

1 HON. MOLLY OWEN
2 20th Judicial District Court, Dept. 1
3 Lake County Courthouse
4 106 Fourth Avenue East
5 Polson, MT 59860
6 (406) 883-7250

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
LYN FRICKER

JUL 30 2024

FILED BY 
CLERK/DEPUTY

7 **MONTANA TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, LAKE COUNTY**

8 TRACY SHARP, LARRY ASHCRAFT,
9 LUKAS SCHUBERT, MATTHEW REGIER,
and REPUBLICANS FOR FREEDOM,

Cause No. DV-24-153

10 Petitioners and Plaintiffs,

11 **ORDER**
12 **RETURNING JURISDICTION TO**
13 **ORIGINAL JUDGE IN JURISDICTION**

11 vs.

12 CHRISTI JACOBSEN, in her official capacity
13 as Montana Secretary of State,

14 Respondent and Defendant,

15 By *Order* filed July 16, 2024, the Honorable John Mercer, the original judge in jurisdiction,
16 recused himself from this matter and the Honorable Molly Owen assumed jurisdiction.

17 UPON *Defendant's Motion for Substitution of Judge* of the undersigned filed July 30, 2024,
18 through counsel Austin Knudsen, Michael Russell, Thane Johnson, Alwyn Lansing, Michael
19 Noonan, and Emily Jones, jurisdiction is hereby returned to the original judge in jurisdiction.

20 DATED this 30th day of July, 2024.

21 
22 MOLLY OWEN
23 District Court Judge

23 cc: Abby James Moscatel, Attorney for Petitioners and Plaintiffs amoscatel@blacktaillaw.com
24 Austin Knudsen / Michael D. Russell / Thane Johnson / Alwyn Lansing / Michael Noonan / Austin Markus James
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07/30/24 cWMc

