ARIZONA SOS
Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Election Security Advisory Committee

Adrian Fontes

Arizona Secretary of State

Background

AI-GENERATED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Motivation for the Initiative

- Need to provide training for counties on deep fakes and how that could be used during the election as misinformation or to disrupt operations
- Conducted a TTX with county officials using AI injects in TTX (December 2023)
- Opportunities within our own office with use of AI (voter info chatbot) and challenges (public record issues with AI note taking)

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Overview

- AZSOS AI & Election Security Committee
  - Members
  - Findings
  - Recommendations
- Applying recommendations to AZSOS work
- Personal lessons learned

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AI Advisory Committee

- **Co-Chairs:**
  - Chris Cummiskey, CEO of Cummiskey Strategic Solutions, LLC (past USDHS Under Secretary and AZ CIO)
  - Gowri Ramachandran, Director of Elections & Security, Brennan Center for Justice
- **Members:**
  - Michael Butler, London School of Economics
  - Becky Waite, OpenAI
  - Toshi Hoo, Institute for the Future
  - David Evan Harris, University of California, Berkeley
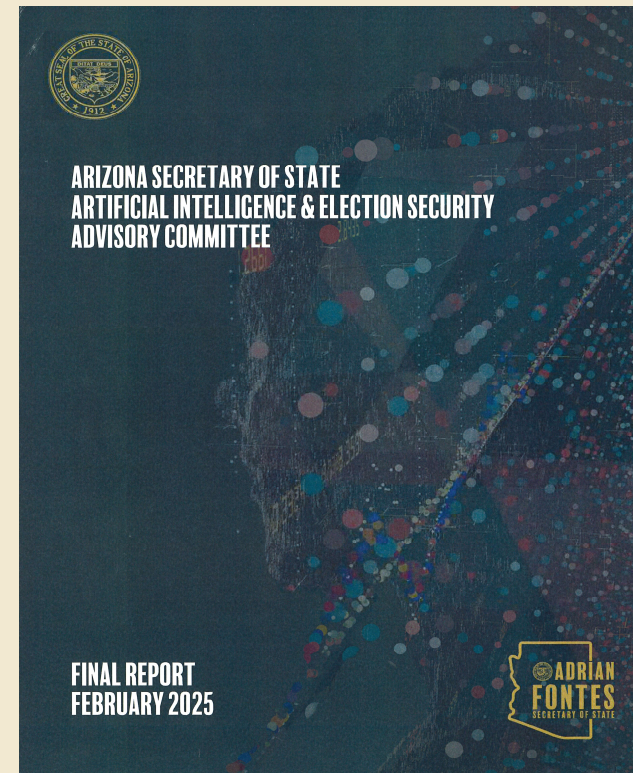
- **Members (cont.):**
  - Matt Masterson, Microsoft
  - Subbarao (Rao) Kambhampati, Arizona State University
  - Jacky Chang, Independent Consultant
  - Aaron Hayman, SocialScout, LLC
  - Tom Latkowski, The Aspen Institute
  - Rachel Dean Wilson, German Marshall Fund of the United States
  - Noah Praetz, The Elections Group

- **Key AZSOS staff:**
  - Michael Moore, AZSOS CISO
  - Amy Chan, AZSOS General Counsel

Committee Report: Key Findings

- **Positive Uses of AI**
  - Can streamline and improve election administration processes and improvements – with safeguards
  - Creates opportunity for voter outreach and education expansion
  - Bolster cybersecurity defenses
- **Negative Uses of AI**
  - Can be a "super charging agent" of cyberattacks
  - Further erodes public trust due to exposure to false and manipulative information
- **Better access to data may help collective efforts to efficiently administer safe and secure elections**
- **Emerging regulations face complex hurdles**
- **The "future" is here!**

ARIZONA SECRETARY OF STATE
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ELECTION SECURITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 2025

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Committee Report: Recommendations

- Creation of "AI Elections Laboratory" sandbox
- Facilitate ongoing collaboration between election officials, tech companies, academics, civil society reps and regulators
- Invest in advanced AI analytical tools to support election administration and to detect and mitigate cyber threats
- Implement year-round education initiatives to empower voters to critically evaluate AI-produced content
- Conduct trainings for election officials
- Create incident response plans
- Foster healthy democratic debate to increase community resiliency

Applied Recommendations

Training and Development:

- **Creation of an AI Election Clinic**
  - ASU Mechanics of Democracy Laboratory
  - Creation of AI "sand box"
    - Test AI tools for election administration
    - Train election administrators

- **TTX trainings**
  - AI injects during trainings with county election administrators

Policy Guidance:

- AI Note Taking policy
- Internal use of AI tools to create training materials

Efficiency Strategies:

- Employed AI Chat Bot during 2024 election
- Diverted phone calls and saved staff time

Personal "Lessons Learned" from Committee Work

Ask and experts will show-up

- How do you find these folks?
- Connecting the dots for people in another industry as to how their expertise connects to elections and government work

Open dialogue is a huge benefit

- Round robin each meeting was so informative
- Changed my perspective – outcome of committee was more about potential of AI than "doom and gloom"

Take risks (with guardrails)

- Creating AI content in our own office for training purposes
- Being more transparent about cyber security issues

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