



**KEN BENNETT**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**STATE OF ARIZONA**



November 28, 2012

Chairman Ramon Valadez  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
130 West Congress Street, 11th Floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

*Ramon*  
Dear Honorable ~~Chairman~~ Valadez:

I received a letter yesterday from the Pima County Manager concerning many topics in the elections realm. Specifically, with regard to the ballot scanning pilot project, I thought that my office had already responded to county staff on the matter. I apologize for the delay or for any oversight.

The Secretary of State's office has viewed the idea of ballot scanning as a way to further audit our elections process. However, recent events (the Prop. 112 recount, Attorney General Goddard's evaluation of the RTA election, and the 2012 hand count results) have once again demonstrated that our election machines are incredibly accurate and reliable. Therefore, at this time, I don't believe that it is prudent to spend resources on creating an audit for a process that is already audited.

Our focus for this next legislative session will be to seek significant changes to title 19 and ways to create efficiencies in the processing of ballots.

Should Pima County wish to seek an amendment to laws 2011, chapter 332, section 28 to allow Pima County to proceed wholly autonomously on this pilot project, my office would be supportive.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jim Drake in cursive script.

Jim Drake  
Assistant Secretary of State