IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA HELENA DIVISION

MONTANA PUBLIC INTEREST **RESEARCH GROUP; MONTANA** FEDERATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

Plaintiffs,

CV 23-70-H-BMM-KLD

ORDER

VS.

20MDENOCRACYDOCKET.COM CHRISTI JACOBSEN, in her official capacity as Montana Secretary of State; AUSTIN KNUDSEN, in his official capacity as Montana Attorney General; CHRIS GALLUS, in his official capacity as Montana Commissioner of Political Practices.

Defendants.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE and MONTANA **REPUBLICAN PARTY**,

Defendant-Intervenors.

Plaintiffs Montana Public Interest Research Group and Montana Federation of Public Employees have filed a Motion for a Status Conference to address scheduling a hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction and whether the preliminary pretrial conference should be vacated pending a ruling on the preliminary injunction motion. (Doc. 47). Having reviewed Plaintiffs' motion, and notwithstanding the fact that Defendant and Defendant-Intervenors oppose the motion for a status conference and wish to continue on the present schedule,

IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiffs' motion (Doc. 47) is GRANTED as follows. A hearing on Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on March 5, 2024, at the Russell Smith Courthouse, 201 E. Broadway in Missoula.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the preliminary pretrial conference scheduled for February 12, 2024 and all related deadlines are VACATED. The preliminary pretrial conference will be held on March 5, 2024, immediately after the preliminary injunction hearing. The parties shall file their preliminary pretrial statements, joint discovery plan, and statement of stipulated facts on or before February 27, 2024.

DATED this 29th day of January, 2024.

Kathleen L. DeŠoto United States Magistrate Judge