

Protecting our Democracy's Frontline Workers  
Stephen Richer  
Recorder, Maricopa County, AZ  
July 28, 2022

Chairman Durbin and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I'm the elected Maricopa County Recorder. I'm a Republican. I'm responsible for voter registration, election administration, and the recording of public documents for the fourth largest county (4.5 million people) and second largest voting jurisdiction (2.5 million registered voters) in the United States.

It's July 28, 2022 – five days away from Arizona's August 2 primary election.

I received two death threats today in response to a story published on GatewayPundit.com.

This is not unusual.

These people act with impunity. And why not? They can look to plenty of high-profile attacks on our democracy and election workers that go unpunished (sometimes even uninvestigated).

Some law enforcement authorities (e.g. the Arizona Attorney General) even seem more interested in investigating my office (based on nonsense theories about how the 2020 election was stolen) than they do our persecutors.

It's not a great situation.

But I am blessed with an incredibly supportive county, a fantastic big brother who looks after me in our County Sheriff Paul Penzone, wonderful local police departments, and a vigilant Arizona Department of Homeland Security (among others).

Most of all, I am blessed with a wonderful team that is religiously committed to the preservation of democracy.

We will weather the storm. Our primary election has gone very well so far, and I'm confident we will see it through to the end.

Then on to November.

Thank you.

Stephen Richer  
Maricopa County Recorder

Stephen Richer is the Maricopa County Recorder.

Prior to being elected Recorder in November 2020, Stephen worked as a lawyer and business person.

Stephen received his B.A. from Tulane University and his M.A. and J.D. from The University of Chicago.

Stephen was named an 'Arizonan of the Year' in 2021 by *The Arizona Republic* and 'Republican Politician of the Year' in 2021 by *The Phoenix New Times*.

Stephen lives in South Phoenix with his wife, whom he met on a school bus on the way back from their law school Halloween party.

