



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BEXAR GOP DEMANDS TRANSPARENCY, COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTION LAWS

Letter to Judge Sakai documents legal infractions, negligence by Bexar County Elections Dept.

SAN ANTONIO, TX – In an effort to ensure integrity and transparency in our local elections, Jeff McManus, Chairman of the Republican Party of Bexar County, sent a letter to Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai on May 1, 2023. The letter details violations of the Texas Election Code by the Bexar County Elections Department and includes recommended safeguards to deliver transparent, secure, and verifiable election results.

"Our only goal in bringing attention to this matter and demanding action is secure and transparent elections, and right now, there are several reasons to doubt the integrity of our local elections process," said Bexar GOP Chair Jeff McManus. "This is something that should alarm both Republicans AND Democrats, because if the people doubt the credibility of our elections process, they will lose faith and confidence in their government."

When it comes to elections in Texas, Bexar County is critical as it comprises 10% of all the votes cast in the state. There is ample evidence to establish that elections in Bexar County are NOT secure and do NOT follow Texas Election Code. Until they do, they should not be certified. The following constitute violations of the Texas Election Code by the Bexar County Elections Department:

1. **Texas Election Code 85.032(b)** requires seals on early voting ballot boxes containing voted ballots and requires them to follow procedures in **127.064, 127.065, 127.066, and 127.068**. These seals and the chain of custody documents signed by election officials and poll watchers are necessary to provide documentation proving the actual paper ballots are kept safe from fraud or error. Bexar County is currently NOT following these procedures and is in violation of the Texas Election Code. This prevents any valid recount or audit of Bexar County Elections.
2. **Texas Election Code 129.023** defines procedures for a Public Test of Logic and Accuracy. This test includes **129.023(c-1)** a requirement to demonstrate that the source code of the equipment has not been altered. During the Logic and Accuracy tests prior to the November 2022 election, this demonstration was not performed as observed by several poll watchers.
3. **Texas Election Code 129.054(a)** states a voting system may not be connected to any external communication network, including the internet. It is publicly known that ES&S shipped over 14,000 DS-200 tabulators to states that included wireless modems. Nobody has verified if the Bexar County DS-200 tabulators contain these modems. In addition, during the November 2022 Election, poll watchers were denied access to observe the routers/server room at Central Count to inspect and verify the network connections used in transmitting and receiving election results from the Regional Sending Sites (RSS) to Central Count. It is unknown to anyone outside Bexar County Elections Department or

ES&S if Bexar County voting systems are connected to other networks. In addition, inspections by the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) have shown consistent vulnerabilities in ES&S Voting Machines used in Bexar County. The certification of these machines does not meet the requirements of **Texas Election Code 122.01(3)** and **Texas Administrative Code 81.61** as documented in the lawsuit styled *Gremont, et al. v. Scott, et al.*, 4:22-cv-00576. We ask that the certification be revoked for these voting systems in Bexar County and in Texas. Elections should be handled on paper ballots with secure chain of custody on ALL ballots and repeatable, verifiable ballot counting at the lowest level. The impact on timing would be minimal as demonstrated in Dallas County in April 2023, where a transparent hand count of actual ballots from Texas showed timely, 100% accurate results. This would eliminate millions of dollars in voting machines costs borne by Bexar County taxpayers.

4. **Texas Election Code 62.008** requires Presiding Judges to sign the back of each ballot used at their voting location. Texas Election Code does not require this for early voting, removing a significant check on error or fraud. Bexar County stamps the Early Voting Clerk's initials on the back of ALL early voting ballots, preventing an audit from proving the ballots were cast at a specific location. The combination of not signing the ballots and no seals as discussed earlier would easily allow a nefarious operator to substitute ballots with no possibility of detection. Implementing the election day practice of the Presiding Judge signing the ballots for early voting would enhance election integrity.
5. **Texas Election Code 127.066(c)** requires the ballot box to be delivered to the central counting station after completion of voting. The actual paper ballots in unsealed containers are NOT delivered to the central counting station until the following day or later, after completion of voting. There is NO chain of custody on these ballots during that time, again preventing a legitimate recount or audit of the election results.

Until these violations are addressed and remedied, we request that Bexar County implement the following safeguards to allow for the transparent certification of our election results:

- Public, documented, and verified (by all interested parties) set-up of all voting computers/machines (with chain of custody for machines after set-up is complete).
- Verification that NO election equipment can connect (through wired or wireless means) to the internet or another computer (with proof through physical inspection).
- Early Voting Judges sign all ballots at their voting location as they are required to do on election day (Random Numbers should also be used as required by Texas law).
- Chain of custody maintained on all absentee, early voting, and election day paper ballots (seals and signatures) and voting machines.
- Same day manual count (video recorded) of signed paper ballots at each voting system witnessed by election judges, clerks, and poll watchers from all parties (absentee, early voting, and election day voting).
- Verifiable chain of custody after election on all paper ballots to allow valid audits/recounts.

Finally, as there is no chain of custody on the paper ballots or proprietary voting machines currently in use and no actual verification of the operation of the machines, Bexar County MUST eliminate the use of the proprietary voting machines and implement strong, transparent procedures. We believe the only true source of a voter's will is a paper ballot where the voter marks or prints, reviews, and then inserts into a secure box that is counted in a transparent process for all to see. This total transparency is necessary for Bexar County residents to increase their faith in government, its leaders, and in the election process.

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OFFICE OF ARIZONA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 22, 2023

**Senate Majority Leader Calls on County Supervisors Statewide
to Protect National Security During Future Elections**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Arizona State Senate Majority Leader Sonny Borrelli is notifying all County Board of Supervisors within the state of Arizona via letter today that they must first and foremost prioritize protecting national security during any future elections.

Back in 2017, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security issued a statement clearly designating elections infrastructure as *critical infrastructure*, which means these electronic systems must have safeguards in place to prevent any attacks which threaten our national security.

This session, the Senate passed legislation that would have fulfilled federal government requirements to protect critical elections infrastructure, however Senate Bill 1074 was vetoed by the Governor. Therefore, with the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1037 (SCR 1037) by the Legislature and its transmission to the Secretary of State, The Legislature is exercising our plenary authority to see that no electronic voting systems in the state of Arizona are used as the primary method for conducting, counting, tabulating, or verifying federal elections, unless those systems meet necessary standards of protection.

"The federal government has made it very clear that elections equipment is considered a target by those who want to threaten the safety and security of our country," said Majority Leader Borrelli. "We have long ignored this elephant in the room by allowing electronic voting systems made with parts produced in countries considered adversaries to the United States to be used as the primary method for conducting our elections. It is in our state's and nation's best interest that we comply with implementation of security measures to protect our republic."

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Election

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RICT 30

May 22, 2023

Dear Chair,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the latest update from the 56th Legislature, First Regular Session on necessary national security measures. A press release issued by the office of the United States Secretary of Homeland Security on January 17, 2017 clearly states the designation of election infrastructure. Election infrastructure is critical infrastructure. The obvious reason for this is because elections have a major impact on national security. It's vital that the State of Arizona complies with that inherent intent from the federal government and works to ensure a system of cybersecurity and oversight is established within every political subdivision. The passage of Senate Bill 1074 (SB 1074) would have fulfilled those requirements to protect critical infrastructure.

Unfortunately, the Governor chose to veto SB 1074. As a result, she's exposing our electronic voting systems, which are made with components from countries considered adversaries to the U.S., to attacks and putting Arizona as well as the rest of the nation in an extremely vulnerable and dangerous position.

Accordingly, with the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1037 (SCR 1037) by the Legislature and transmission to the Secretary of State on April 3, 2023, it is now incumbent upon the Legislature to exercise our plenary authority. Enshrined in Article 1, Section 4, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, "times, places and manner" of conducting federal elections specifically conveys electronic voting systems (manner) are not mandated in statute to be used as a primary method for counting, tabulating or verification.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session, no electronic voting systems in the state of Arizona may be used as the primary method for conducting, counting, tabulating, or verifying federal elections, unless those systems meet the requirements set forth in SCR 1037.

Respectfully,



Senator Sonny Borrelli
Senate Majority Leader
Legislative District 30

Bodies found in Llano River; police investigating as double homicide

By FOX 7 Austin Digital Team | Published June 11, 2023 1:19PM | Kingsland | FOX 7 Austin |

KINGSLAND, Texas - The [Llano County Sheriff's Office](#) and Texas Rangers have opened a homicide investigation after two bodies were found floating in the Llano River this weekend.

LCISO says that it received a 911 call at 10:11 a.m. June 10 about two people lying face down in the water at The Slab in [Kingsland](#).

Deputies and Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens responded to the scene. The two people, later identified as Mark Baldwin and Kellie Leeann McCormick of Kingsland, were pronounced dead.

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Baldwin and McCormick's deaths are being investigated as homicides.

Anyone with any information about this incident is asked to call the Llano County Sheriff's Office at 325-247-5767 or the Hill Country Crime Stoppers at 1-866-756-TIPS (8477).

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BCSO: Human smuggling operation busted in Bertram

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04/21/23 | Dakota Morrissiey

Julio Tapia-Martinez

Julio Tapia-Martinez, 48, was arrested on charges of kidnapping after Burnet County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a call for help at a Bertram home. He was the sole person arrested in what law enforcement believes is an illegal immigrant smuggling operation. Burnet County Jail photo

A 48-year-old man was arrested on charges of kidnapping in the early hours of April 10 at a Bertram home. Burnet County Sheriff's Office deputies apprehended Julio Tapia-Martinez after responding to a call for help from a person inside the home who had escaped. Officials believe the suspect is part of a larger human smuggling ring.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has taken over the investigation and custody of Tapia-Martinez, who is not a U.S. citizen.

"We ran across this thing by accident," BCSO Capt. Mike Sorenson told DailyTrib.com. "A person in the residence was able to escape and call for help."

According to Sorenson, the suspected smuggling operation transports and exploits people who illegally immigrated to the United States. Two people were willingly rescued from the home, while many others scattered and fled the scene. Tapia-Martinez was the only one arrested, and the exact number of people involved is unknown.

The two people who were rescued told law enforcement they had been kidnapped from Dallas, where they were working as roofers, then held captive with demands of payment, Sorenson said. The suspected smugglers were exploiting the two people rescued, he continued, knowing that they didn't have many options due to their illegal status in the country.

ICE officials were unavailable for comment at the time of this article's publication. The investigation is ongoing.

The two kidnapping charges are third-degree felonies that each carry a potential fine of up to \$10,000 and two to 10 years in prison.

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HOME » NEWS » NEWS BY TOWN » BURNET » TWO MEN CHARGED WITH CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT

Two men charged with child sexual assault
10/20/22 | Dakota Morrissiey

Isaac Isaiaa Medina (left) and Michael Adam Morales
Isaac Isaiaa Medina (left) and Michael Adam Morales, both 41, were arrested on Monday, Oct. 17, and charged with sexual assault of two children, one 16 and the other 13, in the city of Burnet. Courtesy photos

Two Burnet County men are facing child sexual assault charges and decades behind bars.

Michael Adam Morales and Isaac Isaiaa Medina, both 41, were arrested by Burnet police on Monday. They were subsequently charged with further crimes on Tuesday after two juveniles, ages 16 and 13, were interviewed by law enforcement and Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center representatives.

According to a sworn affidavit, Burnet Police Investigator Steven Vollmar was contacted by uniformed police officers at about 9 a.m. Monday and told of the possible human trafficking of two children.

Vollmar arrived at a Burnet church, where the victims had supposedly been dropped off by Medina, who was still on the scene. Medina was arrested and identified the other suspect as Morales, who was then found and also arrested.

Initially, Medina was charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child and Morales with sexual assault of a child.

According to a forensic interview of the victims conducted by Children's Advocacy Center, Medina offered the teens a ride as they were walking in the rain in Marble Falls on Monday. After they got into his vehicle, Medina picked up Morales and drove to a Burnet hotel, where the crimes were said to have happened.

After the juveniles were interviewed, more charges were added. Morales faces eight counts of sexual assault of a child and one count of sexual performance of a child, all second-degree felonies. Medina is charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child under 14 years old, a first-degree felony, and sexual performance of a child. They are being held in the Burnet County Jail. Bond has been revoked for both.

Sexual assault of a child carries up to 20 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines for each charge. Aggravated sexual assault of a child under 14 years old carries up to 99 years in prison without the chance of parole until half the sentence is served. Sexual performance of a child, meaning the capturing of a sexual act with a child on photo or video or in a live situation, carries up to 20 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

Investigator Vollmar told DailyTrib.com the investigation is ongoing and details and leads are still being followed to ascertain the extent of any crimes.

“Any sexual assault, adult or child, is an egregious offense,” he said. “Right now, we’re most concerned about the victims and seeing that they’re taken care of, not just today, but down the road.”

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