

Home(/) > Courts(https://Azcapitoltimes.Com/News/Category/Courts/) >

Lake's attorneys argue more than 270k signatures county verified in less than three seconds



Kari Lake speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2023, on March 4, 2023, at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Lake's attorneys argue more than 270k signatures county verified in less than three seconds

Kiera Riley Arizona Capitol Times

(https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/author/kierariley/)

Read more about Lake's attorneys argue more than 270k signatures-verified-in-less-than-three-seconds

(mailto:?subject=Lake's attorneys argue more than 270k signatures county verified in less than three seconds&body=A judge heard closing arguments from counsel for failed gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake, as well as Maricopa County, the Secretary of State and the governor on the signature verification count... You can read the content in details following link https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/05/19/lakes-attorneys-argue-more-than-270k-signatures-county-verified-in-less-than-three-seconds)

▶ Listen to this article

YOUR NEWS. YOUR INBOX. DAILY.

Sign up for **FREE** by entering your email below.

Enter your business email *

Select Your Industry **SIGN UP**

By subscribing you agree to our Privacy Policy (https://bridgetowermedia.com/privacy-policy).

Recent News
(https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/category/recent-news/)



Corporation Commission approves proposal Rio Verde residents hope v

The Arizona Corporation Commission approved a proposal Tuesday that residents in the Rio Verde...

(https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/corporation-commission-approves-proposal-rio-verde-residents-hope-will-solve-water-issues/)

We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits. By clicking "Accept", you consent to the use of ALL the cookies.

[Cookie settings](#) ACCEPT



(https://azcapitoltimes.com/files/2023/05/Lake-Trial-DAY-THREE-MAIN-scaled-e1684535424458.jpg)

Kari Lake speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2023, on March 4, 2023, at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md. A judge heard closing arguments from counsel for failed gubernatorial candidate Lake, as well as Maricopa County, the Secretary of State and the governor on the signature verification count remanded by the Arizona Supreme Court on May 19, 2023, in Mesa. Attorneys for Lake argued there were about 274,000 signatures the county verified in less than three seconds, which they assert does not constitute signature verification as required by state statute and provides a "competent mathematical basis" as the governor's race was decided by about 17,000 votes. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

A judge heard closing arguments from counsel for failed gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake, as well as Maricopa County, the Secretary of State and the governor on the signature verification count remanded by the Arizona Supreme Court.

Attorneys for Lake today in Maricopa County Superior Court in Mesa argued there were about 274,000 signatures the county verified in less than three seconds, which they assert does not constitute signature verification as required by state statute and provides a "competent mathematical basis" as the governor's race was decided by about 17,000 votes.

The defendants, though, cited Lake's own signature verification "whistleblower" witnesses who testified to verifying and curing signatures and said they provided "pretty good evidence that Maricopa County did signature verification."



(https://azcapitoltimes.com/files/2023/05/LakeDayThreeDefenseAttorneys-WEB.jpg)

Attorneys Craig Morgan, right, and Joseph LaRue listen to testimony during the Kari Lake election challenge trial on May 18, 2023, in Maricopa County Superior Court in Mesa. Morgan represents Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, who is senior attorney for Maricopa County. (Photo by

The county rested its case in Lake's second election contest trial after a final round of testimony from Elections Director Rey Valenzuela today.

Thomas Liddy, Civil Division Chief with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, asked Valenzuela to talk in further detail about the curing process for signature review.

Valenzuela spoke about instances in which ballots would be registered as having good signatures in "zero" seconds.

He said this could happen during in-person early voting when voters provide proof of identity and, therefore, do not go through the formal signature verification process. And,

Mark Henle/The Arizona Republic via AP)

he noted, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters, or overseas military voters,

would have their ballots mass approved and verified in zero seconds.

The county also again addressed a video cited by Lake's team of a verifier rapidly clicking through signatures.

Liddy had Valenzuela confirm he was only inferring in testimony yesterday that the verifier could have been re-reviewing his batch or passing through pre-approved signatures. Lake's attorney Bryan Blehm objected to the line of questioning as he was only speculating about the nature of the video.

But Judge Peter Thompson pointed out "the other witnesses that have testified about that same exhibit have done likewise."

During cross examination, Blehm attempted to discredit Valenzuela's data analysis skills. Blehm asked him who helped him with data analysis, what standard deviation was and the difference between a percentage and an average, which defense counsel pointed out can be the same thing.

Blehm also had Valenzuela look at a table by Erich Speckin, the expert witness for Lake, and asked him where the averages were – and then said there were no averages on the table.

In closing arguments, Olsen claimed mail-in ballots to be the largest source of potential voter fraud and the "majority of people do not have trust in elections," because "election officials do not follow the law."

He then turned to the 274,000 ballots he alleges were verified in less than three seconds and the 70,000 verified in less than two seconds.

Arizona law requires signatures be "compared," and Lake's attorney Kurt Olsen argued workers "speed-demoning through and verifying signatures at 99.9, 99.7% pass rates" in a matter of seconds did not constitute an adequate comparison.

He then referenced testimony from Speckin and said the county never disputed his evidence.

Liddy, giving closing arguments for the county, said the county did dispute Speckin's findings and objected to the table when it was first brought in as evidence.

Liddy then referenced Lake's signature verification worker witnesses as evidence the county did in fact conduct signature verification at multiple levels.

Attorneys for the governor and the Secretary of State added Lake always intended to challenge the election if she did not win and the most recent claim was "quite possibly the most absurd yet."

Thompson took the matter under advisement.

Share this:

Print icon (https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/05/19/lakes-attorneys-argue-more-than-270k-signatures-county-verified-in-less-than-three-seconds/#print)

Facebook icon (https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/05/19/lakes-attorneys-argue-more-than-270k-signatures-county-verified-in-less-than-three-seconds/?share=facebook&nb=1)

LinkedIn icon (https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/05/19/lakes-attorneys-argue-more-than-270k-signatures-county-verified-in-less-than-three-seconds/?share=linkedin&nb=1)

We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits. By clicking "Accept", you consent to the use of ALL the cookies.

Cookie settings ACCEPT

Tags: Blehm (https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/blehm/), Mesa (https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/mesa/), voters (https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/voters/), governor (https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/governor/), election

(<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/election/>), signature verification (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/signature-verification/>), election contest (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/election-contest/>), hobbs (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/hobbs/>), secretary of state (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/secretary-of-state/>), Lake (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/lake/>), ballots (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/ballots/>), closing arguments (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/closing-arguments/>), Maricopa County Superior Court (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/maricopa-county-superior-court/>), military voters (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/military-voters/>), voter fraud (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/voter-fraud/>), UOCAVA (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/uocava/>), expert witness (<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/tag/expert-witness/>)

Related Content



Hamadeh makes new challenge to election loss

Rebuffed in prior legal attempts to overturn his loss in the race for attorney general, Abe Hamadeh now is try[...]

January 2, 2024

(<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2024/01/02/hamadeh-makes-new-challenge-to-election-loss/>)



2 Cochise County officials arraigned in election certification case

Two Cochise County supervisors pleaded not guilty Thursday to felony charges for delaying the certification of[...]

December 21, 2023

(<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/12/21/2-cochise-county-officials-arraigned-in-election-certification-case/>)



Richer's defamation suit against Lake heading to trial

A defamation suit filed by Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer against one-time gubernatorial candidate Ka[...]

December 20, 2023

(<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/12/20/richers-defamation-suit-against-lake-heading-to-trial/>)



Attorneys spar over defamation, Free Speech in politics

Beyond the specific contours of the case, attorneys for both Lake and Richer hope the case sets some sort of p[...]

December 20, 2023

(<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/12/20/attorneys-spar-over-defamation-free-speech-in-politics/>)



Arizona justices consider arguments on 2 laws regulating abortion

The fate of state abortion law now rests in the hands of the Arizona Supreme Court, leaving justices to mull [...]

December 12, 2023

(<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/12/12/arizona-justices-consider-arguments-on-2-laws-regulating-abortion/>)



People face legal labyrinth to expunge criminal records

A long line of tables bordered the back corner of the conference hall. For hours, people bearing criminal reco[...]

December 7, 2023

(<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/12/07/people-face-legal-labyrinth-to-expunge-criminal-records/>)

We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits. By clicking "Accept", you consent to the use of ALL the cookies.

[Cookie settings](#) ACCEPT

ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES

(/)

- [Public Notice \(http://publicnotices.azcapitoltimes.com/\)](#)
- [E-Editions \(https://arizonacapitoltimes-az.newsmemory.com/\)](#)
- [Capitol Store \(http://store.azcapitoltimes.com/\)](#)
- [Advertise \(/advertising/\)](#)

ABOUT

Arizona Capitol Times provides 24/7 political news coverage and events honoring top political professionals.

MY ACCOUNT

[Login \(/user-login/?dmcss=login\)](#)

[Subscribe \(/subscribe/\)](#)

[Manage Account \(/manage-account-fc\)](#)

[Subscriber Agreement \(https://bridgetowermedia.com/subscriber-agreement/\)](#)

CONTACT

[FAQ \(/frequently-asked-questions/\)](#)

[About Us \(/about-us/\)](#)

[Contact Us \(/staff-contacts/\)](#)

ADVERTISE

[Advertise \(/advertising/\)](#)

[Free Guide \(/eguide/\)](#)

[Editorial Calendar \(/arizona-capitol-times-editorial-calendar/\)](#)

[Media Kit \(/media-kit/\)](#)

CONNECT

We use cookies on our website to enhance your navigation, analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts. (https://www.facebook.com/azcapitoltimes?ref=ts) (https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/arizona-capitol-times/?viewAsMember=true) (https://twitter.com/azcapitoltimes)

By clicking "Accept", you consent to the use of ALL the cookies. (https://www.facebook.com/azcapitoltimes?ref=ts) (https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/arizona-capitol-times/?viewAsMember=true) (https://twitter.com/azcapitoltimes)

[Cookie settings](#)

NEWSLETTER

Get our free e-alerts & breaking news notifications!

Enter your business email *

Select Your Industry

SIGN UP

DIGITAL EDITIONS



(<https://arizonacapitoltimes-az.newsmemory.com/>)



(<https://arizonacapitoltimes-az.newsmemory.com/ssindex.php>)

[subscribe \(/subscribe\)](#) for access to the latest digital and special editions.



© 2024 BridgeTower Media. All rights reserved.

Use of this website is subject to its Terms of Use (<https://bridgetowermedia.com/subscriber-agreement/>) | Privacy Policy (<https://bridgetowermedia.com/privacy-policy/>) | Your California Privacy Rights/Privacy Policy (<https://bridgetowermedia.com/ccpa/>) | Do Not Sell My Info/Cookie Policy (<https://bridgetowermedia.com/cookie-policy/>)

We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits. By clicking "Accept", you consent to the use of ALL the cookies.

[Cookie settings](#) ACCEPT