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**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

VET VOICE FOUNDATION; THE  
WASHINGTON BUS; EL CENTRO DE LA  
RAZA; KAELEENE ESCALANTE  
MARTINEZ; BETHAN CANTRELL;  
DAISHA BRITT; GABRIEL BERSON; and  
MARI MATSUMOTO,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STEVE HOBBS, in his official capacity as  
Washington State Secretary of State;  
JULIE WISE, in her official capacity as the  
Auditor/Director of Elections in King  
County and a King County Canvassing  
Board Member; SUSAN SLONECKER, in  
her official capacity as a King County  
Canvassing Board Member; and  
STEPHANIE CIRKOVICH, in her official  
capacity as a King County Canvassing  
Board Member,

Defendants.

NO. 22-2-19384-1 SEA

DEFENDANT STEVE HOBBS'  
ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S  
FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT  
FOR DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Defendant Secretary of State Steve Hobbs hereby answers Plaintiffs' Complaint for Declaratory Judgement as follows. Except as herein expressly admitted or qualified, Secretary Hobbs denies each and every allegation, statement, or charge contained in the Complaint, and denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief requested. The Complaint includes headings, which are not specifically responded to herein and are re-produced for the

1 purposes of readability and convenience. To the extent a response to any heading is required, the  
2 heading is denied.

3 Secretary Hobbs reserves the right to amend this pleading as permitted by this Court's  
4 rules and orders, including Fed. R. Civ. P. 15.

### 5 I. NATURE OF THE ACTION

6 1. Secretary Hobbs admits that the cases and statute cited in this Paragraph, which  
7 speak for themselves, are accurately quoted.

8 2. This Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions of law to be determined  
9 by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a further response is required,  
10 denied.

11 3. Secretary Hobbs admits that comparison of a voter's signature on the declaration  
12 accompanying a ballot to the signature on a voter's registration is a means to verify that the ballot  
13 was cast by the person to whom it was issued; Secretary Hobbs admits that the elections officials  
14 comparing such signatures are human; Secretary Hobbs admits that in the event an elections  
15 official determines that the signatures do not match there is an opportunity to cure the signature  
16 such that the ballot may be counted. The remainder of this Paragraph consists of argument and  
17 characterization to which no response is required. To the extent a further response is required,  
18 denied.

19 4. Secretary Hobbs admits that from the 2018 Primary Election through the  
20 2022 Primary Election, tens of thousands of voters whose ballots were initially rejected for  
21 mismatched signatures were able to cure their ballots and have their ballots counted.  
22 Secretary Hobbs denies the remainder.

23 5. Secretary Hobbs admits that the Washington State Auditor conducted an audit  
24 which can be found at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-)  
25 [content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA\\_Evaluating\\_WA\\_Ballot\\_Rejections\\_ar-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-)  
26

1 [1029711.pdf](#). The audit speaks for itself. Secretary Hobbs denies the remainder of the allegations  
2 in this Paragraph.

3 6. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
4 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

5 7. Secretary Hobbs admits that comparison of a voter's signature on the declaration  
6 accompanying a ballot to the signature on a voter's registration is a means to verify that the ballot  
7 was cast by the person to whom it was issued. Secretary Hobbs admits that successful voter fraud  
8 is rare in Washington. The remainder of this Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions  
9 of law to be determined by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a further  
10 response is required, denied.

11 8. This paragraph summarizes Plaintiff's request for relief, and requires no  
12 response. To the extent a further response is required, denied.

## 13 II. PARTIES

14 9. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff Vet Voice Foundation is a charitable  
15 organization with a status of "involuntarily closed" in the Secretary of State's records.  
16 Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
17 allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

18 10. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff The Washington Bus is a charitable  
19 organization. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
20 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

21 11. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff El Centro de la Raza is a charitable,  
22 organization. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
23 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

24 12. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff Kaeleene Escalante Martinez has attested  
25 that she is a United States citizen and over the age of 18, and is a registered voter in the State of  
26

1 Washington. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of  
2 the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

3 13. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
4 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

5 14. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
6 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

7 15. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
8 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

9 16. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff Bethan Cantrell has attested that she is a  
10 United States citizen and over the age of 18, and is a registered voter in the State of Washington.  
11 Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
12 allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

13 17. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff Daisha Britt has attested that she is a  
14 United States citizen and over the age of 18, and is a registered voter in the State of Washington.  
15 Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
16 allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

17 18. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
18 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

19 19. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff Gabriel Berson, M.D. has attested that he is  
20 a United States citizen and over the age of 18, and is a registered voter in the State of Washington.  
21 Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
22 allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

23 20. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
24 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

1           21. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff Mari Matsumoto is an attorney.  
2 Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
3 allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

4           22. Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff Mari Matsumoto has attested that she is a  
5 United States citizen and over the age of 18, and is a registered voter in the State of Washington.  
6 Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
7 allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

8           23. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
9 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

10          24. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
11 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

12          25. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
13 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

14          26. Secretary Hobbs admits that he is the Secretary of State of Washington and that  
15 the Complaint purports to assert a claim against Secretary Hobbs in his official capacity.  
16 Secretary Hobbs admits that Plaintiff has accurately quoted portions of the Revised Code of  
17 Washington. The remaining allegations in this Paragraph assert legal conclusions and questions  
18 of law to be determined by the Court, to which no response is required

19          27. Secretary Hobbs admits that the Complaint purports to assert a claim against  
20 Julie Wise in her capacity as the Auditor/Director of Elections in King County; Susan Slonecker  
21 in her capacity as Supervising Attorney at the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office;  
22 Stephanie Cirkovich in her capacity as the Chief of Staff at the King County Council; and  
23 Ms. Wise, Ms. Slonecker, and Ms. Cirkovich in their official capacities as members of the  
24 King County Canvassing Board. The remaining allegations in this Paragraph assert legal  
25 conclusions and questions of law to be determined by the Court, to which no response is required.  
26

1 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 28. This Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions of law to be determined  
3 by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a further response is required,  
4 denied.

5 29. This Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions of law to be determined  
6 by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a further response is required,  
7 denied.

8 30. This Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions of law to be determined  
9 by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a further response is required,  
10 denied.

11 31. This Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions of law to be determined  
12 by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a further response is required,  
13 denied.

14 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

15 32. Denied.

16 33. This Paragraph asserts legal argument and characterization to which no response  
17 is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.

18 34. This Paragraph contains legal characterization and argument to which no  
19 response is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.

20 35. This Paragraph asserts legal argument and characterizations to which no response  
21 is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.

22 36. This Paragraph asserts legal argument and characterizations to which no response  
23 is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.

24 37. This Paragraph asserts legal argument and characterizations to which no response  
25 is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.  
26

1           38.     This Paragraph asserts legal argument and characterizations, to which no  
2 response is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.

3           39.     Secretary Hobbs denies that comparison of the signature on the voter declaration  
4 accompanying a ballot with the signature on a voter registration addresses a problem virtually  
5 non-existent in Washington. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief  
6 as to the truth of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

7           40.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
8 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

9           41.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
10 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

11          42.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
12 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

13          43.     This Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions of law to be determined  
14 by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.

15          44.     Admit.

16          45.     Secretary Hobbs admits that every active registered voter is mailed a mail ballot  
17 at their address of registration for every election by local election officials at least 18 days before  
18 the election. Secretary Hobbs is without information to form a belief as to the truth of the  
19 remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and accordingly denies the same.

20          46.     Admit.

21          47.     Signatures on voter declarations are verified according to RCW 29A.40.110,  
22 WAC 434-250-120, and WAC 434-379-020, which speak for themselves. To the extent this  
23 Paragraph is inconsistent with RCW 29A.40.110, WAC 434-250-120, and WAC 434-379-020  
24 it is denied.

25          48.     Signatures on voter declarations are verified according to RCW 29A.40.110,  
26 WAC 434-250-120, and WAC 434-379-020, which speak for themselves. To the extent this

1 Paragraph is inconsistent with RCW 29A.40.110, WAC 434-250-120, and WAC 434-379-020  
2 it is denied.

3 49. Signatures on voter declarations are verified according to RCW 29A.40.110,  
4 WAC 434-250-120, and WAC 434-379-020, which speak for themselves. Mismatched  
5 signatures are cured according to the procedure specified in WAC 434-261-050. To the extent  
6 this Paragraph is inconsistent with RCW 29A.40.110, WAC 434-250-120, WAC 434-379-020,  
7 and WAC 434-261-050 it is denied.

8 50. Secretary Hobbs admits that personnel must subscribe to an oath and be instructed  
9 in the signature verification process prior to actually canvassing any signatures. Secretary Hobbs  
10 denies the remaining allegations in this paragraph.

11 51. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
12 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

13 52. Secretary Hobbs admits only that this Paragraph has accurately quoted a portion  
14 of the Revised Code of Washington, which otherwise speaks for itself. To the extent a further  
15 response is required, denied.

16 53. Secretary Hobbs admits only that this Paragraph has accurately quoted a portion  
17 of the Washington Administrative Code, which otherwise speaks for itself. To the extent a  
18 further response is required, denied.

19 54. Secretary Hobbs admits that a training is offered to election officials on signature  
20 verification. Secretary Hobbs denies the remainder of the allegations in this Paragraph.

21 55. This paragraph alleges that a document contains certain language without  
22 providing the title of the document, its author, or a means to view the document to verify the  
23 accuracy of the allegations. Accordingly, Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to  
24 form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

25 56. This paragraph alleges that a document contains certain language without  
26 providing the title of the document, its author, or a means to view the document to verify the



1 accuracy of the allegations. Accordingly, Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to  
2 form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

3 57. This Paragraph consists of legal argument and characterizations to which no  
4 response is required. To the extent a response is required, denied.

5 58. Secretary Hobbs denies that verification of signatures on voter declarations are  
6 highly error-prone. Secretary Hobbs lacks sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining  
7 allegations in this this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

8 59. Secretary Hobbs admits that tens of thousands of voters successfully cured  
9 mismatched signatures on their voter's declarations in the 2020 general election.  
10 Secretary Hobbs lacks sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations in this  
11 this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

12 60. Denied.

13 61. Denied.

14 62. Denied.

15 63. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
16 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

17 64. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
18 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

19 65. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
20 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

21 66. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
22 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

23 67. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
24 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

25 68. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
26 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

1           69.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
2 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

3           70.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
4 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

5           71.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
6 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

7           72.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
8 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

9           73.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
10 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

11          74.     Secretary Hobbs admits only that this Paragraph has accurately quoted or  
12 paraphrased a portion of the Revised Code of Washington, which otherwise speaks for itself.  
13 Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
14 allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

15          75.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
16 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

17          76.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
18 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

19          77.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
20 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

21          78.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
22 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

23          79.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
24 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

25          80.     Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
26 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

1           81. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
2 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

3           82. Uniformed service voters, service voters, and overseas voters may vote as  
4 provided in chapter 434-235 WAC. To the extent this Paragraph conflicts with chapter  
5 434-235 WAC, it is denied. Secretary Hobbs denies the remainder of the allegations in this  
6 Paragraph.

7           83. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
8 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

9           84. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
10 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

11           85. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
12 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

13           86. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
14 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

15           87. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
16 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

17           88. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
18 of the allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

19           89. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
20 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

21           90. Secretary Hobbs is without information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
22 of the remaining allegations in this Paragraph, and therefore denies.

23           91. This Paragraph asserts legal argument and characterization to which no response  
24 is required. To the extent a further response is required, denied.

25           92. This Paragraph asserts legal argument and characterizations to which no response  
26 is required. To the extent a further response is required, denied.

1 93. Denied.

2 94. The cited statute and rule speak for themselves. Secretary Hobbs denies the  
3 remaining allegations in this Paragraph.

4 95. Admit.

5 96. Secretary Hobbs admits that WAC 434-230-015 contains a declaration that must  
6 accompany a ballot which is substantially set forth in this Paragraph. WAC 434-230-015 speaks  
7 for itself. To the extent this Paragraph is inconsistent with WAC 434-230-015 it is denied.

8 97. Admit.

9 98. Secretary Hobbs admits that Washington participates in the Electronic  
10 Registration and Information Center (“ERIC”), which tracks voters who have moved from one  
11 member jurisdiction to another and receives data on deceased voters from the Social Security  
12 Administration. Secretary Hobbs denies the remainder of the allegations in this Paragraph.

13 99. Secretary Hobbs admits that the Secretary of State works with the Social Security  
14 Administration, the Washington Department of Licensing, the Washington Department of  
15 Health and the Washington Department of Corrections to improve the accuracy of voter  
16 registration data and prevent fraudulently cast ballots from occurring. Secretary Hobbs denies  
17 the remainder of the allegations in this Paragraph.

18 100. Denied.

19 101. This Paragraph asserts legal conclusions and questions of law to be determined  
20 by the Court, to which no response is required. To the extent a further response is required,  
21 Secretary Hobbs admits that Washington law provides voters the opportunity to cure ballots that  
22 were rejected as part of the signature verification process and denies the remaining allegations  
23 in this Paragraph.

24 102. The procedure for curing a mismatched signature is specified in  
25 WAC 434-261-050, which speaks for itself. To the extent this Paragraph differs from the rule,  
26 Secretary Hobbs denies the allegations in this Paragraph.

1 103. The procedure for curing a mismatched signature is specified in  
2 WAC 434-261-050, which speaks for itself. To the extent this Paragraph differs from the rule,  
3 Secretary Hobbs denies the allegations in this Paragraph.

4 104. The procedure for curing a mismatched signature is specified in  
5 WAC 434-261-050, which speaks for itself. To the extent this Paragraph differs from the rule,  
6 Secretary Hobbs denies the allegations in this Paragraph.

7 105. Denied.

8 106. Secretary Hobbs admits that the Washington State Auditor conducted an audit  
9 which can be found at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
10 [content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA\\_Evaluating\\_WA\\_Ballot\\_Rejections\\_ar-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
11 [1029711.pdf](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf). The audit speaks for itself. Secretary Hobbs denies the remaining allegations in  
12 this Paragraph.

13 107. Secretary Hobbs admits that the Washington State Auditor conducted an audit  
14 which can be found at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
15 [content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA\\_Evaluating\\_WA\\_Ballot\\_Rejections\\_ar-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
16 [1029711.pdf](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf). The audit speaks for itself. Secretary Hobbs denies the remaining allegations in  
17 this Paragraph.

18 108. Secretary Hobbs admits that the Washington State Auditor conducted an audit  
19 which can be found at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
20 [content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA\\_Evaluating\\_WA\\_Ballot\\_Rejections\\_ar-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
21 [1029711.pdf](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf). The audit speaks for itself. Secretary Hobbs denies the remaining allegations in  
22 this Paragraph.

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2 this Paragraph.

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4 which can be found at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-)  
5 [content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA\\_Evaluating\\_WA\\_Ballot\\_Rejections\\_ar-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-)

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7 this Paragraph.

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10 [content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA\\_Evaluating\\_WA\\_Ballot\\_Rejections\\_ar-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-)

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12 this Paragraph.

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14 which can be found at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-)  
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17 this Paragraph.

18 113. Secretary Hobbs admits that the Washington State Auditor conducted an audit  
19 which can be found at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-)  
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21 [1029711.pdf](#). The audit speaks for itself. Secretary Hobbs denies the remaining allegations in  
22 this Paragraph.







1 130. This Paragraph states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the  
2 extent a response is required, Secretary Hobbs denies the allegations in this Paragraph.

3 **VII. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
4 **VIOLATION OF ARTICLE I, SECTIONS 3 AND 12 OF THE WASHINGTON STATE**  
5 **CONSTITUTION**  
6 **(COUNTY DISPARITY; DUE PROCESS)**

7 131. Secretary Hobbs restates and incorporates by reference his responses to the  
8 allegations in the Complaint.

9 132. Secretary Hobbs admits only that this Paragraph has accurately quoted a portion  
10 of the Washington State Constitution, which otherwise speaks for itself. To the extent a further  
11 response is required, denied.

12 133. Secretary Hobbs admits that the quoted language can be found in the  
13 State Auditor's report available at this URL: [https://sao.wa.gov/wp-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
14 [content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA\\_Evaluating\\_WA\\_Ballot\\_Rejections\\_ar-](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf)  
15 [1029711.pdf](https://sao.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Tabs/PerformanceAudit/PA_Evaluating_WA_Ballot_Rejections_ar-1029711.pdf). Plaintiffs allege rejection rates for mismatched signatures without specifying the  
16 election or elections to which they refer and, accordingly, these allegations are denied. The  
17 remainder of this Paragraph consists of legal argument and characterization to which no response  
18 is required. To the extent a response is required, Secretary Hobbs denies the remainder of the  
19 allegations in this Paragraph.

20 134. This Paragraph states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the  
21 extent a response is required, Secretary Hobbs denies the allegations in this Paragraph.

22 135. This Paragraph states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the  
23 extent a response is required, Secretary Hobbs denies the allegations in this Paragraph.  
24  
25  
26





1                                   **XII.    SECRETARY HOBBS’S REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

2           Wherefore, Secretary Hobbs prays that the Court:

3           1.       Dismiss Plaintiffs’ Complaint with prejudice such that Plaintiffs take nothing by  
4 the Complaint;

5           2.       Allow Secretary Hobbs his costs and attorneys’ fees herein;

6           3.       Other relief that that the Court deems just and equitable.

7           DATED this 18th day of January, 2023.

8                                   ROBERT W. FERGUSON  
9                                   Attorney General

10                                   s/ William McGinty  
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13                                   Deputy Solicitors General  
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23                                   Attorneys for Defendant Steve Hobbs

1 **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby declare that on this day I caused the foregoing document to be served, via  
3 electronic mail, on the following:

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I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 18th day of January, 2023, at Olympia, Washington.

/s/ William McGinty  
WILLIAM MCGINTY, WSBA #41868  
Assistant Attorney General