

Freedom FORUM



MON - THUR - FRI

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HOSTED BY DAVID COLBERT

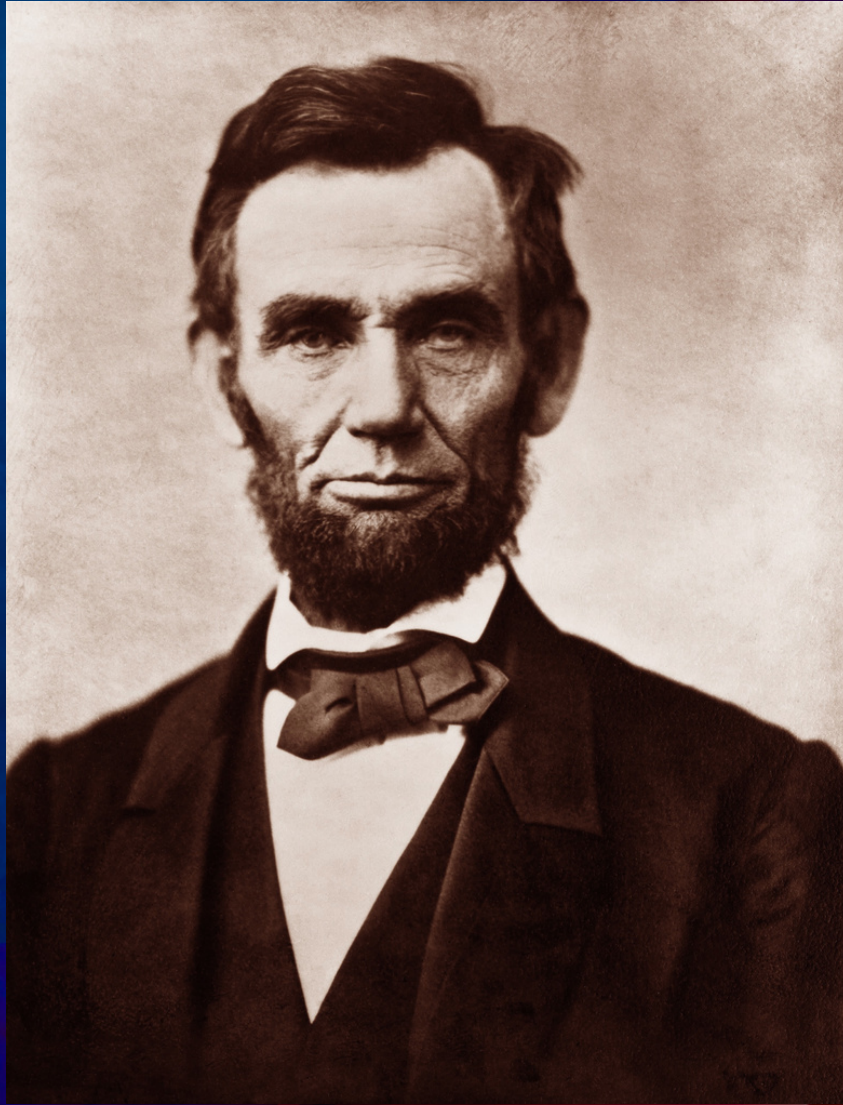
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In a January 1838 speech to a group in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln stated:



"At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."



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Capitol Times

Magazine

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Thank you for reading and engaging with our publication. Your feedback is valuable to us as we continue to provide a platform for thought-provoking content and diverse perspectives.

Gratitude is the secret ingredient that transforms a meal into a feast, a house into a home, and a day into a Happy Thanksgiving. May your heart be as full as your plate, and may the warmth of gratitude light up your every moment. Wishing you a bountiful and joyous Thanksgiving celebration!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Review Rating



Thomas S

A must read. Turn off the TV. Sit down and read this. Then read it again.



Julie B

All Americans MUST read! This story is amazing and one every American must know.



Leslie D Keller

Important and great article on Patrick Byrne. Everybody needs to read this.



Review Rating



Martha Boneta

Excellent Magazine featuring
Patrick Byrne.
Exceptional journalism and cover
story featuring Patrick Byrne!



David Colbert

A Riveting Read: Capitol Times
Magazine Unveils the Truth about
the Deep State



It reveals shocking details about our intelligence agencies, our election system, and how our intelligence community seeks successful and powerful resources from the private sector to help them achieve objectives. America is in peril from foreign enemies and we must peacefully unite if we want to save our country. Time is running short for us to be successful.



Anil Anwar
Editor-in-Chief

Editor's Note



In Issue 4 of Capitol Times Magazine, we delve into the heart of a crucial matter that has gripped the nation's attention—the 2020 elections. Our exclusive interview with Former Colorado Mesa County Clerk, Tina Peters, brings forth shocking revelations.

Tina Peters, a key figure in the electoral process, provides insights and information that challenge preconceived notions and shed light on aspects of the 2020 elections that demand further scrutiny.

Our aim with this interview is not to draw premature conclusions, but rather to facilitate a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding the electoral process. Capitol Times Magazine remains dedicated to the principles of journalistic integrity, providing our readers with thought-provoking content that encourages critical thinking and informed discourse.

We encourage you to not only absorb the information presented but also to analyze and think critically.

Tina Peters brings forward shocking revelations, supported by evidence that we have meticulously included in our magazine. Additionally, readers can access further materials and reports on her official website, ***tinapeters.us***.

As we navigate the complex landscape of election integrity, it is essential to approach this subject matter with a critical and open mind. The interview with Tina Peters is an opportunity for our readers to gain insights into her perspective and the issues she raises. We encourage thoughtful consideration of the information presented, acknowledging the importance of robust dialogue in the pursuit of a fair and transparent democratic process.

In light of Tina Peters' comprehensive presentation of evidence, what is in the Election Reports that proves Election Fraud? Tina Peters, Colorado Whistleblower, shares the Forensic Reports [**www.tinapeters.us/reports/**](http://www.tinapeters.us/reports/)

It prompts a crucial question for every American citizen: If these Election Reports that prove Election Fraud are indeed proven true, what do you believe should be your demand from the government? This is a moment to engage in critical thinking and consider the implications for accountability, transparency, and the principles that underpin American democracy.

Thank you for your continued trust in Capitol Times Magazine as we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of news and information.





CAPITOL TIMES MAGAZINE

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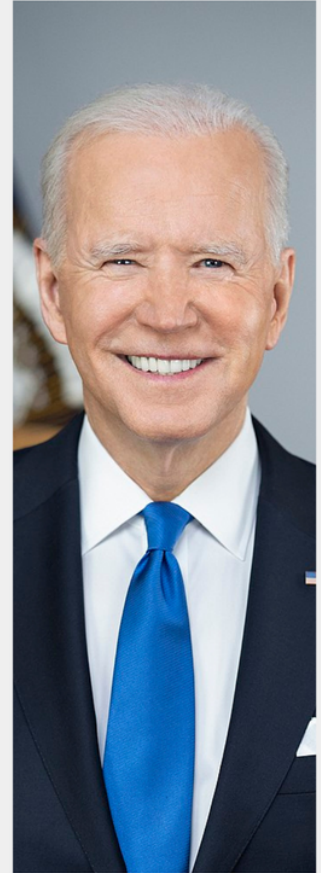
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INTERVIEW WITH

TINA PETERS

FORMER COUNTY CLERK OF MESA COUNTY, COLORADO

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH

TINA PETERS

Former County Clerk of Mesa County, Colorado

Unraveling the Hidden Truths of the 2020 Elections



Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed readers, and political enthusiasts, welcome to this exclusive interview featuring a prominent figure in American politics. Today, we are privileged to have with us Tina Peters, a distinguished personality who has left an indelible mark on the political landscape. Formerly serving as the County Clerk of Mesa County, Colorado, Tina Peters has transitioned into a prominent role within the Republican Party, where her influence and dedication continue to shape the future of the nation.

In this intriguing conversation, we will delve deep into the events surrounding the 2020 elections, seeking to uncover the truth behind the political landscape of that pivotal year. With her wealth of experience and insider perspective, join us as we embark on a journey to unravel the 2020 elections, guided by the expertise and candid perspective of Tina Peters, a high-profile politician with a passion for truth and transparency.



Tina Peters Mug Shot

ANIL: Tina, as a Gold Star mom and cancer survivor, what gave you the strength and determination to stand up against the irregularities you witnessed in the Mesa County 2020 elections?

TINA PETERS: My strength comes from God. There is no other way to explain overcoming the many obstacles in my life. As a child, I remember at 4 when my father left my mother, I would lay my head in her lap many times in church services she attended faithfully. My Mom, besides God and the Lord Jesus, is my biggest fan and supporter. Throughout all the trials I have been through, she has been faithful. She celebrated her 95th birthday this year and is still vibrant, healthy and active. I have had to caution her though, don't believe what the mainstream media says about me and trust God's plan. I believe we are all born to be here in this very special time in history and consistently telling my audiences on my shows to seek God for what your part is during these last days. Do what God has sent you here to do.

ANIL: Your extensive background in overseeing elections, what was it specifically about the 2020 Presidential and 2021 Grand Junction Municipal elections that raised immediate red flags for you?

TINA PETERS: Having conducted 7 elections and the first Presidential primary in 20 years, I truly felt that I and my election staff had done a good job during the 2020 and 2021 elections. I did feel that there appeared to be anomalies in other states but truly never expected there was malfeasance going on in our western slope town in Colorado.

It was the people, the people who elected me, the people that I served that kept bringing me their concerns. My quest to answer their questions and the shock over the outcome in our county of the 2021 municipal election results, caused me to take a closer look.



ANIL: Could you provide some more details on these "newcomer progressives"? How does their surprise win contrast with the general sentiments of Mesa County voters?

TINA PETERS: Mesa County traditionally has always been a very conservative town as well as the whole western slope of Colorado. Since becoming the elected Clerk, our ratio of Republicans to Democrats was sixty-five percent to thirty-five percent respectively. When I pulled the election results at 7 PM that evening April 6, 2021, I literally got sick to my stomach. I "knew" there was something not right. The conservative candidates had worked so hard, were so visible in the campaigns and were well-loved by the people in Mesa County. The ones who "won", two were newcomers that no one really knew, I was told they were backed by our liberal Democrat governor and did not appear to garner local support. The other just nothing special that would compel voters to vote for him. But miraculously they all won and the favoured, harder working candidates lost.



ANIL: What were your initial thoughts and concerns when Soros-funded Jena Griswold and Dominion Voting Services introduced the "Trusted Build" operation?

TINA PETERS: Less than a month, the suspicions continued to grow when I was told by the Secretary of State (SOS) Jena Griswold's office as well as a representative for Dominion Voting Systems (DVS) that this "Trusted Build" they were forcing each county to allow them to perform on their election equipment, was going to wipe out election files which by federal and state statute the Clerks are required to preserve for twenty-two and twenty-five months respectively. I had no idea the extent, but I knew the QR code program they specifically said would be erased six months after the 2020 General election and one month after the Municipal election were a concern to me. I knew if I was asked by the citizens to perform an audit of the elections there would no longer be the program on my equipment to "read" the ballots printed from the electronic voting touch pads called ICX. (ref. J. Alex Halderman report Curling V Raffensberger case)

J. Alex Halderman case- This is the case in Georgia Curling V Raffensberger where the expert witness Democrat professor J. Alex Halderman's testimony was so revealing to the lack of security of the machines used in elections that the judge sealed it until this year, keeping that vital information from the public.



ANIL: In your role as Clerk, you are legally required to preserve election records for specific periods. How did you feel when outside entities tried to interfere with that responsibility?

TINA PETERS: As the elected Clerk and Recorder, my obligation and sworn oath is to the Constitution of the State of Colorado, the Constitution of the United States and the people who elected me. I put my hand on the Bible and swore to uphold that oath. When Jena Griswold's representatives from the secretary of state's (SOS) office and a vendor vehemently objected to my having observers in the office during their Trusted Build, this furthered my suspicions that something nefarious was taking place and I had a duty to preserve and protect what by law was my responsibility.



ANIL: What was your primary reason for taking the initiative to have the Election Management Server (EMS) imaged before and after the "Trusted Build" operation?

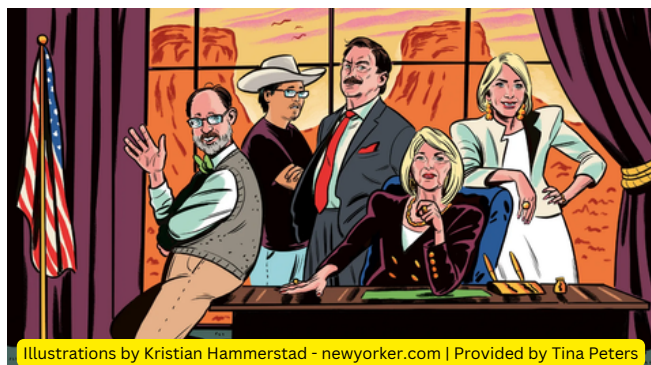
TINA PETERS: My primary reason for legally having the Election Management System (EMS) imaged was to preserve the QR code program specifically. A forensic image is legal as it is just a "snapshot" like a picture of what the server was before and the second image after the Trusted Build, effectively preserving the contents of the system should you lose data. There is no personal identifying information (PII) that would compromise a voter's identity. Instead, it is much like a backup you would do on your own devices, whether a computer or cell phone just in case something was inadvertently deleted. The second image that was done would show the difference when compared to the first and that is what the bad actors have come to most fear- the result of the actions May 25-26 when they "installed the Trusted Build" which effectively deleted 29,000 election access, audit, and adjudication files, proved there were 36 prohibited wireless devices and software with the ability to flip votes very easily with no safeguard for prevention of outside sources doing so. (refer to Mesa Reports 1,2 and 3 at TinaPeters.us)



ANIL: You effectively became a government whistleblower after revealing the findings during the “Cyber Symposium”. What drove you to take this courageous step and what were your primary concerns at that point?

TINA PETERS: Becoming a government whistleblower never entered my mind when I took the steps to preserve my citizens' election records and programs. I remember asking the qualified computer expert who preserved the images. “I will be able to reinstall that QR program, if needed, right?” He affirmed that I would.

It was a weird “God moment” in my office when my Chief Deputy and I were standing there before all was revealed. I remember saying that I had no idea why I was saying this but that this was going to be big. And then I said to her, I have no idea why I just said that. It was like a foretelling beyond my understanding. That was way before anything was known. But God knew and I felt that day like I’ve felt before in my life that this was His plan and He had put me there as Clerk not just to “fix” the 3 ½ hour Motor Vehicle dept. wait times but for “such a time as this.” It turned out to be an Esther moment for those that know the Bible. I had no concerns. I say this often “what God calls you to, He’ll see you through”.



ANIL: How do you perceive the subsequent actions by Colorado’s Secretary of State, Mesa County’s District Attorney, and local authorities against you? Were you expecting such a response when you decided to stand up for transparency?

TINA PETERS: The obvious panic that went through Jena Griswold and her office and the DA Dan Rubenstein and local and apparently federal authorities was swift and immediate. I’ve often said Griswold’s overreaction is what caused the nation to focus on the small town of Grand Junction in the county of Mesa County, Colorado. She would have been smart in my opinion to have kept

It quiet, so it could have been “swept under the rug” like so many credible events around the country that have shown violation of voting integrity. She even admitted in a press release that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said “there was no threat, because of what I had done, to the State and Nation’s elections”. But she has publicly accused me falsely of a “security breach” among other false statements.

This was NOT during an election, cameras were not required to be on and she was exceeding her authority going to a judge after demanding my retraction of a Facebook live where I said, “these machines need to be more transparent and not be allowed to do what they are designed to do”. When I wouldn’t sign her 10-page demand. The judge by her request kicked me out of my office on a violation of neglect of duty. One elected official cannot remove another. The statute is clear, only by a successful recall by the people who elected me.

People have often asked me, “if you could do it over, would you have done things differently?” Well, obviously this whole ordeal has flipped my normal quiet life upside down. But God wanted it to be that way to catch the attention of the Nation, I believe. I would have preferred to have had the backup preservation of records as I had sought. But there was more there than I could have ever imagined that was revealed that day at the Symposium and since that time in three verified expert cyber reports Mesa Reports #1, #2 and #3 found on the TinaPeters.us website.

I had no knowledge that the images would be examined by other cyber experts, and I would be up on stage that day. I remember the turmoil of the exposure for all the world to see of the evidence in real-time of what the bad actors had done by deleting verified election records. Cautious attorneys were telling me “you can’t go out there (on stage) and Mike Lindell was telling me “she has to!” This was bigger than I knew.

I had at the last minute agreed to go to the Symposium to “learn” more about elections and what were concerns. There were all fifty states represented there that day.

So, imagine my surprise when I was thrust in the spotlight.

I remember the news broke the day before that someone had leaked the info on the internet.

Mike Lindell was sending his plane to get me. I cancelled my commercial flight reservation. I had never met Mr. Lindell before. The DA investigator called me while I was in the airport waiting to board the plane. They were raiding my office!



My Chief Deputy was there. I had to make the decision to go or stay. At that moment, I felt God's call to go.

At my office, my chief deputy informed me the SOS reps papered up the windows so my chief deputy could not see what they were doing. We had no idea what they were doing in there. The two county employees they had as "witnesses" were not familiar with election equipment. I had asked the head of county IT to help me make the image and to be there when the Trusted Build was being performed and they denied that request. So, I knew with Dominion and the SOS in there it was likely a fox in the henhouse scenario. Which left my office vulnerable and concerned.

ANIL: The narrative touches upon the tragic separation from your ailing husband. How has this battle for transparency affected your personal life and relationships?

TINA PETERS: On a personal note, I saw my husband August 7th, 2021 before I left for the Cyber Symposium and that was the last time I would see him for over 2 years.

From the symposium, I was immediately whisked away by security and flown to a place of safety because of threats on my life. The first hotel I was in seemed very secure. I had checked in on a patriot friend's credit card under her name. One week later, the hotel room was physically breached, the door plate bent outward 4 inches. That is when I was moved to another hotel with 24/7 round the clock armed security.

While I was gone from Mesa County under protection, there was all kinds of mischief going on. Trumped up charges against my Chief Deputy to remove her from my office. By statute she is appointed by me and the Clerk in my absence. The criminals had to remove her in some way to declare my office "vacant" in an effort for the Commissioners to appoint a new Clerk. Human Resources trumped up a grievance that an employee said that she had acted unprofessional so they removed her until "an investigation" could be done. Interviewed every employee in all five of my divisions of my office trying to get something that would warrant their actions.

Also, the Commissioners were meeting with CEO Jon Poulos and others from Dominion Voting Systems (DVS) to negotiate a 6-year extension to their contract and to bring in new machines costing, by the county reports, over a million dollars. Three and a half hours the citizens lined up with only 3 minutes each to speak pleading, praying, and asking the Commissioners - Janet Rowland, Cody Davis and Scott McInnis - to please not sign the DVS contract extension. They ignored the people's wishes and did sign that contract that would have expired 2023, effectively extending it until 2029. I believe that day they effectively sold out Mesa County and the whole Western Slope of Colorado to the enemy of free and fair elections. You'll see them in the full 1-hour movie Selection Code on TinaPeters.us.

While I was being protected from harm in Texas, I was still doing work meeting with my managers and chief deputy by video calls. One of the events I witnessed was an effort by two devoted and knowledgeable election advocates meeting with the Commissioners, and other law enforcement and management officials explain the danger of what was discovered. I could see the attendees by Video chat- CNN and most notable Merrick Garland. If there was nothing to hide, why all the interest by FBI, DOJ, AG and others when no election crime by me had been committed? Well, that was soon revealed that they all had a lot to lose. It's interesting that you can tell a person by if they are swayed by 3 things: Money, Power, and Position. I was being stripped of it all.

I delivered Mesa County Report #1 on September 17, 2021 to the DA and three Commissioners. Nothing was done. Here was evidence of federal and state crimes and nothing...nada. Instead, they were all intent on demonizing a 66-year-old Gold Star mother who lost my Navy SEAL son while I was running for elected Clerk, elected official, and patriot and citizen with no criminal past whatsoever.

On November 16, 2021, in a pre-dawn raid, my home and that of three others was raided by the FBI. At least 10-12 officers dressed in SWAT gear parading in and out of my house and FBI and police vehicles all up and down my street in front of my house. My election manager Sandye's daughter was forced to stand outside in her underwear at her house on that cold morning for all the neighbors to see. The DA knew what this would mean to a young woman who he had put in prison two men for sexually assaulting her from the age of 4 years old. He also later arrested Sandye so that she would spend her birthday in jail. I never knew evil in ordinary looking people existed like this.

Up until that point, I had been married for 35 years to my former Marine husband and father of my two children. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (PD). I had worked for 6 long years getting him the compensation he deserved as a Vietnam veteran and 100% disability rating. All that was gone the day after I was raided by the FBI on Nov 16, and the next day at the nursing home where I visited and took him out on meals and outings, they had him sign divorce papers. A man with dementia in a nursing home! He called me on Facetime as we often did, usually daily, and told me "Honey, I think I did something wrong". I was still reeling from the 6-hour raid the day before and the emotional toll on me from the FBI making a big display in front of my house and tossing around my late son's effects.



"I'm still fighting to be able to see and rescue him and take care of him properly."

Many of those boxes I had never opened- pictures of his body after his tragic death, accident reports and the like. Here was my husband asking for help, to call our attorneys. I dropped off the information I had to the attorney. He contacted me and said the DA had contacted him and left him a voicemail, and that he, the attorney, would not talk to him until we spoke. The DA told him that I was "under investigation" and to not help me. The attorney sent me an email declining to help. I found out a month later, a few weeks before my husband and my 35th wedding anniversary, the paper he had signed was divorce papers which were quickly granted by the court. Gone, all my rights to take care of the one I had loved for over 3 decades who desperately needed me to be his advocate and caregiver. Power given to an estranged sister in ID who has never come to our town to see him and a brother in Arkansas who had no physical contact for many years. They forbade me from seeing him from that point on.

In our small town, all the elected officials and administrators know each other. We had a once-a-month "electeds lunch" and many of the judges and county personnel had been friends for many years. Here I was the "new kid on the block" demonized and shunned and for all intents and purposes deemed guilty of crimes I didn't commit. The liberal, or should I say libelous, newspaper political reporter Charles Assby made his living and saved his paper by writing and printing more than 700 defamatory, above-the-fold, front-page stories to influence public opinion and any future jury pool in my town.

ANIL: Why do you believe the FBI targeted you and seized your digital devices without returning them, despite no concrete evidence against you?

TINA PETERS: I believe the FBI stole all my devices to try to build a case against me, to lead them to Mr. Lindell in turn to lead them to Trump. When the FBI took Mike Lindell's phone blocking his exit from a Hardee's drive-through, they referenced me. Dr. Doug Frank's phone as well. Fishing expedition. It's always been about the corruption in the highest office. I just happened upon evidence they did not want the American people to know-the ability to sway an election through electronic means.

ANIL: Tina, you are facing numerous charges, including felonies. Can you walk us through your perspective on these allegations and explain why you believe they are baseless or politically motivated?"

TINA PETERS: My perspective on the indictment against me is the traitors of our country need to make me as Commissioner Cody Davis said on a hot mic, the day they delayed a commissioner's hearing I attended to get a search warrant, "Sacrificial Lamb". And Commissioner Janet Rowland covered the mic and said "she won't want to come back after this!" alluding to the search warrant they were in the process at that very moment acquiring while they delayed a commissioner's hearing that I and a group of citizens were attending to voice our concerns. One of the bad actors spotted an iPad in my purse that I was accused of recording an open public, WebEx, hearing the day before where my chief Deputy Belinda Knisley was facing her contrived felony charge. The DA, Dan Rubenstein, stopped that court proceeding and made a big deal about me "recording" the public court hearing from the audience. The judge asked me if I was recording, and I said "No, your honor, this is a work day for me". So on the next day, after commissioners delayed the public meeting for 22 minutes in order to keep me there until they could get a search warrant. The DA's investigators and police followed me and five supporters a block away to a coffee shop and brutally handcuffed and arrested me without an arrest warrant.



I was found guilty of two separate misdemeanors: lying to a judge and obstruction of a government operation. I believe this was intended to show before my upcoming 10-count felony trial that I was previously a lawbreaker. After my new attorney had the iPad in custody examined while kept in a strict chain of custody, it was shown there was never a recording made, deleted, or wiped. We are appealing.

The indictment (*Read full Indictment on Page 27*) itself was, in my opinion, purposely contrived to prevent my side from presenting any election fraud evidence. Instead, it is rife with felony counts of attempting to influence a public servant (yes, even the guy sitting there deleting election records), stolen identity, impersonation, and, get this one, not obeying the orders of the SOS. All the charges are baseless and obviously politically motivated. SOS Griswold has made it very clear whenever interviewed that she despises President Donald Trump.

Anyone who goes against the narrative and their “big lie” is persecuted, ridiculed as an election denier, and worse. I don’t think they want to kill me anymore, though many do and fear for my safety. But putting me in prison, I believe, would send a message of fear to anyone who would ever question their “results” and the election narrative.

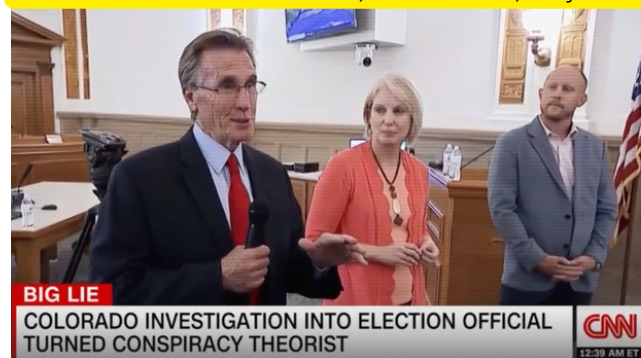
The case in point is the SOS-generated Senate Bill 22-153, which, among other egregious and unconstitutional laws, makes it illegal to question the election, mandatory to certify the results, whether the canvas board agrees, mandatory to use electronic voting systems, concentrates all the power in the hands of the SOS, and more. People were calling it the Tina Peters bill. An obvious reference to making what I did legally illegal.

ANIL: Can you shed light on the evidence of election crimes that you reported?

TINA PETERS: The extensive, comprehensive forensic analysis of the Mesa County images clearly shows the proof that our electronic voting machines are not secure. One only has to read the executive summaries in each report to see that many crimes have been committed. Crimes they hope you do not see. To this day, no one has refuted the evidence. The DA tried using DVS and SOS operative narratives to try to mask the facts of the crime. You can read the rebuttal to the DA’s “report” at TinaPeters.us. You can also see the credentials of the cyber experts provided in the reports.

When I took report #2 to Commissioner Janet Rowland, she said “Yeah, but you still haven’t shown us how votes are flipped”. I went to the cyber experts. I told them to look at the April 6, 2021, municipal election. “There is where you will find it”. Sure enough, not only did they find it there but also during the 2020 presidential election! This has been called the “Rosetta Stone.”

GOP Commissioners: Scott McInnis, Janet Rowland, Cody Davis.



Never before has someone seen inside the voting machines. Watch the movie. It will explain how there is another database created that changes the ballot images. We know it’s not the same ballot image as the original because it is missing the SHA (secure hashing algorithm) file attached to the original ballot image. Also, the changed ballots do not go through adjudication in the same way—like they are different ballot images—they’ve been changed.

ANIL: Could you provide insights on the ways the DA investigator and others have allegedly harassed and threatened your family members? How has this impacted your family's well-being and your legal defense?

Tina Peters' 95-year-old mother experienced harassment from DA investigators the day after her father died.



My 95-year-old mother a month ago. She is my biggest fan and the last of my family who supports and loves me.

TINA PETERS: At the coffee shop, after being unlawfully handcuffed and arrested after the DA's investigators were in possession of the iPad for which they had only a search warrant, we went to trial.

The offending cop said she thought I was [a man named] Randy. And they also took my keys, which were not on the search warrant. I was found guilty based on my chief deputy's and her sister's testimony that she had "asked me to record". She had also already taken a proffer (agreement with the DA) to testify against me at the upcoming felony trial.

District Attorney Dan Rubenstein is the same DA that my former attorney was representing with 26 pounds of fentanyl (estimates enough to kill half the U.S.). That drug trafficker got off on probation, but it seems apparent that this DA, Attorney General Weiser, SOS, and Merrick Garland want me, an innocent elected official charged with keeping my oath and doing my job, to go to prison for the rest of my life.



Tina Peters with her Father

ANIL: Having endured the abrupt end of your marriage and the loss of your VA benefits amidst this legal battle, how have these personal challenges affected your ability to defend yourself?

TINA PETERS: Those who are corrupt try to wear you down, expend all your money, and harass your friends, family, co-workers, and employees. In my case, all of this has been true. The loss of my husband and being able to care for him, my survivor, and VA benefits, income, and support show me these people have no heart and are willing to destroy anyone and anything in their way. After the Grand Jury indictment, in which many facts were left out of the jurors knowledge to not allow them to have a balanced, fair assessment from which to judge, the narrative was biased against me and against the truth.

One of the prosecution's tactics was to separate me from support and relationships with others. My bond conditions said that I could not associate with my best friend and Chief Deputy Belinda. Also, I have no contact with any of my employees or the locations of any of my offices.

I had to get permission to leave the State of Colorado from the DA, and Governor Polis appointed a judge on my case after I spoke at a Constitutional Sheriff and Peace Officers convention in Las Vegas. The judge issued a bond violation, and I was ordered back to Colorado to turn myself in. During this time, I ran for Secretary of State to go for the "belly of the beast".

I raised more in the last 4 months before the primary than all my opponents combined, was 62% at the state GOP convention, and was 47% in the polls the week leading up to the election. Even the mainstream media knew I was so far ahead that it was apparent that I would be the winner.

However, on the day of the election, the cyber experts monitoring my and others' races saw the theft happening right before their eyes. In one county, 900 votes were flipped from one candidate to the other at 11:30 PM. Interestingly, the election staff had gone home at 10 p.m. an hour and a half earlier. I came in last to look at the algorithmic pattern of a normal organic election, as in and I and the other favored grassroots candidates.

Algorithmic pattern - SEE PAGE 42 to 47

The exact ones that dared to speak about elections Candidates on my America First Coalition group were aware firsthand that, as a candidate, if you just wouldn't say anything about elections, handlers told them, "We'll make sure you get over the finish line."

Many other violations of my rights and the lack of presumption of innocence until proven guilty according to our Constitution. I was denied the opportunity to travel to Dallas to be the keynote speaker at the Women for Liberty conference, where I was going to be presented with the Patriot Award. Then, at the big event of August 22, 2022, the date of the premiere of my movie Selection Code, I was forbidden to go because I “would be hailed as a hero” and, according to the DA, “the most troublesome travel request he had ever seen!” **SEE PAGE 24**

ANIL: Considering the charges against you stem from your efforts to expose alleged election misdeeds, do you believe that other election officials might be silenced or intimidated as a result?

TINA PETERS: I would hope that other election officials, judges, DAs, sheriffs, AGs, SOS, and lawyers, instead of being cowards and turning a blind eye, would be brave enough to understand that God has put you in that position for a reason. It may feel uncomfortable, but there are others who can help. I always say, “There are more of us than there are of them. They can’t get us all.”

ANIL: How has the legal persecution and negative publicity affected your mental, emotional, and financial well-being, especially considering your status as a Gold Star mother and cancer survivor?

TINA PETERS: With all the challenges I’ve faced, a contrived indictment of 7 felonies, 3 misdemeanors, and 2 more thrown in for good measure, I’m more encouraged than ever. Why, may you wonder? In 2016, I survived lung cancer; in 2017, I lost my son; in 2018, I won the election as county clerk; and I recognized that in 2019, the radical governor Jared Polis’ takeover of the Western Slope would be a jewel in his crown when a Democrat operative stuffed the ballot box outside my office to frame me. An unsuccessful recall attempt by them with the help of the SOS-appointed advocate and more I’m a fighter. I didn’t raise a Navy SEAL for nothing. His blood and his DNA, though he has gone on to be with the Lord, still run through me.

ANIL: All the challenges you've faced and the ongoing investigations, what's next for Tina Peters? How do you see the future of election integrity in Mesa County and across the U.S.?

TINA PETERS: Well, I said in the beginning “Whatever God calls you to, He’ll see you through”. I have never had a moment of fear. I know that I tell the truth, and there is no fear because

perfect love casts out all fear. I love the people of Mesa County, whom I faithfully served during my term as clerk, and this great country. If you don’t stand up now, I believe we have lost this country. If you see the state of the United States and the crimes being committed by what I believe is an unelected, selected regime intent on overthrowing our government, you must be brave. You have to move forward. This is a war we are in—a war against evil. Don’t you want to hear it at the end of your life “Well done, good and faithful servant”? I do! There is a reason we are here at this time. I have not seen my husband since 2021 until last week when God opened doors for me to see him. I sobbed, I cried, He looks like a 90 pound Holocaust victim. After over 2 years his brother who hasn’t visit him regularly in months, who charged my husband a \$100 each time he drove the one hour drive reacted to the knowledge that I had been there furnished to him by the director Shantell of the VA Heros home 2. Every day, a great patriot went there after I left to make arrangements to rescue him per his request. This patriot and Christian man took him nutritious food and helped him drink water. My husband had not been out of bed for over a month and was severely dehydrated and malnourished. Upon hearing I had been there and the brave Patriot that had been taking him nourishment and care, we were forcefully removed by police upon my husband brother’s demand that he have no visitors. This is evil despite a valid POA signed by my husband revoking the brother’s illgotten POA restoring my right to care for my husband as I had done faithfully for the last 35 years. At the moment of this publication, my husband is still being held captive and I am threaten by arrest if I “trespass” in order to see him again. This is all motivated by the brother’s and sister’s desire for money and my home. They are using my husband’s money to pay the attorney and take my home. Next, I will continue to fight for the nation and my family who have been so persecuted because of my willingness to preserve election records and expose their crimes.

ANIL: As someone who had no criminal record prior to these allegations, how have these charges and the subsequent public response affected your legacy and reputation?

TINA PETERS: I have always believed and said many times, “If you tell the truth, you never have to worry about what you’ve said”. I told my chief deputy and my election manager the same. I said, “We would have to lie to give them what they want.” The DA was able to “flip” those two women and drop the bogus charges against them in exchange for testifying against me. Not everyone is able to withstand the pressure these evil, manipulative actors put on innocent people caught up in their web. Last August and a few weeks later in September, both their brothers who lived locally were killed by hit-and-run accidents. Accidents?

ANIL: Do you perceive a political bias or influence in the way high-profile figures, including AG Merrick Garland and others, have handled your case? How does this reflect on the American justice system?

TINA PETERS: In my mind it is without a doubt that Merrick Garland, his policies concerning the DOJ, FBI, CIA to punish parents speaking out at school board meetings, many innocent Trump supporters denied due process and caught up with the obvious government planned imposters and instigators and of course the all-out attack on anyone that calls out election interference and calls for voting machine and election process transparency is at play here. If I had not seen him on that zoom meeting with many others including FBI I wouldn't be as sure as I am now.

Source: Tina Peters

District Court Mesa County, State of Colorado Court Address: 125 N. Spruce St., Grand Jct., CO 81505	
Plaintiff(s): People of the State of Colorado, Defendant(s): TINA MARIE PETERS	↑ COURT USE ONLY ↑ Case No: 22CR371
Daniel P. Rubinstein, District Attorney Twenty-First Judicial District of Colorado P.O. Box 20,000 Grand Junction, CO 81502-5031 Phone Number: (970) 244-1730 Fax Number: (970) 244-1729 Atty. Reg. #: 27473	DIV: 9 CTRM: Matthew Barrett
OBJECTION TO MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND REQUESTED TRAVEL	

COME NOW the People of the State of Colorado, by and through their undersigned District Attorney, and object to the defendant's motion in the above case. AS GROUNDS THEREFORE, the People state as follows:

1. The defendant seeks permission to travel to Springfield, Missouri to attend a summit called the Moment of Truth Summit. According to the defendant's motion, the summit will include the premiere of a documentary film in which Ms. Peters participated.
2. A review of the website for the Moment of Truth Summit reveals that the film Selection Code will be shown at that summit. Selection Code (see attached exhibit 1) has website wherein it describes the film, and has a trailer. Ms. Peters is celebrated as a hero of sorts for doing what the film describes as following "the story of Tina Peters the County Clerk in Mesa County, Colorado, who made a backup of her counties (sic) Dominion Voting System server, only to stumble across evidence of manipulation in a recent local city council election... and also the 2020 general election. Tina's discovery ignites a chain reaction upending her life. And upending the world."
3. Ms. Peters, still the Clerk and Recorder of Mesa County, and drawing a salary of approximately \$93,000 a year, is seeking permission to attend this premier because she is "speak[ing] at the event as well and will receive compensation for her services. Ms.

Peters aduers (sic) that this trip is necessary to further her business interests... .”

4. In summary, Ms. Peters is seeking permission to leave the state so that she can be celebrated as a hero for the conduct that a grand jury has indicted her for, and claims this is necessary to further her business interests, at a time where she continues to draw a substantial salary as the elected Clerk and Recorder, while doing no work for the county who is paying her.
5. The undersigned, on behalf of the county I represent, object to this request, do not believe it is necessary, and represent to the court that this may be the most offensive travel request the undersigned has seen.
6. The undersigned further notifies the court that he has consulted with the victim in the case, and he takes no position.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING, the People would respectfully request this Honorable Court to deny the requested travel.

Respectfully submitted this 16 day of August, 2022.

DANIEL P. RUBINSTEIN
District Attorney
Twenty-First Judicial District

By /s/ Daniel P. Rubinstein
Daniel P. Rubinstein, Reg. No. 27473
District Attorney

ANIL: In your opinion, what do these legal challenges suggest about the current state of democracy and election integrity in America?

TINA PETERS: For some time, we as good, Christian, family-loving, honest Americans have been sleeping, trusting our government and those we've elected to fulfill their oath to represent us. Instead, we are waking up from a bad dream to see our liberties being taken away, our systems and government corrupted, and our vote stolen. Those who don't already know God need to do so. These are evil, well-organized, well-funded global elites that need to take America down to fulfill their one world government, one world digital currency where you won't be able to buy or sell freely, and more. I believe the enemy has advanced well inside the wire. The military-aged males infiltrating across our borders with prepaid debit cards being replenished are not here to assimilate into our society. They are here for jihad. It is my belief that it will strike when you least expect it in many places at once to bring America to her knees.

ANIL: Finally, what would you like the American people to know about your dedication to preserving the integrity of elections, and how can they support you in these trying times?

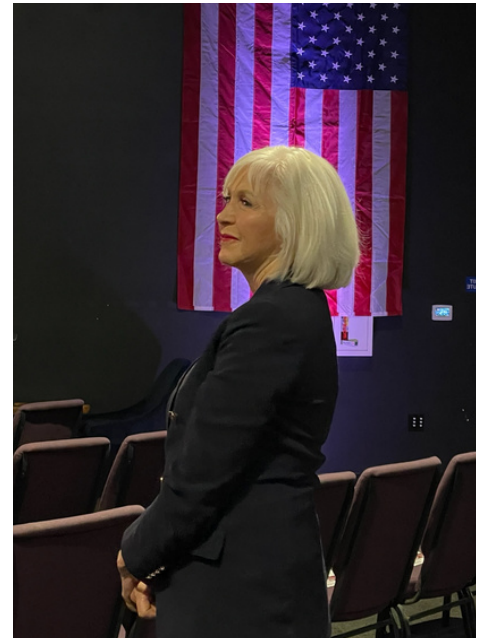
TINA PETERS: What can you do? As grim as this all sounds, it is our reality. But all is not lost. It's not too late to wake up. Wake up your family and neighbors. Prepare and make a plan for emergency needs. Ask yourself: What do I do if the store shelves are empty, the fuel pumps don't work, and hungry and desperate people come to your home?

I would like you to ask God how you can get involved in your community. If you can't, then give to those that are on the frontlines fighting for you, for your freedom, for your elections, and for the American way of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Know your rights. Learn and carry the Constitution and Declaration of Independence with you. Protect it. I hope my story has inspired you to know that you can endure much more than you know if you have God by your side. Phillipians4:13 says "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me".

If you have been moved by my story, please follow @realTinaPeters on Twitter, Truth, and Telegram. Your support is critical, so I can continue the fight. Donate to the legal trust fund at TinaPeters.us and watch the movie SelectionCode there. My personal needs fund is set up at GiveSendGo.com/TinaPeters.

Pray for the jury, judge, and enemies that their eyes will be opened, they will see the truth, and they will be set free. Right now, the 10-count felony trial is scheduled for February 2024.

I won't give up. I won't back down. I will continue to fight for you.



Tina's Husband in 2021 before they took him from her



Tina's Husband, When she Saw him 2 weeks ago in November 2023

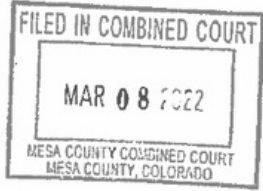


After food and nourishment until the VA and Police barred her from ever seeing him again as of this Publication



Tina's Navy SEAL son in Afghanistan

Source: Tina Peters

DISTRICT COURT, MESA COUNTY, COLORADO 125 N. Spruce Street Grand Junction, CO 81505 <hr/> IN RE: THE MESA COUNTY GRAND JURY PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO v. TINA PETERS, and BELINDA KNISLEY, Defendants.	 ▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
DANIEL P. RUBINSTEIN, District Attorney* JANET STANSBERRY DRAKE, Special Deputy District Attorney* ROBERT S. SHAPIRO, Special Deputy District Attorney* P.O. Box 20,000 Grand Junction, CO 81502-5031 Registration Numbers: 27473 (DPR); 27697 (JSD); 26869 (RSS) *Counsel of Record	Grand Jury Case: 21CR100 District Court Case Numbers:
MESA COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENT	

COUNT 1: ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)
24051

Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley

COUNT 2: ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)
24051

Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley

COUNT 3: ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)
24051

Belinda Knisley

COUNT 4 CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION,
C.R.S. 18-5-113(1)(B)(I) AND 18-2-201 (F6) **1011EC**

Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley

COUNT 5: ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)
24051

Tina Peters

COUNT 6 CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION - CAUSE LIABILITY, C.R.S. 18-5-
113(1)(B)(I) (F6) **1011E**

Tina Peters

COUNT 7 CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION - CAUSE
LIABILITY, C.R.S. 18-5-113(1)(B)(I) AND 18-2-201 (F6) **1011EC**

Tina Peters

COUNT 8 IDENTITY THEFT - USES INFORMATION TO OBTAIN THING OF VALUE,
C.R.S. 18-5-902(1) (F4) **1307G**

Tina Peters

COUNT 9: FIRST DEGREE OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT, C.R.S. 18-8-404 (M2) **24101**

Tina Peters

COUNT 10: VIOLATION OF DUTY, C.R.S. 1-13-107(1) (M) **38022**

Tina Peters

COUNT 11: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECRETARY OF
STATE, C.R.S. 1-13-114 (M) **3802E**

Tina Peters

COUNT 12: VIOLATION OF DUTY, C.R.S. 1-13-107(1) (M) **38022**

Belinda Knisley

COUNT 13: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECRETARY OF
STATE, C.R.S. 1-13-114 (M) **3802E**

Belinda Knisley

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
MESA COUNTY)

Of the 2021-2022 term of the Mesa County District Court (21st Judicial District) in the year of 2022, the Mesa County Grand Jurors, chosen, selected, and sworn in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Colorado, upon their oaths, present the following:

COUNT 1

ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)

On or about April 23 – May 18, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley**, unlawfully and feloniously attempted to influence **Jessi Romero** of the Colorado Department of State/Secretary of State's Office, a public servant, by means of deceit, with the intent thereby to alter or affect the public servant's decision, vote, opinion, or action concerning a matter which was to be considered or performed by the public servant or the agency or body of which the public servant was a member; in violation of section 18-8-306, C.R.S.

COUNT 2

ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)

On or about May 10 – May 19, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley**, unlawfully and feloniously attempted to influence **David Underwood** of Mesa County, a public servant, by means of deceit, with the intent thereby to alter or affect the public servant's decision, vote, opinion, or action concerning a matter which was to be considered or performed by the public servant or the agency or body of which the public servant was a member; in violation of section 18-8-306, C.R.S.

COUNT 3

ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)

On or about May 17, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Belinda Knisley**, unlawfully and feloniously attempted to influence **Stephanie Wenholtz** of the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's Office, a public servant, by means of deceit, with the intent thereby to alter or affect the public servant's decision, vote, opinion, or action concerning a matter which was to be considered or performed by the public servant or the agency or body of which the public servant was a member; in violation of section 18-8-306, C.R.S.

COUNT 4

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION - CAUSE LIABILITY, C.R.S. 18-5-113(1)(B)(I) AND 18-2-201 (F6)

On or about April 23 – May 19, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley**, with the intent to promote or facilitate the commission of the crime of Criminal Impersonation, unlawfully and feloniously agreed with the other co-defendant named above, Sandra Brown and/or a person or persons to the Grand Jury and District Attorney unknown that one or more of them would engage in conduct which constituted that crime or an attempt to commit that crime, or agreed to aid the other person or persons in the planning or commission or attempted commission of that crime, and an overt act in pursuance of the conspiracy was committed by one or more of the conspirators; in violation of sections 18-5-113(1)(b)(I) and 18-2-201, C.R.S.

COUNT 5

ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT, C.R.S. 18-8-306 (F4)

On or about May 25, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters**, unlawfully and feloniously attempted to influence **Danny Casias** of the Colorado Department of State/Secretary of State's Office, a public servant, by means of deceit, with the intent thereby to alter or affect the public servant's decision, vote, opinion, or action concerning a matter which was to be considered or performed by the public servant or the agency or body of which the public servant was a member; in violation of section 18-8-306, C.R.S.

COUNT 6

CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION - CAUSE LIABILITY, C.R.S. 18-5-113(1)(B)(I) (F6)

On or about May 23 – May 27, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters**, unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly assumed a false or fictitious identity or capacity, legal or other, namely: **Gerald "Jerry" Wood**, and in such identity or capacity performed an act that, if done by the person falsely impersonated, might have subjected such person to an action or special proceeding, civil or criminal, or to liability, charge, forfeiture, or penalty; in violation of section 18-5-113(1)(b)(I), C.R.S.

COUNT 7

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION – CAUSE LIABILITY, C.R.S. 18-5-113(1)(B)(I) AND 18-2-201 (F6)

On or about May 18 – May 27, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters** with the intent to promote or facilitate the commission of the crime of Criminal Impersonation, unlawfully and feloniously agreed with Sandra Brown and/or a person or persons to the Grand Jury and District Attorney unknown that one or more of them would engage in conduct which constituted that crime or an attempt to commit that crime, or agreed to aid the other person or

persons in the planning or commission or attempted commission of that crime, and an overt act in pursuance of the conspiracy was committed by one or more of the conspirators; in violation of sections 18-5-113(1)(b)(I) and 18-2-201, C.R.S.

COUNT 8

IDENTITY THEFT - USES INFORMATION TO OBTAIN THING OF VALUE, C.R.S. 18-5-902(1)(A) (F4)

On or about May 23 – May 25, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters**, unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly used the personal identifying information, financial identifying information, or financial device of **Gerald “Jerry” Wood** without permission or lawful authority with the intent to obtain cash, credit, property, services, or any other thing of value or to make a financial payment; in violation of section 18-5-902(1)(a), C.R.S.

COUNT 9

FIRST DEGREE OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT, C.R.S. 18-8-404 (M2)

On or about April 23, 2021-August 15, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters**, a public servant, with intent to obtain a benefit for any person or maliciously cause harm to another, unlawfully and knowingly committed an act relating to her office but constituting an unauthorized exercise of her official function and/or refrained from performing a duty imposed upon her by law and/or violated a statute or lawfully adopted rule or regulation relating to her office; in violation of section 18-8-404, C.R.S.

COUNT 10

VIOLATION OF DUTY, C.R.S. 1-13-107(1) (M)

On or about April 23 – August 15, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters**, was a public officer, election official, or other person upon whom any duty is imposed by this code who then violated, neglected, or failed to perform such duty or is guilty of corrupt conduct in the discharge of the same; in violation of section 1-13-107(1), C.R.S.

COUNT 11

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECRETARY OF STATE, C.R.S. 1-13-114 (M)

On or about April 23 - August 15, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Tina Peters**, willfully interfered or willfully refused to comply with the rules of the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designated agent in carrying out of the powers and duties proscribed in section 1-1-107, C.R.S., in violation of section 1-13-114, C.R.S.

COUNT 12

VIOLATION OF DUTY, C.R.S. 1-13-107(1) (M)

On or about August 9 – August 15, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Belinda Knisley**, was a public officer, election official, or other person upon whom any duty is imposed by this code who then violated, neglected, or failed to perform such duty or is guilty of corrupt conduct in the discharge of the same; in violation of section 1-13-107(1), C.R.S.

COUNT 13

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF SECRETARY OF STATE, C.R.S. 1-13-114 (M)

On or about August 9 - August 15, 2021, in Mesa County, State of Colorado, **Belinda Knisley**, willfully interfered or willfully refused to comply with the rules of the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designated agent in carrying out of the powers and duties proscribed in section 1-1-107, C.R.S., in violation of section 1-13-114, C.R.S.

The essential, but non-exclusive, facts presented by the Mesa County Grand Jury in support of Counts 1-13 are as follows:

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT FACTS

During the relevant timeframe, April-August 2021, Tina Peters was the Clerk and Recorder in Mesa County, Grand Junction, Colorado. Belinda Knisley was the Deputy Clerk and Recorder. Sandra Brown, then a key employee, was the back office Elections Manager who had access to the voting system computers and equipment.

As part of the State of Colorado's initial criminal investigation it was learned that in early August 2021, public servants with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office (SOS) became aware that a series of confidential digital images of Mesa County Dominion Voting Systems (DVS) equipment and related passwords had been published on the internet. The public dissemination of this sensitive information constituted an unauthorized data breach. The compromised sensitive data included images depicting a proprietary hard drive with unlawfully downloaded/imaged software from Mesa County's election management server's hard drive. Additionally, unique Basic Input/Basic Output (BIOS) confidential passwords necessary to conduct a "trusted build" systems upgrade were also distributed in violation of SOS rules. A "trusted build" is an in-person upgrade of election management software that supports a county's voting system. Voting system equipment operate on a "closed network." This means that voting system equipment is not connected to the internet.

The Mesa County trusted build occurred on May 25-26, 2021. Personnel associated with any trusted build in Colorado include representatives from the SOS, experts from DVS, and a few designated county elections staff personnel who are designated and undergo a background check in advance of the trusted build.

Beginning in April 2021 and in advance of the May 25-26, 2021, trusted build, Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley, either as principal actors and/or acting as complicators, devised and executed a deceptive scheme which was designed to influence public servants, breach security protocols, exceed permissible access to voting equipment, and set in motion the eventual distribution of confidential information to unauthorized people. Furthermore, these defendants, without permission or lawful authorization, also used the name and personal identifying information of Gerald "Jerry" Wood to further their criminal scheme. This unlawful use of Mr. Wood's identity by Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley also subjected Mr. Wood to various forms of liability and criminal exposure.

APPLICABLE COLORADO ELECTION LAW AND RULES

DEFINITIONS

Rule 1.1.43 from 8 CCR 1505-1 of the Code of Colorado Regulations defines a "**trusted build**" to mean the write-once installation disk or disks for software and firmware for which the Secretary of State has established the chain-of-custody to the building of the disks, which is then used to establish or re-establish the chain-of-custody of any component of a **voting system** that contains firmware or software. The trusted build is the origin of the chain-of-custody for any software and firmware component of the voting system.

Rule 1.1.46 from 8 CCR 1505-1 of the Code of Colorado Regulations defines a "**voting system**" as defined by section 1-1-104(50.8), C.R.S. to mean:

- (a) The total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment (including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used to:
 - (1) Define ballots;
 - (2) Cast and count ballots;
 - (3) Report or display election results; and
 - (4) Maintain and produce any audit trail information.
- (b) The practices and associated documentation used to:
 - (1) Identify system components and versions of such components;
 - (2) Test the system during its development and maintenance;
 - (3) Maintain records of system errors and defects;
 - (4) Determine specific system changes to be made to a system after the initial qualification of the system; and
 - (5) Make available any materials to the voter (such as notices, instructions, forms or paper ballots).
- (c) "**Voting system**" **does not** include any other component of election administration, such as voter registration applications or system, electronic pollbooks, ballot delivery and retrieval systems, signature verification and envelope sorting devices, ballot on demand printers, election night reporting and other election reporting systems, and

other components used throughout the election process that do not capture and tabulate votes.

Rule 1.1.22 from 8 CCR 1505-1 of the Code of Colorado Regulations defines, in relevant part, **“election management system”** to mean the hardware and software applications used to configure, program, and report election results from one or more voting system components, including the ballot definition and the election reporting subsystem.

Rule 1.1.25 from 8 CCR 1505-1 of the Code of Colorado Regulations defines, in relevant part, **“election management software”** to mean the software for election equipment or computers that controls election setup vote recording, vote tabulation, and reporting.

STATUTES

In Colorado, pursuant to state statute, the Colorado Secretary of State and the secretary's office has the duty “[t]o supervise the conduct of Statewide ballot issue elections in this state[.]” Section 1-1-107(1)(a), C.R.S. Pursuant to section 1-1-107(2)(a), C.R.S., the Secretary of State has the power to promulgate, publish and distribute ... such rules as the secretary of state finds necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the election laws.

Additionally, it is important to note that in Colorado a County Clerk and Recorder, in rendering decisions and interpretations under Colorado's Election Code, **shall** consult with the Secretary of State and follow rules and orders promulgated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Election Code. Section 1-1-110(1), C.R.S. Next, pursuant to section 1-5-616(1)(g), C.R.S., the Secretary of State shall adopt rules ... that establish minimum standards for electronic and electromagnetic voting systems regarding ... security requirements.”

Furthermore, “[t]he secretary of state shall by written order” address a voting system that “does not comply with applicable standards or deviates from a certified system[.]” Section 1-5-621(4), C.R.S.

RULES

Building on the above applicable state statutes, in the State of Colorado the SOS has promulgated and adopted rules in the Colorado Code of Regulations which are relevant to this matter. These rules apply to all election officials who have assumed the responsibility and duty of administering elections throughout the state. The applicable rules from 8 CCR 1505.1 which were in effect at the time of the charged criminal offenses are as follows:

1. Rule 11.1 - Voting Systems Access, with associated Rules 11.1.1, 11.1.2 and 11.1.3. These rules focus on the county's designated election official being responsible to securely store election setup records. Only persons with the clerk's written authorization may access the records. Furthermore, in accordance with section 24-72-305.6, C.R.S. all permanent and temporary county staff who have access to the

voting system or any voting or counting equipment must pass a criminal background check.

2. Rule 20.3.2 - County Security Procedures. This rule states, "The county must maintain and document uninterrupted chain-of-custody for each voting device from the installation of the trusted build to the present."
3. Rule 20.5.3(a) - Access to Secure Areas. This rule states, "Access to ...the lock... to ballot storage areas, counting room, location of adjudication, or tabulation workstations, is restricted to **employees** who have passed a criminal background check."
4. Rule 20.5.5 – Access to Secure Areas. This rule states, "Access to where election management software is used is limited to authorized election officials and watchers only."
5. Rule 20.6.1(d), (e) and (g) – Internal Controls for the Voting System. These rules state that the county may not connect or allow a connection of any voting system component to the Internet and that if any component of the voting system is equipped with Wi-Fi capability or a wireless device, the county must ensure that the wireless capability or device is disabled before use in an election. The county must also include in its security plan the name, title and date of background checks for each employee with access to any of the areas or equipment set forth in Rule 20.6.1.
6. Rule 20.19.2(a)(2) – Access Logs. The relevant aspect of this rule states that in addition to the audit logs generated by the election management system, the county must maintain access logs that record the following:
 - (1) Modifications to the system's hardware, including insertion or removal of removable storage media, or changes to hardware drivers.

CRIMINAL CONDUCT

Beginning in April 2021, the SOS commenced preparations for conducting trusted build election management software upgrades that would occur across Colorado. Mesa County's trusted build was set to begin on May 25, 2021. On April 16, 2021, Jessi Romero, the Voting Systems Manager with the SOS, responded to a request from Mesa County's election staff which sought to have members of the public onsite at the Elections Office in Mesa County during the trusted build. Mr. Romero, as a public servant and employee for the SOS, informed Mesa County's election staff that only required personnel from Dominion Voting Systems, the SOS, and the county will be permitted in the trusted build. Mr. Romero also reminded the Mesa County elections staff that, "The trusted build will be installed under camera, so for those members of the public that are interested in the process, my suggestion is to bring them in (after your install date) and allow them to watch the video." Mr. Romero informed the Grand Jury that it was the SOS' awareness that Mesa County's election staff had historically always kept their various security surveillance cameras on and operating.

On April 19, 2021, Tina Peters reached out to Mesa County's IT staff and started a dialogue that also included Belinda Knisley, amongst others. Tina Peters stated that her office had requested that members of the public be present to watch the trusted build. Ms. Peters then revealed to the county IT staff that the SOS declined this request and that only Mesa County employees could be present. Ms. Peters told a Mesa County IT employee that security cameras would not capture what was exactly being done on the computer monitors, therefore Ms. Peters wanted Mesa County IT staff present to watch the trusted build.

On April 23, 2021, Tina Peters, Belinda Knisley, and others had a discussion regarding supposed vulnerabilities to election management systems. During that meeting, Tina Peters was told it was against the law to open the machines, and there was conversation about bringing in a team who could help her.

On April 26, 2021, Jessi Romero of the SOS emailed Tina Peters and the other clerks across the state explaining that DVS' Democracy Suite 5.13 voting system update had been certified by a federally accredited Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL) for use in Colorado. As a result of this certification, the state was preparing a trusted build. On April 30, 2021, Jessi Romero notified the state's county clerks, including Ms. Peters, what procedures needed to occur in advance of the trusted builds occurring across the state. The detailed email from the SOS notified Tina Peters and her office that no later than one week prior to Mesa County's scheduled trusted build the county must confirm who would participate on behalf of the clerk's office. The SOS further advised the county clerks, including Tina Peters, that "Only authorized state staff, county election staff and Dominion staff may be present during trusted build." Additionally, the SOS advised the clerks throughout the state that, "The onsite installation of the Trusted Build is not the time for members of the public, representatives from the local parties, or county officials other than the Clerk & Recorder to observe or ask questions about the process or any of the disinformation being pushed about the election." The SOS email dated April 30, 2021, advised, "If when we arrive onsite, or during the process there are others present (beyond Dominion and county election staff that have been authorized, and the Clerk & Recorder) in the area where the Trusted Build will take place, we will move on to the next county."

Finally, the SOS provided preparation instructions to the clerks that they should, "Backup any election projects on your voting system to removable media before our arrival." Detailed step-by-step instructions on how a county would backup its election projects were made available to the clerks. The backup of election projects and election records does not include anyone imaging the hard drive of the county's DVS election management software. Any county's backed up "election records" and its paper record of those election records are kept separately by the county for a designated period.

On May 13, 2021, notwithstanding the SOS' admonition to the clerks across Colorado, including Ms. Peters and her key staff, which limited county representatives at the Trusted Build to "county election staff," Belinda Knisley initiated communication with Mesa County Human Resources (HR) requesting access permissions and a county email account for an "I.T. person" to support the clerk's upcoming work involving its election equipment. In a follow-up communication on the same day Ms. Knisley emailed HR about a "Temp Employee" needing security badge access and a county email address. Clerk Tina Peters was included on this e-mail. Then, on May 14, 2021, a county IT employee contacted Ms. Knisley regarding the above

referenced request. Initially Ms. Knisley responded by saying that the person needing the email was “not a new hire” and that the person was a “temp person for the Elections Department.” Around the same timeframe, Tina Peters told the IT employee (David Underwood) that the person needing the county email was someone from the state and would need an email address like the last time someone from the state came in. Relying on the misrepresentations of Tina Peters and Belinda Knisley, Mr. Underwood, believing he was initiating temporary access for a state employee, began the process of creating a Mesa County computer network login and county email address for Mr. Wood.

On May 17, 2021, Ms. Knisley started the process of getting the security surveillance cameras within the election offices turned off. This included shutting off one or more cameras in the secured rooms where the upcoming trusted build would be conducted. A county IT employee who was assigned to handle the cameras testified that he had no memory of any prior request from the Mesa County Clerk’s office to shut off any security surveillance cameras. By the end of the day on May 17, 2021, the security surveillance cameras protecting the secured elections areas were turned off and not operational from that point forward through the entire trusted build install process.

Also on May 17, 2021, Belinda Knisley told the office’s front-office elections manager, Stephanie Wenholtz, that Gerald Wood was the new “Admin. Assistant” in the Clerk and Recorder’s Office. Stephanie Wenholtz was then excluded from the trusted build and told that Gerald Wood would participate in her place. Relying on the misrepresentations of Belinda Knisley, Stephanie Wenholtz conducted a background check on Gerald Wood.

On May 18, 2021, Sandra Brown, the back-office elections manager, sent an email to SOS employee Jessi Romero stating that Mesa County would adhere to the procedures outlined in the SOS’ April 30, 2021, email regarding the trusted build procedures and that Gerald Wood in the capacity of “Administrative Assistant” was going to be the third member of Mesa County staff to be present at the trusted build. Deputy Clerk Belinda Knisley was cc’d on this email to Mr. Romero.

Gerald “Jerry” Wood was served with a subpoena and compelled to testify before the Mesa County Grand Jury. Mr. Wood testified that Tina Peters contacted him by telephone and told him that she may need him to do some contract work that Mesa County IT either could not do or would not do. He was told that the work involved backing up Dominion voting machines. He advised that he had no familiarity with those machines and would discuss the jobs she needed him to do as they came up. Tina Peters later put Mr. Wood in touch with Belinda Knisley who obtained his name and social security number to run a background check. Ms. Knisley then directed Mr. Wood to go to Mesa County HR to obtain his access badge. Mr. Wood obtained his county access badge on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, the same day Ms. Knisley directed Mr. Underwood to help Mr. Wood login to the Mesa County computer network with the use of an assigned Yubikey. A Yubikey is a device that provides authorized users a two-factor authentication security feature for computer and network access. Mr. Wood testified that he never received a Yubikey and the Yubikey Mr. Underwood assigned to Mr. Wood has not been located. After a meeting with Ms. Peters and Ms. Knisley on May 19, 2021, Mr. Wood was required to return the access badge to Ms. Knisley before he left the elections building. Mr.

Wood was never hired by Mesa County in any capacity, he has never done any work for Mesa County, and he has never been employed by the state.

Mesa County records show that on Sunday, May 23, 2021, key card access badges assigned to Tina Peters, Sandra Brown, and Gerald Wood were used to access secured election offices. Security cameras were still disabled due to Belinda Knisley's prior request.

On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, the Mesa County trusted build was set to begin in the morning. DVS employee David Stahl was present and testified that Tina Peters introduced him to a man she referred to as Gerald Wood, who she said was an administrative assistant who was in training and would be involved in the elections process.

Danny Casias, an SOS employee and public servant, who was the only SOS employee to participate in the Mesa County trusted build on May 25-26, 2021, also testified that Tina Peters introduced him to a person she called Gerald Wood. Tina Peters described Gerald Wood as being an employee of the Motor Vehicle Division who was transferring over to Elections.

Mr. Wood testified that he did not go to the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's Office in Grand Junction on Sunday, May 23, 2021, or Tuesday, May 25, 2021, and did not use the access badge that he had previously turned over to Ms. Knisley on May 19, 2021. The Grand Jury was presented with evidence which corroborated Mr. Wood's sworn testimony regarding his whereabouts on both Sunday, May 23, 2021, and Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

In early August 2021, SOS employees learned that images of the Mesa County election management systems and related passwords were on the internet. On or about August 9, 2021, the SOS issued Election Order 2021-01 which ordered Tina Peters and the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's Office to provide access to the SOS for an inspection. The SOS also ordered the Mesa Clerk and Recorder to immediately produce to the SOS staff any documentation of written and verbal communications, including but not limited to, emails, texts, messaging programs, social media, direct messaging, voice mails, emails, and call logs by and with the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder or staff or designee regarding DVS machines or the trusted build process. Furthermore, the SOS directed the Mesa Clerk to provide communications that contain or reflect or reference any images, videos, actions, or recordings arising from or related to the trusted build installation conducted on May 25, 2021. The SOS also directed the Clerk to produce documents showing the dates of employment and job descriptions for all representatives of the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's office who participated in the trusted build on May 25, 2021. Ms. Peters and Ms. Knisley did not comply with all of the requests or directives contained in Election Order 2021-01.

On August 10, 2021, Belinda Knisley stated in an interview that Tina Peters directed her to turn off the cameras in May 2021. Belinda Knisley also said that the Clerk's Office considered hiring Gerald Wood but had decided against hiring him.

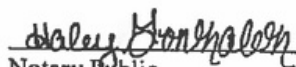
On August 12, 2021, the SOS ordered that Mesa County was prohibited from using their elections equipment in future elections. The Order was based in part because the SOS could not confirm that the BIOS settings were not accessed after the trusted build process and could not establish confidence in the integrity or security of the Mesa elections equipment.

DANIEL P. RUBINSTEIN*
District Attorney



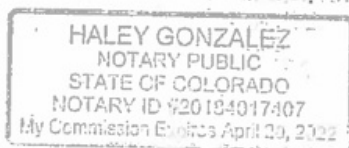
JANET STANSBERRY DRAKE, 27697*
Special Deputy District Attorney
ROBERT S. SHAPIRO, 26869*
Special Deputy District Attorney
Attorneys for the People
*Counsel of Record

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the Mesa County, State of Colorado, this 8th day of
March 2022.


Notary Public

My commission expires:

April 20, 2022

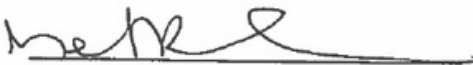


The Mesa County Grand Jury presents the within Indictment, and the same is hereby ORDERED
FILED this 8th day of March, 2022.

Arrest Warrants to issue:

BOND SET AT no bond pending advisement FOR TINA PETERS

BOND SET AT no bond pending advisement FOR BELINDA KNISLEY


District Court Judge,
21st Judicial District and Presiding
Judge for the Mesa County Grand
Jury

I, [REDACTED], the Foreperson of the Mesa County Grand Jury, do hereby swear and affirm that each and every True Bill returned in this indictment by the Mesa County Grand Jury was arrived after deliberation and with the assent and agreement to the existence of probable cause by at least nine members of the Mesa County Grand Jury. Furthermore, the Mesa County Grand Jury consents and instructs the District Attorney that this Indictment may be returned on the record in open court before the Presiding Judge with or without the foreperson being present.

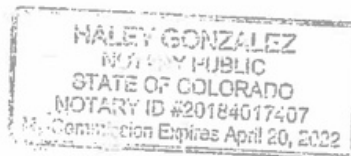
[REDACTED]
Foreperson

Subscribed and sworn to before me in Mesa County, State of Colorado, this 8th day of March 2022.

Haley Gonzalez
Notary Public

My commission expires:

April 20, 2022

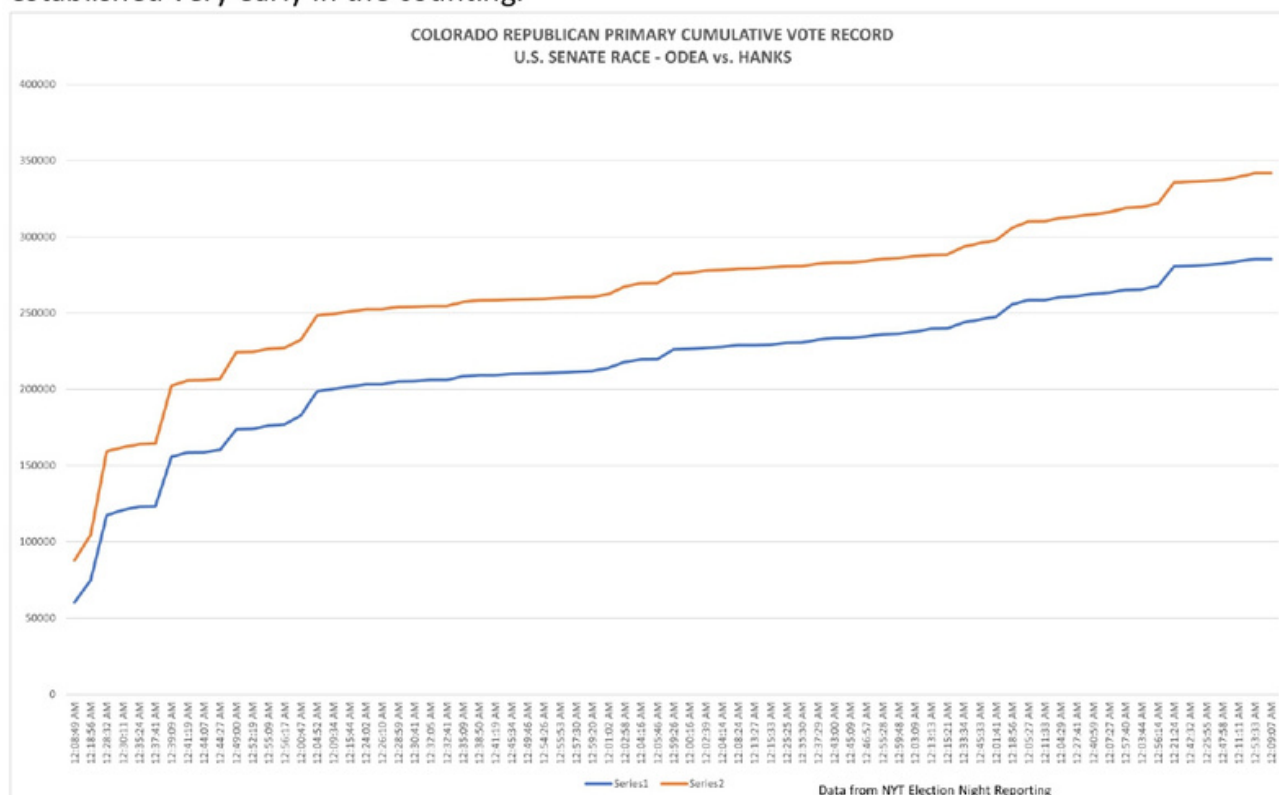


Source: Tina Peters

OBSERVATION ON THE 2020 COLORADO REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

The following charts show the progression of votes in both the Republican Senate and Secretary of State primaries recorded on June 28th – July 2nd, 2022. This data was captured from the New York Times website during that period.

This graph shows that after the initial three updates, the relative difference in the vote totals between the two candidates remains relatively unchanged. This indicates that the bulk of the vote difference between candidate Odea (in orange) and candidate Hanks (in blue) was established very early in the counting.

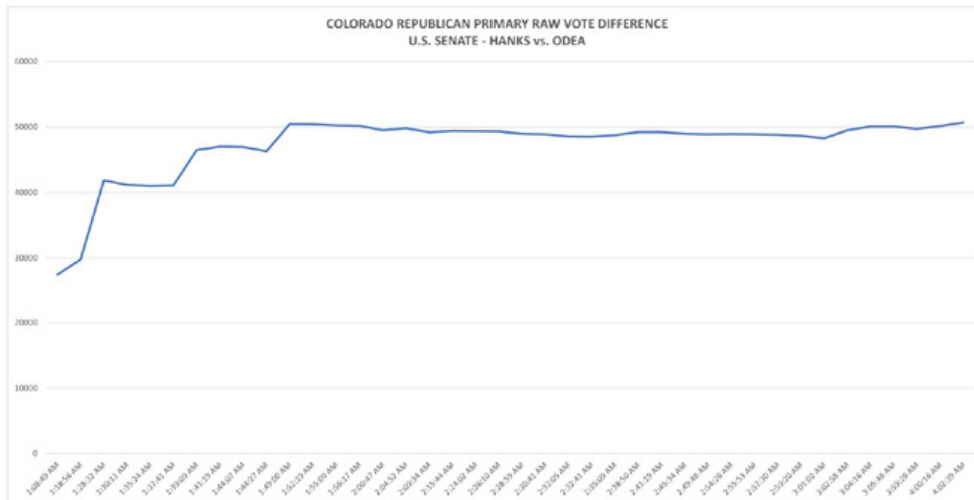


The R^2 values for the two data sets, which indicate how well the data fits to a straight line, is 0.847 for Odea and 0.864 for Hanks. The .02 difference is statistically insignificant, meaning that the “shape factors” of the two data sets are essentially identical when taken as a whole.

Additionally, when a correlation analysis is performed upon the two candidates’ data sets, the correlation factor is 0.9992, again indicating that the very nature of the change between the candidates’ totals are extremely – and unnaturally - related.

Source: Tina Peters

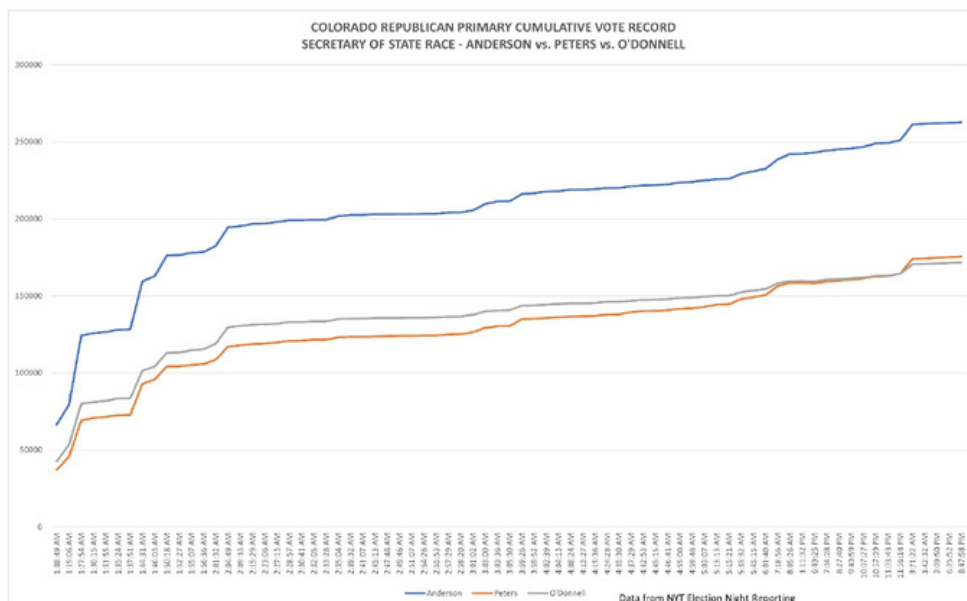
The following chart displays the raw vote difference between the two candidates at each update reported.



Again, it shows that the bulk of the difference between the candidates (in blue) remained remarkably stable shortly into the vote counting. There is some increased separation noted at the end of the counting, which were reported several days after the election.

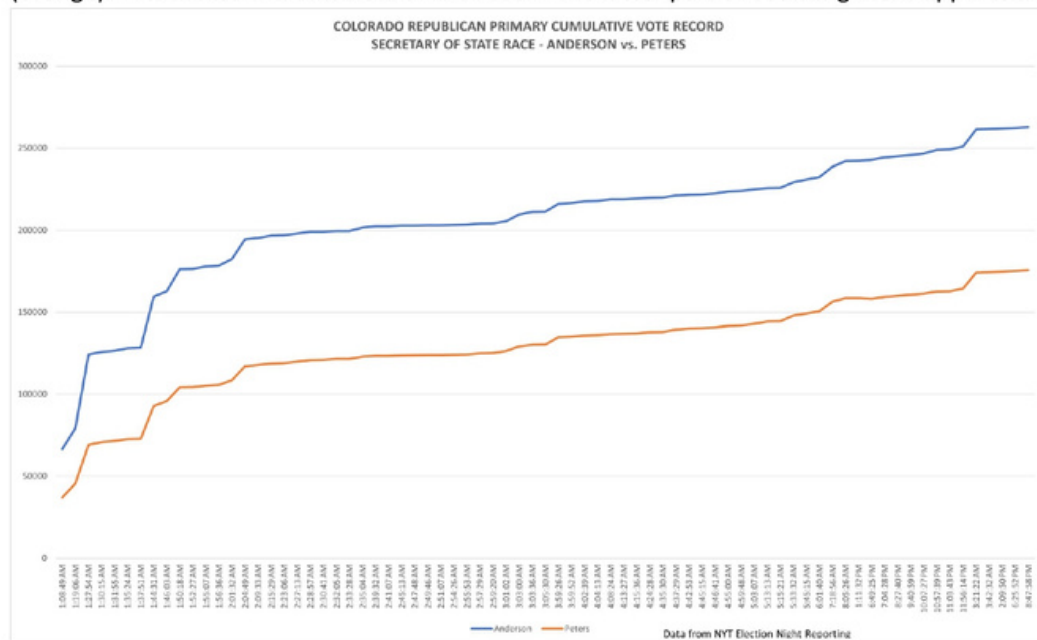
Because approximately 98% of the state's votes were cast via mail, and should demonstrate a random pattern of receipt, the difference exhibited by the initial votes and the latter votes is statistically unlikely and could indicate manipulation of the votes.

The Primary race for Secretary of State shows a similar unnatural pattern of vote processing. This chart shows the cumulative votes at each update for candidate Anderson (blue), candidate Peters (orange) and candidate O'Donnell (gray). Again, the approximate midpoint of counting is indicated by the green bar.



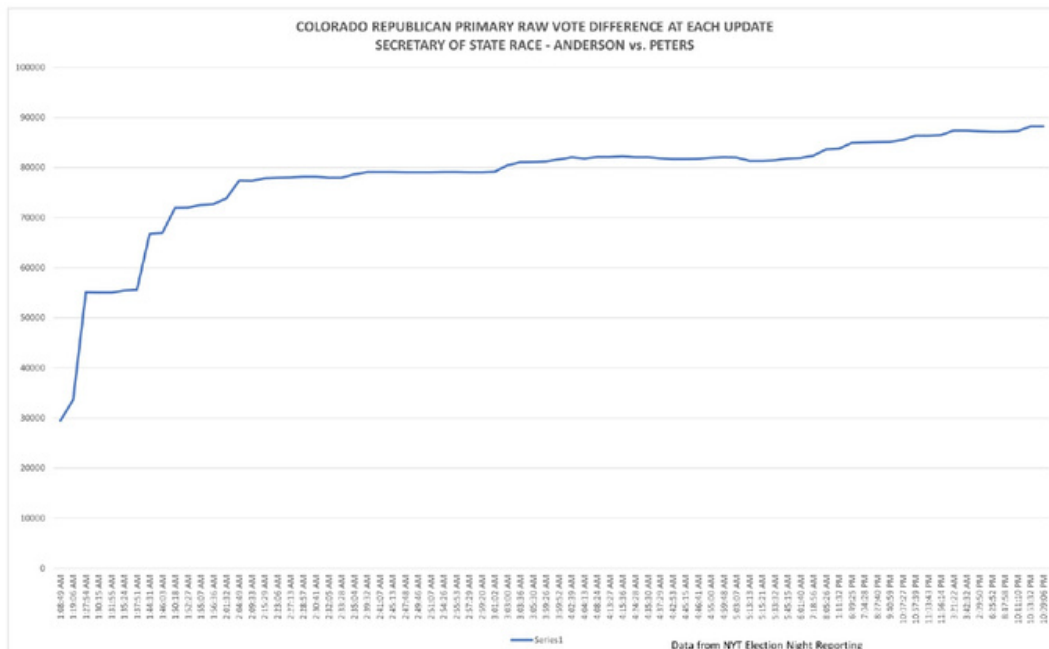
Source: Tina Peters

This chart shows the cumulative vote totals for just candidates Anderson (blue) and Peters (orange). This makes the evenness of the race in the latter part of counting more apparent.



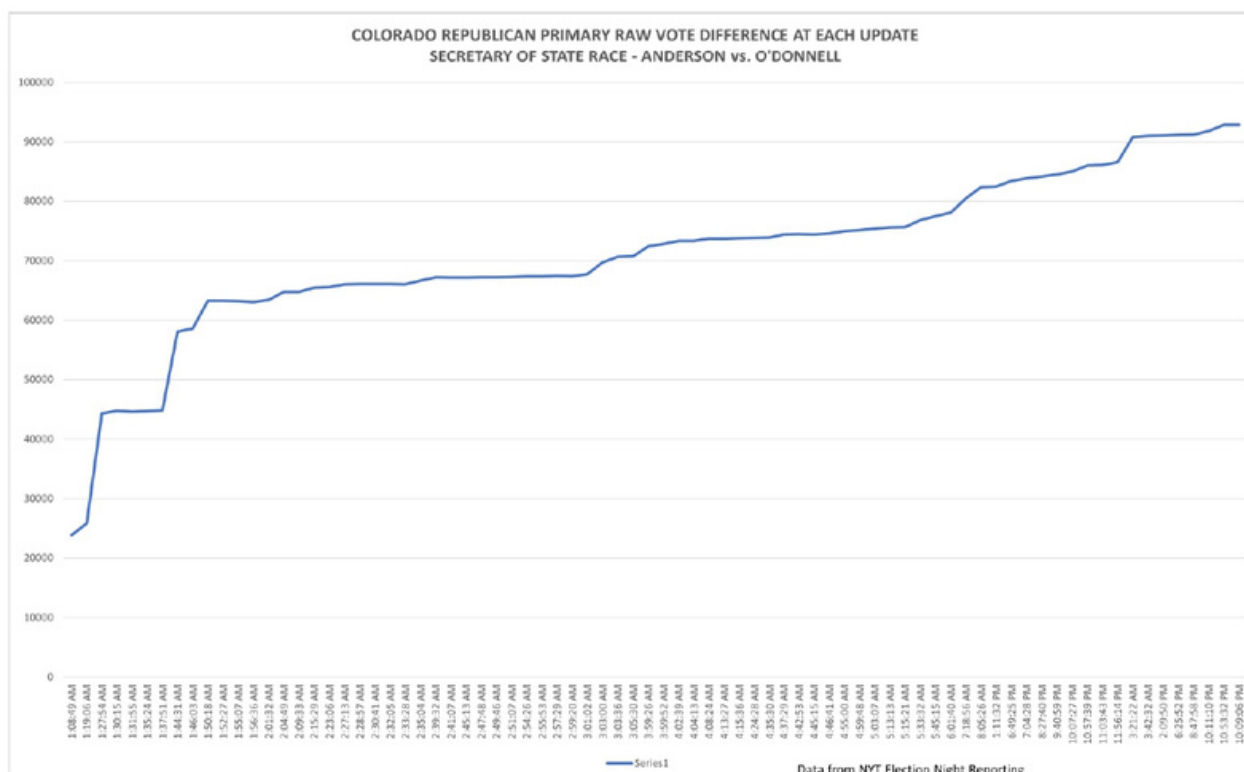
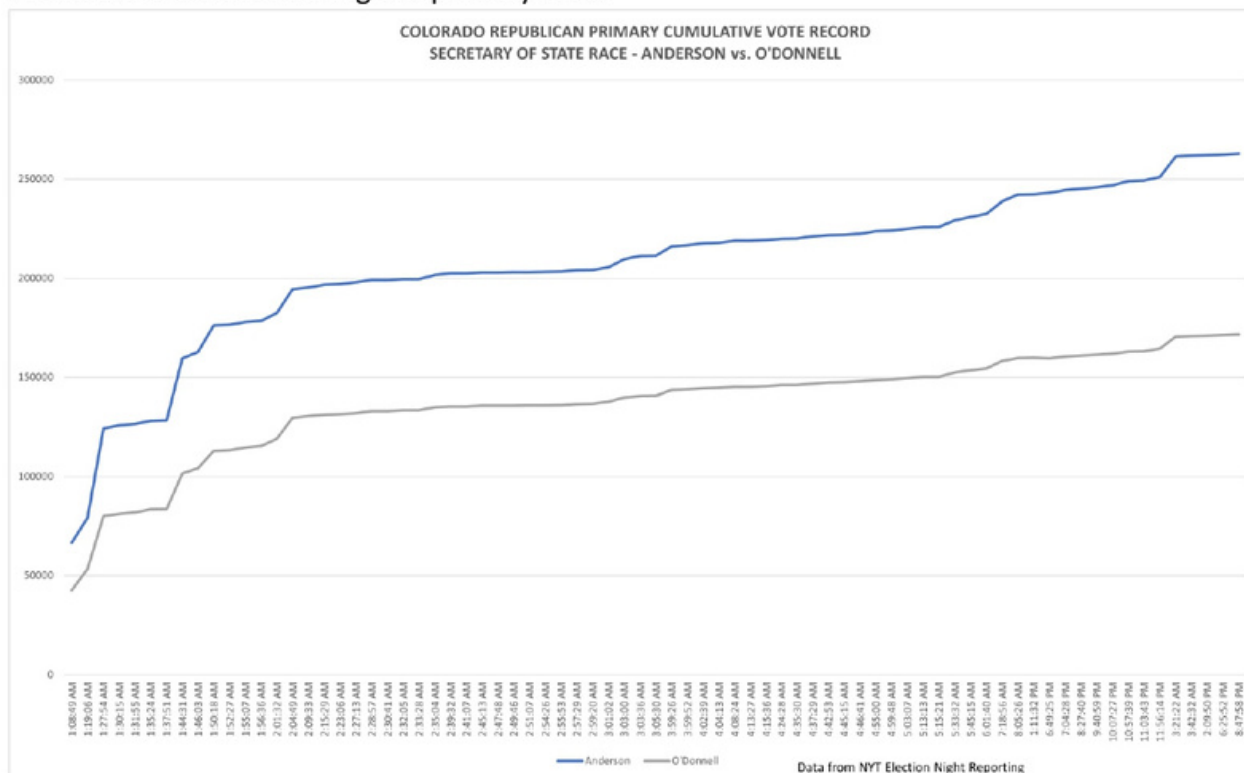
The R^2 values calculated for these two candidates' data points are 0.82 (Anderson) and 0.88 (Peters), which again indicates a very high degree of symmetry between them. The correlation between the two sets is a very high 0.995.

The following chart displays the raw vote difference between these two candidates over the period of the election, and again it can be seen that the difference stabilizes for most of the latter half of the counting, with some additional separation occurring several days after the election.



Source: Tina Peters

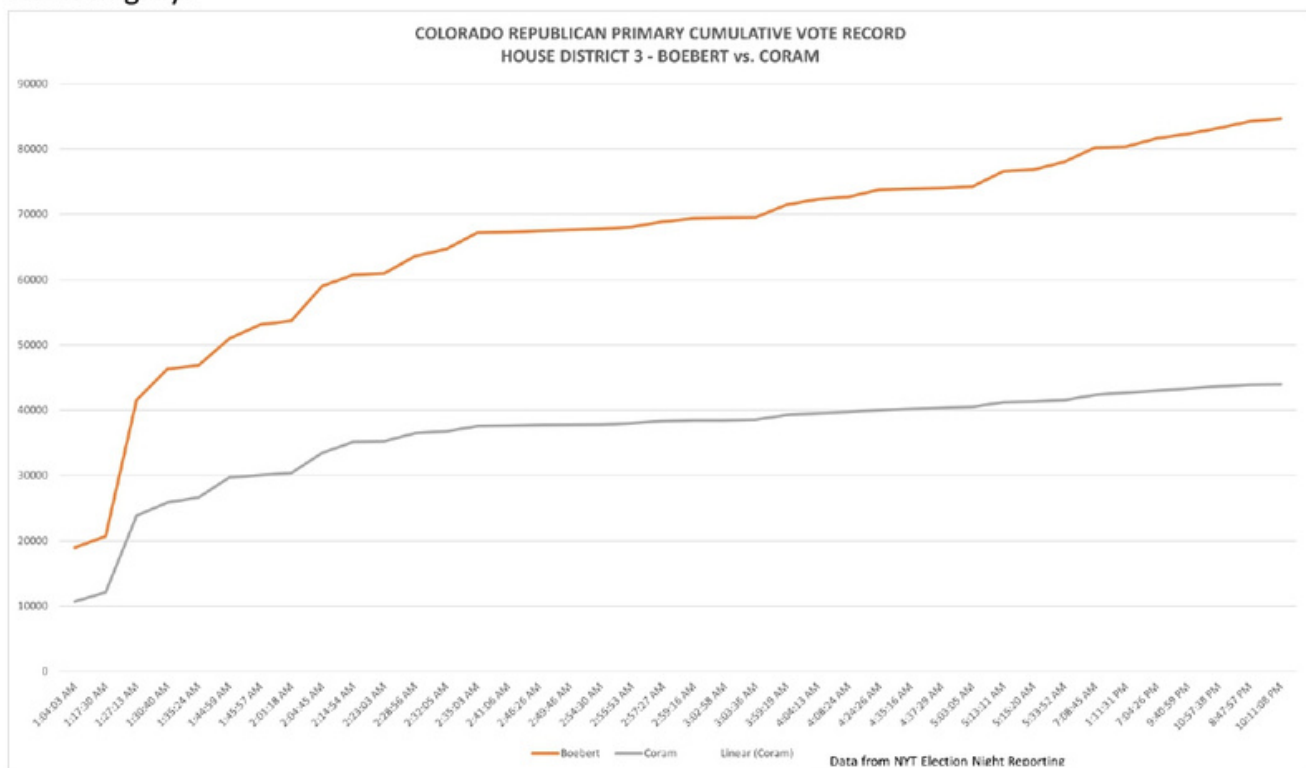
The next two charts show the same information but compare candidate Anderson to candidate O'Donnell during the primary race.



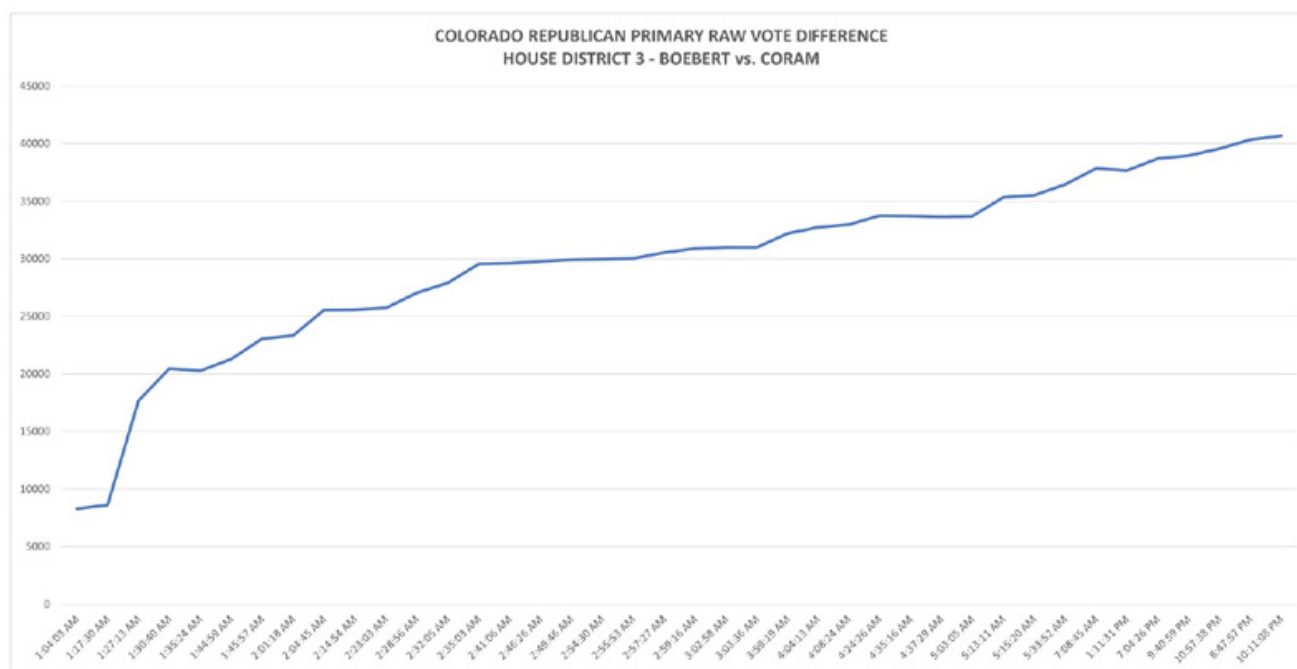
Source: Tina Peters

These charts show some of the same characteristics of the previous comparison but do show more variation in the vote difference during the latter half of the election. The R^2 values calculated for these lines are .80 for Anderson, and .78 for O'Donnell, again quite close. The overall correlation between the two data sets is 0.998.

The following charts are provided for comparison purposes. The House District 3 Republican primary in Colorado does not show the same data characteristics of the two races above. The votes for Representative Boebert are shown in orange, and the votes for candidate Coram show in gray.



Source: Tina Peters



These graphs show what I have found to be a more normal vote progression, where the lead increases at a roughly regular fashion throughout the election. To illustrate the difference, the data sets have R^2 values of 0.80 for Boebert, and 0.70 for Coram, a much larger difference than is shown in the above races.

Summary of analysis:

In both of the races, the difference in vote totals between the candidates was mostly established during the initial half of the vote counting, with the latter half showing unusual (and similar) symmetry. Given that almost all of these votes were absentee votes sent via mail, and thus should exhibit general randomness in their receipt, the difference between the two halves of the election counting is statistically unlikely and may indicate manipulation of these votes.

Source: Tina Peters

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

TITLE: Official Response to Mesa DA Investigation

OBJECTIVE: Fact Check Rubenstein's Investigative Report

SENDER: Randy Corporon, Attorney for Tina Peters, 303-749-0062

RELEASE: Immediate

Colorado District Attorney Dan Rubinstein has published findings of an investigation his office conducted into the allegations in [Mesa County Forensic Report 3](#). This investigation confirmed the substantive findings of report authors Dr. Walter Daugherty and Jeff O'Donnell, who collectively have over 80 years of computer systems engineering expertise, but the non-technical investigators reached very different conclusions than the experts.

This Official Response will address the numerous false assertions, misleading statements, and technical errors made by the DA's office in both their oral presentation as well as the written report.

FINDINGS & INVESTIGATIVE LIMITATIONS

The Claim: In his oral presentation, District Attorney Rubinstein claimed his investigation into the third Mesa report had no connection to the criminal case against Tina Peters.



The Truth: It was legally and ethically improper for the DA's office to contact the authors of Report #3 directly, which Michael Struwe did multiple times despite being reminded that he needed to request the interview of Tina Peters' experts through her attorney. The second sentence of the report says, "The findings in this report were prepared by the authors as consultants to the legal team representing Tina Peters, the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, pursuant to her statutory duties as Mesa County's Chief Election Official." From a legal perspective, any investigation of the evidence of fraud outlined in the report cannot be separated from Ms. Peters' legal case.

The Claim: On page one (1) of the DA investigation report, the investigators claim, "There is no evidence of any other person, program, or outside influence leading to the anomaly referenced in Report 3."

Source: Tina Peters



The Truth: Report #3 goes into great detail, including the contents of activity logs and database tables, of the evidence that procedures inside of the machine caused the unauthorized recounting of over 20,000 ballots on October 21st 2021 and over 8,000 ballots on March 30th 2021. The DA's office discussed a possible method by which the new database *could* have been created, should a clerk perform a highly unusual procedure which is extremely dangerous when done in the middle of tabulating an election. The video presented as "evidence" shows absolutely no definitive screen detail to support the DA's claims that this "nuclear option" was ever performed. In addition, the EMS logs, which show in great detail the operations performed by both the clerks and the normal automated processes within the Dominion software application, show no corresponding commands being initiated. This fact alone is evidence that the unauthorized operations were triggered by code running within the EMS server but outside of normal procedure.

The Claim: On page four (4) of the DA investigation report, it states, "The drafters of Report 3 were contacted."



The Truth: As previously stated, only improper contact was attempted. The DA and his investigator did not attempt to contact the authors of the report through proper channels. Rule 4.2 of the Colorado Bar Association Rules of Professional Conduct states that "In representing a client, a lawyer shall not communicate about the subject of the representation with a person the lawyer knows to be represented by another lawyer in the matter, unless the lawyer has the consent of the other lawyer or is authorized to do so by law or a court order." District Attorney Rubinstein, upon reading the report, was aware that it was prepared as consultants to Tina Peter's legal team, and as such should have operated under the expectation that all communications about the report would need to go through that legal team. Both authors of the report were fully willing to cooperate with the District Attorney or his investigator when they were contacted through Ms. Peters' legal team, but no request was made in this manner. The DA is attempting to attack the highly convincing and well-researched evidence of the report by implying that, by demanding that the law be followed and that proper legal safeguards be applied, the report's authors were being uncooperative.

Investigator Struwe's three phone contacts to Mr. O'Donnell's wife (who is completely unconnected to the report or its evidence) and three phone contacts with Dr. Daugherity were violations of the above-cited code of ethics. Investigator Struwe's email to Mr. O'Donnell claiming that he should answer questions about the report because their investigation was not connected to Ms. Peters' case was an attempt to coerce him to answer questions without representation, and was disingenuous – another violation of the above-cited code of ethics.

The Claim: On page seven (7) of the DA investigation report it states, “Dominion support advised that if they were contacted at this point, they may have coached Ms. Brown through another trouble-shooting procedure called ‘reject and delete.’”



The Truth: The Dominion manual (posted on the Secretary of State’s website) does not include a function or procedure named “reject and delete.” There are options entitled, “Reset in-Progress” which is followed by “Spoiling a Batch,” but not the procedure described in the DA’s report. None of these commands or anything similar to them are found in the EMS Logs on the days that the manipulation events occurred.

The Claim: Also on page seven (7) of the DA investigation report it states, “...user logs confirm...”



The Truth: No operating system logs, of which user logs are a subset, were presented as part of the oral presentation or the written report. No user logs were available to review on the forensic images because, per the first Mesa Forensic Report, those logs were deleted. If the investigators have access to these user logs, where did they get them? There is an “EMS User Log” table in the Dominion database, but it logs only actions, not login events.

The Claim: On page 10 of the DA investigation report, an image is shown of Sandra Brown replacing a computer, and above that the report details the action, including the statement “After approximately 15 minutes of processing, the system loads the new adjudication session and tabulation and adjudication operations resume, apparently without issue, for the remainder of the day.”



The Truth: While Ms. Brown is seen replacing a computer, she is not replacing the Election Management System server. This is obvious both from the size of the system she is holding and the fact that such a switch would have left indelible evidence within the server’s files and databases. All manipulation events proven in Report #3 occur within the server. Highlighting

this unrelated and irrelevant action either demonstrates serious lack of understanding of the findings of Report #3, or is an intentional act to cast further doubt upon Ms. Brown's actions.

The Claim: On page 11 of the DA investigation report it states, "We have found extensive evidence that the conclusions in Report 3 are false."



The Truth: Investigator Struwe did not name a single conclusion in the report that was false, much less provide ANY evidence that a conclusion was false. In the third Mesa Forensic Report, the authors list three possible causes of the anomalies and give their expert opinions that on-site human action was the least likely based on interviews with those involved. The DA claims to have proven that it was on-site human action which caused the anomalies without ever looking at the databases involved or engaging an independent expert to do so, given that the investigators have no database expertise.

The Claim: Also on page 11 of the DA investigation report it states that the DA's Office used "first-hand investigation using a test election environment".



The Truth: It is doubtful that the DA's office had the specific technical experience necessary to create such a test election environment. What environment was used? Were steps taken to verify that the test environment was set up in exactly the same way, with exactly the same hardware and exactly the same version of Dominion Voting Systems software? What person with experience in elections and Dominion Voting Systems software was consulted to set up the test and evaluate the results? The test could not have been performed using Mesa County's existing system, as the Dominion software was updated and all election files destroyed almost a year earlier. The DA's statement is only credible if the circumstances surrounding the test, the hardware and software used, and the identity and credentials of all technical election experts involved in the test are disclosed.

Additionally, did the DA's office or any of their technical experts access the publicly-available forensic image of the Mesa County server taken before representatives of the Colorado Secretary of State and Dominion Voting Systems erased all files on that server? If not, how can the DA plausibly investigate the findings and conclusions of Report #3, which were completely derived from that forensic image?

The Claim: On page 12 of the DA investigation report it states, “As election judges tabulate batches, and separate judges adjudicate ballot images, the EMS client monitor is largely visible and it is clear that batches are properly processing through the system. New batches populate the ‘review’ and ‘in-progress’ categories accordingly.”



The Truth: This is an unproven conclusion with an unclear basis. How did Michael Struwe determine that batches of ballots are being processed properly when the computer screen text in the surveillance videos is completely illegible?

The Claim: On page 13 of the DA investigation report it states, “At approximately 2:49pm on March 30, 2021, Ms. Sealey appears to highlight a batch or batches in the ‘review’ column but walks away before dragging the selected batch or batches to ‘review.’ Several minutes later the adjudication screens are not displaying ballot images even though batches containing ballot images needing adjudication continue to populate the ‘in progress’ column.”



The Truth: This is an unproven conclusion with an unclear basis. How did Michael Struwe determine this since the computer screen text in the surveillance videos is completely illegible?

The Claim: On page 15 of the DA investigation report it states, “Over the next several minutes, Ms. Brown accesses a program screen that would allow her to try the next recommended trouble-shooting procedure – called ‘reject and delete’ – but it is clear from the user logs that she did NOT complete the procedure at this time.”



The Truth: As noted above, the Dominion manual (posted on the Secretary of State’s website) does not include a function or procedure named “reject and delete.” There are options entitled, “Reset in-Progress” which is followed by “Spoiling a Batch,” but not the procedure described in the DA’s report. Further, no user logs were available to review on the forensic images because, per the first Mesa Forensic Report, those logs were deleted. If the investigators have access to these user logs, where did they get them, and why didn’t they provide them for verification?

The Claim: On page 15 of the DA investigation report it states, "Surveillance video at this point did not detect any motion, and stopped recording for 2 minutes and 34 seconds."



The Truth: The conclusion that Sandra Brown sat motionless for 2 minutes and 34 seconds and that is why 2 minutes and 34 seconds of surveillance footage are missing does not make sense. According to [a study](#) by the National Institute of Health, the average adult touches their face 23 times per hour, and that's just the face. Human beings shift and move involuntarily – anyone who has ever attempted to stay still for an MRI can confirm this. It is highly unlikely that someone not trying to freeze their movements would be frozen in place for 2 minutes and 34 seconds. Did Mr. Struwe attempt to recreate this "lack-of-motion-detection" time out of the cameras to see if that surveillance video camera stopped recording him?

The Claim: On page 15 of the DA investigation report it states, "When the video resumes, it is evident from the screen, and from the user logs, that Ms. Brown had stopped the previous adjudication session and started a new one. This would not be recommended by Dominion support."



The Truth: Ms. Brown's actions are not captured on screen and the reasoning for this is that she wasn't moving so the camera stopped recording. Yet, during the period of time when the camera is not recording, the event in question occurs. Also, on what basis does the DA speak for Dominion? And from what set of facts does the investigator determine Ms. Brown's actions since those actions are not captured and, allegedly, she wasn't moving? How can someone perform an "action" without moving? And again, this conclusion is drawn from an illegible screen shown on video after the video resumed.

The Claim: On page 15 of the DA investigation report it states, "When the new adjudication session loads, the 'submitted' batches column is *empty*, and the batches for 'review' and 'in progress' are seen populating. This is indicative of a new adjudication session. Below are before, during and after screenshots showing the 'submitted' batches during the first session, the new session while it's loading, and the empty 'submitted' column of the newly created session:"



Source: Tina Peters

The Truth: This is an unproven conclusion with an unclear basis. How did Michael Struwe determine this since the computer screen text in the surveillance videos is completely illegible?

The Claim: On page 20 of the DA investigation report it states, "The below screenshots depict when batches move from 'in progress' to 'review,' indicating adjudication is working again:"



The Truth: This is an unproven conclusion with an unclear basis. How did Michael Struwe determine this since the computer screen text in the surveillance videos is completely illegible?

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, "Although adjudication resumes, for the remainder of March 30, 2021, it is not apparent that any batches move to the 'in review' column as they should."



The Truth: This is an unproven conclusion with an unclear basis. How did Michael Struwe determine this since the computer screen text in the surveillance videos is completely illegible?

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, "The user logs show that the 'reject and delete' option was again completed on select batches on March 31, 2021 and April 5, 2021."



The Truth: The EMS logs, the contents of which are included in Report #3 for the time periods before and after the manipulation events, do not support this claim.

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, "At this time it is unclear if Elections Manager Brown conducted any actions which resulted in the deletion of any election records that are required to be maintained. To date, we have found no evidence that she did. We have also found no evidence that anyone else has done so."



The Truth: Report #3 does not claim that any records were deleted during the unauthorized reprocessing of ballots on October 21, 2020, or March 30, 2021. The report states that new databases were created, and that some records were selectively copied to those new databases and subsequently reprocessed and recounted, resulting in the extremely high likelihood of *alteration* of election records. The DA's reference to deletion of records is an intentional creation of a logical "straw man" argument.

However, the DA ignored the fact that ALL election records on the Election Management Server were deleted by Dominion and the Secretary of State before the required records retention period had expired. This is a direct violation of 52 USC 10308, which expressly forbids alteration of "any official record of voting in such election tabulated from a voting machine," and the database records in the Election Management Server were the only official record of the vote tallies. Further, the DA did not look at the databases, nor did he engage an independent expert to do so. Federal law uses the broad term "*all* election records," and the DA's statement that they did not investigate this issue because he made the sole determination that the digital election records which were deleted were not election records under *Colorado* law is another logical deflection.

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, "We have found extensive evidence that the conclusions in Report 3 are false."



The Truth: Investigator Struwe did not name a single conclusion in the report that was false, much less provide ANY actual evidence that a conclusion was false. In the third Mesa Forensic Report, the authors list three possible causes of the anomalies and give their expert opinions that on-site human action was the least likely based on interviews with those involved, and the complexity of the sequence of events demonstrated by the log files. The DA claims to have proven that it was on-site human action which caused the anomalies without ever looking at the databases involved or engaging an independent expert to do so, given that the investigators have no database expertise.

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, "This investigation is being closed with no finding of probable cause that a crime was committed by any person..."



The Truth: The self-imposed limits that DA Rubinstein placed on this investigation excluded an independent cyber forensic evaluation of the databases. ALL election records on the Election Management Server were deleted by Dominion and the Secretary of State before the required records retention period had expired. This is a direct violation of 52 USC 10308, which expressly forbids alteration of “any official record of voting in such election tabulated from a voting machine,” and the database records in the Election Management Server were the only official record of the vote tallies. Further, there was nothing presented to show that the DA’s Office examined the contents of the Mesa County server’s databases, nor did it engage an independent expert to do so. As stated above, Investigator Struwe did not name a single conclusion in the report that was false, much less provide ANY actual evidence that a conclusion was false.

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, “These actions were verified to have been done by her through video evidence, corroboration of records, audit of randomly selected ballot images...”



The Truth: There is no corroborating support for this alleged audit, such as file path names of the ballot image files that were examined. The video evidence presented in the May 19, 2022, hearing shows no readable screens.

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, “...prove that the conclusions of Report 3 are incorrect claims of what may have occurred.”



The Truth: Investigator Struwe did not name a single conclusion in the report that was false, much less provide ANY evidence that a conclusion was false. In the third Mesa Forensic Report, the authors list three possible causes of the anomalies and give their expert opinions that on-site human action was the least likely based on interviews with those involved. The DA claims to have proven that it was on-site human action which caused the anomalies without ever looking at the databases involved or engaging an independent expert to do so, given that the investigators have no database expertise.

The Claim: On page 24 of the DA investigation report it states, “At this time, no evidence suggests that these actions negatively impacted the election.”



The Truth: The databases clearly show a shattered chain of custody in the April 2021 Grand Junction municipal election, where in some contests the winning margin was about 3,000 votes but 8,540 votes are unverifiable. The fact that these votes are unverifiable means that the true results of the election are unknown. This fact was excluded from the scope of the investigation, so the conclusion that the election was not impacted cannot be known based on the investigation limitations the investigators decided to impose on their own efforts. In addition, more than 25% of the ballots cast in the November 2021 general election are in serious question, a number which should alarm anyone performing a serious investigation.

In summary, the DA's report is lacking any evidence to refute any of the findings or conclusions of Report #3, and we find that the report is completely lacking any evidence or technical rigor of a serious, unbiased investigation.

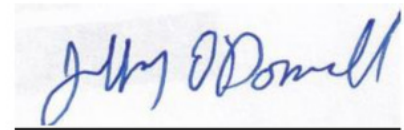
It should be noted that much of the "evidence" presented in the DA's report relies upon someone's interpretation of the illegible screens shown in the accompanying video and captures. Our contention is that even if all or some of this interpretation of these screens is correct, these interpretations still do not rise to the level of explaining the specific manipulations detailed in Report #3.

Other questions Raised by the District Attorney's Report:

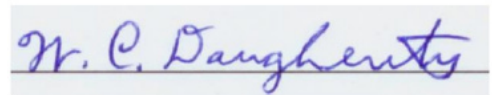
1. Who were the technical experts used to produce the DA's report and its determinations, and what were their credentials, expertise, and company affiliations?
2. Why were time stamps added to the video, when some images show that there were already date and timestamps embedded in that video?
3. What were the technical specifications and requirements of the test environments listed in the report?
4. Why did the investigator fail to look for unauthorized databases in the test environment after re-running the election? A few simple SQL queries would establish what databases existed after re-running the election, whether or not the vote totals in the election results database matched the number of ballots in the second adjudication database, etc.
5. How were the activities attributed to the video images and captures determined, given that there is no clear rendering of the screens of any computer in the office at any time? If these activities were somehow determined by other Mesa County clerks, which clerks provided the information? If Dominion Voting Systems provided the information, was any attempt to verify their assertions made through any other expert?

The people of Mesa County deserve an independent, responsible, and ethical investigation into what happened in the Mesa County elections. Unfortunately, what they got was this non-technical, haphazard attempt to explain away manipulated vote totals, missing ballots, missing video footage, and other damning evidence of criminal behavior on the part of the Colorado Department of State and their selected Election Management System vendors.

The authors of Report #3 still wish to cooperate with the Mesa County DA's office through proper legal channels should that office re-open the case and wish to do a serious investigation of the evidence presented. In addition, we will shortly be providing subsequent reports to further corroborate our findings.



Jeffrey O'Donnell
Chief Information Officer
Ordros Analytics



Walter C. Daugherty
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Department of Computer Science and Engineering
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MESA FORENSIC REPORTS 1

FULL REPORT AVAILABLE AT
[**tinapeters.us/reports/**](https://tinapeters.us/reports/)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents initial findings in an ongoing forensic examination of the voting systems of Mesa County, Colorado, used in the November, 2020 General Election. These voting systems represent a portion of overall election systems infrastructure, and this report is limited to the findings of an ongoing investigation. The findings in this report were prepared by the cyber forensic expert retained to advise the County Clerk pursuant to her duties as the county's Chief Election Official as part of the impacted parties' legal team.

Federal law requires the preservation of election records – which includes records in electronic or digital form – for twenty-two months after an election. Colorado law requires the preservation of election records for an additional three months beyond the Federal requirement. The obligation to ensure the integrity of elections and that all election records are preserved pursuant to federal and state law falls to the elected Clerk & Recorder. This report, the first of several, is based on examination of the data obtained from forensic images of the Dominion Voting System EMS server last used in Mesa County for the November, 2020, election, images taken in furtherance of the preservation requirements of federal and state law. Based upon information received by the Clerk's office from various sources in early 2021, the Clerk became concerned that the voting system modifications might jeopardize these preservation and other legal requirements under the responsibility of the County Clerk. For this reason the Clerk ensured a full backup of election records from the County voting systems, both before and after the software modification performed by the vendor and the Secretary of State on May 25-26, 2021, just six months after the November, 2020, election.

Forensic examination¹ found that election records, including data described in the Federal Election Commission's 2002 Voting System Standards (VSS) mandated by Colorado law as certification requirements for Colorado voting systems, have been destroyed on Mesa County's voting system, by the system vendor and the Colorado Secretary of State's office. Because similar system modifications were reportedly performed upon county election servers across the state, it is possible, if not likely, that such data destruction in violation of state and federal law has occurred in numerous other counties.

The extent and manner of destruction of the data comprising these election records is consequential, precluding the possibility of any comprehensive forensic audit of the conduct of any involved election. This documented destruction also undermines the conclusion that these Colorado voting systems and accompanying vendor and Colorado Secretary of State-issued procedures could meet the requirements of Colorado and Federal law, and consequently vitiates the premise of the Colorado Secretary of State certification of these systems for use in Colorado.

Two backup images, using forensic imaging methods, were obtained from the Dominion Voting Systems (DVS) Democracy Suite (D-Suite) Election Management System (EMS) Standard Server in Mesa County, Colorado. The first image was made of that EMS Standard Server in the D-Suite 5.11-CO version configuration, as used in the November, 2020 election. The second image was of the configuration of the EMS Standard Server in the D-Suite 5.13 version configuration, following the modification of the EMS Standard Server by a combined team of DVS vendor personnel and Colorado Secretary of State staff. The forensic information provided in this report is presented using screenshots from forensic analysts' systems running industry-standard forensics software tools. The report includes "before" and "after" screenshots from the forensic tool that shows the differences between the two backup images.

The forensic examination found that numerous logfiles had been deleted or overwritten. These logfiles are required to reconstruct the function of and events taking place on the the voting systems, and based upon information

¹ Many individuals and organizations, some public officials, have made recent claims that no audit performed nor examination conducted on elections or computer-based election systems can be legitimate or credible unless the examiners are "election experts" or accredited election auditors. There is no such thing as an "accredited election auditor," nor are there Federal standards or procedures to credential election auditors.

provided by legal counsel, must, by law, be preserved. By comparing filenames in the two images (before and after the Dominion update on May 25-26, 2021), examination and analysis identified a total of 28,989 files that were deleted. During a software update, some replacement of program files and their related content is normally expected. However the examination found that 695 log and event log files necessary for the determination of election integrity were deleted.

Based upon information provided by legal counsel, Colorado law (Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) § 1-5-601.5) requires that, prior to use in Colorado elections, electronic and computer-based voting systems be certified by the Colorado Secretary of State. This certification is based on the systems' compliance with the requirements of the Federal Election Commission's 2002 Voting System Standards (VSS), verified by their testing by a Federally-accredited (by vote of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)) Voting System Testing Lab (VSTL). While several iterations of newer Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) have been issued by the EAC, Colorado's statutory requirement is for compliance with 2002 VSS, which states:

"Election audit trails provide the supporting documentation for verifying the accuracy of reported election results. They present a concrete, indestructible archival record of all system activity related to the vote tally, and are essential for public confidence in the accuracy of the tally, for recounts, and for evidence in the event of criminal or civil litigation."

The relevant sections of the VSS are cited in Appendix E.

These statutory requirements establish that voting systems are required to generate and preserve, as critical to the ability to determine and reproduce the conditions and details of election conduct using these systems, logfiles of all system functions, including normal activity, connectivity, file and data access, operator- and automated-processes, and errors. Logfiles are critical to the ability to detect improper operation, including the ability to detect malicious intrusions as well as other improper activities and conditions, and configuration changes that could enable alteration of the actual vote count.

Assuming this information to be correct, this forensic examination found that a substantially large number of these requirements have not been met. This examination also found that destruction of critical logfiles has occurred. This destruction is not incidental or minor but is extensive.

The purpose of this initial report is to document these findings and present preliminary evidence demonstrating unacceptable conduct and system defects revealed by the examined images, as necessary for the Chief Election Official to discharge her statutory obligations. The facts and resultant findings support the conclusions that:

- 1) Election-related data explicitly required to be preserved, as stated in the 2002 VSS criteria referenced in this section, have been destroyed in violation of Federal and State law, and
- 2) Due to non-compliance with the 2002 VSS requirements, these voting systems and accompanying vendor-provided, Colorado Secretary of state-approved procedures cannot meet the certification requirements of the State of Colorado, and should not have been certified for use in the state.

Comprehensive investigation is required to determine whether these critical failures are the result of malicious intent or negligence, and to what extent the systems may have been compromised or subjected to unauthorized access or operation prior to, during, and after election use. That comprehensive investigation *is beyond the scope of this report*. Subsequent reports will address these issues in detail.

Evidence supporting all of these findings is documented in this report.

MESA FORENSIC REPORTS 2

FULL REPORT AVAILABLE AT
[**tinapeters.us/reports/**](https://tinapeters.us/reports/)

CONFIDENTIAL**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report documents findings in an ongoing forensic examination of images of the hard drives¹ of the Dominion Voting System (DVS) Democracy Suite (D-Suite) version 5.11-CO Election Management System (EMS) server of Mesa County, Colorado. The DVS D-Suite EMS server in that configuration was used for all elections held in 2020 and through May 2021, including the November, 2020 General Election, and the April, 2021 Grand Junction Municipal Election. This voting system represents a portion of the overall election system infrastructure in Mesa County and the State of Colorado. This report is limited to a subset of the findings of an ongoing investigation. Report #1 is incorporated by reference.² The findings in this report were prepared by me as a consultant to the legal team representing Tina Peters, the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, pursuant to her statutory duties as Mesa County's Chief Election Official.

Critical Discoveries

This report details the following critical discoveries regarding Mesa County's voting system:

- Uncertified software installed, rendering the voting system unlawful for use in elections.
- Does not meet statutorily mandated Voting System Standards (VSS) and could not have been lawfully certified for purchase or use.
- Suffered systematic deletion of election records (audit log files required by Federal and State law to be generated and maintained), which, in combination with other issues revealed in this report, creates an unauditable "back door" into the election system.
- Violates Voting Systems Standards ("VSS") which expressly mandate prevention of the ability to "change calculated vote totals." This report documents this non-compliance from the logged-in EMS server, from a non-DVS computer with network access, and from a cell phone (which may be possible if any of the 36 internal wireless devices in voting system components are deliberately or accidentally enabled and a password is obtained).
- Mandatory VSS "System Auditability" required features are disabled.
- Is configured with 36 wireless devices, which represent an extreme and unnecessary vulnerability, and which may be exploited to obtain unauthorized access from external devices, networks, and the Internet.
- Is configured through firewall settings to allow any computer in the world to connect to the Election Management System (EMS) server.
- Uses only a Windows password with generic userIDs to restrict and control access.
- Contains user accounts with administrative access that share passwords, subverting VSS-required user accountability and action traceability controls.
- Uses a self-signed encryption certificate which exposes the system to the risk of undetected compromise or alteration.

¹ A forensic image of a hard drive is a bit-for-bit copy of the user accessible data storage area residing on the data storage mechanism used by the computer system; it is every byte of data accessible to the computer or user. For a complete discussion of this definition, see Appendix J.

² Report No.1 was issued on September 15, 2021 and can be downloaded at <https://standwithtina.org/>.

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Most Significant Findings: The Voting System is Not Secure, Violates Security Standards Required By State and Federal Law

The most significant findings include the conclusive determination, based on testing, that the voting system is not secure and protections have not been implemented in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Election Commission's 2002 Voting System Standards (VSS) (see Appendix A). Those Standards constitute a mandatory minimum requirement for a voting system to be certified and used under Colorado law. Given the fundamental flaws in the security design and configuration of this system, there is no conceivable interpretation under which this voting system could be considered secure.³ The fact that it was tested and certified for use vitiates claims of competency and trustworthiness of the entire regime of testing and certification being used, of truthfulness of testing and certification statements, of competency of the Colorado Secretary of State's office, and of the validity of any election results obtained from the voting system as used in any jurisdiction.

"Back-Door" found in Voting System; Uncertified Software Invalidates Voting System Certification

The combination of unauthorized software installed in the EMS server in 2017 (still present in violation of law in 2021), the failure to employ security mechanisms already built into the system and required by VSS, and the obliteration of mandatory audit logs (destruction of both election records and evidence of access to the EMS server) that Federal and State law require be preserved, create a "back-door" to the EMS server that is only partially protected by a simple password, with no preserved audit records. The existence of uncertified software violates the certification of the voting system and makes the use of the voting system in an election illegal. Indeed, University of Michigan Professor J. Alex Halderman,⁴ a recognized computer science expert on electronic voting systems, testified under oath⁵ that components of this Dominion Voting System ("DVS") are highly vulnerable to attack and that the system he examined is used in 16 other states, including Colorado. In his declaration he states under oath that this vulnerability in the Dominion voting system can be used to "steal votes", and requests the federal court allow him to give the Critical Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) immediate access to his report detailing his findings.⁶ The findings in this report agree with Professor Halderman's finding that the system can be used to steal elections.

³ Even the Center for Internet Security (CIS) recognizes the need for these controls in their Handbook for Election Infrastructure Security: <https://www.cisecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CIS-Elections-eBook-15-Feb.pdf>. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which chaired the development of the Voting Systems Standards extensively recommends the fundamental security principle of "Least Privilege" that has been ignored in the configuration of the EMS.

⁴ Professor of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Michigan, Director, University of Michigan Center for Computer Science and Society, Director, Michigan CSE Systems Lab, <https://jhalderm.com/>.

⁵ Declaration of J. Alex Halderman, *Curling et al. v. Raffensperger et al.*, 1:17-cv-02989-AT, Docket No. 1177-1, (ND Ga.).

⁶ *Id.*

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A password was not necessary to access this EMS server.⁷ There are many mechanisms by which a server can be exploited and administrative access obtained without a password; the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) National Vulnerability Database (NVD) has identified over eight hundred of these admin-access vulnerabilities⁸ (among hundreds of thousands of other vulnerabilities) since its inception in 2005, and the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) program operated by MITRE Corp. lists nearly 170,000 computer vulnerabilities⁹ that are *publicly known* since its inception in 1999.

Capability to Easily “Flip” Election Results Demonstrated

Tests demonstrate the vote totals can be easily changed, commonly known as “flipping the election,”¹⁰ in this critical Election Management System server. The VSS directs voting systems vendors, like DVS, to address this specific risk¹¹ but based on the software contained on the EMS that was analyzed, the vendor has not done so here. Further, the obliteration of audit trails (logs) on the EMS server makes it extraordinarily difficult (and maybe impossible) to forensically determine whether any external connection allowing unauthorized access to the voting system, wireless or wired, occurred before, during or after the elections.

This report describes the absence of legally required security features on the voting system and then demonstrates only a few examples of the many possible methods by which it is possible to change calculated vote totals and alter the results of an election as consequence of those security failures.

Voting System Components Manufactured and Assembled in China and Mexico

The Mesa County EMS server used through May 2021 (serial number 4NV1V52) was assembled in Mexico, and its motherboard was manufactured in China. It is well understood that foreign manufacture or assembly exposes the components to the risk of compromise through the installation of foreign-controlled access devices during manufacture in the reported supply-chain attack.¹²

Voting System Presents an Immediate threat and is Dangerous to use in the upcoming 2022 election

The tests conducted in this report demonstrate and document three test intrusions into the DVS Election Management System server using popular, commercially available software that allows easy access to vulnerable election records. Given even momentary access, a person with only moderate computer skills

⁷ The Mesa County Co. DVS D-Suite 5.11-CO server was forensically restored in a virtual environment, and a common password reset/bypass technique was used. See Appendix K. Also see www.gaverifiedvoting.org/pdf-litigation/20200819-785_2-Declaration-Alex-Halderman.pdf

⁸ https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/search/results?form_type=Basic&results_type=overview&query=administrative+access&search_type=all&isCpeNameSearch=false

⁹ <https://www.cve.org/>

¹⁰ The switching of calculated vote totals in an election has been identified in 2 other jurisdictions: Fulton County, Pennsylvania, and Antrim County, Michigan. See <https://rumble.com/embed/vjr2u6/?pub=dw7pn> which documents testimony of the Fulton County finding.

¹¹ “Changing the calculated vote totals,” VSS, Volume 1, section 6.1, page 6-93. See Appendix A.

¹² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-10-04/the-big-hack-how-china-used-a-tiny-chip-to-infiltrate-america-s-top-companies>; See Appendix L for discussion.

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can perform such an intrusion. It is not possible to reconcile these massive security failures with the obvious requirements for such an important piece of critical infrastructure. In combination with mandatory audit records being deleted in violation of state and federal laws that require their preservation, and in violation of evidence preservation orders for active legal cases¹³, this EMS server presents an immediate threat to election integrity, with potential grave consequence to Colorado and the Nation by allowing the unauthorized alteration of election results.

The threat is immediate because 2022 election processes are already underway with primary elections imminent, and many jurisdictions will use these systems, and citizens' electoral franchise will be at risk, if citizens and public officials are not warned.

The initial installation and continued presence of uncertified software (Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio) in the Mesa County EMS Server is a violation of law. However, the tests conducted for this report clearly demonstrate that it is not the SSMS software alone that enabled illegal access to and modification of election databases and scanned ballot images. The state certifying this software on a chronically insecure system does not remedy the system's chronic insecurity – it only obfuscates one problem (insecurity) with another (improper testing and certification).

In contrast to the testing and certification of DVS D-Suite 5.11-CO, the current certification in Colorado of DVS D-Suite 5.13 includes SSMS, but tests conducted in this examination demonstrate conclusively that the EMS system is insecure both with, and without, SSMS.

¹³ Log files and other auditable records of normal and abnormal activity on computer-based voting systems are not only election records which must be preserved for 22 months according to Federal law, and 25 months according to Colorado law, they also represent evidence that is subject to document preservation requirements in existing civil litigation and, foreseeably, for future civil and criminal cases.

MESA FORENSIC REPORTS 3

FULL REPORT AVAILABLE AT
[**tinapeters.us/reports/**](https://tinapeters.us/reports/)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the findings of an examination of tabulated vote databases based on forensic analysis of the drive image of Mesa County, Colorado's Dominion Voting Systems (DVS) Election Management System (EMS) server. The findings in this report were prepared by the authors as consultants to the legal team representing Tina Peters, the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, pursuant to her statutory duties as Mesa County's Chief Election Official. The findings provide evidence of potentially unauthorized and illegal manipulation of tabulated vote data during the 2020 General Election and 2021 Grand Junction Municipal Election. Because of this evidence, which led to the vote totals for those elections being impossible to verify, the results and integrity of Mesa County's 2020 General Election and the 2021 Grand Junction Municipal Election are in question.

This analysis was performed using the forensic image of the EMS server, which was backed up before Colorado Secretary of State and DVS overwrote the hard drive with D-Suite version 5.13.

Findings and Implications:

- 1) There was an unauthorized creation of new election databases during early voting in the 2020 General Election on October 21, 2020, followed by the digital reloading of 20,346 ballot records into the new election databases, making the original voter intent recorded from the ballots unknown. In addition, 5,567 ballots in 58 batches did not have their digital records copied to the new database, although the votes from the ballots in those batches were recorded in the Main election database.
- 2) The same unauthorized creation of new election databases occurred during the 2021 Grand Junction Municipal Election on March 30, 2021, followed by the digital reloading of 2,974 ballot records, making the original voter intent recorded on those ballots unknown. In addition, 4,458 ballots in 46 batches did not have their digital records copied to the

new database, although the votes from the ballots in those batches were recorded in the Main election database.

- 3) The absence of secure hash algorithm (.sha) files for each digital ballot image makes the authenticity of each digital ballot image, and the ballot-level record for those ballots, impossible to verify.
- 4) The true total vote count in Mesa County, Colorado cannot be accurately calculated for the 2020 General Election or the 2021 Grand Junction Municipal Election from records in the databases of the county's voting system.
- 5) There is no function or feature on the EMS server that could be executed inadvertently or deliberately by a local election official that would cause this combination of events to occur, especially within the time frame that these events occurred. Given the complex sequence of data manipulations and deletions necessary to produce the digital evidence described in this report, this combination of events could not have been the result of either deliberate or inadvertent actions by those officials.
- 6) Dominion's installation of the Trusted Build update on the EMS in May of 2021, as ordered by the Colorado Secretary of State, destroyed all data on the EMS hard drive, including the batch and ballot records that evidenced the creation of new databases and reprocessing of ballot records described in Findings 1 and 2 above. This destruction of all data by the trusted build is described in the "Mesa County, Colorado Voting Systems Forensic Examination and Analysis Report".
- 7) The fact that such ballot record manipulation has been shown demonstrates a critical security failure with the DVS EMS wherever it is used. The manipulation would not be identifiable to an election official using the voting systems, nor to an observer or judge overseeing the election conduct, much less to citizens with no access to the voting systems; without both cyber and database management system expertise, and

unfettered access to database records and computer log files (many of which were destroyed by the actions of the Secretary of State) from the EMS server, the manipulation would be undetectable.

Tina Peters has filed for declaratory and injunctive relief against defendants UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MERRICK B. GARLAND, Attorney General of the United States in his official capacity, JENA GRISWOLD, Colorado Secretary of State, in her official capacity, and DANIEL P. RUBINSTEIN, District Attorney of the Twenty-First Judicial District, in his official capacity,

Case No. 1:23-cv-03014-SKC Document 1 filed 11/14/23 USDC Colorado pg 1 of 43

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Civil Action No.

TINA PETERS

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
MERRICK B. GARLAND, Attorney General of the United States in his official
capacity,
JENA GRISWOLD, Colorado Secretary of State, in her official capacity, and
DANIEL P. RUBINSTEIN, District Attorney of the Twenty-First Judicial District,
in his official capacity,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief seeking to prohibit the United States and its agents and agents of the State of Colorado from conducting criminal and other proceedings against Plaintiff, Tina Peters, for the unlawful purpose of retaliating against her:

(a) for exercising her freedom of speech, freedom of association, and her right to petition the government for the redress of grievances, which are

Case No. 1:23-cv-03014-SKC Document 1 filed 11/14/23 USDC Colorado pg 2 of 43

guaranteed by the First Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and

(b) for her efforts, as Mesa County Clerk and by law the designated election official, to preserve election records in compliance with federal and state law in violation of her right to due process of law and her privileges and immunities as a citizen of the United States guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

2. This action is grounded on the elementary proposition of law that a command of a state officer, in whatever form, which as applied would compel a county official to violate a federal or state statute has no standing as a legitimate, legally binding command, and so has no force or effect. And when that command is designed to conceal official malfeasance affecting the public interest in accurate and fair elections, which the county official discovers by her efforts to faithfully comply with those federal and state statutes, her truthful public disclosures of the facts of that malfeasance are protected by the most fundamental principles of the First Amendment. The importance of that protection is at its highest in the face of grossly untrue calumny by that state official and the use of government power to retaliate against the county official.

Case No. 1:23-cv-03014-SKC Document 1 filed 11/14/23 USDC Colorado pg 3 of 43

3. Furthermore, under the Fourteenth Amendment it is a privilege and immunity of national citizenship to comply with federal law and engage in the administration of government functions free from retaliation by state and local officials. And the due process of law guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment shields a citizen of the United States from the use of the instrumentalities of state or local government, including criminal prosecution, to retaliate against that citizen for her compliance with federal law.

4. Defendants' conduct exposes their singular goal of achieving political power and maintaining it, even at the cost of undermining the system of fair and trustworthy election that is a cornerstone of our democracy.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Tina Peters is a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Colorado, and the former Mesa County Clerk and Recorder.

6. Defendant United States is the government established by the Constitution of the United States.

7. Defendant Merrick B. Garland is sued in his official capacity as Attorney General of the United States. Defendants Garland and the United States may be collectively referred to herein as the "Federal Defendants."

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8. Defendant Jena Griswold is sued in her official capacity as Secretary of State of Colorado.

9. Defendant Daniel P. Rubinstein is sued in his official capacity as District Attorney of the 21st Judicial District of Colorado. Defendants Rubinstein and Griswold may be referred to collectively as the “State Defendants.”

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. Jurisdiction is predicated on 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343(a)(3), and 1346(a)(2).

11. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims asserted in this Complaint occurred in Denver, Colorado, in this District.

PETERS’ DUTIES AS COUNTY CLERK AND THE DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL

12. On November 8, 2018, Peters was elected County Clerk and Recorder of Mesa County, Colorado for a four-year term.

13. As County Clerk and Recorder, Peters served as the designated election official who exercised authority and was charged with responsibility for, among other things, the “running” of the 2020 election of presidential electors in Mesa County and the 2021 municipal elections in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado. C.R.S. § 1-1-104(8).

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14. The Mesa County election management system (“EMS”) server contained electronic records of the November 2020 election, and the 2021 municipal election.

15. Under federal statutes, voting systems must “produce a record with audit capacity,” 52 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(2)(A), and every officer of election must retain and preserve, for a period of twenty-two months, “all records and papers” related to any federal election. 52 U.S.C. § 20701.

16. The criminal penalty for violating 52 U.S.C. § 20701 is a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year or both.

17. Griswold and Peters were both “officers of election” as defined in 52 U.S.C. § 20706.

18. C.R.S. § 1-7-802 requires every designated election official to preserve “any election records” for a period of at least twenty-five months after the election.

19. Peters had independent statutory duties to preserve election records under both federal and state law.

20. The purposes of preserving electronic election records are, among other things, to detect and prosecute civil rights violations and election crimes, to

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audit the performance of the computer voting system, and to reconstruct an election when necessary to confirm its legitimacy.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Peters' Efforts to Preserve Election Records

21. On April 21, 2021, Peters requested the Mesa County Information Technology Department to make a copy of the Mesa County EMS hard drive, which would have preserved all election records on the physical server. That request was denied.

22. On April 30, 2021, Griswold issued a directive (the "Griswold directive") requiring county election officials, including Peters, to participate in installing a "Trusted Build" software upgrade to the hard drives of county computer voting systems. A copy of the directive is Exhibit 1.

23. Griswold and Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. ("Dominion") jointly developed the protocol and requirements for the installation of the Trusted Build upgrade.

24. Before the installation of the Trusted Build upgrade, Peters was advised by David Stahl, a Dominion employee, during a telephone conversation in April 2021 that one effect of the Trusted Build upgrade would be to make it impossible to read the digital election records used in the 2020 election of

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presidential electors in Mesa County and the 2021 municipal election in Grand Junction.

25. Though the Griswold directive instructed local election officials to backup “election projects” before the upgrade, those “projects” did not include all the records that are essential for a post-election audit, such as audit logs, access logs, and an image of the hard drive of the County’s EMS server.

26. The federal and Colorado statutes requiring election records to be preserved had not yet expired when the Trusted Build upgrade was scheduled to occur.

27. Peters understood from her communications with Griswold's staff that Griswold was fully aware that the Trusted Build upgrade would erase at least some of the existing election records on the Mesa County EMS server in violation of federal and Colorado laws. And Griswold’s actions in 2021 and 2022 during which Griswold had repeatedly interfered with Peters' supervision of the Mesa County election function and falsely accused Peters of violating Griswold's rules convinced Peters that Griswold was determined to delete the records of the recent elections and that it would be futile to request that Trusted Build not be installed.

28. The official website of the Colorado Secretary of State stated that the federal election records preservation statute is binding on all election officials,

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which confirms that Griswold knew or was charged with knowledge that the destruction, deletion, alteration, or overwriting of election records by any election official within the specified period after a federal election was prohibited by federal law.

29. Similarly, Peters was aware when she learned of the Griswold directive that Peters had a duty under both federal and Colorado law to assure the preservation of all election records on the Mesa County EMS server.

30. The Griswold directive requiring Peters and other local election officials to assist in the Trusted Build upgrade violated Griswold's own duty under federal and Colorado laws to preserve all election records for prescribed periods and compelled Colorado election officials, including Peters, to violate those laws.

31. To comply with her legal obligations to preserve election records, Peters lawfully exercised her authority to arrange for a consultant on May 23, 2021, before the upgrade, to make a forensic image of the Mesa County EMS hard drive. A "forensic image" is a bit-by-bit, non-modifiable (read only) copy of all the digital data stored on a disk drive.

32. On May 25, 2021, agents of Griswold performed the Trusted Build upgrade, which caused election records and data, including at least operating system log files, on the Mesa County EMS server to be overwritten and to be no

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longer recoverable in violation of federal and Colorado records-preservation statutes.

33. On May 26, 2021, after the upgrade, Peters again lawfully exercised her authority to arrange for a consultant to make a forensic image of the Mesa County EMS server.

34. At all times when that consultant was in a secure area, he was supervised by an employee with authorized access in compliance with Election Rule 20.5.3(b).

35. The making of the forensic images of the Mesa County EMS server did not interfere with or obstruct in any way the installation of the Trusted Build upgrade nor did it breach security in any way.

36. Upon receiving the forensic images, Peters provided them to cyber security expert Douglas W. Gould for analysis.

37. Mr. Gould served as Chief Cyber Security Strategist for AT&T. He has been involved in cybersecurity issues at the highest levels of government and corporate entities for decades. He served as Chief Security Officer at the World Institute for Security Enhancement and is currently Chief Technical Officer at CyberTeamUS.

38. The forensic images were also later provided to computer experts Walter C. Daugherty, Ed.D. and Jeffrey O'Donnell. Dr. Daugherty received his Masters in the Art of Teaching Mathematics from Harvard University in 1967 (at the age of 20), and received his doctorate in Mathematical Education, also from Harvard, in 1977. Dr. Daugherty works as a computer consultant, and in that capacity has worked for clients in the private and public sectors, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, IBM's Federal Systems Division, Southwestern Bell Telephone, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Customs Service. He currently is also a Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas A & M University in the Departments of Computer Science and Engineering. He has also worked as a Teaching Fellow in the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences and as a Systems Programmer in the Computer-Aided Instruction Laboratory, both at Harvard. He is the author of numerous refereed publications and other technical papers and presentations.

39. O'Donnell is a Full Stack software and database developer and analyst with degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh. He has been a consultant to numerous American corporations and private entities, including Rockwell International, Westinghouse Electric Nuclear, General Defense, U.S. Steel, Mellon Bank, IOTA 360, and the Penn State Applied

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Research Laboratory. He currently serves as President of Qest Development, a full service software consulting and publishing company, and Chief Information Officer of Ordros Analytics, which specializes in election analytics of all types.

40. These experts analyzed the forensic images. They concluded that the Mesa County disk drive images revealed an unusual phenomenon that occurred during both the November 2020, General Election and the April 2021, Grand Junction municipal election. After some of the ballots were processed and their information recorded in a set of Microsoft SQL database tables for the respective election (“Set 1”), no further data were entered in Set 1 even though ballot processing was not complete. Rather, data from processing additional ballots were entered into a separate, newly created set of tables (“Set 2”). Further, some but not all of the data from Set 1 was copied into Set 2. Accordingly, neither Set 1 nor Set 2 contained all the data from counting all the ballots. Because the creation of Set 2 hid Set 1 from election workers, breaking the chain of custody and violating federal auditability requirements, election officials had no way to examine or review the ballots in Set 1 which were not copied to Set 2. This calls into question the integrity of the vote counting process and the validity of the election results. The experts issued Mesa Report 3, which explains why the authors believe the

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unusual creation of Set 2 and the partial copying of some but not all of the data from Set 1 did not result from intervention by Mesa County election personnel.

41. The experts also concluded that Dominion's Trusted Build upgrade overwrote the entire EMS operating system, including electronic system log files containing auditable election records of the 2020 and 2021 elections.

42. Evidence of unexplained multiple ballot databases on the Mesa County EMS server, as well as log files and other 2020 and 2021 election records, all of which were subsequently overwritten by the Trusted Build upgrade, were election records required to be preserved by federal and Colorado law and regulations.

43. On July 28, 2021, the Department of Justice published a report announcing that those who insist on conducting election audits could be subject to federal investigation and prosecution. That report committed the Department to "ensure full compliance with all federal laws that govern the retention and preservation of election records."

<https://www.justice.gov/ag/page/file/1438936/download>. The publication confirmed that state election officials "must therefore also retain and preserve records created in digital or electronic form."

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B. Retaliation and Harassment by State and Federal Officials

44. Griswold's response upon learning on or about August 2, 2021, that an image of the Mesa County EMS hard drive had been made was to order several of her staff members to take control of the office of the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder and to begin an investigation.

45. The making and dissemination of the forensic images violated no statute, administrative regulation, rule, or order in existence at any relevant time.

46. Nevertheless, Griswold has described the forensic images made of EMS as "unauthorized" and sought prosecutions of Peters and others in Peters' office for making the forensic images. But Griswold has not investigated the creation of additional ballot databases on the Mesa County EMS during the 2020 and 2021 elections, nor has she acknowledged the illegality of her own directive that caused election records to be deleted when the trusted build was installed.

47. Griswold's characterization that the making of forensic images was somehow unlawful or improper is unequivocally untrue, as her own deputy admitted under oath. Appearing on behalf of the Secretary of State in *Griswold v. Schroeder*, Case No. in the District Court of Elbert County on November 2, 2022, Deputy Secretary Christopher Beall testified that Elbert County Clerk and

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Recorder Dallas Schroeder had lawfully made an image of that County's EMS server in August 2021.

48. Beall testified further that neither Colorado law nor a rule or order of the Secretary prohibited Schroeder from making the image in August 2021.

49. Schroeder's conduct causing an image to be made of the Elbert County EMS server was substantially the same as Peters' conduct causing Mesa County's forensic images to be made.

50. Beall also admitted that the installation of the Trusted Build update in May 2021 overwrote the memory contained on the hard drives that are a component of the EMS server. This overwritten memory is where log files created by the EMS server are stored.

51. Defendant Rubinstein initiated an investigation of Peters and members of her office on or about August 9, 2021, at the request of Griswold.

52. Rubinstein requested the involvement of the Office of Colorado Attorney General Philip Jacob Weiser in the investigation of the making of the forensic images.

53. Rubinstein then communicated with federal law enforcement officials and requested that they investigate Peters.

54. Rubinstein and the federal and state law enforcement officials involved in the investigation knew that deletion of election records by an election official constitutes a violation of federal and Colorado law in the circumstances of this case, but they declined to pursue Griswold's potential violations of federal and Colorado election records preservation laws.

55. Rubinstein and Weiser joined forces in August 2021 to conduct a joint investigation of the circumstances surrounding the making of the forensic images in Mesa County but have not brought a charge against Griswold for violating Colorado's election records preservation statute or investigated whether there was a violation of Colorado law in the unexplained creation of additional ballot databases in two consecutive elections on the Mesa County EMS.

56. On August 9, 2021, Griswold issued Election Order 2021-01 (Exhibit 2), ordering Peters to permit an investigation of the voting system components and security protocol, and requiring Peters to produce records. The order stated that the "breach in security protocol has not created an imminent direct security risk to Colorado's elections."

57. On August 10, 2021, while Peters was participating in a Cyber Symposium in South Dakota sponsored by Michael J. Lindell, at which she made a presentation on the findings of the computer experts who had analyzed the Mesa

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County EMS server images, Griswold's agents, accompanied by Rubinstein's agents, inspected Mesa County voting system components and records at the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's Office.

58. During the inspection on August 10, 2021, Griswold's agents found no damage to Mesa County voting system components or software.

59. On August 12, 2021, Griswold issued Election Order 2021-02 (Exhibit 3), which prohibited Peters and Mesa County from using its computer voting system "because the Department could not establish that the voting system was not compromised."

60. Election order 2021-02 was unnecessary. Making the forensic images had caused no harm to the voting system hardware or software. Election Order 2021-02 served to humiliate Peters and make her unpopular with voters by requiring Mesa County to purchase a new voting system. It was intended to silence Peters and other critics of computer voting systems.

61. On information and belief, Rubinstein obtained possession of the Mesa County voting system components that were listed in Election Order 2021-02, and subsequently delivered possession of the components to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Denver, Colorado. On information and belief,

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the Denver FBI office still has possession of the Mesa County voting system equipment.

62. On August 17, 2021, Griswold issued Election Order 2021-03 (Exhibit 4) assuming responsibility for the supervision of elections in Mesa County, prohibiting Peters' staff from any involvement in elections, and appointing Sheila Reiner to supervise all elections in the County.

63. Under Colorado law, an elected official cannot be removed without a recall vote by voters in the district or county in which she was elected.

64. Prior to August 2021, Griswold advocated to the Mesa County Board of County Commissioners (the "County Board") to replace the Dominion voting system, with a different system from the vendor Clear Ballot.

65. On August 24, 2021, the County Board entered into an agreement with Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. for Dominion to replace the computer voting system equipment. A copy of the Agreement is attached as Exhibit 5.

66. On August 30, 2021, Griswold filed a petition in the District Court of Mesa County (Civil Action 2021-CV-30214) requesting the District Court to replace Peters as Mesa County's designated election official with Wayne Williams for the 2021 election.

67. On September 1, 2021, a meeting requested by Peters' political associate Sherronna Bishop to allow her to present her concerns about computerized voting systems was held in the offices of the Mesa County government attended in person or virtually by representatives of U.S. Attorney General Garland, Rubinstein and members of his staff, personnel from the office of Secretary of State Griswold, officers of Dominion, an FBI Special Agent, members of the Mesa County Board of County Commissioners, Ryan Macias, a critic of those who questioned the regularity of elections, Ms. Bishop, and retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Shawn Smith.

68. At the September 1, 2021, meeting, Colonel Smith presented his position and evidence that there are multiple vulnerabilities in the Dominion voting machines, which others at the meeting declined to address.

69. On September 3, 2021, Griswold approved the County Board's lease of new equipment from Dominion and disposal of the old equipment. A copy of the approval is attached as Exhibit 6.

70. On September 17, 2021, Peters presented a petition to the County Board to discontinue the use of computer voting systems in Mesa County supported by a report concerning the two forensic images made of the Mesa County EMS server in May 2021 prepared by Mr. Gould entitled *Forensic*

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Examination and Analysis Report (Mesa Report 1). Copies of the petition and the report are attached as Exhibit 7.

71. The report concluded that election records that were required to be preserved pursuant to federal and Colorado law had been destroyed, that any comprehensive forensic audit of the elections in 2020 and 2021 would be impossible, and that the certification by the Secretary of State of the Mesa County computerized voting system had been vitiated.

72. On October 13, 2021, the Mesa County District Court issued its order appointing Wayne Williams as the designated election official for Mesa County for the 2021 election and confirming Sheila Reiner's appointment as Election Supervisor. A copy of the Order is attached as Exhibit 8.

73. On October 20, 2021, the Colorado Supreme Court declined to exercise its jurisdiction to review the District Court's October 13 Order. A copy of the Supreme Court's Order is attached as Exhibit 9.

74. On November 16, 2021, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the ultimate direction of Garland, accompanied by state and local law enforcement personnel executed search-and-seizure warrants on the residences of Peters, Sherronna Bishop, Sandra Brown, and Gerald Wood.

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75. Those warrants were executed in a manner that involved excessive force and unnecessary damage to private property.

76. The following day, on November 17, 2021, Rubinstein and Colorado Attorney General Philip J. Weiser issued a joint press release stating that the execution of search and seizure warrants was a joint operation involving agents of the FBI, Colorado Attorney General, and Rubinstein.

77. On January 10, 2022, Griswold issued Election Order 2022-01 (Exhibit 10), which recited public statements made by Peters asserting, among other things, that Griswold's Department had "destroyed election records" and "allow[ed] influences to come into our computers changing votes...." That order required Peters to "repudiate, in writing, both the statement she made on January 5, 2022, in a FacebookLive broadcast indicating [Peters'] willingness to compromise voting equipment, that is, [Peters'] assertion that 'we've got to get those machines so... they're not able to do what they're designed to do,' and further all other statements [Peters]has made indicating a willingness to compromise voting system equipment."

78. This "repudiation" was to be expressed within 72 hours by a "Certification and Attestation," which is attached as Exhibit 11.

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79. Peters has never stated or intimated any willingness to compromise the lawful operation of Mesa County's or any other voting system equipment.

80. When Peters did not sign the "Certification and Attestation" within 72 hours, on January 18, 2022, Griswold filed civil action 2022CV3007 in the District Court of Mesa County, requesting that Peters be replaced as designated election official for Mesa County for the remainder of her four-year term of office.

81. On March 1, 2022, Peters again petitioned the County Board to discontinue using computer voting systems in Mesa County. Peters supported her petition with the second report of Mr. Gould (Mesa Report 2). A copy of Peters' petition and Mr. Gould's report are attached collectively as Exhibit 12.

82. On April 23, 2022, citizens Cory Anderson and Sherronna Bishop submitted Mesa Report 3 to Rubinstein. A copy of the report is attached as Exhibit 13.

83. Based on their detailed analysis, Dr. Daugherty and Mr. O'Donnell determined that the forensic image made before the trusted build showed that ballot tabulations had been interrupted, and ballot tabulation databases had been altered, during both the November 3, 2020, election and the 2021 municipal elections.

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84. Dr. Daugherity and Mr. O'Donnell further determined that the forensic image showed the unexpected and anomalous creation of a second set of ballot databases and a digital transfer of selected batches of thousands of previously tabulated ballots into those databases.

85. As demonstrated by the report of Dr. Daugherity and Mr. O'Donnell, the unexplained and unexpected creation of a second set of ballot databases during two consecutive elections, could not have been triggered by Dominion's certified software, leading to the conclusion that uncertified software may have been clandestinely installed on the Mesa County EMS.

86. On May 10, 2022, in civil action 2022CV3007, the Mesa County District Court granted Griswold's petition to permanently replace Peters as the designated election official for Mesa County. A copy of the court's Order is attached as Exhibit 14.

87. In response to Mesa Report 3, Rubinstein and Investigator Michael Struwe presented a report to the Mesa County Board on May 19, 2022. A copy of that report is attached as Exhibit 15.

88. Rubinstein's report was prepared and submitted in bad faith and for the purpose of intimidating and deterring Peters from continuing to speak out about

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2020 election anomalies and weak election security, and from continuing to advocate for ending reliance on computerized voting systems, such as Dominion's.

89. The findings of Rubinstein and Struwe have been challenged by Walter Daugherty in his declaration, which is attached as Exhibit 16.

90. Rubinstein and Struwe have no expertise in cyber or database matters and did not have the benefit of independent cyber or database expertise in preparing their findings.

91. On information and belief, the only advice or assistance that Rubinstein and Struwe received in preparing their findings was from the office of the Colorado Secretary of State and Dominion.

92. Exhibit 16 explains that the Rubinstein report wrongly claimed that Sandra Brown caused the creation of the second ballot database by halting and re-starting the adjudication of ballots. In fact, Rubinstein had never interviewed Sandra Brown. When Sandra Brown was interviewed by Jeff O'Donnell, Ms. Brown stated that she never initiated a "halt and re-start" of ballot adjudication, as the Rubinstein report claimed. The Rubinstein report failed to mention or explain the fact that in two consecutive elections, the Mesa County voting system created an extra database that masked the actual election results.

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93. The campaign launched by the State Defendants against Peters in retaliation for her obedience to the law and her truth-telling concerning the malfeasance she discovered was punctuated by an aggressive campaign to personally disparage and denigrate Peters, falsely accusing her of illegal conduct.

94. For example, in a news release published by Griswold on January 18, 2022, announcing her action to remove Peters as the Designated Election Official, Griswold stated:

Clerk Peters' actions constituted one of the nation's first insider threats where an official, elected to uphold free, fair, and secure elections risked the integrity of the election system in an effort to prove unfounded conspiracy theories.

95. Griswold stated to a media outlet in February 2022: "Our expectations of elected officials is to follow the law and election rules and protocols. We unfortunately are seeing the clerk [Peters] spread misinformation about Colorado elections."

96. Griswold did not apply that same expectation to herself by evaluating her own failure to follow laws mandating the preservation of election records.

97. Griswold has taken no action in response either to the discovery of problems on the EMS server, or to Griswold's own unlawful directive that caused the deletion of election records.

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98. This unbridled viciousness directed at Peters reached the point where on July 11, 2022, Rubinstein's investigator, James Cannon, would falsely state in an affidavit to the judge presiding over Peters' criminal trial that making a digital image of the EMS' hard drive was unlawful. Affidavit of James Cannon, at 9 (July 11, 2022) (attached as Exhibit 17). It was only four months later, as described above, that Griswold's deputy, Beall, admitted under oath that making such an image was not unlawful.

i. The Federal Investigation

99. The administration of President Joe Biden assumed power on January 20, 2021, and shortly thereafter announced its National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategy-for-Countering-Terrorism.pdf>.

100. Several cabinet officers issued reports, press releases, or public statements announcing that they would attempt to suppress speech that questioned the legitimacy of Biden's election. These actions were part of the administration's campaign to punish citizens for, and to discourage citizens from, exercising their rights of free speech, association, the press, and the right to petition for the redress of grievances by speaking out about election fraud in the 2020 election.

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101. Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines issued a report on March 1, 2021, asserting that those who espouse “narratives of fraud in the recent election...will almost certainly spur some [domestic violent extremists] to try to engage in violence....” <https://www.dni.gov/documents/assessments/Unclass-SummaryofDVEAssessment-17MAR21.pdf>.

102. Newly confirmed United States Attorney General Merrick Garland gratuitously announced in July 2021 that claims of vote fraud in the 2020 presidential election were baseless and the Department of Justice would investigate and prosecute individuals who pursued audits of elections that violated federal law. <https://www.bloomberg.com/articles/2021-03-01/doj-pick-garland-disputes-trump-claims-of-widespread-voter-fraud#xj4y7vzkg>.

103. On May 14, 2021, in a National Terrorism Advisory Bulletin, the Department of Homeland Security referenced a heightened threat environment fueled by disinformation, conspiracy theories, and false narratives. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/05/14/dhs-issues-national-advisory-system-ntas-bulletin>. See also <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/01/27/dhs-issues-national-terrorism-advisory-system-ntas-bulletin>."

104. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas published a document in March 2021 in support of the National Strategy for Countering

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Terrorism that associated domestic extremism with “sociopolitical developments such as narratives of fraud in the recent general election.”

https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publication/21_0301_odni_unclass-summary-of-dve-assessment-17_march-final_508.pdf.

105. Attorney General Garland published a report on July 28, 2021, threatening to investigate and prosecute those citizens who pursued forensic audits of the 2020 election. <https://www.justice.gov/ag/page/file/1438936/download>.

106. Rubinstein communicated with federal law enforcement officials about the state investigation of Peters, knowing that Biden Administration officials had published such statements threatening federal investigation of those who challenged the result of the 2020 general election or sought audits of that election. A federal investigation of Peters was initiated in August 2021.

107. In 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice convened a federal grand jury to investigate Tina Peters and the forensic imaging of the Mesa County EMS server.

108. Speaking out and associating with others of like mind to advance a message about the need for election integrity is protected by the First Amendment, regardless of whether the statements contained in the message are accurate.

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109. The investigation of Peters by the Department of Justice was undertaken to punish and retaliate against her for having exercised her rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to question the integrity of the November 2020 election and to intimidate and discourage her from continuing to do so.

110. The tactics used by the FBI during the investigation into the making and publishing of the Mesa County forensic images were intended to intimidate and deter citizens from associating with those, including Peters, who advocate ending the use of computerized voting systems, such as Dominion's. Such intimidation tactics burden Peters' ability to engage in protected First Amendment communications and associational activity.

111. The Department of Justice exercised bad faith in launching the investigation of Peters because it knew or should have known it had no reasonable prospect of obtaining convictions on the basis of charges under the three statutes it has invoked: 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1028(a)(7), and 1030(a)(2)(A).

112. The charge of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028(a)(7) is legally insufficient because there was no intent to violate another statute, the access card involved was not "issued by or under the authority of the United States or a sponsoring entity of an event designated as a special event of national significance," and there was no federal nexus giving the court jurisdiction.

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113. The charge of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(2)(A) fails because there was no damage to the EMS server caused by the making of the forensic images.

114. The charge of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 fails because there was no violation of either of the other two statutes.

115. On information and belief, the Federal Defendants have not pursued any investigation to determine how additional databases were created on the Mesa County EMS during ballot tabulations in two consecutive elections.

116. At the conclusion of the state investigation conducted jointly by District Attorney Rubinstein and the Colorado Attorney General, Rubinstein issued a press release on August 30, 2022, announcing that he and Attorney General Weiser had asked the United States Attorney to continue his federal investigation of Peters. The press release is attached as Exhibit 18.

117. The Department of Justice, including the FBI, has continued its investigation to determine if any federal crime had been committed by Peters but ignored Griswold's violation of the federal election records preservation statutes.

ii. The State Prosecution

118. After launching his investigation of Peters and the making of the images of the Mesa County EMS hard drive, Rubinstein convened a grand jury in

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Mesa County to investigate Tina Peters and the forensic imaging of the Mesa County EMS

119. In bad faith, Rubinstein submitted applications to magistrates for search warrants and arrest warrants and asked the Mesa County grand jury to indict Peters without advising the grand jury that the deletion of election records of the 2020 presidential election ordered by Griswold as a result of the installation of the Trusted Build upgrade violated federal and Colorado law, or that Peters and the other individuals charged had a legal obligation to preserve the election record that Griswold had directed them to delete.

120. The grand jury returned the indictment against Peters on March 8, 2022. A copy of the indictment is attached as Exhibit 19.

121. Rubinstein acted in bad faith to present the indictment of Peters to the grand jury because none of the counts has a reasonable prospect of justifying a conviction.

122. The bad faith of Rubinstein is underscored by the fatally flawed charges he has brought against Peters, in particular the failure of the indictment to address Peters' understanding of her duty under federal and Colorado laws to preserve election records on the Mesa County EMS server, negating the criminal intent required to establish the offenses charged.

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123. An equally fundamental legal insufficiency of the indictment is the absence of clear allegations giving at least the bare bones detail needed to put Peters on notice of the charges against her and to define exactly what the prosecution must prove.

124. The charges set out against Peters fail to pass muster as a minimally sufficient indictment under basic norms of due process because they fail to allege facts supporting critical elements of the offenses charged. For example,

a) Counts 1, 2, and 5 allege attempts to influence public servants by “deceit,” which Colorado law understands as a *fraudulent* misrepresentation or conduct designed to *defraud* another, but these counts contain no factual allegations of fraud by Peters.

b) Counts 4, 6, and 7 charge criminal impersonation, which under Colorado law must be undertaken for *unlawful* purposes with the intent to *unlawfully* gain a benefit or to *injure* or *defraud* another. No factual allegations can be found in the indictment supporting such characterizations of Peters’ conduct.

c) Count 8 charges identity theft which must be done to obtain money or, other thing of value, but includes no factual allegations to this effect. Even more fundamentally troubling, the indictment fails to include the undisputed fact that

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the individual whose information was purportedly stolen gave his permission for Peters to use it.

d) Count 9 charges first degree official misconduct, which requires conduct done to obtain a benefit or maliciously cause harm to another. Again, no factual allegations are included in the indictment supporting such a characterization of Peters' conduct.

e) Count 10 charges a violation of duty and Count 11 charges a failure to comply with requirements of the Secretary of State. While it is not clear what specific conduct is being alleged in these counts, Peters violated no lawful "requirement" of the Secretary of State but rather fulfilled her duty to preserve election records as required by federal and state laws.

125. Rubinstein's investigator falsely represented in his affidavit in support of the application for an arrest warrant for Sandra Brown, who was Peters' elections manager, that Belinda Knisley had stated in her proffer interview with Rubinstein and the investigator that Peters had instructed Knisley to lie to the Mesa County Human Resources Department about Gerald Wood when the transcript of the interview showed that Knisley made no such statement.

126. Rubinstein sought an extraordinary, unnecessary, and plainly punitive amount of bond at \$500,000.00 after Peters was arrested following her indictment.

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127. Rubinstein maliciously forced Peters to remain in jail after her arrest on February 9, 2022, although he knew that her father was dying and, in fact, did die on February 10, 2022, while she was in jail.

128. Rubinstein refused to support Peters' request to travel outside Colorado for her father's funeral in a malicious effort to punish and retaliate against her for her outspoken concern about 2020 election anomalies, weak election security, and Griswold's violations of the federal and Colorado election records preservation statutes.

129. In July 2022, Rubinstein requested revocation of Peters' bond to punish and retaliate against her for making public statements on matters of grave public concern when she left Colorado to speak about illegal activity by Griswold and Dominion.

130. In August 2022, Rubinstein again maliciously opposed Peters' request to travel outside Colorado to engage in protected First Amendment activity, saying: "Ms. Peters is seeking permission to leave the state so that she can be celebrated as a hero for the conduct that a grand jury has indicted her for...." His opposition was plainly prompted by his expressly articulated disapproval of Peters' repeated assertions that Griswold had violated federal and Colorado law by ordering the deletion of election records.

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131. After the death of Peters' father, Struwe contacted Peters' 93-year-old mother, her sister, her daughter, and other members of Peters' family pressing them for information about Peters as a method of harassing Peters and her family members as retaliation against Peters for her role in the making and publishing of the forensic images, her outspoken criticism of Griswold, and her statements about the need to end the use of computerized voting systems, such as Dominion's.

132. Personnel from Rubinstein's office contacted Peters' husband, who was suffering from Parkinson's Disease and dementia at an adult care facility in Mesa County and pressured him to execute certain documents.

133. A lawyer representing Peters and her husband in November 2021 in connection with domestic matters emailed Peters to advise her that a member of the District Attorney's office had left a voicemail on the lawyer's telephone notifying the lawyer that Peters was the subject of a potential investigation into her actions as an agent under a power of attorney. The voicemail prompted the lawyer to advise Peters that he had a conflict of interest and could no longer represent her and her husband.

134. Despite the insistence by Peters' counsel that her experts only be contacted through him, Rubinstein's investigator Struwe repeatedly contacted

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Peters' expert Mr. O'Donnell directly in violation of the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct.

135. On June 5, 2022, the state court judge presiding over Peters' criminal prosecution ruled that she may not present evidence at trial to support her First and Fourteenth Amendment defenses to the charges against her (Exhibit 20). The effect of the ruling is to deny Peters the opportunity (a) to introduce evidence of Griswold's violation of federal and Colorado election-record preservation statutes and Griswold's directive that local election officials must participate in those violations, (b) to assert as a defense Peters' constitutional immunity from retaliation, including spurious criminal prosecution, for making forensic images to preserve election records, and (c) to invoke the protections of the United States Constitution's First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments.

136. Strikingly, even though Peters has not violated any state statute, the Department of Justice itself has nonetheless conceded in related litigation that violating a state statute cannot be criminally sanctioned where the individual "would be forced to choose between 'intentionally flouting state law' and 'forgoing what he believes to be constitutionally protected activity in order to avoid becoming enmeshed in (another) criminal proceeding.'" *Lindell v. United States*, No. 22-3510 (8th Cir.) (Appellees' Response Brief at 15).

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PETERS' CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED ACTIVITIES

137. Government misconduct and the legitimacy of elections are matters of public concern.

138. Speech concerning election integrity and government misconduct is protected by the First Amendment.

139. Investigation of government misconduct and election irregularities is activity protected by the First Amendment.

140. Pursuant to the Privileges and Immunities Clause in the Fourteenth Amendment and the Supremacy Clause in Article VI of the United States Constitution, a citizen of the United States, including a state or local official like Peters, is immune from prosecution for alleged violations of state law when that law is applied to prevent that citizen from complying with the requirements of a federal statute.

141. Under the unambiguous language of the federal and Colorado election records preservation laws, Peters had an overriding obligation to preserve all election records on the Mesa County EMS server for the prescribed periods and she cannot be held criminally liable – or be prosecuted -- for failing to comply with any directive from Griswold requiring Peters to violate, or cooperate in the violation of, those laws.

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142. All directives from Griswold that were intended to cause, and had the effect of causing, the deletion of election records which must be preserved under federal and Colorado law were unlawful, beyond Griswold's authority, void, and not binding on Peters.

143. The callous malfeasance of the State Defendants in their unrestrained, vicious attacks on Peters and her family is highlighted by the fact that they were well-aware of the requirements of the federal election records preservation statute. The official website of the Colorado Secretary of State stated at all relevant times that that statute is binding on all election officials.

144. The use of the instrumentalities of state or local government, including criminal prosecution, to retaliate against a citizen of the United States for compliance with federal law is a violation of that citizen's right to due process of law guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

145. If a forensic image of the EMS hard drive had not been made before the Trusted Build upgrade was installed, all election records showing the creation of the second set of ballot databases and the digital transfer of selected batches of thousands of previously tabulated Mesa County ballots would have been overwritten, deleted, and made no longer recoverable.

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146. Peters exercised her rights to free speech, free association, and to petition for the redress of grievances when she informed others about the existence and contents of the forensic images and about the conclusions of the cyber experts for the ultimate purpose of publicizing to authorities and the general public the unlawful deletion of election records at the direction of Griswold in violation of federal and Colorado election records preservation laws, and problems with the Mesa County computer voting system. Peters violated no laws when she publicized either the forensic images or the cyber and database experts' findings.

147. Peters has spoken at numerous rallies and other gatherings on the subjects of election security, Griswold's unlawful directive to delete election records, and the software installed on the Mesa County EMS server. Peters violated no laws by her actions participating at these events.

148. Peters' actions to secure a forensic image of the EMS server before the trusted build was an exercise of her privilege to comply with federal law with immunity from retaliatory action from state or local officials.

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COUNT 1

Violations by the Federal Defendants of Plaintiff's First Amendment Rights of Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Association, and the Right to Petition for the Redress of Grievances

149. The allegations in the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated here by reference.

150. Any form of official retaliation for exercising Plaintiff's freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment, including prosecution, threatened prosecution, bad faith investigation, and legal harassment constitutes a violation of the First Amendment.

151. The Federal Defendants' past and ongoing retaliatory and punitive conduct toward Peters was and is substantially motivated by Peters' constitutionally protected activity. Federal Defendants' conduct has caused and continues to threaten injuries to Peters that would chill a person of ordinary firmness from continuing to engage in Peters' constitutionally protected conduct.

152. Based upon the foregoing allegations and assertions, Defendant the United States has investigated Plaintiff to punish her for exercising her First Amendment free speech right for the purpose of informing her fellow citizens of illegal actions of Griswold and problems with the computer voting system in Mesa County, to petition for the redress of grievances, to associate for the purpose of

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expressive advocacy, and to discourage her and those who would associate with her from exercising their right to associate, to petition for redress of grievances, and to speak freely and publicly about the need for reform of the election system.

153. Peters' First Amendment rights will be violated by any further action of Defendants to investigate and prosecute her because of Defendants' bad faith and retaliatory actions and because Colorado courts have barred Peters from asserting in her criminal case the right not to be punished for exercising federal constitutional rights to engage in free speech, free association, and petitioning the government for redress of grievances.

154. Plaintiff is entitled to prospective injunctive relief from federal constitutional violations by federal officials.

155. Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2201.

COUNT 2

Violations by the State Defendants of Plaintiff's Rights, Privileges, and Immunities Secured by the United States Constitution

156. The allegations in the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated here by reference.

157. State Defendants Rubinstein and Griswold, acting under color of Colorado law, have undertaken an investigation and prosecution of Plaintiff to punish Peters, in violation of federal law,

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(a) for the exercise of her First Amendment rights to inform her fellow citizens of illegal actions of Griswold and problems with the computer voting system in Mesa County, to associate for the purpose of expressive advocacy, and to discourage Plaintiff and other citizens who have associated with Plaintiff or might associate in the future from exercising their right to associate, to petition for the redress of grievances, and to speak publicly for reform of the election system; and

(b) for her efforts to comply with federal law governing the maintenance of election records in violation of her right to the due process of the laws and her privileges and immunities as a citizen of the United States guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

This conduct is ongoing and threatens continuing and future injury to Peters.

158. State Defendants' past and ongoing retaliatory and punitive conduct toward Peters was and is substantially motivated by Peters' constitutionally protected activity. State Defendants' conduct has caused and continues to threaten injuries to Peters that would chill a person of ordinary firmness from continuing to engage in Peters' constitutionally protected conduct.

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159. Plaintiff is entitled to prospective injunctive relief from federal constitutional violations by state officials under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and *Ex parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123 (1908).

160. Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, *Ex parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123 (1908), and 28 U.S.C. § 2201.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff requests the entry of an Order or Orders:

- (a) Granting preliminary and permanent injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from conducting and proceeding with criminal proceedings, including investigations and prosecutions, against the Plaintiff pending the resolution of Plaintiff's claims brought in this action;
- (b) Declaring that Defendants' actions alleged herein have violated Plaintiff's First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of the press, right to petition for the redress of grievances, and the Supremacy Clause, as well as Plaintiff's rights to due process and to enjoy her privileges and immunities as a citizen of the United States under the Fourteenth Amendment.
- (c) Declaring that all warrants issued were in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments and, therefore, invalid;

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- (d) Declaring that subpoenas issued by the 21st Judicial District grand jury were in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments;
- (e) Declaring that the indictment of Plaintiff by the 21st Judicial District grand jury was in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments;
- (f) Granting reasonable attorneys' fees to Plaintiff pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and any other applicable laws; and
- (g) Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted November 14, 2023

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MIKE JOHNSON'S SPEAKERSHIP VICTORY H I G H L I G H T S DONALD TRUMP CONTINUED INFLUENCE WITHIN GOP

By Mary Gill



Former President Donald Trump has once again proven his enduring influence on the political landscape, as evidenced by the recent victory of Mike Johnson in the Speakership race. Despite Trump's often controversial statements and unyielding opinions, his ability to rally support among congressional Republicans remains unparalleled.

Mike Johnson, a staunch conservative and respected member of the Republican Party, emerged victorious in the Speakership race, securing the support of his colleagues and cementing his position as a key leader within the party. While Trump's play undoubtedly played a significant role in Johnson's success.

Trump's detractors argue that his influence over the Republican Party is indicative of a delusional mindset, citing his unyielding confidence in his ability to sway political outcomes. However, others contend that Trump's understanding of the GOP's inner workings is far from delusional. Instead, it demonstrates a clear-eyed assessment of his hold on congressional Republicans.

Supporters of Donald Trump argue that his influence in shaping the political landscape is not rooted in delusion but in his deep understanding of the sentiments and values of the Republican base. They assert that his support, like that of Mike Johnson in the Speakership race, is a testament to his ability to connect with voters and endorse candidates who align with conservative principles.

Furthermore, Trump's critics may underestimate his strategic acumen and political instincts. His endorsement of Republican candidates, a proven conservative leader, reflects his shrewd judgment of candidates who can energize the Republican base and champion the values that resonate with millions of Americans.

Johnson, a staunch conservative and a vocal supporter of Trump's policies, aligns closely with the former President's vision for the party. This victory underscores Trump's continued ability to rally Republicans around candidates who share his core values and priorities.

In his victory speech, Johnson expressed gratitude for the support he received from his colleagues and emphasized the need for unity within the party.

This development has sparked discussions about the future of the Republican Party and the role Trump will play in shaping its direction. Some political analysts argue that Trump's influence might be divisive, while others believe it offers a clear direction for the party's platform and policies.



Photo by Gage Skidmore

Religious leaders within the Republican Party have praised Johnson's victory, emphasizing the importance of strong conservative values and the need for a united front.

As the dust settles after the Speakership race, Republicans find themselves at a crossroads, with Trump's influence looming large over their decisions. The future direction of the party remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: Trump's Influence continues to carry significant weight among congressional Republicans, as demonstrated by Mike Johnson's victory.

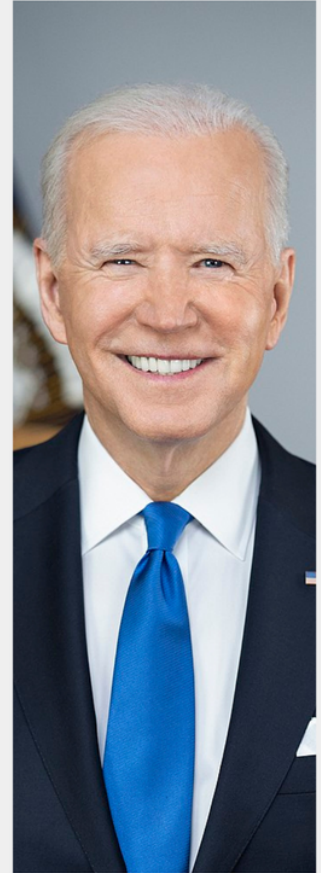
Trump's enduring influence has been a double-edged sword for the Republican Party. While his popularity among a significant portion of the party's base is undeniable, it has also sparked internal debates about the future direction of the GOP. Some Republicans believe that embracing Trump's populist and nationalist agenda is the key to electoral success.

The recent victory of Mike Johnson, a candidate firmly aligned with Trump's agenda, signals that a significant portion of the Republican Party continues to rally behind the former President's vision for America. Johnson's win serves as a testament to the enduring power of Trump's influence and highlights the challenges faced by Republicans who may not fully align with Trump's approach.

As the Republican Party navigates these uncertain waters, faith and prayer remain foundational elements guiding many members of the party. Many Christian Republicans believe that seeking divine wisdom and discernment is crucial during this pivotal moment in the party's history. Church leaders and congregations across the nation are fervently praying for unity and clarity within the GOP, asking for God's guidance in their decision-making processes.

In the days and weeks ahead, Republicans will continue to grapple with the influence of Trump and the ideological divisions within their ranks. Regardless of the path they choose, one thing is certain: the party's decisions will shape the political landscape for years to come, making it imperative for Republicans to seek unity, understanding, and common ground as they move forward in faith and conviction.





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REDEEMING OUR FOSTER CARE SYSTEM:

A Call to Action During National Adoption Month

In November, as the nation celebrates National Adoption Month, it is imperative for us to address a deeply flawed system that impacts the lives of countless children across the country. Foster care, designed to provide a safe haven for children in need, often falls short of its intended purpose. During this important month, let's come together as a community and discuss how we can fix these issues, ensuring a brighter future for the children involved.



Recognizing the Flaws:

Our foster care system is burdened by challenges such as overcrowded homes, understaffed agencies, and insufficient resources. These issues often lead to children moving from one placement to another, disrupting their sense of stability and security. Additionally, the emotional and psychological toll on these children can be immense, impacting their ability to form healthy relationships and hindering their overall development.



Empathy and Compassion:

As Christians, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, especially to those who are vulnerable and marginalized. It is our moral duty to extend love, empathy, and compassion to these children, offering them hope and a chance for a better life. By opening our hearts and homes to these young souls, we can provide them with the stability and nurturing environment they desperately need.



The Power of Adoption:

Adoption is a divine act of love, mirroring God's adoption of us into His family. During National Adoption Month, let's celebrate the beautiful stories of families coming together through adoption. By adopting children from foster care, we not only transform the lives of these children but also fulfill the Biblical mandate to care for the orphans.



Fixing the System:

- **Increased Support:** Adequate funding and resources are essential to ensure that foster care agencies have the means to support both children and families effectively. By investing in training programs for caregivers and social workers, we can enhance the quality of care provided.
- **Family Preservation:** Efforts should be made to support at-risk families, addressing the root causes of children entering the foster care system. Counseling, parenting classes, and community support can empower parents to create a stable and nurturing environment for their children.
- **Streamlined Adoption Processes:** Simplifying and expediting the adoption process can help more children find permanent, loving homes. By reducing bureaucratic hurdles, we can ensure that children are placed in stable families sooner, minimizing the emotional impact of long-term foster care.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Training caregivers and professionals in trauma-informed care can significantly improve the way we understand and address the emotional needs of children who have experienced trauma. This approach emphasizes empathy, understanding, and healing.

As we observe National Adoption Month, let us unite in prayer and action. By advocating for change, supporting families, and opening our hearts to adoption, we can redeem our foster care system and provide every child with the love and security they deserve. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these precious children, reflecting God's boundless love and grace.



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IRAN AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION: ASSESSING THE RISK OF MILITARY ESCALATION



The Biden administration's approach towards Iran has raised concerns about the possibility of a military escalation. While diplomacy and negotiations are essential in resolving conflicts, it is crucial to evaluate whether the United States is preparing for the right type of war with Iran. This article examines the current scenario and focuses on whether the Biden administration's strategy aligns with the potential challenges.

The Importance of Diplomacy:

Before analyzing the potential war with Iran, it is essential to emphasize the significance of diplomacy. Engaging in dialogue and negotiations can prevent conflicts and reduce tensions between nations. The Biden administration's decision to rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal – is a step towards diplomatic engagement. By reestablishing dialogue with Iran, the administration aims to address concerns about Iran's nuclear program and potentially avoid military confrontation.

Assessing the Risk of Armed Conflict:

While diplomacy is crucial, understanding the risks of an armed conflict with Iran is equally important. Iran possesses a formidable military capability, including ballistic missiles, a substantial conventional force, and a network of regional proxies. Any military escalation could have severe consequences, including regional instability and potential humanitarian crises. Thus, it is vital for the Biden administration to consider the potential costs and risks associated with engaging in armed conflict with Iran.

The Complexities of Proxy Warfare:

One of the major challenges the United States faces is Iran's use of proxy forces to advance its regional influence. Iran's support for groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and various militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen complicates any potential military action. Engaging in direct conflict with Iran could trigger retaliatory actions from these proxy forces, leading to an extended and complex conflict. Therefore, the Biden administration must carefully evaluate the potential consequences of any military action against Iran.

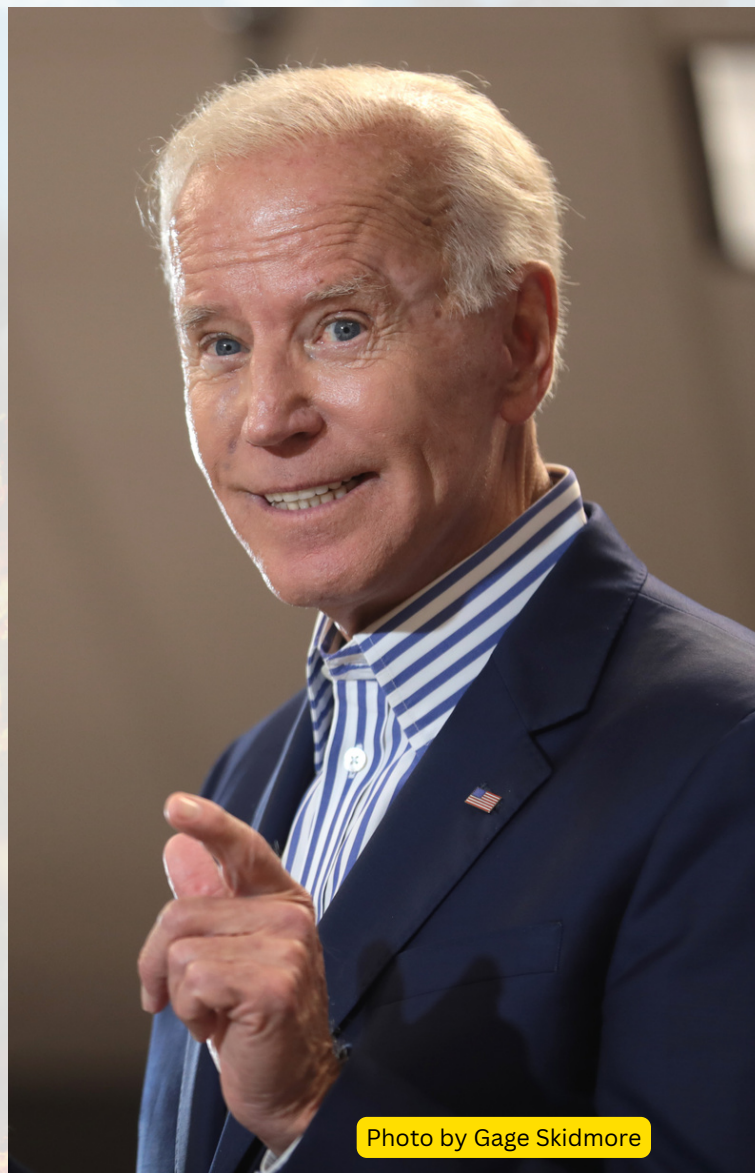


Photo by Gage Skidmore



Is a military confrontation the only solution?

The main question that arises in the current scenario is whether a military confrontation is the only solution to deal with Iran. It is evident that Iran poses a significant threat to regional stability, but rushing into a military conflict may have unintended consequences. The previous conflicts in the Middle East have shown that military interventions do not always lead to sustainable peace and stability.

The Biden administration must carefully consider alternative solutions to address Iran's aggressive behavior. Diplomacy, economic pressure, and international cooperation can play critical roles in addressing these challenges. It is essential to explore all available options before resorting to military action.



The risks of a military approach

While military action may seem like a tempting solution, it carries significant risks. Engaging in a war with Iran could result in a protracted conflict, leading to the loss of countless lives and massive destruction. The consequences of such a conflict would not be limited to the region but could reverberate globally, affecting economies and security worldwide.

Additionally, a military confrontation may further escalate tensions in the Middle East and push Iran to intensify its support for proxy groups. This could lead to increased violence and instability in the region, exacerbating an already volatile situation.

Economic pressure as a deterrent

Economic pressure can be an effective way to deter Iran's aggressive actions without resorting to military intervention. Through targeted sanctions and international cooperation, the Biden administration can apply pressure on Iran's economy, forcing it to reconsider its harmful activities in the region.

Additionally, economic pressure can encourage Iran to prioritize its economic growth and the well-being of its citizens over its aggressive pursuits. By leveraging economic tools, the administration can signal to Iran that there are costs to its hostile behavior and incentivize it to change its course.



A Different Strategy: Addressing the Full Spectrum of Challenges

Rather than focusing solely on the nuclear issue, some experts argue that the Biden administration should adopt a more comprehensive approach to dealing with Iran. This approach would involve addressing not only Iran's nuclear program but also its regional ambitions and ballistic missile capabilities.

To effectively address Iran's regional influence, the United States should work with its allies in the Middle East to counter Iran's support for proxy groups. Strengthening regional alliances and providing support to local forces that oppose Iranian influence can help deter further aggression and limit Iran's ability to project power in the region.

In addition, the United States should continue to invest in its own military capabilities and those of its allies to counter Iran's ballistic missile program. Developing and deploying advanced missile defense systems can help mitigate the threat posed by Iran's growing missile arsenal.

Conclusion

The Biden administration's current approach to Iran raises valid concerns about whether they are adequately prepared for the challenges posed by the regime. While diplomacy is a preferred option, it is important to ensure that it addresses the full spectrum of challenges, including Iran's regional ambitions and ballistic missile program. By adopting a more comprehensive strategy, the United States can better safeguard its interests and those of its allies in the region. It is crucial to strike the right balance between diplomacy and military deterrence to avoid a potentially disastrous conflict with Iran.



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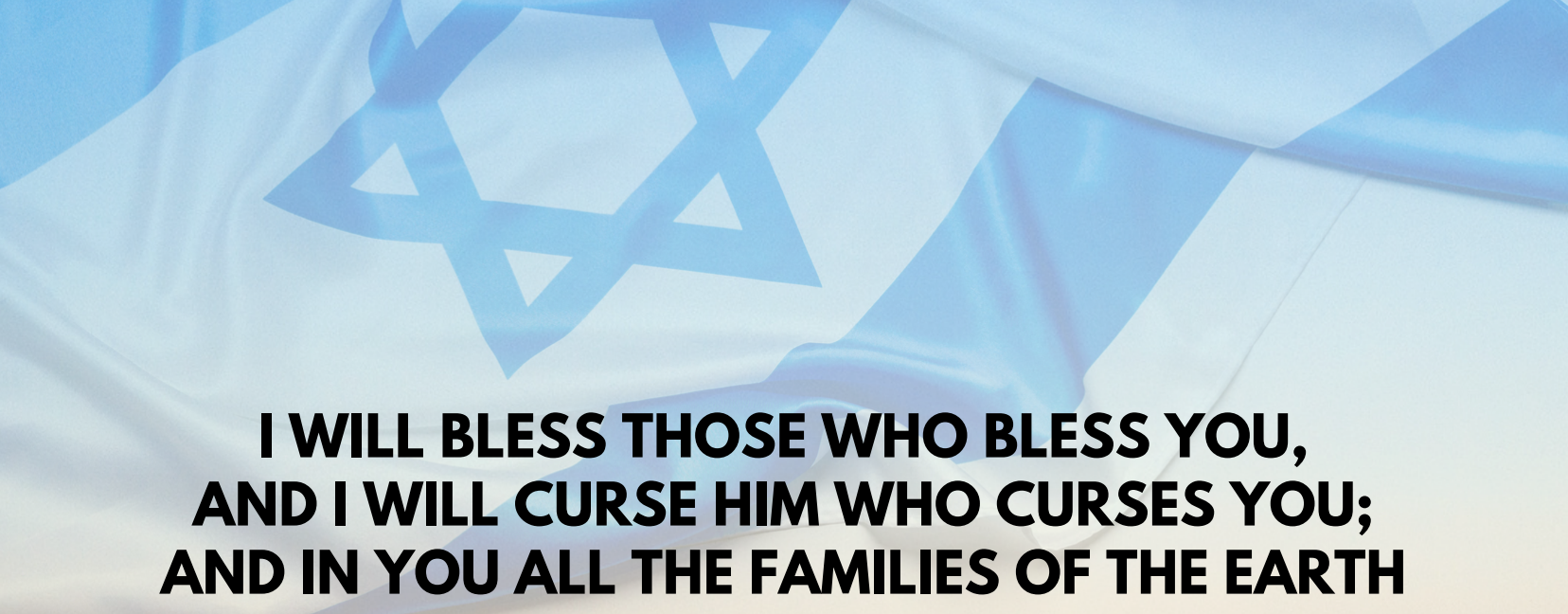
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AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH
SHALL BE BLESSED.**

Genesis 12:3



Happy
Thanksgiving

