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Pulaski County Circuit Court
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARKANSAS, ARKANSAS UNITED, DORTHA DUNLAP, LEON KAPLAN, NELL MATTHEWS MOCK, JEFFERY RUST, and PATSY WATKINS,

PLAINTIFFS

V.

No. 60CV-21-3138

JOHN THURSTON, in his official capacity as the Secretary of State of Arkansas, and WENDY BRANDON, SHARON BROOKS, JAMIE CLEMMER, BILENDA HARRIS-RITTER, WILLIAM LUTHER, and J. HARMON SMITH, in their official capacities as members of the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners,

DEFENDANTS

ORDER GRANTING PERMANENT INJUNCTION

Before the Court is the Plaintiffs' Amended Complaint seeking declaratory and injunctive relief. Plaintiffs challenge four laws enacted by the 93rd General Assembly: Acts 736, 973, 239, and 728 (collectively, the "Challenged Provisions").

On March 15-18, 2022, the parties tried this matter before the Court.

The parties presented evidence through live testimony, documentary exhibits, and deposition recordings. After considering the testimony, documentary evidence, pleadings, legal memoranda, and oral argument, and for the reasons articulated in the Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law entered on March 24, 2022, the Court concludes that (1) all four Challenged Provisions (Acts 736, 973, 249, and 728) violate the Free and Equal Elections Clause, Ark. Const. art. 2 § 3, and the Equal Protection Clause, Ark. Const. art. 2 § 3; (2) Acts 736 and 973 violate the Voter Qualifications Clause, Ark. Const. art. 2 § 1; (3) Act 249 violates Section 19 of Amendment 51; and (4) Act 728 violates the rights to freedom of speech and assembly in the Arkansas Constitution, Ark. Const. art. 2 § 4; Ark. Const. art. 2 § 6.

Accordingly, pursuant to Arkansas Rule of Civil Procedure 65, the Court PERMANENTLY ENJOINS Defendants, as well as their respective officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and any other persons who are in active concert or participation with the parties and the parties' officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, from enforcing or conducting any activities pursuant to Acts 736, 973, 249, or 728.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 24th day of March 2022.

Hon. Wendell Griffen

Circuit Judge

Prepared by:

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