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11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

13 Arizona Democratic Party, et al.,)
14) Case No. CV-16-01065-PHX-DLR
15)
16 Plaintiffs,)
17) **STATE DEFENDANTS’**
18 v.) **MOTION TO DISMISS**
19) **SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT**
20 Arizona Secretary of State’s Office, et al.,)
21)
22 Defendants.)
23)
24)
25)
26)

21 Defendants Secretary of State Michele Reagan, the Arizona Secretary of State’s
22 Office, and Attorney General Mark Brnovich (together, the “State Defendants”) hereby
23 move pursuant to Rules 12(b)(7) and 19 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to
24 dismiss the Second Amended Complaint (the “SAC,” Doc. 233).¹ Plaintiffs have named
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26
27 ¹ On April 18, this Court issued an order directing the parties to confer regarding the
28 possibility of amending the Complaint in advance of filing any motion under Fed. R. Civ.
P. 12(b). (Doc. 5). The State Defendants (and the Court) have repeatedly identified

1 the wrong parties as defendants and failed to name indispensable parties, and as such
2 cannot obtain the injunctive relief that they seek in their SAC. This Motion is supported
3 by the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities.

4 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

5 INTRODUCTION

6 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure require that “[a] person who is subject to
7 service of process and whose joinder will not deprive the court of subject-matter
8 jurisdiction *must* be joined as a party if[.]” among other things, “in that person’s absence,
9 the court cannot accord complete relief among existing parties[.]” Fed. R. Civ. P.
10 19(a)(1) (emphasis added). If joinder is not feasible, the court must determine under Rule
11 19(b) whether the party is “indispensable.” *Salt River Project Agr. Imp. & Power Dist. v.*
12 *Lee*, 672 F.3d 1176, 1179 (9th Cir. 2012). “‘Necessary’ refers to a party who should be
13 joined if feasible[.]” while “‘indispensable’ refers to a party whose participation is so
14 important to the resolution of the case that, if the joinder of the party is not feasible, the
15 suit must be dismissed.” *Disabled Rights Action Comm. v. Las Vegas Events, Inc.*, 375
16 F.3d 861, 867 n.5 (9th Cir. 2004).

17 When necessary and indispensable defendants are not before the court, the court
18 lacks the ability to grant the relief that the plaintiffs seek. In that event, the court should
19 dismiss the action. *See, e.g., So. Pac. Transp. Co. v. Brown*, 651 F.2d 613, 614-15 (9th
20 Cir. 1980) (dismissing complaint against attorney general alone, which sought to enjoin
21 enforcement of a law that state district attorneys, not the attorney general, were charged
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24 Plaintiffs’ failure to name necessary and indispensable parties in written filings, at oral
25 argument, and in conferences with the Court, but Plaintiffs declined to include those
26 parties when amending their complaint, and even declined to name the Maricopa County
27 Defendants who were previously named. (See, e.g., Hr’g Tr. at 7:5-8:8 (Sep. 2, 2016);
28 Doc. 207 at 2-3). Consequently, the State Defendants have not separately conferred with
Plaintiffs since they filed their Amended Complaint, and file this Motion pursuant to this
Court’s December 15, 2016 Minute Entry. (Doc. 231).

1 with enforcing); *Sellers v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 432 F.2d 493, 506 (9th Cir. 1970)
2 (Ferguson, J., dissenting and concurring) (concurring in the judgment that the district
3 court lacked jurisdiction, because the plaintiffs had failed to sue those with authority to
4 enforce the law they were challenging).

5 This is such a case. As explained below, Plaintiffs have not named the parties that
6 are necessary and indispensable in order for the court to grant them the specific relief that
7 they seek. Even if the court were to grant the full relief Plaintiffs seek, it would not cure
8 the alleged harm that forms the basis of Plaintiffs' SAC. Out-of-precinct provisional
9 ballots ("OOP ballots") would remain uncounted, and H.B. 2023 could still be enforced.
10 The Plaintiffs have simply sued the wrong people, and have not sued those against whom
11 the specific injunctions they seek can actually bring them relief. The Plaintiffs' Second
12 Amended Complaint should therefore be dismissed. *See, e.g., Green v. McIntire*, 39
13 App. D.C. 249, 251 (D.C. Cir. 1912) (explaining that because plaintiffs had failed to sue
14 indispensable parties, and also refused to amend their complaint to add those parties, the
15 district court was correct to dismiss their complaint). Even if that were not so, certain
16 Defendants should be dismissed from certain claims, and one Defendant, "the Arizona
17 Secretary of State's Office," should be dismissed entirely.

18 ARGUMENT

19 I. The Court Should Dismiss This Action Because Plaintiffs Failed to Name 20 Indispensable Defendants.

21 A. Plaintiffs Failed to Name Indispensable Defendants (OOP Challenge).

22 In the SAC, Plaintiffs specify the relief that they seek as an order enjoining the
23 State Defendants "from [i]mplementing, enforcing, or giving any effect to A.R.S. § 16-
24 122, § 16-135, or § 16-584 to the extent that they require Defendants to reject provisional
25 ballots in their entirety solely because they were cast in the wrong precinct." Plaintiffs
26 also seek an order to enjoin the State Defendants from declining "to count OOP ballots
27 for races for which the voter was otherwise eligible to cast a vote." (Doc. 233, Prayer for
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1 Relief, ¶ B(a)-(b)).² But the State Defendants are not involved in the counting of OOP
2 ballots, or with determining which ballots should be counted—those duties are the legal
3 responsibility of county officials, alone. Arizona law provides that “[a]ll proceedings at
4 the counting center shall be under the direction of the *board of supervisors* or other
5 officer in charge of elections.” A.R.S. § 16-621(A) (emphasis added). Additionally,
6 provisional ballots “shall be verified for proper registration of the elector by the *county*
7 *recorder* before being counted.” A.R.S. § 16-584(E) (emphasis added).³ An injunction
8 against the State Defendants, ordering them to count OOP ballots, would thus be
9 ineffective because the State Defendants have nothing to do with ballot counting.

10 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide that injunctions are only effective
11 against “the parties,” their “officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys,” and
12 “other persons who are in active concert or participation” with the parties. Fed. R. Civ.
13 P. 65(d)(2). The county officials who have the legal responsibility to count ballots are
14 not the State Defendants’ officers, agents, employees, or attorneys, and therefore cannot
15 be subjected to an injunction unless they are parties. Because the county officials have
16 the sole statutory responsibility to make decisions about whether OOP ballots should be
17 counted or rejected, they are necessary to this lawsuit and indispensable to the relief that
18 the Plaintiffs seek.

21 ² Paragraph B(b) of the Prayer for Relief actually seeks an order “enjoining [the State]
22 Defendants . . . from . . . [r]equiring Defendants to count OOP ballots for races for which
23 the voter was otherwise eligible to cast a vote.” Presumably, Plaintiffs did not mean to
24 ask the Court to enjoin the State Defendants from counting OOP ballots, because
25 Plaintiffs want OOP ballots counted. The State Defendants have therefore construed the
26 Plaintiffs’ prayer as a request for an injunction *requiring the State Defendants to count*
27 such ballots.

28 ³ This concept is well-established in Arizona election law. The statute governing
nomination petition challenges, which affect the preparation of ballots, sets forth the
indispensable parties. A.R.S. § 16-351(C). They include the officer with which the
nomination petitions are filed and the county, city, or town officers responsible for
preparing ballots on which the candidate will appear. *Id.*

1 Rather than naming these county officials, Plaintiffs instead rely on A.R.S. § 16-
2 142 to assert that the Secretary, “[a]s Arizona’s Chief Elections Officer, . . . is
3 empowered with broad authority to carry out that responsibility.” (Doc. 233, ¶ 22). But
4 Plaintiffs misstate the nature of the power granted to the Secretary pursuant to A.R.S.
5 § 16-142. That statute designates the Secretary the Chief Elections Officer for the sole
6 purpose of ensuring the State’s compliance with the requirements of the federal National
7 Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”) and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee
8 Voting Act (“UOCAVA”). The requirements of NVRA and UOCAVA do not include
9 counting OOP ballots, and they do not change the fact that Arizona law charges county
10 officials, not the Secretary, with counting those ballots. Accordingly, the powers granted
11 to the Secretary pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-142 are irrelevant to the claims here and do not
12 make an injunction against the Secretary ordering her to count OOP ballots effective.

13 The Arizona Constitution creates the office of Secretary of State. Ariz. Const. art.
14 V, § 1 (providing that “[t]he executive department shall consist of the governor, secretary
15 of state”). The Constitution grants the Secretary only those powers that are “prescribed
16 by law.” *Id.*, § 9. The Secretary’s duties and powers are only those that are required or
17 provided by Arizona’s Constitution and statutes. *See Weidler v. Arizona Power Co.*, 7
18 P.2d 241, 242 (Ariz. 1932) (holding that the duties of constitutionally-mandated state
19 officials are only those found in the state Constitution and statutory law). The
20 Constitution requires the Secretary to canvass the election returns for state officers, and
21 issue certificates of election, in the manner prescribed by law. Ariz. Const. art. V, § 10.
22 The provision of Arizona law that sets forth the Secretary’s duties do not provide her
23 power to either count or decline to count OOP ballots. *See* A.R.S. § 41-121(A)(6)
24 (requiring the Secretary to certify certain election results to the governor); A.R.S. § 41-
25 121(A)(14) (requiring the Secretary to participate in an annual meeting with federal
26 officials and county election officials to coordinate delivery and return of ballots for
27 UOCAVA voters). Arizona Revised Statutes Title 16, which relates to elections, assigns
28

1 the Secretary additional election-related duties, but not the duty to count ballots.⁴ None
2 of these powers are so broad that the injunction the Plaintiffs seek against her would
3 grant them the relief they hope to obtain.

4 Similarly, the Arizona Constitution created the office of the Attorney General.
5 A.R.S. Const. Art. 5 § 1. And, like the Secretary, his powers are limited to those
6 provided him by the Constitution and statutes. *Id.*, § 9. No law provides the Attorney
7 General authority to count (or decline to count) OOP ballots, and Plaintiffs have not
8 suggested otherwise in their SAC. Those duties are the legal responsibility of county
9 officials.

10 The Plaintiffs seek an order requiring only the State Defendants to count OOP
11 ballots. But as explained above, the State Defendants are not involved in the counting of
12 ballots—county officials around the state perform that task. For whatever reason, the
13 Plaintiffs have steadfastly refused to name the defendants who are necessary for the
14 specific relief they seek. Because an injunction requiring the State Defendants to count
15 OOP ballots will not cure Plaintiffs’ alleged harm, it cannot provide them their sought-
16 after relief. The county officials who are legally responsible for counting OOP ballots
17 are thus indispensable parties, and this Court cannot grant the relief the Plaintiffs seek in
18 their absence. Fed. R. Civ. P. 19(a)(1).

19 The Plaintiffs are the “masters of their own complaints,” *Myles v. United States*,
20 416 F.3d 551, 552 (7th Cir. 2005), and in this case have chosen to sue the wrong
21 defendants. Therefore, this Court should dismiss the Plaintiffs’ OOP claims for failure to
22 name indispensable parties pursuant to Rules 12(b)(7) and 19.

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26 ⁴ Indeed, the Secretary of State is mentioned in approximately 100 different statutory
27 provisions in Title 16, but none assign the Secretary any role in counting ballots.
28 Moreover, several statutes differentiate the Secretary from county “officers in charge of
elections.” *See, e.g.*, A.R.S. §§ 16-250(A), -621(C).

1 **B. The Plaintiffs Failed to Name Indispensable Defendants Necessary to**
2 **Adjudicate Their Challenge to H.B. 2023.**

3 The Plaintiffs' SAC further asks this Court to enjoin the State Defendants "from
4 [i]mplementing, enforcing, or giving any effect to H.B. 2023." (Doc. 233, Prayer for
5 Relief, ¶ B(c)). But an injunction against the State Defendants cannot provide complete
6 relief to Plaintiffs regarding their H.B. 2023 claims. The Secretary has no legal authority
7 to enforce H.B. 2023. The Attorney General has such authority, pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-
8 1021; however, he does not have sole authority to enforce (or decline to enforce) the
9 provisions of H.B. 2023. As a result, an injunction against him, alone, cannot cure the
10 alleged harm that the Plaintiffs complain of, nor provide them the relief that they seek.

11 Section 16-1021 provides the Attorney General authority to enforce the provisions
12 of Title 16, including H.B. 2023, "[i]n any election for state office, members of the
13 legislature, justices of the supreme court, judges of the court of appeals or statewide
14 initiative or referendum" or "[i]n any special district election." But it gives concurrent
15 jurisdiction for other elections to other officials. The statute provides that "[i]n any
16 election for county, city or town office, community college district governing board,
17 judge or a county, city or town initiative or referendum," or in "any special district
18 election . . . in which the district or a portion of the district is located" in the county, "the
19 appropriate county, city or town attorney" has enforcement authority. A.R.S. § 16-1021.
20 Under Arizona's system of consolidated elections, almost all elections will include
21 statewide and county, city, or town races. *See* A.R.S. § 16-204. As such, the Attorney
22 General and county attorneys have concurrent enforcement authority for most elections,
23 and the local prosecutors have exclusive authority for elections that do not include a state
24 office.

25 In order for the Plaintiffs to be free from the threat of enforcement, all those with
26 power to enforce H.B. 2023 must be enjoined from doing so. But Plaintiffs have not sued
27 county attorneys or city and town prosecutors. These local officials have the power to
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1 enforce H.B. 2023, but no Defendant has power to compel them to cease to enforce it.
2 They are therefore necessary and indispensable parties to this lawsuit because the
3 Plaintiffs cannot obtain complete relief on their H.B. 2023 claims. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P.
4 19(a)(1), 65(d). Pursuant to Rule 12(b)(7) and Rule 19, this Court should dismiss the
5 Plaintiffs' H.B. 2023 claims for failure to name indispensable parties.

6 **II. The Court Should Dismiss the H.B. 2023 Claims Against the Secretary of**
7 **State, the OOP Claims Against the Attorney General, and All Claims Against**
8 **the Arizona Secretary of State's Office.**

9 As explained above, Plaintiffs have failed to name necessary and indispensable
10 parties to maintain their challenge to Arizona's out-of-precinct voting requirements, as
11 well as H.B. 2023. As a result, Plaintiffs' SAC should be dismissed. Additionally, even
12 if that were not so, the Court should dismiss (a) the Secretary from Counts III, IV, and V,
13 which relate to H.B. 2023, (b) the Attorney General from Counts I and II, which relate to
14 OOP ballots, and (c) the Arizona Secretary of State's Office entirely.

15 The Secretary has no role whatsoever in enforcing H.B. 2023, a criminal law, and
16 Plaintiffs have not alleged that she does. (*Cf.* Doc. 233, ¶ 22). She should be dismissed
17 from those Counts. *See, e.g., Confed. Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation v.*
18 *Locke*, 176 F.3d 467, 470-71 (9th Cir. 1999) (dismissing complaint against governor
19 because state lottery agency—not the governor—decided the challenged matter, where
20 lottery tickets were sold). Likewise, Plaintiffs have not alleged that the Attorney General
21 has any role in counting ballots or overseeing the voting process beyond prosecuting
22 election-related offenses. (Doc. 233, ¶ 23). As such, the Court should dismiss the
23 Attorney General from the OOP Counts.

24 In addition to the Secretary and the Attorney General, the SAC names the Arizona
25 Secretary of State's Office as a defendant and states that the Secretary of State's Office
26 "is established by A.R.S. § 41-121.02." (Doc. 233, ¶ 21). In fact, A.R.S. § 41-121.02
27 establishes the "department of state, which shall be composed of the office of the
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1 secretary of state.”⁵ But the department of state is a non-jural entity that cannot sue or be
2 sued in its own right. *See Melendres v. Arpaio*, 784 F.3d 1254, 1260 (9th Cir. 2015)
3 (dismissing non-jural entity that lacked separate legal status from the County); *Brillard*
4 *v. Maricopa Cty.*, 232 P.3d 1263, 1269 (Ariz. App. 2010) (stating that “a governmental
5 entity may be sued only if the legislature has so provided”). The Arizona Legislature has
6 not given the department of state separate legal status allowing it to sue or be sued. *See*
7 *A.R.S. §§ 41-121 to -133* (defining powers and duties of the Secretary of State and
8 department of state). Accordingly, the Arizona Secretary of State’s Office is a non-jural
9 entity and Plaintiffs’ claims against it must be dismissed.
10

11 Moreover, naming the Secretary of State’s Office as a Defendant is unnecessary
12 because the Secretary of State is a Defendant. Plaintiffs have sued the Secretary in her
13 official capacity as a stand-in for the State. *See Hafer v. Melo*, 502 U.S. 21, 25 (1991)
14 (“Suits against state officials in their official capacity . . . should be treated as suits
15 against the State.”); *Kentucky v. Graham*, 473 U.S. 159, 165 (1985) (“Official-capacity
16 suits . . . ‘generally represent only another way of pleading an action against an entity of
17 which an officer is an agent.’”) (quoting *Monell v. New York City Dep’t of Soc. Servs.*,
18 436 U.S. 658, 690 n. 55 (1978)). The Secretary of State’s Office plays the same role.⁶
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20 Consequently, the Secretary of State’s Office is a redundant defendant, and the
21 Court should dismiss it. *See Ctr. for Bio-Ethical Reform, Inc. v. Los Angeles Cty. Sheriff*
22 *Dep’t*, 533 F.3d 780, 799 (9th Cir. 2008) (dismissing official named only in his official
23

24 ⁵ The office of Secretary of State is established by Ariz. Const. art. 5, § 1, which lists the
25 offices that make up the executive department. Moreover, contrary to Plaintiffs’
26 allegation that the Secretary of State’s Office is “charged with overseeing elections,”
27 A.R.S. § 41-121.02 says nothing about elections. (Doc. 233, ¶ 21).

28 ⁶ Plaintiffs’ recent discovery requests illustrate this. They issued one set of Requests for
Production to the Secretary of State’s Office and Secretary Reagan and defined “you” to
include both. (*See* Doc. 237).

1 capacity when the government entity that employed him was also a defendant). If the
2 Court were to order any of the requested injunctive relief against the Secretary, the
3 Secretary and the employees of the department of state that she supervises would
4 implement it—the department need not be a defendant here. *See N.J. Protection &*
5 *Advocacy, Inc. v. N.J. Dep’t of Educ.*, 563 F. Supp. 2d 474, 492 (D.N.J. 2008)
6 (dismissing members of state board of education sued in their official capacities as
7 “duplicative and cumbersome” and stating that the dismissed officials “will still be
8 required to comply with and assist in implementing the terms of any injunction issued by
9 this Court”).⁷

11 **CONCLUSION**

12 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should dismiss the Second Amended
13 Complaint.

14 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 17th day of January, 2017.

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27 ⁷ In addition, Plaintiffs constitutional claims against a department of the State are barred
28 by the State’s Eleventh Amendment immunity. *See Mixon v. Ohio*, 193 F.3d 389, 397-98
(6th Cir. 2006).

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 17, 2017, I electronically transmitted the foregoing document to the Clerk’s Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a notice of electronic filing to the EM/ECF registrants.

s/ Karen J. Hartman-Tellez

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