

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLESTON DIVISION

TRUDY GRANT, ET. AL,)	
)	C/A No. 2:23-cv-06838-BHH
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
HOWARD KNAPP, ET. AL,)	<u>ANSWER OF CHARLESTON COUNTY</u>
)	<u>BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER</u>
Defendants.)	<u>REGISTRATION</u>
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	

Defendant Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections (erroneously named in the Complaint as the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration and hereafter referred to as BVRE Defendants) by and through subscribed counsel, answer the Amended Complaint of Plaintiffs and would state unto this Honorable Court the following:

1. BVRE Defendants deny each and every allegation of the Complaint not expressly admitted, denied, or qualified elsewhere in this Answer.
2. On information and belief, Paragraphs 1-3 of the Complaint are a statement of request for relief to which the BVRE Defendants are not required to answer. To the extent an answer is required, BVRE Defendants deny Paragraphs 1-3 of the Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.
3. BVRE Defendants admit Paragraphs 4-11 of the Complaint.
4. BVRE Defendants admit Paragraph 12 of the Complaint in part and deny it in part. BVRE Defendants admit that voters under the age of 65 do not have the right to vote in person on

election day or during a specified Early Voting Period, but BVRE denies that there are “certain limited categories” in that there seven (7) additional categories.

5. BVRE Defendants admit Paragraphs 13-15 of the Complaint.
6. BVRE Defendants deny Paragraphs 16-21 of the Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.
7. To the extent a reply is required, BVRE Defendants deny the prayer for relief commencing with Paragraph 22 of the Complaint, subparagraphs (a-c) inclusive.

**FOR A FURTHER DEFENSE
(South Carolina Constitution and Code of Laws)**

8. At all times relevant, and as admitted by Defendants in the foregoing Answer to Plaintiff’s Complaint, BVRE Defendants were acting under the duly proposed and ratified South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, and are therefore enforcing state law.
9. The laws of the State of South Carolina are entitled to equal sovereignty unless and until it is shown that South Carolina’s present absentee voting laws and categories violate the First Amendment, the Twenty-Sixth Amendment or any other amendments cited in the Plaintiff’s Complaint, or are otherwise in conflict with the Supremacy Clause. United States Constitution Amdt. 10. *See generally* Shelby v. Holder, 570 U.S. 529 (2013).

**FOR A FURTHER DEFENSE
(Lack of Standing/Actual Injury)**

10. On information and belief, Plaintiffs have not alleged any actual inability to vote as a result of the alleged infringement of their rights by the State of South Carolina, and have not therefore suffered an actual harm.

11. On information and belief, Plaintiffs have not alleged that they attempted to vote early, and were denied the right to do so by BVRE or another entity.

12. Plaintiffs' action is barred by their lack of standing or an injury in fact.

WHEREFORE, the BVRE Defendants having fully answered the Plaintiffs' Complaint, the Defendants pray for an Order of this Honorable Court:

- A. Dismissing the Complaint with prejudice;
- B. Awarding the costs of this action;
- C. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF JOHN E. ROBINSON,
LLC.

s/John Edward Robinson

John Edward Robinson, Fed ID # 10103
Email: john@charlestonlawoffices.com
P.O. Box 670
Charleston, SC 29402
(T) 843-723-5152
(F) 843-577-4570

*Attorneys for Defendant Board of Voter
Registration & Elections of Charleston
County Erroneously Identified as the
Charleston Board of Elections and Voter
Registration*

March 5, 2024

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLESTON DIVISION

TRUDY GRANT, ET. AL,)	
)	C/A No. 2:23-cv-06838-BHH
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
HOWARD KNAPP, ET. AL,)	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>
)	
Defendants.)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	

This is to certify that the undersigned served the foregoing ***ANSWER ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANT CHARLESTON BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS*** upon the party listed below by ECF and depositing a copy of the same in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, as addressed below, on March 5, 2024:

Armand Derfner, Esq.
Counsel for Plaintiffs
Derfner & Altman, LLC
575 King Street, Suite B
Charleston, SC 2940

s/John Edward Robinson

John Edward Robinson, Fed ID # 10103
Email: john@charlestonlawoffices.com
P.O. Box 670
Charleston, SC 29402
(T) 843-723-5152
(F) 843-577-4570

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM