Summary of Amicus Brief in Support of Conrad Reynolds and Arkansas Voter Integrity Initiative, Inc. AR Supreme Court Case No. CV-24-13

Petitioner: Conrad Reynolds, Arkansas Voter Integrity Initiative, Inc., individually and on behalf of Restore Election Integrity Arkansas

Respondents: John Thurston, Secretary of State and the State Board of Election Commissioners

Timeline of Events leading up to this case, presented in the Complaint:

- Petitioner submitted two proposed ballot measures to the Attorney General (AG) on November 9, 2023, for approval.
- The AG rejected them as insufficient.
- Petitioner submitted to the AG the two edited proposed ballot measures on December 26, 2023.
- The AG has not responded to the edited proposed ballot measures.
- On December 27, 2023, Plaintiff submitted the proposed ballot measures to the State Board of Election Commissioners (SBEC).
- On December 29, 2023, Petitioner requested the Secretary (Thurston) certify the sufficiency of the ballot title and popular name so they could start collecting signatures.
- On January 8, 2024, the Secretary responded and refused to certify the sufficiency of the titles.

The Complaint requests the court do two things:

- Certify the two proposed ballot measures so they can circulate for signatures, and
- Remove two laws that Petitioner considers unconstitutional based on Article 5 of the Arkansas Constitution
 - AR Code 7-9-109, which requires a proposed ballot measure be first submitted to the Attorney General for approval before being circulated for signatures
 - AR Code 7-9-126, which requires signatures from 50 counties instead of "at least 15 counties," which is what is required by the AR Constitution

We the People agree that:

- The legislature has overstepped its bounds. Laws AR Code 7-9-109 and 7-9-126 are unconstitutional.
 - o Based on AR Constitution Article 2.1: Source of Power -
 - All political power is inherent in the people and government is instituted for their protection, security, and benefit, and they have the right to altar, reform, or abolish the same, in such manner as they see fit.
 - Based on AR Constitution Article 5.1: Initiative
 - The first power reserved by the people is the initiative.
 - Unwarranted Restrictions Prohibited
 - No law shall be passed to prohibit any person or persons from giving or receiving compensation for circulating petitions, nor to prohibit the circulation of petitions, nor in any manner interfering with the freedom of the people in procuring petitions...
 - Self-Executing
 - This section shall be self-executing, and all its provisions shall be treated as mandatory, but laws may be enacted to facilitate its operation. No legislation shall be enacted to restrict, hamper or impair the exercise of the rights herein reserved to the people.

<u>Please consider adding your name to this Amicus Brief in support of removing unconstitutional laws and allowing the People to be heard. We have to file it in court very quickly so there is no time to lose. We need your FULL NAME and COUNTY.</u>

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