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#### NO. 101375-2

#### SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

ROBERT SNAZA, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Lewis County; SEAN SWOPE, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Lewis County; LINDSEY POLLOCK, in her official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Lewis County; GARY STAMPER, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners of Lewis County; JOSHEPH HELM, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Columbia County; RYAN RUNDELL, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County; MARTY HALL, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Columbia County; CHARLES AMAAREIN, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Columbia County; RAYMOND MAYCUMBER, EREK GIANUKAKIS, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Ferry County; NATHAN DAVIS, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Ferry County; MICHAEL HEATH, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Ferry County; DREW HYER, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Garfield County; JIM NELSON, in his official capacity of District 1 Commissioner of Garfield County; LARRY LEDGERWOOD, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Garfield County; JUSTIN DIXON, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Garfield County; Tom Jones, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Grant County; DANNY STONE, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Grant County; ROB JONES, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Grant County; CINDY CARTER, in her capacity as District 3 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Grant County; DAVID S. BROWN, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Skamania County; RICHARD MAHAR, in his official capacity as District 1

Commissioner of Skamania County; TOM LANNEN, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Skamania County; BOB HAMLIN, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Skamania County; OZZIE KNEZOVICH, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Spokane County; JOSH KERNS, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Spokane County; MARY KUNEY, in her official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Spokane County; AL FRENCH, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Spokane County;

Respondents,

v.

#### STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Petitioner.

#### STATEMENT OF GROUNDS FOR DIRECT REVIEW

#### ROBERT W. FERGUSON Attorney General

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

Following waves of protests across the State and country calling for racial justice and reform of police practices, the Legislature enacted comprehensive legislation to limit use of force by law enforcement, including regulating the use of tear gas. In the case of a riot outside of a correctional facility, the law requires law enforcement to receive authorization from the highest elected official of the jurisdiction before deploying tear gas. RCW 10.116.030(3).

The Sheriffs and County Commissioners of seven noncharter counties (Sheriffs and Commissioners) challenged RCW 10.116.030(3)(a). They claimed that the new statute's requirement that law enforcement receive authorization from the jurisdiction's highest elected official prior to deploying tear gas unlawfully transferred a "core function" of the sheriff to another elected county official in purported violation of article XI, section 5, of the state constitution. But that section expressly gives the Legislature authority to prescribe the duties of county officers, and the Legislature's authority to enact a law is plenary and unrestrained unless limited by the state and federal constitutions.

This case merits direct review under both RAP 4.2(a)(2)and (4). The trial court agreed with the Sheriffs and Commissioners, invalidating a state statute enacted to reform law enforcement tactics. This case thus raises a fundamental and urgent issue of broad public import as to the scope of legislative authority to enact comprehensive statutes relating to the authority of county officers.

The trial court's order invalidating RCW 10.116.030(3) as to local enforcement agencies in non-charter counties would tie the hands of the Legislature to address 21st century challenges based on 19th century practices and "hermitically seal" the authority of county officers. *Cf. State v. Rice*, 174 Wn.2d 884, 900, 279 P.3d 849 (2012) (the powers of the branches of government are "not hermetically sealed," even though their fundamental functions remain inviolate). The order could

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constrain the Legislature from undertaking future reforms related to any county office.

The trial court's order also results in the fragmented application of the statute across county lines by maintaining this check on sheriffs of charter counties, city and town police, and state law enforcement but eliminating this check on sheriffs of non-charter counties. The invalidation undermines legislative efforts to uniformly address law enforcement use-of-force concerns. These are issues of broad public import requiring prompt and ultimate determination.

#### II. NATURE OF THE CASE AND DECISION

The Sheriffs and Commissioners brought their action to challenge an important feature of legislation regulating the use of tear gas by law enforcement.<sup>1</sup> In April 2021, the Legislature adopted Engrossed Substitute H.B. 1064, 67th Leg., Reg. Sess.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Tear gas" means chloroacetophenone (CN), Ochlorobenzylidene malononitrile (CS), and any similar chemical irritant dispersed in the air for the purpose of producing temporary physical discomfort or permanent injury. RCW 10.116.030(4)(d).

(Wash. 2021), *enacted as* Laws of 2021, ch. 320 (*codified as* RCW 10.116, which established limitations and requirements for certain tactics and equipment used by peace officers. One provision of the act specifies that tear gas may only be used when "necessary to alleviate a present risk of serious harm posed by a (a) riot; (b) barricaded subject; or (c) hostage situation." RCW 10.116 030(1).

The statute also specifies certain steps that law enforcement must take before using tear gas. RCW 10.116.030(2). These steps include exhausting available and appropriate alternatives, obtaining authorization from a supervising officer, announcing to the subject(s) the intent to use tear gas, and allowing sufficient time and space for compliance with directives. *Id*.

Solely in the case of riots "outside of a correctional, jail, or detention facility," the statute further requires that prior to using tear gas, law enforcement must receive authorization "from the highest elected official of the jurisdiction in which the tear

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gas is to be used." RCW 10.116.030(3). The statute defines "highest elected official" to mean, in the case of non-charter counties, the chair of the county legislative authority, which is the board of county commissioners. RCW 10.116.030(4)(b); *see* Const. art. XI, § 5. In the case of charter counties, the term applies to the county executive. *Id.* For city police and town marshals, it means the mayor. *Id.* For the Washington State Patrol, the term applies to the Governor. *Id.* 

The Sheriffs and Commissioners from Lewis, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Skamania, and Spokane counties brought their action to challenge only the provision of RCW 10.116.030 requiring the approval of the chair of the board of county commissioners before a sheriff of a non-charter county may deploy tear gas to suppress a riot outside the jail. Am. Compl. for Declaratory J., ¶¶ 4.1-4.8 (attached as App. A). The Sheriffs and Commissioners did not challenge the statute's other limits on the use of tear gas, instead challenging ESHB 1054 § (4)(3)(a), in the specific context of elected sheriffs of non-charter counties. Id.

The Sheriffs and Commissioners raised two claims for declaratory relief, one applicable to the Sheriffs and the other Commissioners. applicable to the They alleged that RCW 10.116.030(3) violates article XI, section 5 as to Sheriffs by requiring that a Sheriff obtain the approval of the chair of the board of county commissioners before employing tear gas in riot suppression. Am. Compl., ¶ 4.8. They also alleged that RCW 10.116.030(3) violates article XI, section 5 as to the Commissioners by vesting the authority to approve tear gas use in a single commissioner (the chair) rather than in all of the Commissioners as a body. *Id.*, ¶ 4.7.

The trial court resolved this case on cross motions for summary judgment. Notice of Appeal, Attach. A (attached as App. B). The trial court granted summary judgment in favor of the Sheriffs and Commissioners regarding their claim that RCW 10.116.030 unconstitutionally transferred some authority of the Sheriff to the chair of the board of county commissioners by requiring approval for the use of tear gas. Id. But the trial court ruled in favor of the State with regard to the powers of the office of the chair of the board of county commissioners. Notice of Appeal, Attach. A. That is, the trial court agreed with the Sheriffs and Commissioners that requiring Sheriffs to obtain the approval of the chair of the board of county commissioners before using tear gas violated article XI, section 5, as to the powers of the Sheriffs. Id. But the trial court also agreed with the State that adding a new function to the powers of the chair of the board of county commissioners did not violate article XI, section 5, with regard to the powers of the Commissioners. See Notice of Appeal, Attach. B at 16:22-17:14.

This appeal follows. The State appeals only from the summary judgment order as it relates to the functions of the Sheriffs.

#### III. ISSUE PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

The State seeks direct review by this Court of the following issue:

Does article XI, section 5 of the Washington Constitution allow the Legislature to require the approval of the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners in order for law enforcement to deploy tear gas?

#### IV. STATEMENT OF GROUNDS FOR DIRECT REVIEW

The trial court held part of RCW 10.116.030 unconstitutional with regard to non-charter counties, making direct review of that order appropriate for this case. RAP 4.2(a)(2). Direct review is also appropriate because whether and how a statutory limitation on the use of tear gas by law enforcement in emergent situations applies is "a fundamental and urgent issue of broad public import which requires prompt and ultimate determination." RAP 4.2(a)(4).

RAP 4.2(a)(2) straightforwardly applies to this case because the trial court invalidated RCW 10.116.030 as applied to sheriffs of non-charter counties. The court's order declaring the statute unconstitutional with regard to the powers of the office of the sheriff in non-charter counties raises an issue appropriate for direct review.

This appeal also meets RAP 4.2(a)(4) because the trial court's decision calls into question the scope of the Legislature's authority to comprehensively address basic questions about law enforcement in general and about local governmental structure more generally. The trial court's order declaring RCW 10.116.030 invalid as to non-charter counties undermines the Legislature's efforts to address use of force by law enforcement in a uniform and consistent way, resulting in a statute with fragmented application by county.

The trial court's ruling creates two different legal regimes governing the use of tear gas depending on what jurisdiction is involved. The Sheriffs and Commissioners ground their arguments in article XI, section 5, of the Washington Constitution, which lists them among county officers required by the Constitution. But that constitutional provision has no application to counties that adopt home rule charters. Const. art. XI, § 4 ("Any home rule charter . . . may provide for such county officers as may be deemed necessary to carry out and perform all county functions as provided by charter or by general law . . . ."). Neither does article XI, section 5 apply to the officers of cities or towns, because it applies only to counties. *See* Const. art. XI, § 10 (providing for municipal corporations, including cities and towns).

In effect, the trial court's ruling creates an eccentric dichotomy regarding legislative authority to provide for the use of tear gas to suppress riots. The trial court concluded that article XI, section 5, deprives the Legislature of authority to safeguard public safety when the law enforcement agency at issue is the Sheriff of a non-charter county, but not when the law enforcement agency is the sheriff of a charter county or of a city or town (or Washington State Patrol for that matter). The trial court's ruling cannot be correct because, if it were, then the Legislature could only protect the public by providing for a check on law enforcement in some jurisdictions but not in others; such a jurisdictionally-driven result would create a disparity wholly unrelated to the actual needs of the citizens the Legislature intended to protect.

The issue raised on appeal is even more important because of its effect on legislative authority to prescribe the duties of local officers under article XI, section 5, and even more fundamentally, to establish a general and uniform system of county government under article XI, section 4. The conclusion below places a breathtaking limitation on legislative authority over local government without any corresponding constitutional text indicating such clear restraint. As this Court recently emphasized, the Washington Constitution grants the Legislature constitutional authority to provide for a general and uniform system of county government. Spokane Cntv. v. State, 196 Wn.2d 79, 86, 469 P.3d 1173 (2020) (construing article XI, section 4). And the Constitution similarly grants the Legislature the

authority to prescribe the duties of county officers. Const. art. XI, § 5.

The trial court's rationale carves out a legislative "no fly zone," which would disempower the Legislature from changing the distribution of the authority vested in county officers existing at the time of statehood and restrict future legislative changes. This Court has previously reasoned that "the legislature cannot transfer to other officers . . . important powers and functions which from time immemorial have belonged to the office of sheriff." State ex rel. Johnston v. Melton, 192 Wash. 379, 389, 73 P.2d 1334 (1937). But that limitation extends only to the wholesale transfer of power to another officer such that the sheriff ceases to be recognizable as a sheriff. See id. at 380-85 (describing the creation of other investigators holding the same powers as the sheriff); see also State v. Rice, 174 Wn.2d 884, 905, 279 P.3d 849 (2012) (Legislature cannot divest a county prosecuting attorney of criminal charging discretion, because without that discretion "a prosecuting attorney would cease to be a 'prosecuting attorney'"). But article XI, section 5 in no way casts such a pall over otherwise plenary legislative authority to prescribe the duties of county officers and create checks for their actions. A holding that it has such an effect would limit legislative authority over county officers to a staggering degree.

Additionally, the Sheriffs and Commissioners themselves asserted in the trial court proceedings that "this case presents a fundamental issue affecting the government of all non-charter Washington counties." Pls. Mot. Summ. J. at 1. Their characterization of the case further supports direct review under RAP 4.2(a)(4).

#### V. CONCLUSION

For these reasons, this Court should retain this matter for determination on direct review.

This document contains 2046 words, excluding the parts of the document exempted from the word count by RAP 18.17.

#### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 25th day of

October, 2022.

ROBERT W. FERGUSON Attorney General

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing was electronically filed in the Washington State Supreme Court and electronically served on all parties of record, according to the Court's protocols for electronic filing and service.

DATED this 25th day of October 2022, at Olympia, Washington.

*s/ Stephanie N. Lindey* STEPHANIE N. LINDEY *Legal Assistant* 

		Received & Filed-Superior Court Lewis County, Washington	
1			
2		AUG 26 2021	
3		Scott Tenner	
4		Scott Tinney Lewis County Clerk	
5			
6	IN THE SUPERIOR COU IN AND FOR LEV	RT OF WASHINGTON WIS COUNTY	
7	ROBERT SNAZA, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Lewis County, Washington;	Case No. 21-2-00374-21	
8 9	SEAN SWOPE, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Lewis County, Washington;	AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT	
10 11	LINDSEY POLLOCK, in her official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Lewis County, Washington;		
12 13 14	12 GARY STAMPER, in his official capacity 13 as District 3 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for		
15	JOSEPH HELM, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Columbia County, Washington;		
16 17 18	RYAN RUNDELL, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County, Washington;		
19 20	MARTY HALL, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Columbia County, Washington;		
21	CHARLES AMAAREIN, in his official		
22	capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Columbia County, Washington;		
23			
24	RAYMOND MAYCUMBER, in his official capacity of as Sheriff of Ferry County,		
25	Washington;		
26			
"	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT	LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)	

**GCOPY** 

1 2	DEREK GIANUKAKIS, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Ferry County, Washington;
3 4	NATHAN DAVIS, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Ferry County, Washington;
5 6	MICHAEL HEATH, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Ferry County, Washington;
7 8	DREW HYER, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Garfield County, Washington;
9 10	JIM NELSON, in his official capacity of District 1 Commissioner of Garfield County, Washington;
11 12	LARRY LEDGERWOOD, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Garfield County, Washington;
13 14	JUSTIN DIXON, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Garfield County, Washington;
15 16	Tom Jones, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Grant County, Washington;
17 18	DANNY STONE, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Grant County, Washington;
19 20	ROB JONES, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Grant County, Washington;
21 22	CINDY CARTER, in her capacity as District 3 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Grant County Washington
23 24	Grant County, Washington; DAVID S. BROWN, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Skamania County, Weahington;
25 26	Washington;
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COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

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LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)

1 2	RICHARD MAHAR, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Skamania County, Washington;		
3 4	TOM LANNEN, in his official capacity as District 2 Commissioner and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners for Skamania County, Washington;		
5 6	BOB HAMLIN, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Skamania County, Washington;		
7 8	OZZIE KNEZOVICH, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Spokane County, Washington;		
9 10 11	JOSH KERNS, in his official capacity as District 1 Commissioner of Spokane County, Washington;		
12	MARY KUNEY, in her official capacity as District 2 Commissioner of Spokane County, Washington;		
13 14	AL FRENCH, in his official capacity as District 3 Commissioner of Spokane County, Washington;		
15	Plaintiffs,		
16	V.		
17	STATE OF WASHINGTON,		
18	Defendant.		
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COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT			

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DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)

1	I. Introduction	
2	1.1. Plaintiffs seek judgment declaring that ESHB 1054, Section 3, improperly, an	ıd
3	without lawful authority, transfers emergent decision making authority in the cas of a riot from an independently elected Sheriff to the Chair of the Board of Count	se
4	Commissioners.	LY
5	1.2. Further, Plaintiffs seek judgment declaring that ESHB 1054, Section 4(k	<b>c</b> )
6	improperly designates the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners as th "highest elected official" empowered with the sole authority t	to
7	approve/disapprove the use of tear gas in the case of a riot not occurring withi a jail or correctional facility when, in fact, the Chair lacks authority to act without	in
8	approval of the majority of the Board.	JL
9		
10	II. Parties, Jurisdiction, Venue, and Standing	
11	2.1. Each Plaintiff Sheriff has standing as the Elected Sheriff for their respectiv county. ESHB 1054 effects a partial forfeiture of the office by improperly deprivin	'e
12	the Sheriff of authority that has historically been, and under current law and th	ie
13	Constitution of the State of Washington, is within the sole purview of the Sherif	
14	2.2. The Plaintiff Commissioners are each duly elected County Commissioners of their respective county, and together constitute each respective county's Boar	of rd
15	of County Commissioners (BOCC). Each County has a member that serves a Chair of its BOCC as identified.	IS
16	2.3. Each Plaintiff Commissioner has standing because ESB 1054 vests authority i	•
17	a single Commissioner where no such authority exists, is authorized, nor is suc	ch
18	power contemplated within the Constitution of the State of Washington. As result, the entire premise of the Board of County Commissioners is undermined	d.
19	Such action makes the Commissioners substantively unequal, when under th law and Constitution, each Commissioner has equal power, and effects a partia	ie al
20	forfeiture of each of their offices.	41
21	2.4. Jurisdiction lies in the Superior Court by virtue of RCW 2.08.010 and RCV	N
22	7.24.010 et seq. Interested persons whose "legal relations are affected by statute" may seek declaratory judgment. RCW 7.24.020; see also RCW	a N
23	7.24.130 (including municipal corporations in the definition of person).	
24	2.5. Each of the originally named Plaintiffs reside in and has a principal place of business in Lewis County Washington. Vonue therefore is preparativity in Lewis	of
25	business in Lewis County, Washington. Venue therefore is proper within Lewi County under RCW 4.92.010(1) and (2). The remaining individually name	is ed
26	Plaintiffs have joined by agreement of the Defendant.	
	COMPLAINT FOR 4 LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING	

DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

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Appendix A

LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)

1	III. Facts			
2	3.1. On May 18, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee signed ESHB 1054 into law.			
3	3.2. ESHB 1054 took effect on July 25, 2021.			
4 5	3.3. ESHB 1054, Section 4, addresses the use of tear gas by law enforcement is addressed.			
6 7 8 9	3.3.1. ESHB 1054, Section 4(3) dictates that: "[i]n the case of a riot outside of a correctional, jail, or detention facility, the officer or employee may use tear gas only after: (a) Receiving authorization from the highest elected official of the jurisdiction in which the tear gas is to be used, and (b) meeting the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.			
10 11 12	3.3.2. ESHB 1054, Section (4)(4)(b) declares that the "'[h]ighest elected official' means the county executive in those charter counties with an elective office county executive, however designated, and in the case of other counties, the chair of the county legislative authority. In the case of cities and towns, it means the mayor, regardless of whether the mayor is directly elected, selected by the council or legislative body pursuant to RCW 35.18.190 or			
13 14	35A.13.030, or selected according to a process in established city charte In the case of actions by the Washington state patrol [sic], it means th governor."			
15	3.3.2.1. Each Plaintiff serves a county that is a non-charter county.			
16	3.4. Each county to this suit has an elected Sheriff.			
17 18	3.5. Each county to this suit has an elected three (3) member Board of Coun Commissioners.			
19 20	3.6. Each county to this suit has a Chair that, under ESHB 1054, would be declared the "highest elected official."			
21	3.7. The only powers of the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners are contained within RCW 36.32.100.			
22 23	IV. Causes of Action for Declaratory Judgment: Declaration of Rights, Status, and Obligations			
24	4.1. All Plaintiffs reiterate, and incorporates by reference, all of the assertions set out			
25 26	above.			
	COMPLAINT FOR5LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2nd Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)			

1 2	4.2. Both the Office of the County Sheriff and the Offices of County Commissione were created by the Constitution of the State of Washington. See Const. Art. X §5.				
3					
4	4.2.	anyspecified officer	, the legislature ca	ferred by the constitutionupon annot require or authorize to be	
5		constitution requires c <i>Limitations</i> (5 <sup>th</sup> ed.), at	of him he cannot be	; and from those duties which the e excused by law." <i>Constitutional</i>	
6					
7	4.2.	2. The legislature lacks to one office those function	the ability to remove ons to another office	ve functions historically vested in e. See Const. Art. XI, §5; State ex	
8		rel. Johnston v. Melto	o <i>n,</i> 192 Wash. 370	, 388, 73 P.2d 1334 (1937) ("In	
9 10		duties then recognized	fficers should exerce I as appertaining to	11 of the constitution, the people cise the powers and perform the the respective offices which they	
11				Brunst, 26 Wis. 412 (1870).	
12	4.2.3	historically, a function	g the quelling of riot for law enforcemen	ous activities, are, and have been t, not the legislative authority of a	
13		county.			
14	4.2.4	4. While the legislature n	nay change duties	of a Constitutional office, it lacks	
15		function inherent in an	office and vest it in	e, even on a temporary basis, of a to another office.	
16	4.3. In	the case of the Board of	County Commissio	oners, nowhere within the historic	
17	the	e State of Washington, an	nd nowhere in the la	rs, nowhere in the Constitution of aw does it contemplate the Board ashion than that of a Board.	
18					
19	4.4. The gra	e only authority in law for anted within RCW 36.32. <sup>2</sup>	<sup>r</sup> the Board to act a 100. However, ever	s a single person is the authority n within that statute, the power is	
20	dei	rived only through a vot mmissioners.	e/consent of the r	majority of the Board of County	
21					
22	4.5. Lik leg	ewise, the main function islative body, not law enfo	of the Board of Co orcement.	ounty Commissioners is that of a	
23	4.6. Pla	untiff Commissioners are	entitled to a declar	ation that they, either acting as a	
24	bod	dy, or through the Chai 54(4)(3).	ir, lack the author	ity imposed pursuant to ESHB	
25	100	<del>/+</del> (+)(3).			
26					
li	COMPLAIN DECLARAT	IT FOR FORY JUDGMENT	6	LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	

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Appendix A

ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)

1	4.7. Plaintiff Commissioners are entitled to a declaration that each Commissioner is of equal authority under the law, and can act independently only by delegated authority of the full three-member Board.	
3	4.8. Plaintiff Sheriffs are entitled to a declaration that, in the case of a non-charter	
4	County, ESHB 1054(4)(3)(a) is an unlawful/improper removal of authority vested solely in the independently elected Sheriff.	
5	V. Prayer for Relief	
6	Wherefore Plaintiffs pray that this Court issue judgment:	
7		
8 9	5.1. Declaring that, as applied to non-charter counties, ESHB 1054, Section 3 improperly, and without lawful authority, transfers emergent decision making authority in the case of a riot from an independently elected Sheriff to the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners;	1
10		
11	5.2. Awarding Plaintiffs' costs of suit; and	
12	5.3. Awarding such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.	
13	Dated: this day of August, 2021.	
14		
15	Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney Douglas County Prosecuting Attorney	
16	CIPE Mullestin	
17	JONATHAN L. MEYER, WSBA No. 28238 Attorney on behalf of Lewis County Attorney on behalf of Columbia County	
18	Attorney on behalf of Lewis County Attorney on behalf of Columbia County Sheriff and Commissioners Sheriff and Commissioners	
19		
20	Ferry County-Prosecuting Attorney Garfield County Prosecuting Attorney	
21	letter bir hel	
22	KATHRYN L/BURKE, WSBA No. 44426 MATT L. NEWBERG, WSBA No. 36674	
23	Attorney on behalf of Ferry County Attorney on behalf of <u>Garfield County</u> Sheriff and Commissioners Sheriff and Commissioners	
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26	<b>ز</b> ،	
	COMPLAINT FOR7LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)	

1 Grant County Prosecuting Attorney Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney 2 Approved via telephone 8/25/21 See attached 3 GARTH DANO, WSBA No. 11226 ADAM N. KICK, WSBA No. 27525 Attorney on behalf of Grant County Attorney on behalf of SKAMANIA 4 Sheriff and Commissioners Sheriff and 5 Commissioners 6 Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney 7 #30909 . Mark McClain for 8 LARRÝ HASKELL, WSBA No. 27826 9 Attorney on behalf of Spokane County Sheriff and Commissioners 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 COMPLAINT FOR 8 LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

## Appendix A

Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)

1	Grant County Prosecuting Attorney	Spokane County Prosecuting A	Attornev
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3	GARTH DANO, WSBA No. 11226		
4	Attorney on behalf of Grant County	ADAM N. KICK, WSBA No. 275 Attorney on behalf of SKAMAN	525 IA
5	Sheriff and Commissioners	Sheriff and Commissioners	
6	Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney		
7			
8	LARRY HASKELL, WSBA No. 27826		
9	Attorney on behalf of Spokane County Sheriff and Commissioners		
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	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT	8 LEWIS COUNTY PROSE ATTORNEY'S OFF 345 W. Main Street, 2 <sup>rd</sup> Chehalis, WA 9853 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740	ICE Floor 2

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7 8	THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR LEWIS COUNTY			
9	ROBERT SNAZA, et al.,	NO. 21-2-00374-21		
10 11	Plaintiffs, v.	NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT		
11 12 13	STATE OF WASHINGTON, Defendant.	FILING FEE EXEMPT PER RCW 29A.56.140		
<ol> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> </ol>	Pursuant to RAP 4.2(b), Defendant State Washington Supreme Court of the Order Granting entered by the Lewis County Superior Court on Sep in part in favor of Plaintiffs and denying the State's along with the Court's oral ruling. A copy of the ord ruling (Attachment B) are attached. The State does n Superior Court ruled in favor of the State. The attorneys in this matter are as follows: <b>Attorneys for Defendant State of Washington:</b>	tember 16, 2022 granting summary judgment s motion for summary judgment, also in part, ler (Attachment A) and a transcript of the oral		
23 24 25 26	Attorney GeneralHJeffrey T. EvenODeputy Solicitor GeneralO	125 Washington St. SE PO Box 40100 Dlympia, WA 98504-0100 360) 753-6200 effrey.even@atg.wa.gov		
	NOTICE OF APPEAL Append	ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTO 1125 Washington Street SE PO Box 40100		

NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON 1125 Washington Street SE PO Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504-0100 (360) 753-6200

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15			
16			
17	DATED this 7th day of Octobe		
18		ROBERT W. FERGUSON Attorney General	
19	Jeps. Even		
20		IEFFREY T. EVEN, WSBA 20367 Deputy Solicitor General	
21	Alexia Diorio, WSBA 57280 Assistant Attorney General 1125 Washington Street SE PO Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 586-0728		
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	NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT	ndix B ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON 1125 Washington Street SE PO Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504-0100 (360) 753-6200	

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE		
2	I further certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington, that		
3	on this date I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document via electronic mail per		
4	the Electronic Service Agreement between the parties.		
5	Jonathan L. Meyer, Prosecuting Attorney Mark McClain, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney		
6	Amber Smith, Dep Prosecuting Attorney jonathan.meyer@lewiscountywa.govF. Dayle Andersen, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney mmclain@spokanecounty.org		
7	amber.smith@lewiscountywa.govdandersen@spokanecounty.orgnatalie.dunlap@lewiscountywa.govamusick@spokanecounty.org		
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16 17	Garth Dano, Prosecuting Attorney Kevin J. McCrae, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney gdano@grantcountywa.gov kjmccrae@grantcountywa.gov Attorneys for Grant County Plaintiffs		
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18			
20	DATED this 7th day of October 2022 at Olympic Weakington		
20	DATED this 7th day of October, 2022 at Olympia, Washington.		
21	Ampran 100.000		
23	Stephanie N. Lindey Legal Secretary		
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	NOTICE OF APPEAL ADDENDINGTON ADDENDINGTON ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON 1125 Washington Street SE		

TO THE WASHINGTON APPENDIX E SUPREME COURT

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTO 1125 Washington Street SE PO Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504-0100 (360) 753-6200 ,

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2	Lewis County Sume			
3	Lewis County Superior Court Clerk's Office			
4	SEP 16 2022			
		Sc	cott Tinney, Clerk	
5		By_	, Deputy	,
6				
7	THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR LEWIS COUNTY			
8				
9	ROBERT	SNAZA, et al.,	1	
10		Plaintiffs,		2-00374-21
11	v.		ORDER	GRANTING PLAINTIFFS'
12	STATE OF	WASHINGTON,		I FOR SUMMARY ENT
13	Defendant.			
14				
15		later a state from		
16	THIS MATTER came before this Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary			
	Judgment.	The Court heard oral argume	nt of counsel ar	nd considered the following
17	pleadings a	nd materials filed in the matter.		
18	1. P	laintiffs' Motion for Summary J	udgment;	
19	2. D	efendant's Response and Cros	ss Motion for Sur	nmarv Judgment:
20		laintiff's Reply to Response		
21				
22		ummary Judgment and Defend		
23	4. D	efendant's Reply to Response	to Plaintiff's Mo	tion for Summary Judgment
	a	nd Defendant's Cross Motion fo	or Summary Judg	gment;
24				
25	Being otherwise fully informed the Court reasons as follows.			
26				
	ORDER GR	ANTING PLAINTIFFS' Appe	ndix B	LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Attachment A

LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)

1	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:		
2	1. Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED with respect to RCW		
3	10.116.030 with regard to the powers of the office of the Sheriff; and		
4	2. Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment is DENIED with respect to RCW		
5	10.116.030 with regard to the powers of the office of the Chair of the Board of		
6	County Commissioners.		
7	3. The Court's oral ruling is incorporated into this order.		
8 9	DONE IN OPEN COURT this 16th day of September, 2022.		
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12			
13	HONORABLE J. ANDREW TOYNBEE_ LEWIS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE		
14	PRESENTED BY:		
15	ROBERT W. FERGUSONJONATHAN L. MEYERAttorney GeneralLewis County Prosecuting Attorney		
16			
17	JEFFREY T. EVEN, WSBA 20367 AMBER SMITH, WSBA 53121		
18	Deputy Solicitor GeneralDeputy Prosecuting Attorney1125 Washington Street SE345 W. Main St., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor		
19	PO Box 40100 Chehalis, WA 98532 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 740-2750		
20	(360) 586-0728 ambér.smith@lewiscountywa.gov jeffrey.even@atg.wa.gov		
21 22	Counsel for State of Washington Counsel for Lewis County		
22			
23 24			
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20			
	ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' Appendix B MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 345 W. Main Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor		

Attachment A

Chehalis, WA 98532 360-740-1240 (Voice) 360-740-1497 (Fax)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON 1 2 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LEWIS 3 ROBERT SNAZA, Lewis County 4 No. 21-2-00374-21 ) Plaintiff, ) 5 v. 6 STATE OF WASHINGTON, 7 Defendant. ) 8 9 VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 10 SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 11 12 Before the 13 Hon. J. Andrew Toynbee 14 15 **APPEARANCES** 16 For the plaintiff: Amber Smith 17 Deputy Lewis County Prosecutor Chehalis, WA 18 19 For the defendant: Jeffrey Todd Even Assistant Attorney General 20 Olympia, WA 21 22 23 24 Jessica L. Turner, CCR No. 3187 25 Freelance Court Reporter Chehalis, Washington 98532 1 Appendix B

Attachment B

(The following took place on September 16, 2022:) 1 2 THE COURT: All right. Are the parties ready on Robert Snaza and others v. State of Washington? 3 4 MS. SMITH: Plaintiffs are ready, your Honor. 5 MR. EVEN: The state is ready, your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Come on forward. 6 7 This is Cause No. 21-2-374-21, All right. 8 Robert Snaza and many others v. the State of 9 Washington. Ms. Amber Smith is here representing the 10 plaintiffs and you are Mr. Even? 11 MR. EVEN: I am, your Honor. 12 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, Mr. Even. 13 Nice to see you again. 14 MR. EVEN: Thank you. 15 THE COURT: And this matter comes on on both party's motions for summary judgment. I have 16 17 reviewed all the documents and I'm ready to hear 18 argument. 19 So go ahead, Ms. Smith. 20 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Good morning, your 21 I'll keep this as brief as possible. Honor. This 22 boils down to essentially whether or not the 23 legislature exceeded its plenary authority by 24 interfering with the core functions of the office of 25 the sheriff, and also the Board of County

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Commissioners via the chair of the Board of County Commissioners in the enactment of RCW 10.116.030, which I'll refer to just generally as the tear gas law to make it easier for all of us.

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Our position is that the legislature through 5 the enactment of that bill did. And it did interfere 6 7 because essentially what the tear gas bill is 8 requesting or requiring of the sheriff's office, who 9 does have a core function and duty of defending 10 against and disbursing riots, to get the discretionary authority to use a tactical 11 12 implementation, which is tear gas. But nevertheless, 13 a discretionary use on how to go about defending or disbursing a riot from the chair of the Board of 14 15 County Commissioners, and that that in and of itself is an interference based on Rice and Melton in 16 17 decisions, and that the plenary authority of the 18 legislature is to draft or create job duties and 19 descriptions for elected offices in the counties and 20 the sheriff. They can do so, so long as it doesn't 21 interfere with those core functions.

To go definitionally on what an interference is, when looking at Black's legal dictionary, an interference is the act or process of obstructing normal operations or intervening and meddling in the

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affairs of others. And that's under Black's legal dictionary, 11th edition. That is precisely what this law does. It requires that in the course of a riot, outside of a jail setting, that the sheriff has to stop, ask the chair of the board of the county commissioners whether or not tear gas is appropriate in the middle of that. And then that chair has to make a fact-based, substantive determination as to whether or not tear gas is appropriate.

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10 That stop, that check that the state would say is a mere check and is needed for public policy and 11 public interest is, nevertheless, a stopping of that 12 13 core function and duty of defending and suppressing riots and requiring another independent elected 14 15 office to give that elected officer that authority. That is an interference. It does obstruct and it 16 17 does meddle in that core function. And that is a core function that has existed in the office of the 18 sheriff since territorial times and has been enacted 19 20 as part of their core duties or part of their 21 duties -- pardon me, statutorily.

Further, the core function of the Board of County Commissioners to act as a collected body when making substantive decisions is also interfered upon by placing such a substantive authorization or power

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within the chair of the Board of County Commissioners. Since territorial times and through today in the enactment of statutes, the Board of County Commissioners is a collective body. They make substantive fact-based decisions as a body, as a whole. And it is the majority that makes those decisions.

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The only discretionary authority that's been 8 9 given to the chair of the Board of County 10 Commissioners is a nominal discretionary authority. It's in marshalling meetings. They are the chair of 11 12 the board. They determine the schedule and they 13 marshal those meetings. They also are a signatory only after the entirety of the board makes a decision 14 15 to agree or disagree in signing on any contracts. There is no real power authority that exists in that 16 17 chair other than an administrative type position that 18 exists.

By placing such a high discretionary decision-making authority in the chair, it does interfere with the intent and the core function of the Board of County Commissioners. It's a legislative body.

24 We would ask this court to grant our motion for 25 summary judgment and determine that this statute,

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10.116.030, did exceed the legislature's plenary 1 2 authority and their ability to establish duties on these elected offices, because this is an unintended 3 4 result in particular with noncharter counties. Ιt 5 would be no different than asking the court to have permission from the assessor to do an exceptionary --6 7 an exceptional sentence upward in a juvenile case 8 because there may be public policy in the future. 9 That's the unintended result if the court were to 10 establish this today or grant this today.

Melton seems like the -- sort of 11 THE COURT: 12 the seminal case that everybody comes back to. And 13 Melton seemed to be focused on the danger of having another elected attorney -- elected office be able to 14 appoint -- the word "appointment" and "appoint" is 15 throughout the Melton case. At what point did the 16 17 court's interpretation of Article 11, Section 5 shift 18 from appointment being the danger to the interference 19 with duties? Any -- I mean, I'm not sure the -- I'm 20 not sure the "when" is -- I mean, really pinning down 21 the when is important, but it seems like there was a -- that was what Melton was all about, was the 22 23 prosecutor's would be able to appoint rather than 24 elect. And Article 11 -- Article 11, Section 5 seems 25 to protect the right of the citizenry to elect people

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doing these local functions. Any insight as to when that shift occurred or why that shift would occur?

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I can't say with any particularity 3 MS. SMITH: 4 when or why the shift would occur. Our position is, is that based on the reading of Melton and the idea 5 that the citizenry have the authority to choose who 6 7 their elected officials are and that those core 8 duties and functions that are prescribed to those 9 elected officials are the ones that those folks are 10 making the determination for. Our position is that based on Melton, the idea that -- in that 11 12 circumstance, is that the ability for the prosecutor 13 to exercise their core functions and duties was what 14 was being infringed upon or was being taken away 15 from. And that by not -- or by taking away those core functions and duties and prescribing them to 16 17 another that was outside of that elected official, whether or not it -- pardon me here -- that that was 18 19 the issue at hand in Melton. And that the citizens 20 have a right to know those elected officials. And in 21 this circumstance, the citizens have a right to know 22 that in the core functions and powers of the sheriff 23 that that is where the defense and disbursal of 24 rights comes from, not from the chair of the Board of 25 County Commissioners.

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THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Mr. Even.

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MR. EVEN: Thank you, your Honor. For the record, Jeffrey Even, deputy solicitor general here on behalf of the state. I will begin, if I may, with the question that the court just posed. And my answer would be that there has not been a shift from that. And in fact, for that I would point the court in particular to State ex rel. Banks v. Drummond in addition to the two cases the counsel already mentioned.

I think Banks rounds out the trifecta of the important Washington cases here. That case had to do with an attorney who was engaged by the county commissioners to do work that otherwise the county prosecutor would do. And the county prosecutor did not consent to that appointment, as would have been his prerogative to do.

19 So, again, there the issue was not simply that 20 somebody other than the prosecutor was providing 21 legal advice to the commissioners, although that is a 22 problem in the case. The problem is it wasn't the 23 person who had been elected to do that function. So 24 it was that appointment power that I think is 25 critical to this distinction. Because this, I think

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helps us get a little bit of insight on what I think could at least at first blush be a bit of a conundrum here in the constitutional text and in other case law. We have a constitutional provision that simply lists out the county offices and says that they are to be elected and then says and the legislature can define their duties or shall define their duties.

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8 So how do we square the fact we do have a 9 number of cases, as counsel points out, that say, 10 well, you can't take away the core function of one of 11 those constitutionally created offices, but we have 12 language in the constitution that says the 13 legislature can define their duties.

I think the answer to that stems from a couple 14 15 points. One is the concern that somebody other than the elected official is going to appoint. 16 In Melton, 17 the issue was that the legislature had passed a 18 statute that created district attorney investigators 19 and allowed them to do everything the deputy sheriff 20 could do. That was -- that was, I think, an issue of 21 who is going to appoint those people. They weren't performing a function that you would normally think 22 23 as being core to the prosecutor's office.

And what does it mean to say that we have a core function at issue? A core function is something

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that's really inherent, you know, in the nature of the office. Why do we have a county prosecutor in Melton? Well, it's to prosecute criminal cases and to provide civil representation to the county.

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Why do we have a sheriff? Well, to keep the 5 peace, to suppress riots, but that doesn't 6 7 necessarily mean that the legislature is powerless to 8 provide checks on what we might think of more as a 9 tactic involved in performing a function of the 10 So the tear gas statute does not deprive the office. sheriff of any core function of office. 11 He remains 12 the chief law enforcement officer of the county. And 13 he remains the one who would make the initial 14 decision to deploy tear gas and to, in fact, deploy 15 it when that comes to pass --

16 THE COURT: Well, what if the county -- what if 17 the chair of the Board of the County Commissioners 18 says, "no"?

19 MR. EVEN: I think, obviously, we have to 20 entertain that possibility because if that wasn't at 21 least a possibility, there would be no purpose in the 22 statute. And the answer to that is that I think 23 legislature is concerned that we are dealing with a 24 tactic that has significant public health and safety 25 risks. And so the legislature, rather, wants to

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provide an additional check on the use of this particular tactic while still permitting it. Riot suppression is still one of the reasons why law enforcement can use tear gas. There are others in the statute, by the way, that are not subject to this additional check of getting approval from the chief elected -- highest elected official of the county.

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And that would bring me to what I would suggest here is the easy part of this case. And that's the effect on the Board of County Commissioners. There is nothing in RCW 10.116.030 that takes away from or interferes with the functions of the county commissioners.

Now, what the plaintiffs have pointed out here 14 15 is that assigning a role like this to the chair of the Board of Commissioners who is, for most purposes, 16 17 one of a multimember body that acts collectively, not 18 individually, added a new function for that person. 19 But doing that in no way takes anything away from the 20 authority and responsibilities of the other two 21 commissioners with regard to the powers and duties that are assigned to the board as a body. So I think 22 23 that's actually a fairly easy question, is that 24 nothing in the constitution precludes giving an 25 individual commissioner, one who has been selected by

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the other two to be the chair, an additional function that does not take away from any other function. And to say that the legislature can't do that would do tremendous violence to the constitutional language that says the legislature can define the duties of county offices. So I think that part of the case is relatively straight forward.

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8 And as to the sheriff, as I've indicated, I 9 think the distinction here becomes, what's a core 10 function? What's something that if you take this away, the office isn't really that office anymore? 11 You know, that's guided, I think, by a concern that 12 13 the constitution specifies, here's the county 14 officers we're going to have in a general law county. 15 And then wants to -- what the court has done I think in a case like Melton is say, well, we can infer from 16 17 that that that's to be a meaningful position. It's 18 to be the kind of thing that we would normally think 19 of pre-statehood as a sheriff, a commissioner, a 20 prosecutor, et cetera. And so by providing a limit 21 on the use of a particular tactic, the legislature has not interfered with the core function. 22 And for that reason, the court should grant summary judgment 23 24 in favor of the State.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

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Ms. Smith, your response?

MS. SMITH: Yes.

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And I guess I will ask the guestion 3 THE COURT: right up front. Is there any -- what's your response 4 to what Mr. Even has, I guess, termed "the easy 5 Is there anything in the case law or part"? 6 7 explicitly in the constitution that prohibits the 8 legislature from allowing one commissioner to act in 9 certain specific instances?

10 MS. SMITH: There is nothing explicit in the constitution and case law that states that other 11 12 than, again, on the basic function on plenary 13 authority in the prescribing of those duties that so long as it doesn't interfere with the core functions 14 15 of those offices. And it is our position that by placing a substantive discretionary decision in the 16 17 chair, that does interfere with the core function of 18 who otherwise is a collective body. That the duties 19 that have been prescribed previously to the chair of 20 the board being administrative or nominal or as a 21 signatory on behalf of the board after they make a 22 collective decision, by putting such a concentration 23 of power in a discretionary decision-making authority 24 that that is the interference on the officers of the 25 Board of County Commissioners. That the Board of

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County Commissioners, since territorial times and through the enactment of our constitution, has been considered a collective body, a whole. It is a group. That there are members of that body that get separately elected, but that the Board of County Commissioners itself is a collective body.

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7 Generally, a legislative-making, collective 8 body that works. And by putting such concentration 9 in a discretionary act in one particular member, it 10 disrupts that otherwise equal discretionary authority that they have as the collective body where no 11 12 commissioner, whether they are chair or they are a 13 junior commissioner on the Board of County Commissioners, has no weighted difference in their 14 15 discretionary decision-making. They are equals. And by putting this kind of substantive check on the 16 17 sheriff, they are creating an interference on what 18 would otherwise be equal standing amongst the 19 collective body as a whole.

THE COURT: Well, what if the legislature decided that the open public meeting act was just really unwieldy and really unworkable and really didn't allow for the government to function well so that basically two commissioners can't have a conversation about anything without violating the

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open public meetings act? What if the legislature just said, enough's enough. We're going to allow them to decide amongst themselves who can decide these decisions and one commissioner can be in charge of public health and the other commissioner can be in charge of these and they can make decisions. What if the legislature did that? Would that violate the constitution?

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MS. SMITH: 9 We would submit, yes, it does 10 interfere with that core function. Or I should say, on caveat, if they were to repeal the open public 11 meetings act, which is a legislatively enacted 12 13 chapter in the RCWs or title in the RCWs, that they 14 could do that. The concern comes with whether or not 15 they have in their plenary authority the ability to go prescribing what would be discretionary authority 16 17 in each of those individual collected bodies.

18 There is one way that they could do this, and I 19 want to circle back on something that Mr. Even 20 mentioned about the legislature being powerless to 21 The legislature is not powerless to create checks. If it wanted to, in the interest of 22 create checks. public policy, they have the opportunity to do so. 23 24 But it's through a constitutional amendment. Our 25 concern and our discussion today is about whether or

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not they exceeded the plenary authority and just 1 2 common legislative lawmaking. And that is our 3 concern is that they are enacting laws, not through a constitutional amendment, that interferes with the 4 core functions of the duties of these offices. 5 And that that is the problem. That is the concern and 6 7 why we bring our case today, is because the 8 legislature does have the power to create checks and 9 balances. But not like this. There is a right way 10 to do things and they did not choose the right path to enact this type of discretionary decision-making 11 12 that interferes with the core function of the office 13 of the sheriff and also the Board of County Commissioners. 14

15 THE COURT: All right. Well, I want to -- I'm grateful for the opportunity to have such a complex 16 17 issue to delve into. This has been very educational 18 And very intellectually stimulating. for me. To qo deep into a state constitutional issue is not 19 20 something that, as a superior court judge, I get an 21 opportunity to do very often.

But I am granting summary judgment in favor of the plaintiffs. I do find beyond a reasonable doubt that the challenged portion of the statute, specifically, that requires the chair of the county

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commissioners to approve the deployment of tear gas, violates the constitution, specifically Article 11, Section 5. I'm adopting the plaintiff's analysis as I really think that that hits the nail on the head, both in the identified legal problem and the legal analysis.

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7 I will state that I do not find that the 8 legislature's designating the ability for one commissioner to act alone violates the constitution. 9 So I am denying on that issue. But I don't find that 10 it interferes with the core function or a central 11 12 function. It -- it may interfere with the method of 13 doing business but it doesn't take away something 14 that defines the county commissioners.

15 I'm -- even though the state constitution explicitly allows the legislature to specify the 16 17 powers and duties of local officials, there have been 18 limits on that through case law. And even though 19 Melton focuses on the dangers of having another 20 governmental elected office have the power to appoint 21 somebody that may usurp or interfere with the elected 22 official's core duties, the case law since then has 23 evolved. And our State's Supreme Court's made it 24 clear that the legislature may not transfer to other 25 elected officers those powers and functions that have

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belonged to another since before the ratification of the constitution. And I find that the suppression of riots is a core function of the sheriff.

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Just to use Lewis County as an example, the 4 problem here is that the people of Lewis County did 5 not elect Commissioner Pollock to weigh in and 6 7 determine what tactics or equipment should be 8 deployed to suppress a riot. They elected Sheriff 9 Rob Snaza to do this. The people have a right to 10 determine through their elections -- and this is what the case law focuses on. 11 The people have a right 12 through Article 11, Section 5 to decide who makes those decisions. And so that's -- that's how this 13 violates the rights of the citizens. 14

15 And this legislation is not merely a check on an important decision that affects people's safety. 16 17 The danger is that if the legislature can strip from the elected sheriff an inherent function of that 18 19 office, such as the right to determine whether tear 20 gas may be deployed to suppress a riot, then they can 21 strip all such functions. And the legislature -- and 22 what the Banks v. Drummond case and the Rice case 23 tell us is that the legislature can't take away those 24 functions that make an elected office that elected 25 office. So the sheriff's office has the right and

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the duty, traditionally, to suppress riots. And that cannot be taken away, even one small bite at a time. Riot suppression is a core function of the sheriff. It's not a core function of the county commissioner.

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And as I mentioned, the citizens elected the sheriff to make such discussions regarding the tactics to deploy in suppressing riots. They did not elect the county commissioners to do so. So for those reasons, I'm granting the State's motion for summary judgment.

MR. EVEN: Rather the plaintiffs.

12 THE COURT: Yes. I'm sorry. I meant to say 13 that right at the beginning.

MR. EVEN: I think you did.

15 THE COURT: I use -- when I see prosecutors, I 16 think state. So I am granting the plaintiffs. Ι 17 told myself before I started that I would make that distinction, but I fall into old habits. So I am 18 19 granting the plaintiff's. I jump to calling the 20 prosecutor's office the state just by default. So I 21 apologize for that misstatement.

MS. SMITH: And for clarification, your Honor, would you like the parties to draft other orders? There were the proposed orders that were presented by the plaintiff. Would you like us to do that? And if

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1	amenable to both parties, enter those ex parte?		
2	THE COURT: Yes.		
3	MS. SMITH: Thank you.		
4	THE COURT: Yes. I think you could probably		
5	step back and just doctor those up, potentially. And		
6	if you can't, then they can be done ex parte.		
7	MS. SMITH: Great. Thank you.		
8	THE COURT: Again, I thank you for excellent		
9	briefing. This was a treat to be able to get a break		
10	from kind of my normal routine and delve into a $$		
11	what I considered very interesting issue. Thank you.		
12	MS. SMITH: Thank you.		
13	MR. EVEN: Thank you, your Honor.		
14	(Court was adjourned.)		
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CERTIFICATE 1 2 3 STATE OF WASHINGTON ) SS COUNTY OF LEWIS 4 5 I, JESSICA L. TURNER, Certified Court Reporter 6 7 for the State of Washington, do hereby certify: That the foregoing verbatim report of 8 proceedings consisting of 20 pages was recorded 9 electronically and reduced to typewriting by means of 10 computer-aided transcription; 11 12 That said transcript is a full, true, and 13 correct transcript to the best of my abilities of the 14 proceedings heard before Hon. J. Andrew Toynbee on 15 September 16, 2022, at the Lewis County Superior 16 Court, Chehalis, Washington; That I am not a relative or employee of counsel 17 or to either of the parties herein or otherwise 18 19 interested in said proceedings. 20 Signed this 29th day of September, 2022. 21 22 23 Jessica L. Turner 24 CCR No. 3187 25 21 Appendix B

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