud of it," Roberts said. "It's a great site that has improved transparency in Arizona."

But the effort has repeatedly hit delays and the expected cost has grown by \$1 million.