

Arizona Supreme Court  
Civil Election Appeal

CV-26-0130-AP/EL

KISH v GRAVES et al

Appellate Case Information

Case Filed: 20-Apr-2026 Archive on: 4-May-2036 (planned)  
Case Closed: 4-May-2026

Dept/Composition

Side 1. JASON KISH, Appellee

(Litigant Group) JASON KISH

- Jason Kish

Attorneys for: Appellee

Kory A Langhofer, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 24722)  
Thomas J Basile, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 31150)

Side 2. IISHA GRAVES, Appellant

(Litigant Group) IISHA GRAVES

- Iisha Graves PRO SE

(Litigant Group) MARICOPA COUNTY

- Maricopa County
- Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
- Justin Heap  
AZ Bar No. 27426  
[Current Member]

Attorneys for: Appellant

Rosa Aguilar Dhakal, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 37774)  
Jack O'Connor, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 30660)

CASE STATUS

May 4, 2026.....Decision Rendered

Apr 20, 2026.....Pending

PREDECESSOR CASE(S)

|     | Cause/Charge/Class | Judgment/Sentence | Judge, Role <Comments>  | Trial | Dispo |
|-----|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| MAR | CV2026-014373      |                   | Joseph C Kreamer, Trial |       |       |
| MAR | CV2026-014437      |                   | Joseph C Kreamer, Trial |       |       |

CASE DECISION

04-May-2026 DECISION ORDER

\* A panel consisting of Chief Justice Timmer, Justice Bolick, Justice Montgomery, and Justice Cruz has considered this expedited election appeal.

Filed: 04-May-2026

Mandate: 04-May-2026

The record shows Appellant Iisha Graves timely filed 659 signatures to support her placement on the July

Ann Timmer

16 PROCEEDING ENTRIES

- 20-Apr-2026 FILED: Notice of Appeal; Certificate of Service (Appellant Graves, Pro Se)
- 20-Apr-2026 FILED: Statement Designating The Case As An Expedited Election Matter; Certificate of Service (Appellant Graves, Pro Se)
- 20-Apr-2026 FILED: Minute Entry; Certificate of Service (Appellant Graves, Pro Se)
- 20-Apr-2026 FILED: (Duplicate) Minute Entry (Appellant Graves, Pro Se)
- 21-Apr-2026 RECEIVED/SENT: Letter Re Filing Fee
- 22-Apr-2026 FILED: Application for Deferral/Waiver of Fees (Appellant Graves, Pro Se)
- 22-Apr-2026 FILED: Record from MCSC
- 22-Apr-2026 ORDERED: Application for Deferral/Waiver of Fees (Appellant Graves, Pro Se) = DEFERRAL GRANTED/ No Payments Due Until Further Notice (Aaron C. Nash, Clerk)

Arizona Supreme Court  
Civil Election Appeal

CV-26-0130-AP/EL

KISH v GRAVES et al

16 PROCEEDING ENTRIES

9. 23-Apr-2026 Defendant / Appellant / Candidate Graves filed a pro per Statement Designating the Case as an Expedited Election Matter on April 20, 2026.
- In lieu of a telephonic scheduling conference, Court staff has consulted with Appellant and counsel for Appellee Kish.
- IT IS ORDERED if either party wishes to use transcripts, such party shall file authorized transcripts as soon as possible. If no authorized transcript can be prepared and filed timely, the parties are encouraged to stipulate to the pertinent facts or testimony or provide pertinent segments of unauthorized transcripts in a joint appendix as soon as possible. The parties may also stipulate to presenting an audio file in a format acceptable to the Clerk's Office.
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Appellant shall file the opening brief no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2026. The opening brief shall be no more than 5,000 words.
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Appellee may file an answering brief no later than 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2026. The answering brief shall be no more than 5,000 words.
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Appellant may file a reply brief no later than 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026. The reply brief shall be no more than 1,500 words.
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that briefs will be in a legible 14-point font, double-spaced, and will include all arguments the parties wish to present to the Court. They may be filed in memorandum format (no tables of contents or authorities).
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that copies of all filings must be delivered as required under Rule 10(h).
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in addition to filing briefs with the Clerk of the Supreme Court (with filing and service through AZTurboCourt) all filings are also to be sent by email to all the parties and court staff and to SACrtdocs@courts.az.gov when filed.
- This matter will be decided without oral argument. The Court anticipates conferencing this matter on May 5, 2026, with a decision to issue on or after that date. (Hon. William G. Montgomery)
10. 24-Apr-2026 FILED: Maricopa County's Notice of Decision Deadline; Certificate of Service (Appellees Maricopa County, et al.)
11. 27-Apr-2026 FILED: Appellant's Opening Brief; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Appellant Graves, Pro Se)
12. 30-Apr-2026 FILED: Answering Brief of Plaintiff-Appellee Jason Kish; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Compliance (Appellee Kish)
13. 22-Apr-2026 FILED: Record

**Arizona Supreme Court**  
**Civil Election Appeal**

**CV-26-0130-AP/EL**

**KISH v GRAVES et al**

**16 PROCEEDING ENTRIES**

14. 4-May-2026 A panel consisting of Chief Justice Timmer, Justice Bolick, Justice Montgomery, and Justice Cruz has considered this expedited election appeal.
- The record shows Appellant Isha Graves timely filed 659 signatures to support her placement on the July 21, 2026, primary election ballot as a Republican Party candidate running for Justice of the Peace of the Canyon Trails Justice Precinct. For that office, the Legislature has required she file at least 658 valid signatures. See A.R.S. § 16-322(A)(7). Appellee Jason Kish brought a challenge. After a trial the superior court found fourteen signatures were invalid. The court, therefore, enjoined Appellant from appearing on the ballot.
- Appellant seeks to reverse the trial court's decision. She urges this Court to accept the validity of thirteen signatures, which would satisfy the statutory minimum. The signatures fall into three categories. First, she claims to have eight additional "E-Qual" signatures that, she argues, the Secretary of State should have filed on her behalf. Second, she claims that under Section 7 of H.B. 2129, there are three signatures that were incorrectly deemed out-of-district. See H.B. 2129, 57th Leg., 1st Reg. Sess. ch. 194, § 7 (Ariz. 2025). Third, she asks the Court to treat as valid two signatures from the wrong party.
- The Court considers the third category. The two signers in question are members of the No Labels Party, which for a time was called the Arizona Independent Party. Under A.R.S. § 16-321(F)(3) signers "registered as independent" can be qualified electors. Appellant argues that because she believed these signers were "independent" the Court should treat them as valid. Despite the confusion, the Court cannot sidestep § 16-321(F)'s requirements. As the trial court found, the two signers "simply did not meet" those requirements. Therefore, Appellant fails to reach the required 658 signatures, and it is unnecessary to consider the validity of the other signatures.
- In case she falls short of the required number of signatures, Appellant requests the Court hold that she has nevertheless substantially complied with § 16-322(A)(7)'s minimum signature requirement. However, because a specific minimum signature threshold is set by the Legislature, substantial compliance analysis does not apply.
- The process of seeking placement on a primary ballot is rigorous, and this Court is sympathetic to the difficulties experienced by unrepresented candidates facing nomination-petition challenges in accelerated proceedings. Nevertheless, the Court must apply the law as enacted by the Legislature.
- Accordingly,
- IT IS ORDERED affirming the trial court's ruling.
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED enjoining Appellant's name from appearing on the July 21, 2026, primary election ballot as a Republican Party candidate for the office of Justice of the Peace of the Canyon Trails Justice Precinct.
- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED directing the Clerk to issue the mandate forthwith. (Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer)
15. 4-May-2026 **MANDATE TO THE SUPERIOR COURT**
- Issued Mandate and copy of the Decision to the Superior Court  
-----
16. 7-May-2026 RECEIPT No.: 2026-00161 ; \$165.00, Authorization: 8304909984605640, Applied to: JASON KISH - Class B Filing Fee (\$165.00) Paid for: JASON KISH - By nCourt LLC