

LAWFARE AND THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE MISSOURI SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE



Whither Goeth the Law

"Utilitarian law is the law of the State, of order, of business, of war, contract and crime - the law of ruthlessness, retribution and punishment. In the last 200 years, this law has uniquely dominated the Western world. It has swallowed the humane justice of humanitarian law, creating State monopolization of law-making."

"Thus, the inquisitorial or enquiry technique is gone, the adversary or accusatory procedure alone applies in our courts. The search for truth is replaced by the classification of issues and the refinement of combat. Lawfare replaces warfare and the duel is with words rather than swords."

John Carlson and Neville Yeomans, published 1975, posted 2000 at <https://www.lacweb.org.au/whi.htm>



"If they will do this to me, they will do it to you"

I have heard these words spoken by so many people who have been or are being politically persecuted, that I am not sure who to credit for the quote.

For those of us who feel we are just 'regular' people and not important enough to draw attention to ourselves, I can tell you this quote will play over and over in your mind when you find your name on a list, or on papers seeking criminal charges against you, as was my experience. I believe for anyone fighting the 'establishment' to seek the truth, it is a matter of when, not if.

Using information obtained through open records requests, and putting together the pieces of a detailed timeline, I now understand how many months, how many people, and how much effort has been put into punishing and/or silencing me and others.

There is no one too insignificant or unknown who will not be silenced, cancelled, or persecuted, if you are deemed a threat or even a nuisance.

Is the Missouri Secretary of State's Office being weaponized to use LAWFARE against citizen activists?

This document will present three scenarios which I believe illustrate the weaponization of the Missouri Secretary of State's office using lawfare. The first scenario is the longest, because it is my story and the one for which I have the most evidence. I believe the second and third scenarios are also examples of lawfare. The women¹ at the center of those two scenarios have far more information to share about their cases, so I am providing a brief synopsis of each.

The three scenarios are not hypothetical ... they are actual and validated by evidence. That evidence is attached to this document in an Appendix (begins on page 18) and is cross-referenced to each statement or allegation made herein.

This report is compiled on July 31, 2024. Jay Ashcroft is the current Secretary of State of Missouri.

Three Scenarios of Alleged Lawfare

First Scenario: If the Missouri Secretary of State seeks the criminal prosecution of a citizen activist who previously stated in writing to the SOS that she perceived a letter from them to her contained a "thinly veiled threat," and, if the grounds the SOS is using for criminal charges is based on election complaints from two members of an opposing political party, and, if the total 'evidence' collected by the SOS is deficient and/or false, could this be the weaponization of the Secretary of State's office? What if the charges sought against the citizen activist are the same as a 2022 complaint against a different person,² and the Secretary of State determined these similar charges in 2022 were "not an election offense"?³ (This scenario begins on page 3)

Second Scenario: If the Missouri Secretary of State coordinated with county officials to file a lawsuit against citizens who exercised their rights for open records requests, could this be lawfare by the Secretary of State and other elected officials against citizens? (This scenario synopsis is on page 16)

Third Scenario: If a citizen activist has the courage to research and collect proof of election violations, to carry the burden of taking the fight to the courts, to sacrifice time and treasure for the sake of securing elections, only to learn that the primary gatekeeper blocking this case from getting into court is the chief election officer for the state, could this be lawfare by the Secretary of State? (This scenario synopsis is on page 17)

¹ An odd coincidence, if you believe in coincidences, that all three scenarios are about women.

² See Appendix, Doc 2; Monroe County Clerk complaint against staff member dated 8/3/2022

³ See Appendix, Doc 5; SOS to Monroe Clerk with determination of "no offense" dated 10/5/2022

First Scenario: Seeking Criminal Charges

I am Linda Rantz, a citizen activist focused on election security and returning our elections to hand counted paper ballots. The First Scenario is related to me, so it is the one of which I have the most knowledge and can provide the most details.

Near the end of 2022, I spent time reading the Missouri statutes and developed a process for hand counting ballots based on Missouri's laws.⁴

For the April 4, 2023, municipal election, I volunteered to assist the county clerk in Osage County, Missouri, with training and preparations for a hand counted election. We were successful in training all the people needed to hand count the election.

The result of my involvement, however, was an effort by the Missouri Secretary of State to have **criminal charges filed against me**. Why seek criminal charges if there was not a single claim made that the hand-counted results of the election were wrong? Because the "elections world" wants humans taken out of the ballot counting process.⁵ My belief is that the plan is to do whatever it takes to discredit hand counting ballots.

Quick summary of my First Scenario explanation

- The election complaints I filed with the Secretary of State and the Osage County Sheriff (pg 4), seem to be the **catalyst of the subsequent events**
- What I perceived as a **threat of lawfare** from the Secretary of State (pg 4) and my reply, which may be the trigger for the actions taken by the Secretary of State
- Timeline of Secretary of State's actions and the **coincidence of election complaints** filed against me three months after the election; I do not believe in coincidences (pg 5)
- My alleged crimes, the **Probable Cause Statement**, and the penalties for these crimes (pg 6)
- An attempt at due diligence by the Secretary of State's office (pg 6). After 127 days, **how much evidence did they muster** (pg 7)? The **apparent 'smoking gun' image** (pg 8).
- What the Secretary of State **missed or omitted**: Facts, False Statements, Omissions, Lack of Due Diligence (pg 9)
- Was there any **due diligence concerning the accusers**? Any possibility of political or personal motivations? Any personal connections with Secretary of State staff? (pg 9)
- Was there any **due diligence concerning the 'scene of the crime'**? (pg 11)
- Was there any **due diligence about my alleged role** on the "film crew"? (pg 11)
- Are there any **false statements or omissions about permissions** given to me on election day? (pg 12)
- The biggest omission: the **REAL "smoking gun" image**. **No marked ballots were filmed** or shown on Lindell TV. Filming was done when election judges were between batches, so no cast ballots were anywhere in sight. (pg 13)
- The final omission: **silencing the accused** and weaponization through lawfare. (pg 15)

⁴ Download "*Missouri Elections: Return to Hand Counting*" at <https://handcounting.com/eManual>

⁵ From interview with Chrissy Peters by Detective Pappas, 3:45 min. mark, audio available at <https://handcounting.com/ChrissyPeters>

Probable Catalysts: My Complaints about the April 4, 2023, election

The County Clerk and the Secretary of State wanted to “prove or disprove the accuracy of the hand count.” For this reason, after the election, hand counted ballots were unsealed by the County Clerk, Nicci Kammerich, and the Front Desk Clerk, Brooke Dudenhoeffer, and run through a Dominion tabulator.⁶ This was NOT done in the presence of a bipartisan team, as required by law.

There was also a complete recount of every ballot to ensure that the hand count teams were “accurate,” as stated by one of the election judges who recounted the ballots.⁷

According to Dudenhoeffer, everything done post-election was either under the “guidance” or “instructions” of the “Secretary of State’s Office.”

On April 27, 2023, I gave a presentation to our county commissioners⁸ about the issues. On May 1, 2023, I filed an election complaint with the Missouri Secretary of State.⁹ As the election was municipal, jurisdiction for the election lies with the county sheriff. On May 4, 2023, I gave a statement to the Osage County Sheriff, a Detective, and a Deputy explaining my complaint.

A Perceived Threat from the Secretary of State’s Office

Why do I believe there is weaponization by the Secretary of State’s Office? In **8 days** after filing my election complaint, the Secretary of State’s Office already made their determination of my claims. Their average response time is **23 days**.¹⁰ The draft of their letter to me detailing their determination, ended with the statement in the screenshot below, which I perceived to be a threat of lawfare:¹¹

In conclusion, we do not find that any violation of election law has occurred in this case and are closing your complaint without further action. Likewise, although you swore or affirmed in your complaint that the allegations you alleged were true to the best of your knowledge, a review of your complaint demonstrates they were not. I recommend you be more careful next time you file an election complaint with this office. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

1 Excerpt from SOS determination letter with 'perceived' threat to Rantz, dated 5/9/2023

Although a more ‘toned-down’ version was subsequently sent to me,¹² my 40+ years of experience working for lawyers gives me an understanding of threats written in legalese.

I have many contacts in the legal and law enforcement fields. Those with whom I shared the reply letter from the Secretary of State agreed that it was an apparent threat. **The threat was LAWFARE.**

In my reply to the Secretary of State’s determination letter, I called out his attorney on what I perceived as a “thinly veiled threat meant to intimidate and silence.” I warned that if he corresponded with me again and used similar language, I would file a professional conduct complaint against him with the Missouri State Bar Association.¹³

⁶ See Appendix, Doc 50: from Synopsis of Detective’s Interview with Brooke Dudenhoeffer

⁷ See Appendix, Doc 65: from Synopsis of Detective’s Interview with Pat Nilges

⁸ See Appendix, Doc 35; newspaper article of County Commissioner presentation

⁹ See Appendix, Doc 32; Rantz Election Complaint to the Missouri Secretary of State

¹⁰ Calculated by reviewing about 100 election complaints from 2022 and 2023 sent to me in response to an open records request.

¹¹ See Appendix, Doc 36 (pg 3); Draft of SOS response to Rantz 5/9/2023

¹² See Appendix, Doc 37 (pg 2); SOS Response to Rantz 5/11/2023

¹³ See Appendix, Doc 41; Rantz reply to SOS, also calling out ‘threat’ 6/20/2023

I Do Not Believe in Coincidences

40 Days of Silence

Prior to sending my June 20th letter, there were 40 days of silence from the Secretary of State's Office, counting from the date of their May 11th determination letter to me.

Then, after sending my June 20th response, the silence was broken.

Complaints filed against me 9 Days Later and almost 3 months after the April 4th election

Nine days after sending my June 20th response, the Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, Larry Hunt, signed an election complaint¹⁴ against me. Three days later, Cheryl Linhardt, a member of the Osage County Democratic Committee, also filed an election complaint against me.¹⁵

Both complaints are based on a video on the Lindell-TV network that showed live coverage of the April 4th hand counted election in Osage County.¹⁶

All words matter, so I find it interesting that both Hunt and Linhardt state that they “viewed” or “watched” a video, not that they ‘came across’ or ‘found’ the video. Like how a person would tell a friend, ‘I found a video you should watch,’ compared to ‘I watched the video you sent me.’

1. *How were Hunt and Linhardt made aware of the Lindell-TV video? Who sent them the link?*

2. *And why does this come up 3 months after the election (but 9 days after my June 20th letter)?*

WITH THE FILING OF THESE ELECTION COMPLAINTS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS NOW ABLE TO OPEN AN INVESTIGATION AND PURSUE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST ME.

If it is not a coincidence, it is certainly convenient

Unbeknownst to me, the Secretary of State launched an investigation based on these two complaints. I was unaware (until November 2023) that the complaints had even been filed.

61 Days of Silence

Documents received via open records request show that the Secretary of State's office was taking some actions during July 2023, on their ‘investigation.’ But, once again, things get quiet around the first of August and stay quiet through the end of September – about 61 days.

The only real investigative activity that was taking place during this time was a thorough investigation by the county sheriff's office – they worked for seven months investigating the election complaint I submitted in May (compared to eight days of investigation by the Secretary of State).

On October 4, 2023, Detective Nick Pappas conducted a phone interview with Chrissy Peters,¹⁷ Director of Elections at the Secretary of State's Office, to ask questions about my complaint.¹⁸

¹⁴ See Appendix, Doc 43; Larry Hunt election complaint against Linda Rantz dated 6/29/2023

¹⁵ See Appendix, Doc 44; Cheryl Linhardt election complaint against Linda Rantz dated 7/2/2023

¹⁶ <https://frankspeech.com/Search?q=mike-mar-lago-and-osage-county-mo-votes-paper-ballots>

¹⁷ See Appendix, Doc 53; Detective's synopsis of Interview with Chrissy Peters 10/4/2023

¹⁸ Audio recording of the Chrissy Peters interview available at <https://handcounting.com/ChrissyPeters>

SOS Action in 7 Days following the Detective's interview of Chrissy Peters

Within 7 days of Peters' interview with the detective, on October 11, 2023, the Secretary of State submitted a Probable Cause Statement¹⁹ to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney, based on the "belief" that I violated statutes 115.409²⁰ and 115.637(13)²¹ and that criminal charges should be considered.

3. *Did the scheduling of the Peters interview 'motivate' the Secretary of State's Office to 'jump back into action' on the complaints against me?*

Any Personal Motivations?

I know it is possible that the timing of the Secretary of State's various actions relative to these complaints against me may just be how they played out. I was completely unaware of them as they occurred but viewing them in hindsight,²² it seems like each time something happens that "pokes the bear," there is a reactive response from the Secretary of State's Office.

My Alleged Crimes

There are three issues listed on the Probable Cause Statement: 1) that I allowed a film crew to enter a polling place without the permission of the County Clerk or the election judges assigned to the polling location; 2) that I was part of the film crew and narrated the filming of the election judges as they were hand counting ballots; and, 3) that by allowing the film crew (who allegedly were not authorized to be there) to film the hand count, I 'furnished' the crew with details of the state of the count prior to polls closing.

What are the Penalties for these Alleged Crimes?

Penalties range from no criminal penalty to punishment by imprisonment of not more than one year or by a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars or by both.

THE TOTALITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S INVESTIGATION

What is the Due Diligence Required of SOS in Referring this matter to a Prosecuting Attorney?

From the Secretary of State's own Probable Cause Statement: "... knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law ..." the Secretary of State's attorney declares that the facts contained in the Probable Cause Statement are true.

What "facts" (or evidence) are submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney by the Secretary of State with the Probable Cause Statement?

None.

No evidence was submitted by the Secretary of State to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney when the Probable Cause Statement is submitted on October 11, 2023.

¹⁹ See Appendix, Doc 58; Probable Cause Statement of SOS against Linda Rantz dated 10/11/2023

²⁰ <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=115.409>

²¹ <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=115.637>

²² Hindsight based on review of documents obtained by open records requests

The Secretary of State spent **100 days** supposedly ‘investigating’ the complaints by Hunt and Linhardt. They filed a Probable Cause Document seeking criminal charges against me but provide no evidence.

20 Days Later

The Osage County Prosecuting Attorney writes to the Secretary of State stating she is waiting for the case file which should include “reports, witness statements, video evidence, etc.”²³

127 Days since the filing of Election Complaints against me, ‘evidence’ is finally submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney.

With 127 days in which to investigate, what evidence does the Secretary of State’s Office finally provide to the Prosecuting Attorney?²⁴ According to his cover letter, copies of the complaints and emails regarding the issue (my estimate: about 18 pages of documentation, if you don’t include copies of forms from the hand counting process I authored).²⁵

What about video evidence?

Apparently, unable to provide the link to the video in question, the Secretary of State’s attorney promises to send the video link at a future date.

What about witness statements, as requested by the Prosecuting Attorney?

Based on documents obtained, it does not appear that the Accusers, **Larry Hunt and Cheryl Linhardt**, were ever interviewed by the Secretary of State. My guess is because they did not *witness* anything. Neither of them was physically present during filming on election day. They *viewed* the video three months after the election. If, in fact, they were interviewed, NO witness statements were submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney.

During my investigation I also contacted both the Republican and Democratic poll judge assigned to the Linn Methodist Church on April 4, 2023. While neither observed Ms. Rantz filming at their location, both indicated to me that they did not give Ms. Rantz permission to film inside the polling location which is required by statute.

2 Excerpt from Doc 63, Secretary of State's cover letter to the Prosecuting Attorney without signed witness statements

The Secretary of State’s attorney includes anecdotal details (as shown in image 2 above) in his cover letter about his conversations with **two (2) election judges** assigned to the Linn Methodist Church polling place on April 4th. He states that “both indicated to me that they did not give Ms. Rantz permission to film inside the location which is required by statute.”²⁶

4. Does the Secretary of State’s attorney feel that putting anecdotal comments about witness statements in his cover letter suffices as actual witness statements?

²³ See Appendix, Doc 62; Prosecuting Attorney Letter to Secretary of State dated 10/31/2023

²⁴ See Appendix, Doc 63; Secretary of State Letter to Prosecuting Attorney with ‘evidence’ dated 11/7/2023

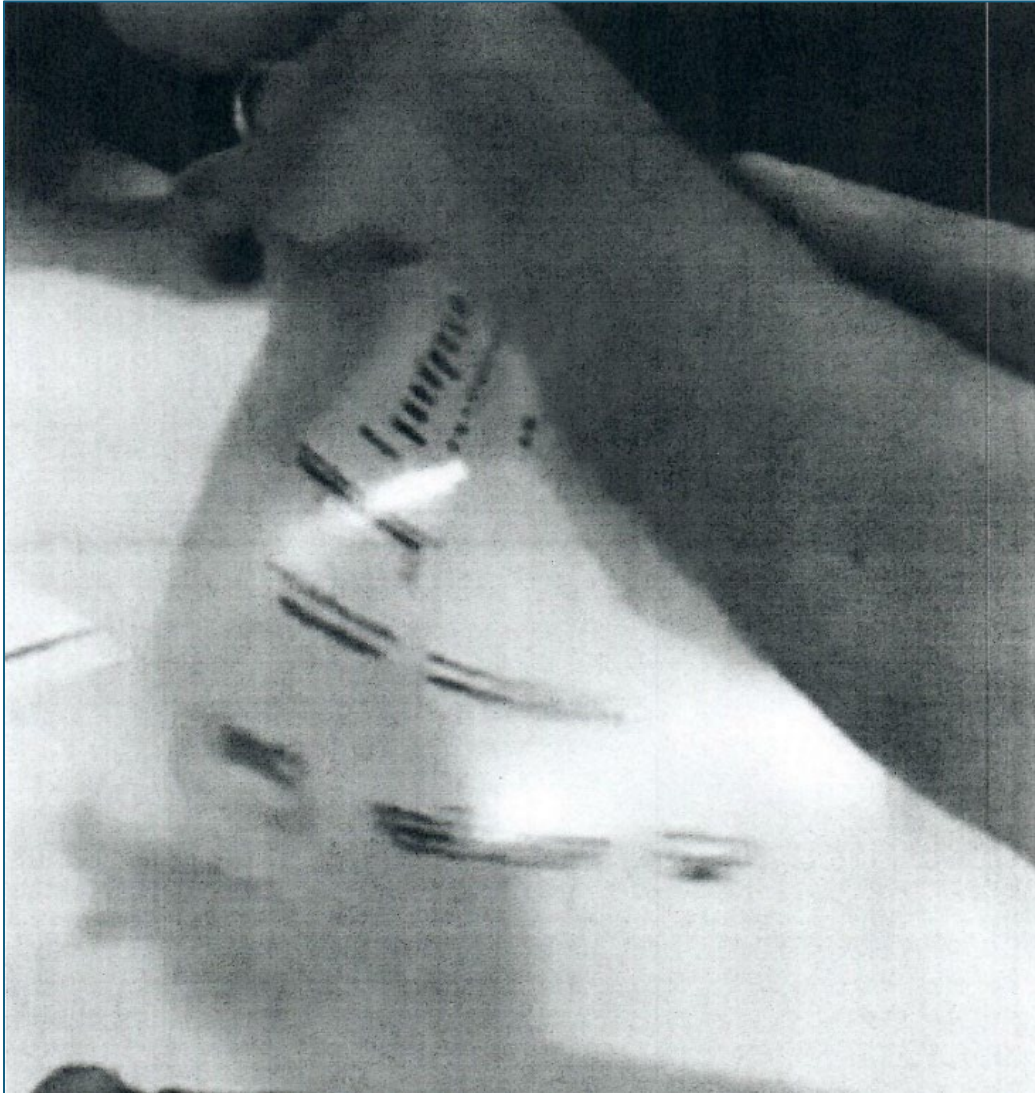
²⁵ See Appendix, Doc 47; County Clerk replies to investigation questions from SOS dated 7/21/2023

²⁶ Note that no statute is referenced to support the statement a “poll judge” must grant permission for media to enter a polling location.

The “Smoking Gun” - cropped

Both Hunt and Linhardt state in their complaints that it is possible to grab a screenshot, enlarge it, and see ballots marked by a voter. The ‘smoking gun’ is apparently the image below (image 3),²⁷ which was included in the documentation submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney.²⁸

More about the “smoking gun” on page 13.



3 Doc 14, the screenshot from the Lindell TV video which Hunt and Linhardt claim shows markings made by a voter on a cast ballot. Note that this is a cropped image.

End of Evidence from the Secretary of State

And so, this concludes the evidence from the Secretary of State to the Osage County Prosecutor, in the matter of criminal charges against me ... unless something was withheld from an open records request.

²⁷ See Appendix, Doc 14; “Smoking Gun” image in B&W and cropped

²⁸ It is important to note that this is a cropped image.

FACTS, FALSE STATEMENTS, OMISSIONS, LACK OF DUE DILIGENCE

As already pointed out, the first paragraph of the Probable Cause Statement makes clear that making false statements is punishable by law. But what about omissions of facts (possibly deliberate or accidental) or lack of due diligence?

Any Due Diligence concerning the Accusers?

What inquiries or steps did the Secretary of State's Office take regarding the Accusers?

5. *Are they witnesses to events and/or do they have personal knowledge of the alleged crimes?*

6. *Is there the possibility of personal or political motivation for filing the elections complaints against Linda Rantz?*

Do the Accusers have personal knowledge of the events? Did they witness the alleged crime?

Other than the 2 complaints filed by the Accusers, there has never been a claim made that election results were disclosed by anyone prior to the closing of the polls on April 4th.

Hunt and Linhardt state that their complaints are based on watching or viewing the video, and they claim that the video shows me "with a cameraman" recording or videoing at a polling place. Neither claims that they were personally at a polling place while this was taking place, and I never saw them at any polling place where I was that day. Also, there is never a time when a cameraman is visible in the video.

From: Elections-1 <Elections-1@sos.mo.gov>
To: Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>
Czeschin, Gina <Gina.Czeschin@sos.mo.gov>
Date: 7/3/2023 11:47:29 AM
Subject: FW: Election Complaint/Osage County/att. Trish Vincent
Attachments: complaint2.pdf

Complaint about videos Linda Rantz took during the April election.

From: Larry Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Elections-1 <Elections-1@sos.mo.gov>
Subject: Election Complaint/Osage County/att. Trish Vincent

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

To Whom It May Concern,

Attached is the complaint concerning the April 4th election held in Osage County.

Larry L. Hunt
Osage County Democratic Chair

4 Excerpt from Doc 63, Secretary of State's cover letter to the Prosecuting Attorney without signed witness statements

Why “cc” Trish Vincent when submitting the complaint?

After reviewing nearly 100 election complaints filed in 2022 and 2023,²⁹ what struck me as odd about Larry Hunt’s complaint is that, when he submitted it by email (see image 4 on previous page), he added Trish Vincent, Deputy Secretary of State, as a “cc” on the email.³⁰ In the almost 100 complaints I reviewed, no one else copied Trish Vincent.

7. *Why would Larry Hunt copy Trish Vincent on the email when he submits his complaint?*

Did anyone at the Secretary of State’s Office ask, “what videos”?

Larry Hunt’s email (see image 4 on previous page) is forwarded to others in the Secretary of State’s office. The internal message added is, “Complaint about the videos Linda Rantz took during the April election.” That does not sound like this is the first instance that the Secretary of State’s staff has heard about the video?

8. *Was the Secretary of State’s staff having conversations with Hunt or Linhardt prior to the filing of their complaints? If so, who initiated those conversations?*

9. *Does “videos Linda Rantz took” mean the Secretary of State’s staff has already decided the I “took” videos, rather than appeared in them?*

Is there a possibility of personal or political motivation in filing the complaints?

If there were any interviews or discussions with Larry Hunt, was the question asked if there might be any personal or political reason, he would want to see charges against me? An email thread from just after the April 4th election would appear to indicate a serious grudge or dislike.³¹

From: hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Nicci Kammerich <nbouse_OsageCountyDC@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting

Yes, I can be there as Chair of County Democratic Committee, **as long as Linda Rantz does not come** in any capacity such as standing in for Mark Lieneke. I plan to bring a list of poll workers. Thank you.
Larry Hunt

⁵ Excerpt from Doc 30, dated May 1, 2023, which appears to show Larry Hunt has a strong dislike of or grudge against Linda Rantz

10. *For filing very specific election complaints, why would the Secretary of State not have further questions for the Hunt and Linhardt to confirm facts and the source(s) of their information?*

²⁹ In response to the Sunshine request in my June 20th letter to SOS attorney, I received nearly 100 election complaints that had been filed during 2022 and 2023.

³⁰ See Appendix, Doc 45; Larry Hunt email submitting his election complaint dated July 3, 2023

³¹ See Appendix, Doc 30; email thread between county clerk and Larry Hunt, Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, which gives the appearance Hunt’s dislike of or grudge towards Rantz

Any Due Diligence concerning the ‘Scene of the Crime’?

Both Accusers identify the polling place referred to as “Linn 2” (the Linn Methodist Church) as the veritable ‘scene of the crime’ where I am accused of “narrating” hand counting while being filmed at 6pm on April 4th, prior to polls closing. The Secretary of State based their investigation on those circumstances, even asking the Osage County Clerk to provide a floor plan³² of the Linn 2 polling place. Why? I don’t know, maybe to try to determine camera angle.

As mentioned previously, the Secretary of State’s attorney provides as “facts” that he personally spoke with the two (2) election judges assigned to the Linn 2 polling place and “neither observed Ms. Rantz filming at their location ...”

The fact is, **I was not at the Linn 2 polling place being filmed at 6pm on April 4th.**

I could provide witnesses to corroborate my statement: at a minimum, **the four (4) other election judges who were assigned to the Linn 2 polling place.** There were six (6) total judges assigned to the polling place. They have different duties – some check-in voters, some were counting ballots. But they have equal authority as election judges, including giving permission for media to be in the polling place.³³

11. *How did the Secretary of State’s Office not know that there were six (6) election judges assigned to the Linn 2 polling place?*

12. *If they knew there were 6 election judges, why did the Secretary of State only interview 2 election judges when any of the 6 could have given permission for media to be present in the polling place?*

13. *If they knew there were 6 election judges, did the Secretary of State purposely omit this information from the evidence they sent to the Prosecuting Attorney?*

14. ***Why did the Secretary of State not confirm they had the correct location? Did they even consider it?***

Any Due Diligence about the “film crew” and my alleged role?

The Secretary of State contends in their Probable Cause Statement that I was part of the “film crew.” I confirmed just 3 weeks ago with the producer from Lindell TV that no one from the Secretary of State’s office or Osage County has ever contacted them with questions about April 4th.

15. *Why is this not confirmed before making an accusation based on a claim whether I am part of the “film crew”?*

If it was true that election results were released prior to the polls closing, who would be responsible? The cameraman taking the video, the producer, the broadcast company, or the person being interviewed? Apparently, the Secretary of State has decided it is the person being interviewed.

16. *Why did the Secretary of State not ask for any information about any person or company affiliated with the “film crew”?*

³² See Appendix, Doc 64; floor plan of polling place “Linn 2” hand drawn by County Clerk

³³ The Osage County Clerk does not have established guidelines for media in the polling place.

Are there false statements and/or omissions about permission given to the “film crew” on April 4th?

In the initial list of 6 questions sent by the Secretary of State’s Office to the Osage County Clerk, question #2 asked if the clerk had given permission for media to be in polling places. The Clerk replies, “No,” and continues with an explanation.³⁴

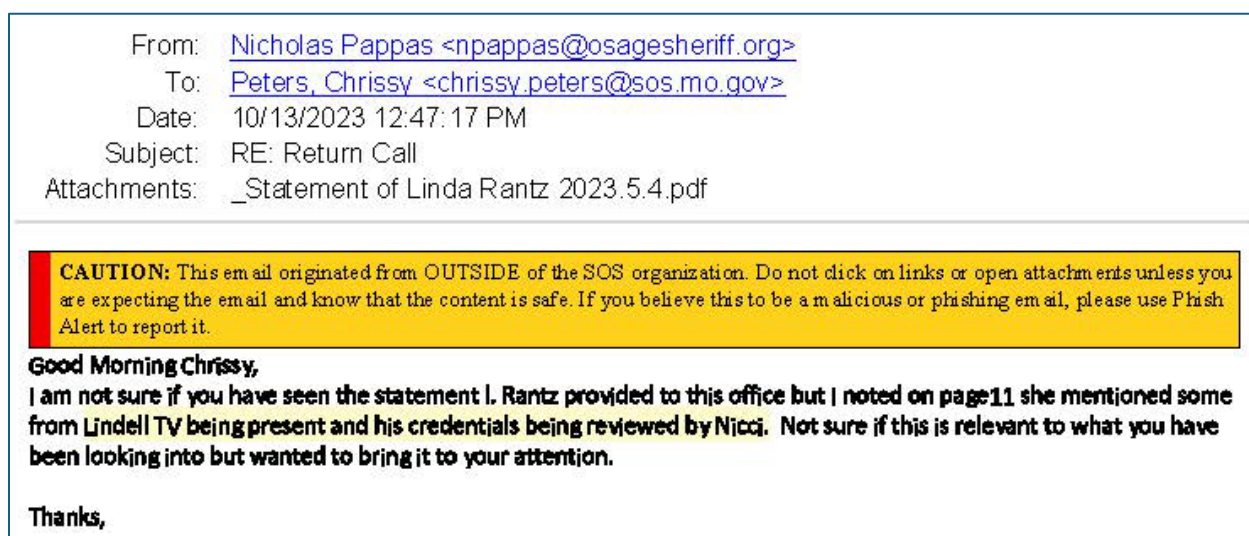
I contend that this is a false statement on the part of the County Clerk.

In my presence, the Osage County Clerk received credentials³⁵ from the cameraman, which were signed by Brannon Howse, when the cameraman first arrived in the county, and prior to going to any polling place.

If the County Clerk gave false or inaccurate information to the Secretary of State’s Office, how else would they know that the cameraman had permission to be in the polling place(s)?

After his October 4th interview of Chrissy Peters,³⁶ Detective Nick Pappas³⁷ recalls details I made about media in my statement to the sheriff’s team dated May 4, 2023.

The Detective’s email³⁸ (shown in image 6) alerts Peters of my statement which included a reference to “Lindell TV being present and his credentials being reviewed by Nicci.”



6 Doc 59; Email from Detective Nick Pappas to Director of Elections, Chrissy Peters, calling out details by Rantz made in her statement to the Sheriff’s team on May 4, 2023

On October 13, 2023, as an attachment to his email, the Detective sends Peters a copy of my statement.³⁹ My details about media from page 11 of my statement submitted to the Sheriff on May 4, 2023, (shown in image 7) matches the comments I just wrote a few paragraphs above.

³⁴ See Appendix, Doc 47; County Clerk replies to investigation questions from SOS dated 7/21/2023

³⁵ From statute 115.409: “... members of the news media who present identification satisfactory to the election judges ... “

³⁶ Chrissy Peters: Director of Elections for the Secretary of State

³⁷ Detective Nick Pappas of the Osage County Sheriff’s Department

³⁸ See Appendix, Doc 59; Email from Detective Pappas to Chrissy Peters of SOS Office dated 10/13/2023

³⁹ Doc 59, The Statement of Linda Rantz to the Osage County Sheriff, may be downloaded at <https://handcounting.com/RantzSheriffStmt>

Media: Lindell TV

I heard from one of the counting judges (cannot remember which location) that a photographer for the UD had stopped by and taken a couple of pictures. Other than that, the only media that I was aware of that was sending a cameraman and/or reporter was Lindell TV. When the cameraman arrived, I went with him to the Clerk's Office. Kammerich reviewed his credentials letter and said he was approved to go to the polling places. She declined to be interviewed or videotaped.

7 Excerpt from page 11 of Rantz statement to Osage County Sheriff dated May 4, 2023

17. Upon receiving Detective Pappas' information about my statement on media from May 4th, did Chrissy Peters or anyone in the Secretary of State's Office follow-up on the information?

Recall that the Secretary of State did not send their case file or "evidence" to the Prosecuting Attorney until November 7th, almost a month after the Detective sent his email with my statement to Peters.

18. Why did the Secretary of State fail to send the Prosecuting Attorney my statement to the sheriff's department, or the Detective's email with the other documentation related to the complaints against me.

The Biggest Omissions: The "Smoking Gun"

Image 8 on the right, which I refer to as the "smoking gun," is supposed to show how the video which was broadcast on Lindell-TV⁴⁰ could be enlarged to show votes marked on a ballot. (Larger version is shown in image 3 on page 8, and in the Appendix).

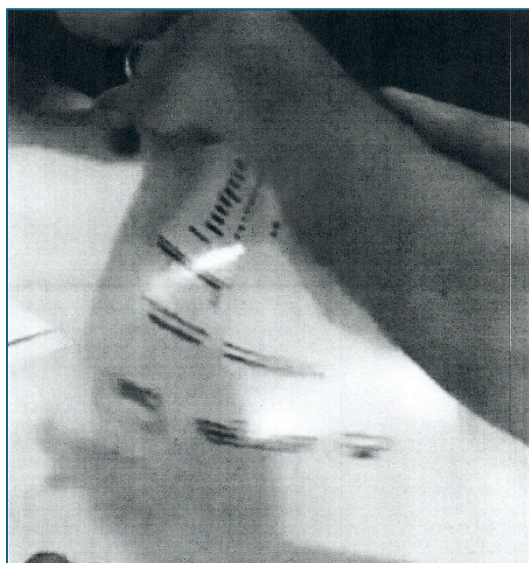
The illustration is not a full screenshot. It is cropped to show only the judge's hand and paper being held.

"Smoking Guns" are best viewed as a full image – not cropped

On the next page is a full screenshot from the Lindell-TV video at the 11:18 minute mark (see image 9). This image is in color and is not cropped.⁴¹ It shows a counting team of election judges that were filmed at the polling place during the election on April 4, 2023.

The Accusers, Hunt and Linhardt, based their complaints on an image which is cropped from this screenshot, showing only the hands holding "paper," which they allege to be marked ballots.⁴² Enlarging and cropping makes the image submitted by Hunt and Linhardt very blurry and difficult to see.

In the uncropped, color version below, it is clearer and easier to see the elements of the image.

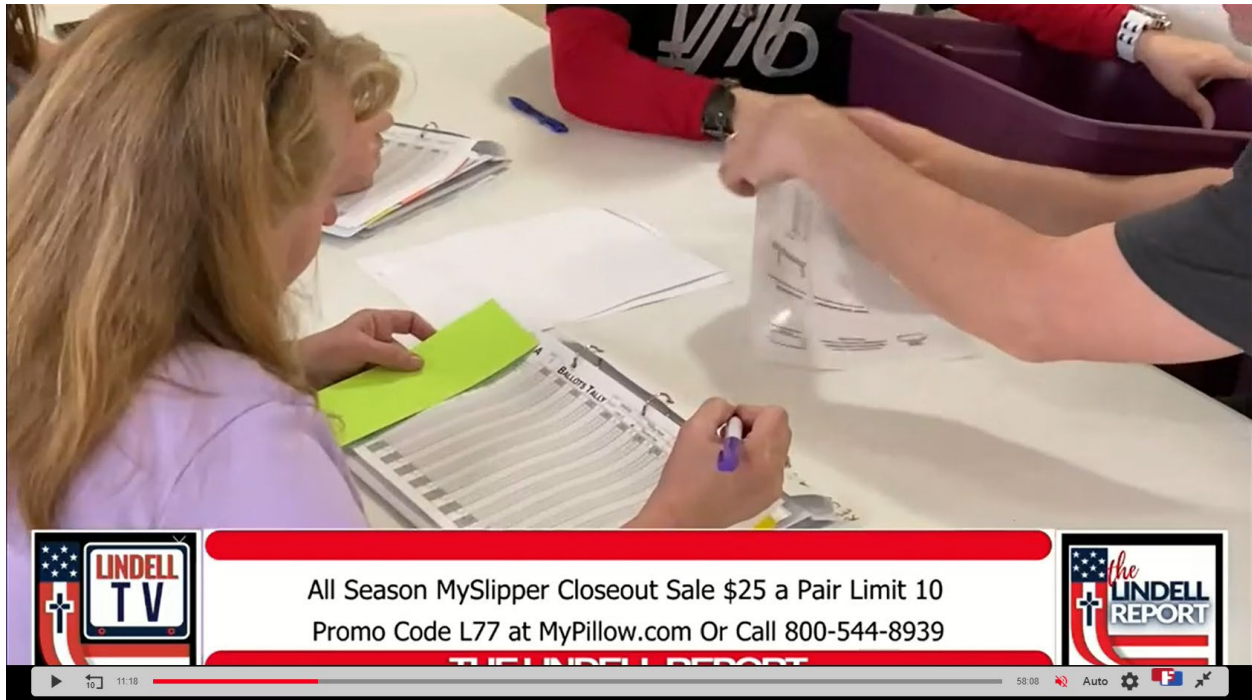


8 Doc 14, the screenshot from the Lindell TV video which Hunt and Linhardt claim shows markings made by a voter on a cast ballot. Note that this is a cropped image.

⁴⁰ <https://frankspeech.com/Video/mike-mar-lago-and-osage-county-mo-votes-paper-ballot>

⁴¹ See Appendix, Doc 13; full-size screenshot of the "smoking gun" in color and not cropped

⁴² See Appendix, Doc 14; cropped "smoking gun" image in B&W



9 Doc 13; Screenshot from Lindell-TV video, at the 11:18 minute mark, showing the “smoking gun” in color and NOT cropped

On the right is an image of a sample ballot (see image 10) for the April 4, 2024, municipal election in Osage County.⁴³

Compare the sample ballot, image 10, to the paper being held by the election judge in the image 9 above. Anything blatantly obvious?

There is no ‘dashed’ border around the edges of the paper in image 9 being held by the election judge. Why?

Because the paper being held in image 9 is not an actual ballot. What is being held is a blank sheet of white paper with an “overlay” placed on top (an overlay is a piece of overhead projector film imprinted with candidate ID #'s so judges could quickly count ballots).

No Ballots were filmed or shown on Lindell-TV.

10 Sample ballot from April 2023

⁴³ See Appendix, Doc 69, sample ballot for Osage County for the April 4, 2023, election, downloadable from https://cms5.revize.com/revize/osage/Documents/County%20Clerk/SKM_C36823022111580.pdf

Also notice in image 9 on the previous page, the election judge with her back to the camera, wearing a lavender top, and a tally sheet in front of her. She is holding a purple marker. Any markings on the tally sheet would be purple dots. Enlarge the image and you will see that the tally sheet is blank. Why?

Because filming was done when the judges were between batches. There were no voter-marked ballots, counted or uncounted, on the table or in view of the camera.

If the Secretary of State had interviewed any one of forty-four (44) judges who hand counted the Osage election, they would have quickly learned what overlays are. Any one of those counting judges could have looked at image 9 and stated without doubt that the paper being held was NOT a ballot.

19. *Why did the Secretary of State fail to interview one single election judge who hand counted ballots?*

20. *Who captured the screen image that was submitted by the Secretary of State to the Prosecuting Attorney as proof that voter marked ballots were filmed?*

21. *Who cropped the image?*

22. *Why would the Secretary of State submit an image as evidence that omits the portion that shows the judges were clearly not tallying votes while the camera was rolling?*

23. *Did the Secretary of State review the Lindell-TV video themselves or take the word of the Hunt and Linhardt?*

24. *Did the Secretary of State care about finding the truth, or was it more important to silence a citizen activist?*

FINAL OMISSION – SILENCING THE ACCUSED AND LAWFARE

I have commented in this document that I was unaware that elections complaints had been filed against me in early July 2023, that the Secretary of State's office was investigating the complaints, and that a Probable Cause Statement seeking criminal charges against me had been forwarded to my county prosecuting attorney in mid-October 2023.

It is important to note that most of this transpired without my knowledge, and without the ability to speak for myself, explain the truth, and defend against omissions and false statements. The Secretary of State never contacted me either for questions or comments.

I became aware of what I regard as lawfare in mid-November when the Osage County Sheriff's Department completed their investigation of my election complaint. While the Secretary of State brushed off my complaint in 8 days, the sheriff's investigation worked on it for 7 months and found violations of statutes but could only classify the violations as administrative, not criminal. The most that could be done was to refer their findings to the Secretary of State (as the primary elections officer for the State), and the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Making false claims against an innocent person to silence them is Lawfare.

Nearly 8 months have passed since the Prosecuting Attorney in Osage County received the "file of evidence" for the Probable Cause Statement against me. I have never heard from the Prosecuting Attorney on this matter. My belief is that the Prosecuting Attorney could see the non-existent, and even shoddy, evidence presented and made the decision not to press charges.

Second Scenario: Elected Officials Suing Citizens

Founding Father James Madison once said, “[a] popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both.”

From the introduction in the Missouri Attorney General’s booklet on the Missouri Sunshine Laws:

“The Sunshine Law, which has been on the books since 1973, declares Missouri’s commitment to openness in government in § 610.011, RSMo: “It is the public policy of this state that meetings, records, votes, actions and deliberations of public governmental bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law. Sections 610.010 to 610.200 shall be liberally construed and their exceptions strictly construed to promote the public policy.”

Innocent and Unsuspecting Citizens simply exercising their right for open records requests

In late summer of 2022, there was a push amongst citizens nationwide concerned about election security to have election results from the 2020 presidential election preserved, and to request reports known as **Cast Vote Records (CVRs)**.

There were Missourians who submitted Sunshine Law requests for CVRs to their county clerks or Boards of Election. In particular, an unknown number⁴⁴ requested CVRs from the Greene County Clerk. Not too many weeks later, the Greene County Clerk, Shane Schoeller, filed a lawsuit against one of these citizens.⁴⁵

There was an outcry about Schoeller’s actions, and he defended his actions contending that he phoned (or visited) the citizen before filing to let her know about it. This is disputed.⁴⁶

Fingerprints of the Secretary of State on the Lawsuit

Because of Sunshine Law Requests, it was revealed that the Missouri Secretary of State was involved in not only the Greene County lawsuit against a citizen, but Camden County was apparently also planning to sue one of their citizens.

An email⁴⁷ from the Greene County Attorney, Austin Fax, to the Secretary of State’s attorney, Jesus Osete, states, “We have discovered that Camden County’s software is potentially different than Greene County’s software. So, we are going to hold off on including Camden County as a Plaintiff for now.”

Contention made that the lawsuits are meant to benefit citizens

For all the negative publicity targeted at Schoeller, why did the Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft, not step forward and provide an explanation? The SOS is the 3rd highest elected office in the state. Filing lawsuits in multiple counties against citizens is the only way Ashcroft knows how to solve the issue of citizens requesting election materials through Sunshine Requests? **Filing lawsuits against citizens to manipulates laws is Lawfare.**

⁴⁴ But a guess is 5 or 6 citizens

⁴⁵ The lawsuit is available for download at <https://tinyurl.com/PetitionRedacted>

⁴⁶ Read “Shane Schoeller – Show Some Receipts” which has been publicly shared, but never answered by Schoeller; download at <https://tinyurl.com/ShowSomeReceipts>

⁴⁷ See Appendix, Doc 4; Greene County email to Secretary of State, dated 9/8/2022

Third Scenario: Elected Officials as Gatekeepers to Courts

No Synopsis Possible

It is impossible to put all the work done by Ali Graef into a synopsis. Ali has sacrificed time and income in the pursuit of the truth about the lack of certification of voting machines in Missouri. Ali's research proves that the machines we cast our votes on in Missouri have not been legally certified for years now.⁴⁸

Same Story, Other States

If it sounds far-fetched, consider that activists like Ali in other states have uncovered the same "dirty little secret," some of them even being sued by their elected officials. Sound familiar?

Leah Hoopes of Pennsylvania submitted a public records request (our version of a Sunshine Law Request). Leah is being sued by an election official and is fighting in court to obtain the records which belong to the People. Her X post (see image 12) contains copies of some of the pleadings from the lawsuit.⁴⁹

Trying to get her day in Court

Ali filed a case Pro Se (meaning representing herself, because lawyers are intimidated not to take election cases). Her meticulous details have been confirmed by noted cyber and election security experts. But Ali can't get a day in court. Why? According to County Councilman, Joe Brazil, the Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft, told him that Ali's case "will never see a courtroom."⁵⁰

Blocking access to the Courts is Lawfare.



11 Screenshot from Rumble interview of Ali Graef by Hick Christian



12 Screenshot from X post by Leah Hoopes @hoopes_leah

I, Joe Brazil, do swear that the following statement is true and accurate.

In a conversation between myself, and Secretary of State Ashcroft regarding Ali Graeff's Petition to Contest the St. Charles Co Primary election, he stated to me that "this will never see a courtroom."

13 Excerpt from Joe Brazil's statement about comments made to him by Jay Ashcroft

⁴⁸ Rumble interview on Hick Christian is available at <https://rumble.com/v58b1kt-jy-ashcr-ft-is-using-the-sos-office-to-certify-illegal-elections-and-block-.html>

⁴⁹ Leah Hoopes X post with pleadings https://x.com/hoopes_leah/status/1818455409222410328

⁵⁰ See Appendix, Doc 70; Joe Brazil statement about Jay Ashcroft, 9/7/2022

Supporting Documentation

The pages which follow contain images of documents referenced in the footnotes of this report, unless a download link was provided for the document or recording.

Links for Sharing

To share this report, use these links:

For the full document, including the Report (17 pages) and the Appendix (50 pages)

<https://handcounting.com/Lawfare>

For the Report only

<https://handcounting.com/LawfareReport>

For the Appendix only

<https://handcounting.com/LawfareAppendix>

The Appendix is available at <https://handcounting.com/LawfareAppendix>