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CV-24-492

IN THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT

JENNIFER MCGILL, individually and on behalf of the ARKANSAS CANVASSING COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE; and CHEROKEE NATION ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

PETITIONERS

V.

JOHN THURSTON, in his capacity as ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

RESPONDENT

LOCAL VOTERS IN CHARGE, a ballot question committee; and JIM KNIGHT, individually and on behalf of LOCAL VOTERS IN CHARGE

INTERVENORS

INTERVENORS' RESPONSE TO PETITIONERS' MOTION TO APPOINT SPECIAL MASTER, BIFURCATE PROCEEDINGS, EXPEDITE SCHEDULING, IMPOSE A BRIEFING SCHEDULE, GRANT LEAVE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS, SHORTEN DISCOVERY RESPONSE TIMES, AND HEAR ORAL ARGUMENT

Come now Intervenors, Local Voters in Charge, a ballot question committee, and Jim Knight, individually and on behalf of Local Voters in Charge, by and through the undersigned counsel, and for their Response to Petitioners' Motion to Appoint Special Master, Bifurcate Proceedings, Expedite Scheduling, Impose a

Briefing Schedule, Grant Lave to Take Depositions, Shorten Discovery Response Times, and Hear Oral Argument (the "Motion"), state as follows:

- 1. Intervenors have no objection to the appointment of a Special Master to receive evidence, issue findings, and file a report on Petitioners' signature challenge in Count I by September 25, 2024.
- 2. Intervenors have no objection to posting a bond in an amount equal to the bond posted by Petitioners.
- 3. Intervenors have no objection to bifurcating Counts I and II and establishing separate briefing schedules.
- 4. With regard to the ballot title and popular name (Count II), Intervenors object to Petitioners' proposed briefing schedule in paragraph 11. Petitioners have had since the Attorney General certified the ballot title and popular name to review and begin the briefing process. To account for their head start, Intervenors would request a response brief deadline no sooner than August 30, 2024.
- 5. With regard to the signature challenge (Count I), Intervenors have no objection to the proposed briefing schedule in paragraph 12 so long as Intervenors are expressly permitted to file a brief on or before October 2, 2024 and to file a reply brief on or before October 9, 2024.
- 6. With regard to Petitioners' request for leave to take depositions and to obtain subpoenas of unnamed state employees, canvassers, notaries and others,

Intervenors state that such matters should be delegated to the Special Master under Rule 6-5 and Arkansas Rule of Civil Procedure 53. Further, Petitioners should be required to meet and confer with Intervenors and Respondent prior to issuing any deposition notices and witness subpoenas.

- 7. With regard to Petitioners' request to shorten written discovery response times to within seven calendar days of service, Intervenors object. Again, discovery matters should be delegated to the Special Master. Intervenors will work with the Special Master and the parties to establish reasonable discovery deadlines given the exigency of the matter and the unknown quantity of written discovery requests the Petitioners will propound.
- 8. Lastly, Intervenors have no objection to oral argument on the briefs subsequent to the filing of the Special Master's report.
- 9. To the extent there are allegations in the Motion that have not been specifically addressed herein, they are denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Robben Murray, #79244
Kathy McCarroll, #2014191
FRIDAY, ELDREDGE & CLARK LLP
400 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 2000
Little Rock, AR 72201
Telephone: (501) 370-1592
Facsimile: (501) 244-5370
murray@fridayfirm.com
mccarroll@fridayfirm.com

By: /s/ Kathy McCarroll
KATHY MCCARROLL

Attorney for Local Voters in Charge, a ballot question committee, and Jim Knight, individually and on behalf of Local Voters in Charge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kathy McCarroll, hereby certify that on this 5th day of August, 2024, I electronically tendered/filed the foregoing using the Court's electronic filing system, which shall send notification of such filing to the following counsel of record:

John E. Tull
E.B. Chiles IV
R. Ryan Younger
Meredith M. Causey
Glenn Larkin
QUATTLEBAUM, GROOMS & TULL, PLLC
111 Center Street, Suite 1900
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Telephone: (501) 379-1700
Facsimile: (501) 379-1701
jtull@qgtlaw.com
cchiles@qgtlaw.com
ryounger@qgtlaw.com

mcausey@qgtlaw.com glarkin@qgtlaw.com

and

David A. Couch DAVID A. COUCH PLLC 5420 Kavanaugh Blvd. Little Rock, AR 72217 Telephone: (501) 661-1300 david@davidcouchlaw.com

and

Scott P. Richardson
Bart W. Calhoun
Brittany D. Webb
McDaniel Wolff, PLLC
1307 W. Fourth St.
Little Rock, AR 72201
Telephone: (501) 954-8000
Facsimile: (501) 419-1601
scott@mcdanielwolff.com
bart@mcdanielwolff.com
bwebb@mcdanielwolff.com

Attorneys for Petitioners

Justin Brascher
Office of the Arkansas Attorney General
323 Center Street, Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201
Telephone: (501) 682-1019
Facsimile: (501) 682-2591
justin.brascher@arkansasag.gov

Attorneys for Respondent

By: <u>/s/ Kathy McCarroll</u>
KATHY MCCARROLL