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DAVID R. FOX (NV Bar No. 16536)

RISE ACTION FUND; INSTITUTE FOR A

PROGRESSIVE NEVADA; and NEVADA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS,

Proposed

Intervenor-Respondents.

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1 Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 24, Proposed Intervenor-Respondents Rise 2 Action Fund, the Institute for a Progressive Nevada, and the Nevada Alliance for Retired 3 Americans move to intervene as respondents in the above-titled action. 4 This Motion is based on the Memorandum of Points and Authorities below, the 5 declarations and exhibits attached hereto, all papers and pleadings on file, and any oral argument 6 this Court sees fit to allow at the hearing on this matter. 7 DATED this 28th day of May, 2024. 8 By: /s/ Bradley Schrager 9 Bradley Schrager (NV Bar No. 10217) Daniel Bravo (NV Bar No. 13078) 10 BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 11 Las Vegas, NV 89113 12 David R. Fox (NV Bar No. 16536) 13 Richard Medina\* Robert Golan-Vilella\* 14 ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP 250 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 400 15 Washington, DC 20001 16 Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor-17 Respondents Rise Action Fund, the Institute for a Progressive Nevada, and the Nevada 18 Alliance for Retired Americans 19 \*Pro hac vice application forthcoming 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Proposed Intervenor-Respondents Rise Action Fund, the Institute for a Progressive Nevada, and the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans ("Proposed Intervenors") move to intervene as respondents in this lawsuit under Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 24.

Petitioners seek a court-ordered end run around the detailed statutory procedures and safeguards governing third-party challenges to voters' eligibility. See NRS 293.535, 293.547. Under those procedures, challenges must be made under oath, based on personal knowledge, and on particular grounds or during particular time periods. See NRS 293.535, 293.547. Petitioners do not cite and have not complied with those procedures. Yet they ask the Court to compel Respondent Burgess to investigate their unsworn, unsourced allegations that certain unnamed voters are improperly registered at addresses that Petitioners say are not traditional residences.

If the Court grants such relief, Respondent Burgess—and other clerks and registrars across the state—will be flooded with third-party demands to investigate all manner of alleged peculiarities in the voter rolls, based on unsourced, unverified, and unsworn information. Petitioners are not the only ones making such demands. Nevada is in the midst of a storm of baseless efforts by third parties to force election officials to undertake a rushed purge of registered voters before the November election, from Petitioners to the newly founded "Pigpen Project" to a U.S. Senate candidate<sup>2</sup> to one of the major political parties.<sup>3</sup>

Such relief would severely harm Proposed Intervenors by threatening their members' and constituents' voting rights and requiring Proposed Intervenors to expend substantial resources to educate voters and protect them from baseless attacks on their eligibility. No existing party adequately protects Proposed Intervenors' interests in this case. Proposed Intervenors are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Pigpen Project, https://pigpenproject.com/ (last accessed May 28, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See @DrJeffGunter, X.com (May 20, 2024, 5:22 PM), https://x.com/DrJeffGunter/status/1792667306851774590.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See generally RNC v. Aguilar, No. 2:24-cv-00518 (D. Nev. filed Mar. 18, 2024).

accordingly entitled to intervene in this case as a matter of right under Rule 24(a)(2). In the alternative, the Court should grant Proposed Intervenors permissive intervention pursuant to Rule 24(b).<sup>4</sup>

#### BACKGROUND

#### I. Statutory Background

An overlapping set of state and federal statutes govern the maintenance of the voter rolls and changes or cancellations to voters' registrations. Petitioners' claim relies primarily on one such statute, NRS 293.530(1), which provides that county clerks "may use any reliable and reasonable means available to correct the portions of the statewide voter registration list which are relevant to the county clerks and to determine whether a registered voter's current residence is other than that indicated on the voter's application to register to vote." NRS 293.530(1)(a) (emphasis added). That provision goes on to explain that county clerks "may, with the consent of the board of county commissioners, make investigations of registration in the county by census, by house-to-house canvass or by any other method." NRS 293.530(1)(b) (emphasis added). Nothing in NRS 293.530(1)(a) or (b) requires county clerks to do anything, or even permits them to make an investigation without authorization from their respective county boards. And the remainder of NRS 293.530 prescribes detailed procedures that county clerks must follow before canceling the registration of voters under the provision, providing for cancellation only after: (1) the clerk mails a written notice to the voter, along with a return postcard that has a place for the voter to write any new address; (2) the voter does not respond; (3) the voter's registration information is not otherwise updated by an automatic voter registration agency; and (4) the voter does not appear to vote in two successive general elections following the date of the notice. NRS 293.530(1)(c).

NRS 293.530(1) makes no mention of the involvement of any nongovernmental third

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> If Proposed Intervenors' motion is granted, Proposed Intervenors intend to file a motion to dismiss the Petition under Rule 12(b) for failure to state a claim and lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Because Rule 24(c) requires putative intervenors to attach a proposed pleading to their motion, however, Proposed Intervenors attach a proposed answer hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

parties in this process. That is because two other Nevada statutes that Petitioners do not cite—NRS 293.535 and NRS 293.547—expressly govern third party challenges to voters' registration. Under NRS 293.535, "any elector or other reliable person" may file an affidavit with the county clerk, which must be based on personal knowledge, stating that a voter is not a citizen or has moved outside the county where he or she is registered to vote and established residence elsewhere. NRS 293.535(1). If the challenge is based on residence, the clerk must notify the registrant "in the manner set forth in NRS 293.530," and the same timeline and procedures apply for canceling the registration based on lack of response. NRS 293.535(2). Similarly, NRS 293.547 allows a registered voter to file a written challenge to another voter's registration between 25 and 30 days before an election. NRS 293.547(1). The challenger must be registered to vote in the same precinct as the person challenged; the challenge must be based on personal knowledge; it must be signed and verified; and it must target a single individual. NRS 293.547(2)-(4). The county clerk must notify both the voter being challenged and the district attorney. NRS 293.547(5). If the person fails to respond or appear to vote, the county clerk shall cancel the registration. NRS 293.547(5)(b).

Petitioners also rely on a different statute: NRS 293.675. That statute provides that "[t]he Secretary of State shall establish and maintain a centralized, top-down database that collects and stores information related to the preregistration of persons and the registration of electors." NRS 293.675(1). It further states that the Secretary "shall use the voter registration information collected in the database . . . to create the official statewide voter registration list, which may be maintained on the Internet, in consultation with each county and city clerk," and that this list must, in relevant part, be "regularly maintained to ensure the integrity of the registration process and the election process." NRS 293.675(2), 3(i). NRS 293.675 goes on to specifically explain how the list is to be maintained: via agreements with the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Social Security Administration, and the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to allow verification of information on voter registration applications. NRS 293.675(5)–(6), (8). The only duties NRS 293.675 imposes on county and city clerks are to enter voter registration information into the database when received, to provide the Secretary of State with any voter registration information he reasonably

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requests, and, for county clerks, to "use the database . . . to collect and maintain all records of preregistration and registration to vote." NRS 293.675(1), (4). It imposes no further requirements on how county clerks are to use the database, nor does it require the Secretary of State or county clerks to accept or investigate any information from non-governmental third parties like Petitioners. *See* NRS 293.675.

A state's ability to make changes to its voter rolls is further circumscribed by the federal National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA"). The NVRA imposes strict restrictions on whether, when, and how a state may remove a voter from its registration rolls. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 20507(a)(3)–(4), (b)–(d). For instance, in most situations, a registrant may be removed from the rolls by reason of change of residence only after failing to respond to a notice and failing to appear to vote for two general elections following that notice. *Id.* § 20507(d)(1). In addition, a state must complete "any program the purpose of which is to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters" no "later than 90 days prior to the date of a primary or general election for Federal office." *Id.* § 20507(c)(2)(A).

## II. Recent Attempts by Nongovernmental Parties to Remove Nevada Voters from the Rolls

Election officials in this state are currently beset by unjustified, baseless efforts to impugn the accuracy of Nevada's veter rolls and force a rushed purge of voters before the 2024 general election. Petitioners' letter and lawsuit is one example, but it is not the only one. In January 2023, conservative activists in Nevada launched the so-called "Pigpen Project," a project of Citizen Outreach Foundation. *See About*, Pigpen Project, https://pigpenproject.com/about/ (last accessed May 28, 2024). Named after the Charlie Brown character, the project's self-described mission is to "clean[] up the voter rolls in Nevada by removing ineligible voters from the 'Active' voting list." *Id.* According to the group, it analyzes voter files to look for "red flags" of potentially invalid registrations and conducts "boots on the ground" inspections to provide evidence of allegedly "bad registrations" to election officials. *Id.* Since its creation, the Pigpen Project has "organized doorto-door canvassing and enlisted landlords to compare voter rolls with their leasing records,"

including "escort[ing] landlords to the Clark County registrar's office so that they can flag registrations of former tenants." Alexandra Berzon & Nick Corasaniti, Trump's Allies Ramp Up N.Y. Times Campaign Targeting Voter Rolls, (Mar. 3, 2024), https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/03/us/politics/trump-voter-rolls.html. And the Republican National Committee and the Nevada Republican Party have sued state and county officials in federal court, seeking to force a voter purge, purportedly under the NVRA. See generally RNC v. Aguilar, No. 2:24-cv-00518 (D. Nev. filed Mar. 18, 2024).

#### III. **Petitioners' Lawsuit**

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According to the Petition, on April 11, 2024, Logan Churchwell, a Research Director at Petitioner Public Interest Law Foundation (the "Foundation"), sent an email titled "Official review requested under NRS 293.486(1)" to the official email address of the Washoe County Elections Department. Pet. for Writ of Mandamus ("Pet.") Ex. B at 4. That email attached a letter addressed to Petitioner Cari-Ann Burgess, the Interim Registrar of Voters of Washoe County. See Pet. Ex. A at 1. The letter stated that the Foundation had conducted an "analysis of Nevada's statewide voter list dated April 9, 2024" and "identified numerous addresses listed as residential that appeared to be commercial buildings where no one resides," along with a list of addresses and photographs. Id.; see also generally Pet. Ex. A. The letter further requested that Burgess "conduct [her] investigation and make any appropriate corrections to the voter roll by May 1, 2024," stating that "[a]ction is needed prior to mailing out ballots for the June primary election." Pet. Ex. A at 1 (emphasis omitted).

George Guthrie, an employee of the Registrar's office, responded to Mr. Churchwell's email the following day. See Pet. Ex. B at 3–4. Messrs. Guthrie and Churchwell exchanged several additional emails in which Mr. Guthrie asked about the source of the information in the letter. Id. at 2–4. Mr. Churchwell stated that the Foundation had "reviewed the Nevada voter roll directly to identify commercial addresses" and that its research "noted active, inactive, or a combination of those at the addresses shown in the presentation list." *Id.* at 2–3. Mr. Guthrie then stated that he would "be sending [a] bulk response" to all the addresses "in the coming weeks." *Id.* at 2. On May

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2, 2024, Mr. Churchwell sent another email asking, "Which addresses have you reviewed and what actions have been taken?" Id. at 1. Four days later, Mr. Guthrie responded that "[a]fter further evaluation of the information you've provided to our office, I would suggest bringing your information to the Secretary of State's office." Id. Mr. Guthrie further noted that "we are within the 90 day list maintenance window as described by the NVRA" and so "any action would have to be taken after the June Primary. In the meantime, you may wish to pursue other options laid out in NRS 293.535 and NRS 293.547"—the statutes governing the voter challenge process by which third parties can challenge voter eligibility. Id.

Instead of following that statutory process, Petitioners filed the present Petition on May 10, 2024. In it, Petitioners bring a single count for relief based on Burgess's alleged failure "to investigate and make corrections regarding known commercial addresses in violation of her duties to maintain the voter registration list." Pet. ¶ 32. Petitioners thus seek both "a declaratory judgment that Respondent is not in compliance with NRS 293.530 and 293.675" and "a writ of mandamus requiring Respondent to investigate known commercial addresses." *Id.* ¶ 35–36.

#### IV. **Proposed Intervenors**

**Rise.** Rise Action Fund ("Rise") is a student-led 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that runs student-focused statewide advocacy and voter mobilization programs in Nevada, among other states. It is committed to empowering and mobilizing students in the political process and has recently focused its efforts on students in Nevada. See Decl. of Christian Solomon ¶ 5-6, 8-10 ("Solomon Decl.") (attached as Exhibit 2). For example, Rise hired a State Director to build out the organization's operations in Nevada in 2023, focusing first on UNLV. *Id.* ¶ 6, 8. Rise expects to expand to UNR after students return this fall and is now completing the process of hiring a Deputy State Director who will oversee Rise's operations at UNR. *Id.* ¶ 8. Rise's Nevada chapter strives to be responsive to the concerns of its student constituents within Nevada. In light of the December 6, 2023, mass shooting on the UNLV campus, it has made organizing students around gun safety issues a top goal, and it also organizes around the issues of student debt relief and financial assistance. See id. ¶¶ 9–10. To build political support for these policy goals, Rise plans

to make organizing and educating its student constituents about the 2024 general election a major priority. *Id.* ¶ 11. It is planning extensive efforts to register students on campus and to ensure that students *stay* registered. Rise's goal is to have its organizers and volunteers reach each student at UNLV and UNR three to five times, whether through phone banking or direct conversation, ahead of the 2024 general election. *Id.* This election-focused work is important to Rise's mission, which hinges on its ability to build political power within the student population. *Id.* 

Petitioners' suit particularly threatens to harm the student population that Rise advocates for and seeks to serve. *Id.* ¶ 12. Many college students live away from their family homes or places of residence for long periods of time while at school, often changing temporary places of residence repeatedly without abandoning their permanent residence—but without immediate access to mailed notices sent to their permanent addresses that might advise them that their registration is at risk of cancellation. *Id.* ¶ 13. Other college students establish permanent residences in their new college communities but may move frequently—every year, or even every semester—within the same small geographic area. Id. Students in both categories are at a particularly high risk for disenfranchisement through the attempts of Petitioners and others to abruptly remove voters from the rolls in the months ahead of a major general election. Petitioners' suit is therefore a direct attack on the very voters Rise seeks to organize, empower, and advocate for. And if Petitioners' suit is successful, Rise will have to retool its efforts in Nevada to focus on assisting students in determining their registration status. Id. ¶ 14. This will significantly disrupt Rise's pre-election planning and also come at the expense of work on its other mission-critical goals. In particular, Rise expects that it will have to focus its volunteer phone banking efforts on educating students and informing them how to confirm their registration status. *Id.* This volunteer-intensive effort would come at the expense of Rise's work in support of its other mission-critical priorities. *Id.* 

*Institute for a Progressive Nevada.* The Institute for a Progressive Nevada ("IPN") is a progressive, non-partisan, and non-profit organization that educates, empowers, and engages Nevadans to build a state where everyone has a fair opportunity to succeed. Its core mission is to ensure that every Nevadan knows how to vote and how to do so confidently and successfully. Decl.

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of Shelbie Swartz ¶ 4 ("Swartz Decl.") (attached as **Exhibit 3**). Over the past fifteen years, IPN has focused its work on civic education and voting rights, as well as on healthcare, public lands, and gun violence issues.

As part of its work, IPN publishes a non-partisan voter guide every election cycle. *Id.* This guide includes comprehensive instructions on how to register and vote in Nevada. See id. IPN also hosts its own voter registration platform—RegisterNevada.org—that it promotes across the state to encourage voter registration. See id. In addition, IPN works with All Voting is Local and the ACLU of Nevada in Washoe County to conduct election protection work and educate voters on their rights at the polling place. *Id.* IPN also engages in targeted advertising campaigns to educate citizens about its core policy areas. *Id.* It presently has about a dozen employees. *Id.* ¶ 3.

Petitioners' suit is a direct affront to IPN's mission to empower all Nevadans to vote. In effect, Petitioners are seeking to enable any third party across the state to seek a rushed purge of voters in advance of an election, threatening to remove ineligible voters from the rolls or have them moved to inactive status. Should Petitioners succeed, IPN would need to take several major steps in response. First, it would have to retool its voter guide to educate the public about the purge and add material informing voters how to confirm their registration status. See id. ¶ 5. Second, it would have to refocus its limited advertising to spread awareness about the need for voters to check their registration. Id. Such a campaign would eat into IPN's limited financial resources, likely making it more difficult to meet payroll for existing employees. Id. And it would also reduce IPN's ability to advertise about other issues, including spreading awareness of different voting methods within Nevada. See id. Nonetheless, given the centrality of voting to its mission, IPN strongly believes it would have to commit these resources to such an advertising campaign, even at the expense of other objectives. See id.

The Alliance. The Alliance for Retired Americans is a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) membership organization. Decl. of Thomas Bird ¶ 3 ("Bird Decl.") (attached as Exhibit 4). Its mission is to ensure the social and economic justice and full civil rights that retirees have earned, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding the right to vote. *Id.* ¶ 4. The Alliance's Nevada chapter, the

Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans, has roughly 20,000 members in the state of Nevada, including more than 3,000 members in Washoe County alone. *Id.* ¶ 3. It works with 20 affiliated chapters—comprised of other union and community groups—across Nevada. *Id.* ¶ 9. A major focus of the Alliance's work is attending these chapter meetings to speak with members about key policy goals, such as preserving Social Security and Medicare. *See id.* ¶¶ 9–10.

Alliance members are disproportionately vulnerable when voting rolls are purged. In particular, retirees are disproportionately burdened by voter purges because many retirees move within Nevada after retiring, and because retirees often travel out of state for long periods, during which time they may forward their mail or miss and fail to return a mailed notice regarding their registration status. *Id.* ¶¶ 5–6. As a consequence, if Petitioners succeed, those who move and travel will be at an increased risk of wrongful deregistration. *Id.* A retiree who spends a lengthy period of time caring for grandchildren at another family member's home, or enjoying retirement at a second home, may miss a crucial notice of cancellation if that notice is sent only to the retiree's home address. *See id.* Beyond that, the Alliance's sheer size gives it a substantial stake in this case: Given its roughly 20,000 members, it is all but certain that the rushed purges sought by Petitioners and their allies would put many of those members' voter registrations in jeopardy. *Id.* ¶ 3.

If Petitioners' suit were to succeed, the Alliance would be forced to refocus its efforts on educating its members about registration issues. Id. ¶ 7. Alliance leadership would need to devote time and effort to preparing materials and presentations about the need for members to confirm their registration status, and would have to use scarce presentation and organizing time at chapter meetings to walk members through how to confirm their registrations, as well as to answer members' questions. Id. ¶¶ 7, 9. Alliance leadership and volunteers would also need to assist any members who were deregistered. Id. ¶ 8. All this would frustrate the Alliance's mission by diverting its resources from other essential tasks, such as advocating to lower the cost of prescription drugs, preserving Social Security and Medicare, and other voter education work. Id. ¶ 10.

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#### STANDARD OF LAW

Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 24 governs intervention in Nevada state court actions. Because Rule 24 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24 are "equivalent," *Lawler v. Ginochio*, 94 Nev. 623, 626, 584 P.2d 667, 668 (1978) (per curiam), "[f]ederal cases interpreting [Rule 24] 'are strong persuasive authority." *Exec. Mgmt., Ltd. v. Ticor Title Ins. Co.*, 118 Nev. 46, 53, 38 P. 3d 872, 876 (2002) (quoting *Las Vegas Novelty, Inc. v. Fernandez*, 106 Nev. 113, 119, 787 P.2d 772, 776 (1990)).

To intervene as of right under Rule 24(a)(2),

an applicant must meet four requirements: (1) that it has a sufficient interest in the litigation's subject matter, (2) that it could suffer an impairment of its ability to protect that interest if it does not intervene, (3) that its interest is not adequately represented by existing parties, and (4) that the application is timely.

Am. Home Assurance Co. v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct. ex rel. County of Clark, 122 Nev. 1229, 1238, 147 P.3d 1120, 1126 (2006). "In evaluating whether Rule 24(a)(2)'s requirements are met," courts "construe the Rule broadly in favor of proposed intervenors . . . because a liberal policy in favor of intervention serves both efficient resolution of issues and broadened access courts." Wilderness Soc'y v. U.S. Forest Serv., 630 F.3d 1173, 1179 (9th Cir. 2011) (cleaned up) (quoting United States v. City of Los Angeles, 288 F.3d 391, 397–98 (9th Cir. 2002)).

Under Rule 24(b), a movant may permissively intervene if the movant "has a claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact." NRCP 24(b)(1)(B). "In exercising its discretion, the court must consider whether the intervention will unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the original parties' rights." NRCP 24(b)(3).

#### **ARGUMENT**

## I. Proposed Intervenors satisfy all of Rule 24(a)'s requirements for intervention as a matter of right.

Proposed Intervenors satisfy each of the four requirements of NRCP 24(a) and thus should be allowed to intervene as a matter of right.

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#### Α. The motion is timely.

First, the motion is timely. Petitioners filed their petition on May 10, 2024; this motion follows just over two weeks later and before any substantive activity has occurred in the case. There has therefore been no delay, and no possible risk of prejudice to the other parties. See In re Guardianship of A.M., No. 59116, 2013 WL 3278878, at \*3 (Nev. May 24, 2013); Lawler, 94 Nev. at 626, 584 P.2d at 669; see also, e.g., Nevada v. United States, No. 3:18-cv-569-MMD-CBC, 2019 WL 718825, at \*2 (D. Nev. Jan. 14, 2019) (granting motion to intervene filed several weeks after action commenced); W. Expl. LLC v. U.S. Dep't of Interior, No. 3:15-cv-00491-MMD-VPC, 2016 WL 355122, at \*2 (D. Nev. Jan. 28, 2016) (granting motion to intervene filed nearly two months after action commenced).

#### Proposed Intervenors have significant protectable interests that may be В. impaired by this lawsuit.

Proposed Intervenors also satisfy the next two requirements for intervention as a matter of right because they (1) have significantly protectable interests in this lawsuit (2) that may be impaired by Petitioners' claims. "A 'significantly protectable interest' . . . [is] one that is protected under the law and bears a relationship to the plaintiff's claims." Am. Home Assurance Co., 122 Nev. at 1239, 147 P.3d at 1127 (quoting S. Cal. Edison Co. v. Lynch, 307 F.3d 794, 803 (9th Cir. 2002)). In the federal context, courts have made clear that if a would-be intervenor "would be substantially affected in a practical sense by the determination made in an action, he should, as a general rule, be entitled to intervene," Sw. Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. Berg, 268 F.3d 810, 822 (9th Cir. 2001) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 24 advisory committee note to 1966 amendment)), and that this interest requirement is less stringent than Article III's standing requirement, see Yniguez v. Arizona, 939 F.2d 727, 735 (9th Cir. 1991). !!

Proposed Intervenors have at least two significant interests in this lawsuit. First, they have a compelling interest in ensuring that their members and constituents are able to register to vote, remain registered to vote and in active status, and successfully participate in future elections. Petitioners threaten these interests by seeking a writ of mandamus that would compel Burgess to

"investigate known commercial addresses" based on unsworn, unverified third-party information, provided entirely outside the statutory challenge process and in the absence of any authorization from the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners for Burgess to conduct such an investigation. Pet. ¶ 36. Such an interpretation of the law would seemingly impose a duty on any Nevada county clerk to investigate any voter based on any report from any third party, without any of the safeguards and limitations that Nevada's voter challenge statutes expressly provide. And it would dramatically increase the probability that voters—including Proposed Intervenors' members and constituents—will be wrongfully removed from active status or deregistered.

In analogous cases, courts have recognized the interests that Proposed Intervenors seek to intervene to represent here as a proper basis for intervention. See Bellitto v. Snipes, No. 16-cv-61474, 2016 WL 5118568, at \*2 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 21, 2016) (granting labor union intervention of right in suit seeking court-ordered voter list maintenance under NVRA), reconsideration denied, 2016 WL 10518461 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 4, 2016); see also, e.g., Pub. Int. Legal Found., Inc. v. Winfrey, 463 F. Supp. 3d 795, 799 (E.D. Mich. 2020) (granting organization permissive intervention in NVRA suit seeking to compel city to take more aggressive measures to purge allegedly ineligible voters). In Bellitto, for instance, the court permitted a union with tens of thousands of members in Florida to intervene because "the interests of its members would be threatened by [any] courtordered 'voter list maintenance' sought by Plaintiffs." 2016 WL 5118568, at \*2. That is the harm that the Alliance seeks to protect here on behalf of its nearly 20,000 retiree members in Nevada, Bird Decl. ¶¶ 3–4, and what Rise seeks to protect on behalf of its constituency of politically marginalized students, Solomon Decl. ¶ 15; cf. Am. Unites for Kids v. Rousseau, 985 F.3d 1075, 1096–97 (9th Cir. 2021) (holding organizations may sue on behalf of non-member constituents even under the more-demanding Article III test).

Second, should the Petition succeed in forcing Burgess—and by extension, obtaining an order that would endorse a similar duty applicable to other clerks, as well—to investigate voter eligibility based on unsourced, unsworn third-party information offered outside the voter challenge process, each Proposed Intervenor would have to divert time and resources to educating voters

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about the need to verify their registration to ensure that it has not been inactivated. This would take resources away from Proposed Intervenors' other essential priorities, harming their missions in the process.

For instance, IPN would have to take several steps in response to Petitioners' suit. It would have to update its voter registration platform to help Nevada voters determine if they have been removed. See Swartz Decl. ¶ 5. In addition, because empowering people to vote is at the core of IPN's mission, the organization would be forced to use its limited financial resources to educate voters and instruct them on how to confirm their registration status. See id. This would restrict IPN's ability to conduct other voter education work, thus harming IPN's mission. *Id.* Rise and the Alliance would suffer similar harms. As explained, Rise plans to focus its efforts on educating students about their various options for loan repayment assistance and other college aid plans. Solomon Decl. ¶ 9, 14. If Petitioners prevail, however, Rise will have to redirect some of these efforts towards educating students about how to confirm their registration status. *Id.* ¶ 14. That would severely harm Rise's mission, which includes fighting for free higher public education and being responsive to local student concerns. See id. ¶ 5. Similarly, the Alliance will have to use its limited volunteer resources to prepare materials educating its members about how to confirm their registration status, and then distribute these materials to members through social media channels, email, and at chapter meetings. See Bird Decl.  $\P$  7–9. This effort will reduce the Alliance's ability to speak to its members about other key policy goals, including protecting Social Security and Medicare. See id. ¶ 10.

"Once an applicant has established a significantly protectable interest in an action, courts regularly find that disposition of the case may, as a practical matter, impair an applicant's ability to protect that interest." *Venetian Casino Resort, LLC v. Enwave Las Vegas, LLC*, No. 2:19-CV-1197 JCM (DJA), 2020 WL 1539691, at \*3 (D. Nev. Jan. 7, 2020) (citing *California ex rel. Lockyer v. United States*, 450 F.3d 436, 442 (9th Cir. 2006)). Petitioners' lawsuit seeks to make it easier for third parties to challenge—in order to ultimately cancel—a voter's registration and to

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require clerks to take action to this effect on short notice.<sup>5</sup> This threatens Proposed Intervenors' interest in ensuring that their members and constituents are able to register to vote, remain registered, and ultimately vote in future elections, and would require Proposed Intervenors to divert resources to respond to this unwarranted attack on the rights of their members and constituents. Accordingly, if Petitioners' suit succeeds, Proposed Intervenors' interests in their members' and constituents' voting rights as well as their interests in their own resources will be impaired. This criterion for intervention of right is accordingly satisfied.

#### C. Respondent does not adequately represent Proposed Intervenors.

Proposed Intervenors also satisfy the third requirement for intervention as of right because they cannot rely on the parties in this case to adequately represent their interests. "[T]he burden on proposed intervenors in showing inadequate representation is minimal, and would be satisfied if they could demonstrate that representation of their interests may be' inadequate." *Hairr v. First Jud. Dist. Ct.*, 132 Nev. 180, 185, 368 P.3d 1198, 1201 (2016) (quoting *Arakaki v. Cayetano*, 324 F.3d 1078, 1086 (9th Cir. 2003)). Courts have "often concluded that governmental entities do not adequately represent the interests of aspiring intervenors." *Fund for Animals, Inc. v. Norton*, 322 F.3d 728, 736 (D.C. Cir. 2003); *see also Citizens for Balanced Use v. Mont. Wilderness Ass'n*, 647 F.3d 893, 899 (9th Cir. 2011) ("[T]he government's representation of the public interest may not be 'identical to the individual parochial interest' of a particular group just because 'both entities occupy the same posture in the litigation.'" (quoting *WildEarth Guardians v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 573 F.3d 992, 996 (10th Cir. 2009))).

While Respondent Burgess has an interest in administering the election laws generally, Proposed Intervenors are focused on ensuring that their members and constituents remain registered to vote. In similar cases, courts have concluded that the "interests of election officials

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Indeed, cancellation must be the goal, or else Petitioners' demand that the Court act with urgency—based on their contention that "[a]ction is needed prior to mailing out ballots for the June primary election," Pet. Ex. A at 1 (emphasis omitted)—would make no sense.

in voting roll maintenance are sufficiently distinct from those of elected officials and their constituents to warrant intervention by those who could be impacted by the results of the maintenance process." *Pub. Int. Legal Found*, 463 F. Supp. 3d at 799 (citing *League of Women Voters of Mich. v. Johnson*, 902 F.3d 572, 579 (6th Cir. 2018)); *see also Bellitto*, 2016 WL 5118568, at \*2 (holding, in allowing intervention as of right, that government defendant would not adequately represent labor union in case seeking court-ordered "voter list maintenance"). Moreover, Proposed Intervenors have specific interests and concerns—in particular, the proper allocation of their limited resources to maximize voter turnout and promote civic engagement—that neither Burgess nor any other party in this lawsuit shares. Should Petitioners be successful, Proposed Intervenors will have to divert resources to help protect the process against Petitioners' disruptive efforts, rending those resources unavailable for Proposed Intervenors' other mission-critical work.

Accordingly, this is not a case where "there is an 'assumption of adequacy [because] the government is acting on behalf of a constituency it represents," since such an assumption only arises "when the applicant shares the same interest." *Hairr*, 132 Nev. at 185, 368 P.3d at 1201 (quoting *Arakaki*, 324 F.3d at 1086). Rather, this is an instance where, "[a]lthough [Burgess] and the Proposed Intervenors fall on the same side of the dispute, [Burgess's] interests . . . differ from those of the Proposed Intervenors." *Issa v. Newsom*, No. 2:20-cv-01044-MCE-CKD, 2020 WL 3074351, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. June 10, 2020). While Burgess's arguments are likely to "turn on . . . [her] responsibility to properly administer election laws," Proposed Intervenors are concerned with ensuring that their members and constituents "have the opportunity to vote" and "allocating their limited resources to inform voters about the election procedures." *Id.* (granting motion to intervene as a matter of right). Because these interests are not shared by the current parties to the litigation, Proposed Intervenors cannot rely on Burgess or anyone else to provide adequate representation, and the third requirement for intervention of right is satisfied.

## II. Alternatively, Proposed Intervenors satisfy Rule 24(b)'s requirements for permissive intervention.

Rule 24(b) grants courts broad discretion to permit intervention where an applicant's claim or defense and the main action have a question of law or fact in common and intervention will not unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties. *See Hairr*, 132 Nev. at 187, 368 P.3d at 1202.

For the reasons discussed *supra* Argument § I, Proposed Intervenors' motion is timely, and Proposed Intervenors cannot rely on Burgess to adequately protect their interests. Proposed Intervenors also have defenses to Petitioners' claims that share common questions of law and fact—for example, whether Petitioners have pleaded facts allowing a court to conclude that they have a clear legal right to the extraordinary remedy of mandamus; whether their claims are preempted by the NVRA; and whether mandamus is unavailable because Petitioners have another remedy through the challenge processes set forth in NRS 293.535 and NRS 293.547. *See* Exhibit 1 (Proposed Answer). Intervention will not result in any undue delay or prejudice, because Proposed Intervenors have a strong interest in a swift resolution to this action to ensure that their members' and constituents' voting rights are protected, while simultaneously avoiding any unnecessary delay.

#### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, Proposed Intervenors respectfully request that the Court grant their motion to intervene as a matter of right under Rule 24(a)(2) or, in the alternative, permit them to intervene under Rule 24(b).

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<sup>6</sup> Alternatively, Proposed Intervenors request permission from the Court "to submit briefs on determinative issues as amici curiae." *Hairr*, 132 Nev. at 188, 368 P.3d at 1203.

### 1 **AFFIRMATION** 2 Pursuant to NRS 239B.030 and 603A.040, the undersigned does hereby affirm that this 3 document does not contain the personal information of any person. 4 5 DATED this 28th day of May, 2024. 6 By: /s/ Bradley Schrager 7 Bradley Schrager (NV Bar No. 10217) Daniel Bravo (NV Bar No. 13078) 8 **BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP** 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 9 Las Vegas, NV 89113 10 David R. Fox (NV Bar No. 16536) 11 Richard Medina\* Robert Golan-Vilella\* 12 ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP 250 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 400 13 Washington, DC 20001 14 Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor-15 Respondents Rise Action Fund, the Institute for a Progressive Nevada, and the Nevada 16 Alliance for Retired Americans 17 \*Pro hac vice application forthcoming 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 28th day of May, 2024, a true and correct copy of **MOTION TO INTERVENE AS RESPONDENTS** was served by electronically filing with the Clerk of the Court using the Odyssey eFileNV system and serving all parties with an email-address on record, pursuant to Administrative Order 14-2 and Rule 9 of the N.E.F.C.R.

By: <u>/s/ Dannielle Fresquez</u>

Dannielle Fresquez, an employee of BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP

INDEX OF EXHIBITS			
Exhibit No.	Description	Pages	
1	[PROPOSED] Answer to Petition for Writ of Mandamus	7	
2	Declaration of Christian Solomon	5	
3	Declaration of Shelbie Swartz	3	
4	Declaration of Thomas Bird	4	

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Exhibit 1

1	DAVID R. FOX (NV Bar No. 16536)			
2	RICHARD A. MEDINA ( <i>pro hac vice</i> forthcoming)  ROBERT GOLAN-VILELLA ( <i>pro hac vice</i> forthcoming)			
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4	Washington, DC 20001			
5	Tel: (202) 968-4490 dfox@elias.law			
6	rmedina@elias.law rgolanvilella@elias.law			
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9	BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP			
	6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, NV 89113	As a second of the second of t		
10	(702) 996-1724 bradley@bravoschrager.com	Y.CO.		
11	daniel@bravoschrager.com	CKE,		
12	Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor-	5-100		
13	6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, NV 89113 (702) 996-1724 bradley@bravoschrager.com daniel@bravoschrager.com  Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor- Respondents Rise Action Fund, Institute for a Progressive Nevada, and Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans			
14	Retired Americans			
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18	FREDERICK H. KRAUS; PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL FOUNDATION,	Case No. CV24-01051 Dept. No.: 4		
19	Petitioners,			
20	v.	[PROPOSED] ANSWER TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS		
21	CARRIE-ANN BURGESS, in her official capacity as Washoe County Interim			
22	Registrar of Voters, Respondent,			
23	and			
24	RISE ACTION FUND; INSTITUTE FOR A PROGRESSIVE NEVADA; and NEVADA			
25	ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS, Proposed			
26	Intervenor- Respondents.			
27				
28				

[PROPOSED] ANSWER TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS

Proposed Intervenors Rise Action Fund, Institute for a Progressive Nevada, and Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans ("Proposed Intervenors"), by and through their attorneys, submit the following Proposed Answer to Petitioners' Petition for Writ of Mandamus (the "Petition"). Proposed Intervenors respond to the allegations in the Petition as follows:

#### **NATURE OF THE CASE**

- 1. Proposed Intervenors admit that Paragraph 1 accurately quotes from NRS 293.675. The remainder of Paragraph 1 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenors deny the allegations in Paragraph 1.
- 2. Proposed Intervenors admit that Paragraph 2 accurately quotes from NRS 293.530(1)(a).
- 3. Paragraph 3 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenors deny the allegations in Paragraph 3.

#### **FARTIES**

- 4. Proposed Intervenors lack knowledge and information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 4 and therefore deny them.
- 5. Proposed Intervenors admit that Petitioner Public Interest Legal Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") is incorporated and based in Virginia. Proposed Intervenors lack knowledge and information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 5 and therefore deny them.
- 6. Proposed Intervenors lack knowledge and information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 6 and therefore deny them.
- 7. Proposed Intervenors are without sufficient information or knowledge with which to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 7 and therefore deny them.
  - 8. Admitted.
  - 9. Paragraph 9 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and

1	opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed
2	Intervenors deny the allegations.
3	10. Admitted.
4	JURISDICTION AND VENUE
5	11. Paragraph 11 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and
6	opinions to which no response is required.
7	12. Admitted.
8	GENERAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS
9	13. Proposed Intervenors admit that Paragraph 13 accurately quotes the excerpted
10	portion of NRS 293.675.
11	14. Proposed Intervenors admit that Paragraph 14 accurately quotes the excerpted
12	portion of NRS 293.530.
13	15. Proposed Intervenors admit that Paragraph 15 accurately quotes the excerpted
14	portion of NRS 293.486.
15	16. Proposed Intervenors admit that Paragraph 16 accurately quotes the excerpted
16	portion of NRS 293.507(4).
17	17. Admitted.
18	18. Proposed Intervenors admit that Paragraph 18 accurately quotes the excerpted
19	portion of NRS 293.505(12)(b).
20	19. Exhibit A to the Petition speaks for itself. Proposed Intervenors otherwise lack
21	knowledge and information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph
22	19 and therefore deny them.
23	20. Proposed Intervenors lack knowledge and information sufficient to form a belief as
24	to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 20 and the subparagraphs thereto, and therefore deny
25	them.
26	21. Exhibit B to the Petition speaks for itself. Proposed Intervenors otherwise lack
27	knowledge and information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph
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1	32.	Denied.	
2	33.	Denied.	
3	34.	Denied.	
4	35.	Proposed Intervenors admit that Petitioners purport to seek a declaratory judgment	
5	that Respond	lent is not in compliance with NRS 293.530 and NRS 293.675, but deny that	
6	Petitioners are entitled to any relief.		
7	36.	Proposed Intervenors admit that Petitioners purport to seek a writ of mandamus	
8	requiring Respondent to investigate known commercial addresses, but deny that Petitioners are		
9	entitled to any	y relief.	
10		GENERAL DENIAL	
11	Propo	sed Intervenors deny every allegation in the Petition that is not expressly admitted	
12	herein.	70°C.	
13		AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES	
14	Propo	sed Intervenors sets forth their affirmative defenses without assuming the burden of	
15	proving any fact, issue, or element of a cause of action where such burden properly belongs to		
16	Petitioners. Moreover, nothing stated here is intended or shall be construed as an admission that		
17	any particula	r issue or subject matter is relevant to the allegations in the Petition. Proposed	
18	Intervenors re	eserve the right to amend or supplement their affirmative defenses as additional facts	
19	concerning defenses become known.		
20	Proposed Intervenors assert the following affirmative defenses:		
21	Petitioners' claim is preempted by the National Voter Registration Act.		
22	Petitio	oners fail to plead facts showing a clear legal right to the extraordinary remedy of	
23	mandamus.		
24	Petitio	oners are not entitled to a writ of mandamus because they have an alternate, adequate	
25	legal remedy	available to them.	
26	Petitio	oners' claims are barred by the doctrine of laches.	
27	Petitio	oners lack standing to pursue their claims.	
28			

1	Petitioners fail to state a claim on which relief can be granted.		
2	PRAYER FOR RELIEF		
3	WHEREFORE, Proposed Intervenors respectfully request that this Court:		
4	A. Deny that Petitioners are entitled to any relief;		
5	B. Dismiss the Petition in its entirety, with prejudice; and		
6	C. Grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.		
7			
8	<u>AFFIRMATION</u>		
9	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030 and 603A.040, the undersigned does hereby affirm that this		
10	document does not contain the personal information of any person.		
11			
12	DATED this 28th day of May, 2024.		
13	By: /s/ Bradley Schrager		
14	Bradley Schrager Daniel Bravo		
15	BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200		
16	Las Vegas, NV 89113		
17	6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, NV 89113  David R. Fox Richard A. Medina* Robert Golan-Vilella*		
18	Richard A. Medina* Robert Golan-Vilella*		
19	ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP 250 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 400		
20	Washington, DC 20001		
21	Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor-		
22	Respondents Rise Action Fund, the Institute for a Progressive Nevada, and the Nevada		
23	Alliance for Retired Americans		
24	*Pro hac vice application forthcoming		
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## Exhibit 2

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# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR WASHOE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA

FREDERICK H. KRAUS; PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL FOUNDATION,

Case No. CV24-01051

Petitioners.

v.

CARRIE-ANN BURGESS, in her official capacity as Washoe County Interim Registrar of Voters,

Respondent.

DECLARATION OF CHRISTIAN SOLOMON

- I, CHRISTIAN SOLOMON, under penalty of perjury, hereby declare as follows:
- 1. I am over eighteen years of age. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein. If called upon to testify before this Court, I would do so to the same effect.
  - 2. I am a resident of Clark County, Nevada.
  - 3. I am currently the Nevada State Director of Rise Action Fund ("Rise").
- 4. In my capacity as State Director, I am responsible for overseeing Rise's operations within the state of Nevada, including the training and recruiting of organizers, fellows, and volunteers, as well as the campaign work performed by our organizers, fellows, and volunteers.
- 5. Rise is a national student-led 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that runs student-focused advocacy and vote mobilization programs in states across the country. Rise's mission is to fight for free higher public education and ending homelessness, housing insecurity, and food insecurity among college students. Rise also strives to be responsive to its student constituents, and accordingly each state organization often pursues goals based on local student concerns. To achieve that mission, Rise is committed to empowering and mobilizing students in the political process. It has trained thousands of students across the country in how to be civically engaged forces for change in their communities.
  - 6. Rise expanded into Nevada in 2023. I was hired as State Director to build up Rise's

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operations within the state. My role as State Director is a full-time paid position.

- Rise operates based on an organizer model, meaning that we recruit and train organizers and part-time organizers (known as fellows) who then marshal and supervise volunteers in campaign actions meant to further our mission. We recruit and train student volunteers through what we call "Rise University" events, which train students about how to be civically engaged volunteers around our key organizational goals.
- 8. One of my first acts as State Director was to recruit and train two lead organizers full time paid positions—dedicated to serving the University of Nevada, Las Vegas ("UNLV"). Next, Rise expects to expand its efforts to the University of Nevada Reno ("UNR"), which is Nevada's flagship state university, after students return this fall. We are now completing the process of hiring a Deputy State Director, who will oversee Rise's operations at UNR.
- The Nevada chapter of Rise shares the national organization's mission, and accordingly one of our major goals at the moment is educating Nevada students about various student aid, loan repayment, and debt relief programs.
- Our Rise chapter has also made gun violence prevention a major objective. 10. Tragically, our inaugural training on UNLV's campus coincided with a mass shooting event on UNLV's campus the very same day, resulting in the deaths of three people. In response to student concern about the issue of our safety, we are planning campaigns to promote gun safety legislation in Nevada.
- 11. It is also critical to Rise's effectiveness as an organization to harness student political power. Organizing and educating students ahead of the 2024 general election is therefore also one of our major priorities for the year. We aim to have our organizers and volunteers make contact with every student at UNLV and UNR at least three to five times before the election, whether through phone banking or direct communication on campus, in order to promote voter registration and voting.
- 12. The lawsuit filed by Frederick H. Kraus and the Public Interest Legal Foundation threatens Rise's mission and the work described above.
  - 13. In particular, the lawsuit threatens the ability of Rise's constituency—students and

younger people—to vote in the 2024 general election. Student voters are disproportionately likely to be wrongfully removed from the voter rolls. Many college students live away from their family homes and voting residences for long periods of time while at school. They also frequently change their temporary residence while at school, for example by moving between dorm rooms or off campus apartments, while still maintaining a permanent residence with family. Due to this frequent moving, and long stretches away from their voting residence, students often do not receive mailed notices meant to advise them that their registration is at risk, and only learn later that they have been removed. Similarly, many college students and young people establish new permanent residences on or near campus but move frequently within a small area while in school or starting their careers. These people remain eligible to vote in the same area, but also are likely to not receive election-related mail concerning their registration status. Any student voter who is removed as a result of the unreliable third-party information that this lawsuit seeks to allow to be used risks never receiving a mail ballot, which is the most common and convenient method of voting in Nevada, diminishing the voting power of Rise core constituency.

- 14. Furthermore, if this suit is successful, it will derail Rise's planned campaign work for the year. If thousands of voters are placed at increased risk of removal from Nevada's rolls, our immediate response would be to refocus our volunteer phone banking efforts towards educating students about how to confirm their registration status. Given the centrality of voting to our mission, this would be a key priority through the election. In view of our limited resources, however, this effort would come at the expense of our work that is already planned around the issues of college aid, student debt relief, and loan repayment assistance—key issues for our student constituents. It would also reduce our ability to recruit and train new organizers at other schools in Nevada, as our limited staff resources would be focused on first ensuring that student voters are able to successfully cast their ballots.
- 15. Both of these impacts would severely harm Rise's mission. We cannot successfully realize our mission as an organization if our student constituents are not able to successfully cast their ballots and make their voices heard. Similarly, our ability to expand our work and operations in Nevada will be hampered if we have to respond to attempts at last-minute and rushed voter

purges that are likely to disproportionately harm student voters.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

2: ~

Executed on: \_\_

Christian Solomon

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## Exhibit 3

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# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR WASHOE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA

FREDERICK H. KRAUS; PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL FOUNDATION,

Case No. CV24-01051

Petitioners.

v.

CARRIE-ANN BURGESS, in her official capacity as Washoe County Interim Registrar of Voters.

Respondent.

DECLARATION OF SHELBIE SWARTZ

- I, SHELBIE SWARTZ, under penalty of perjury, hereby declare as follows:
- 1. I am over eighteen years of age. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein. If called upon to testify before this Court, I would do so to the same effect.
  - 2. I am a resident of Clark County, Nevada.
- 3. I am currently the Executive Director of the Institute for a Progressive Nevada ("The Institute"), a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) civic engagement and voting rights organization that serves the entire state of Nevada. In addition to an Executive Director, we currently have 11 other employees on staff, including a Deputy Director, a Communications Director, and a Lead Organizer with a focus on voter education. We also work with a limited number of volunteers, and we work closely with our c3 table partners across the state.
- 4. The Institute's mission is to ensure that all Nevadans know how to vote and can do so with confidence. To further our mission, we produce and distribute in-language voter materials that we share with our c3 partners to ensure that all Nevadans can access critical information about how and where to cast their ballots. For example, we publish a comprehensive, non-partisan voter guide that includes candidate information, explains where and how to vote, and provides information on universal vote-by-mail in Nevada. In coordination with our c3 partners, we also host a website—RegisterNevada.org—that allows eligible voters to register to vote online and

educates them about upcoming election deadlines and eligibility requirements. In Washoe County, we work with All Voting is Local and the ACLU of Nevada to conduct election protection work and educate voters on their rights at the polling place. Finally, we pay for targeted advertisements to ensure that the information and resources we produce reach Nevadans who are most likely to be disenfranchised due to information and language barriers.

5. A lawsuit such as this one that would allow any third party to seek a rushed, preelection purge of Nevada's voter rolls would threaten our ability to fulfill our mission by increasing the likelihood that the already at-risk voters we target would be unable to vote. To reduce this threat, we would have to undertake a robust, paid advertising campaign encouraging all Nevadans to check their voter registration status. We would also need to update all of our voter education materials, including our comprehensive voter guide, and to have those materials translated into several languages. Because we have limited financial resources, funding such an undertaking would make it extremely difficult for us to fulfill our duty to the people of Nevada while still making payroll. It would also severely limit our ability to do non-purge related voter education work and to dedicate resources towards voter turnout efforts.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Shelbic Swarty Executed on: 5/28/2024

Shelbie Swartz

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## Exhibit 4

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# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR WASHOE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA

FREDERICK H. KRAUS; PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL FOUNDATION,

Case No. CV24-01051

Petitioners.

v.

CARRIE-ANN BURGESS, in her official capacity as Washoe County Interim Registrar of Voters,

Respondent.

**DECLARATION OF THOMAS BIRD** 

I, THOMAS BIRD, under penalty of perjury, hereby declare as follows:

- 1. I am over eighteen years of age. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein. If called upon to testify before this Court, I would do so to the same effect.
  - 2. I am a resident of Lyon County, Nevada.
- 3. I am currently the President of the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans (the "Alliance"), a non-partisan 501(c)(4) membership organization with roughly 20,000 members across the state of Nevada. More than 3,000 of those members reside in Washoe County. Our members are diverse in terms of age and profession. We serve both older retirees who are farther into their retirement and new retirees, who have only recently stopped working. Similarly, our retirees come from many different AFL-CIO affiliated unions, and worked in many different industries before their retirement.
- 4. The Alliance's mission is to ensure the social and economic justice and full civil rights that retirees have earned after a lifetime of work, with a particular emphasis on protecting the right to vote. To further that mission, each election cycle, we travel across the state to bring a voter education campaign directly to our members. As part of our voter education work, we put together voter education materials, help our members confirm their voter registration status and track the status of their submitted mail ballots, and answer any other questions they may have

about how to get their ballots cast and counted.

- 5. Because our members are retired, it is not uncommon for them to relocate to assisted living facilities, to be closer to or to move in with family, or to transition into smaller homes for financial reasons. Many of them also frequently travel out of state to visit family or for personal travel. They are thus at particular risk of missing notifications by mail regarding their voter registration status.
- 6. Retirees are particularly likely to not receive mailed notices related to their voter registration status for the reasons outlined above. As a result, lawsuits such as this one, which aim to allow any third party to seek a purge of Nevada's voter rolls in advance of a general election, would undoubtedly and disproportionately impact the Alliance's members.
- 7. If this lawsuit were to succeed, ensuring that our members are registered and that any previously registered members who had been removed get re-registered to vote would quickly become a central priority for the Alliance. We would host a series of in-person town halls across the state and—using the tools available to us on social media, via email and traditional mail, and through phonebanking—attempt to reach any potentially impacted members. We would also need to update—and likely create new—voter education materials.
- 8. In our conversations with members, and through our materials, we would direct all members to confirm their registration status and explain how to do so as well as outline the steps they would need to take to get re-registered were they to discover they were removed.
- 9. Because Nevada is a large state, because many of our members do not own computers or cell phones, and because, for the reasons articulated above, our members often change mailing addresses and do not have regular access to their mail, focusing on an in-person voter education campaign would be of particular importance to reach our members. Currently, our practice is to visit each of our 20 affiliated union and community groups across Nevada twice a year. If this suit were to succeed, we would have to double down on that to ensure we could make contact with each group, in person, prior to the upcoming election. Our members are also a very engaged group and are likely to have a lot of questions that would require time and resources to address.

10. We are also a small team—the day-to-day activities of the Alliance are conducted entirely by me and my wife and a small board of seniors—so time and resources are already quite limited. Given our limited resources and the particular needs of our membership, the steps necessary to respond here would almost certainly come at the expense of other mission-critical priorities, such as advocating to lower the cost of prescription drugs, preserving social security and Medicare, and other voter education work. Our ability to establish relationships with new members and to focus on critical state legislative work which allows us to keep our members informed about their elected officials' voting records would also be severely compromised, significantly frustrating our mission.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Thomas Bin

Executed on: <u>5-27-</u>24

Thomas Bird