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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

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JOHN THURSTON, *et al.*

APPELLANTS

v.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ARKANSAS and ARKANSAS UNITED, *et al.*

APPELLEES

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**PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**  
**TO COMPLETE THE RECORD**

Come now, Appellants John Thurston, Sharon Brooks, Bilenda Harris-Ritter, William Luther, Wendy Brandon, Jamie Clemmer, and J. Harmon Smith, in their official capacities as Secretary of State and members of the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners, by and through counsel, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge and Assistant Attorney General Brittany Edwards, and for their Petition for Writ of Certiorari to Complete the Record, respectfully state:

1. On March 24, 2022, the circuit court entered an Order declaring Acts 249, 728, 736, and 973 of the 93rd General Assembly unconstitutional and permanently enjoining such acts. The same day, Appellants timely filed their notice of appeal of the circuit court's March 24, 2022, Order with the Arkansas Supreme Court.

2. Concurrent with their appeal, Appellants requested a complete transcript of the four-day bench trial held from March 15-18, 2022, and made financial arrangements required for its preparation in accordance with Ark. R. App. 6(b).

3. Ms. Neva Warford, the primary court reporter, made requests for additional time to complete the record. Defendants filed four Motions to Extend Time to Lodge the Record, each which the circuit court granted, respectively.

4. The current deadline to lodge the record is October 24, 2022. This is the maximum timeframe permitted under Ark. R. App. P. 5(b)(2).

5. The hearing record, however, is not yet completely prepared. Ms. Warford communicated to undersigned counsel that she will not have the trial transcript complete by the October 24, 2022, deadline. She has signed an affidavit explaining the delay, a copy of which is attached to this Petition as **Exhibit A**.

6. Pursuant to Ark. R. App. P. 5(b)(3), Appellants request that this Court issue a writ of certiorari to Ms. Warford, directing her to complete the hearing record within 30 days of the issuance of said writ.

7. This petition is not pursued for the purpose of delay; to the contrary, Appellants communicated diligently with Ms. Warford since the filing their Notice of Appeal in March 2022, in an effort to provide the transcript. Appellants file this Petition to ensure that the briefing schedule can be entered after the trial record is filed and ensure the Court may properly review this appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

LESLIE RUTLEDGE  
Attorney General

/s/ Brittany Edwards

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*Counsel for Appellants*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Brittany Edwards, hereby certify that on October 20, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the e-*Flex* system, which shall send notice to all Counsel of Record. Pursuant to Ark. R. Sup. Ct. 6(1)(c), I also certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served to the Honorable Wendell Griffen at wgriffen@pulaskimail.net.

/s/ Brittany Edwards  
Brittany Edwards

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
FIFTH DIVISION**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ARKANSAS, *et al.***

**PLAINTIFFS**

**v.**

**CASE NO. 60CV-21-3138**

**JOHN THURSTON, in his official capacity  
As the Secretary of State of Arkansas, *et al.***

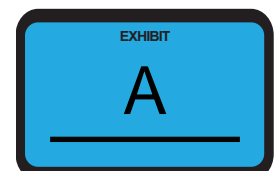
**DEFENDANTS**

**AFFIDAVIT**

**STATE OF ARKANSAS  
COUNTY OF PULASKI**

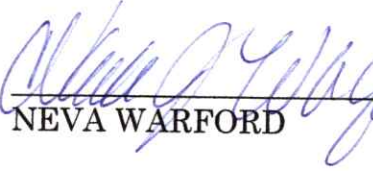
I, Neva Warford, being of sound mind and having obtained the age of 18 years of age, state under oath and penalty of perjury, the following:

1. I am the Official Court Reporter for Circuit Judge Wendell Griffen, Fifth Division, Sixth Circuit, Pulaski County, Arkansas.
2. I received a copy of the Notice of Appeal in this matter, dated March 24, 2022.
3. I understand that the Notice of Appeal requires me to produce a complete transcript of the trial held in this case from March 15-18, 2022, including certified copies of any and all exhibits entered by either party.
4. As of today's date, I have not completed the requested transcript. The seven months permitted by Ark. R. App. 5(b)(2) expires October 24, 2022. I will be unable to complete the transcript in this matter by that date.



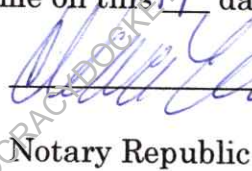
5. Additional time is needed to prepare the transcript and assemble the exhibits in this matter due to the trial court's schedule and caseload since the courts resumed hearings and trial after the Covid-19 pandemic, including multiple trials lasting a week or longer.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

  
NEVA WARFORD



SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me on this 19 day of October, 2022.

  
Notary Republic



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