

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

GREGG M. AMORE, in his official  
capacity as Secretary of State for the  
State of Rhode Island,

*Defendant.*

Case No. 25-cv-00639-MSM-PAS

**SEIU DISTRICT 1199NE, RHODE ISLAND ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED  
AMERICANS, CAROLYN BETENSKY, AND MICHAEL “ZACK” MEZERA’S  
MOTION TO INTERVENE AS DEFENDANTS**

SEIU District 1199NE, the Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans, Carolyn Betensky, and Michael “Zack” Mezera (collectively, “Proposed Intervenor”) move to intervene as Defendants in this case under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24(a)(2) and (b).

Proposed Intervenor are registered Rhode Island voters and membership-based organizations with members located in the state. They move to intervene in this action to prevent their and their members’ sensitive personal information on Rhode Island’s statewide voter list from being handed over to the federal government, as Plaintiff seeks in this action. Proposed Intervenor readily satisfy the standard for intervention as of right under Rule 24(a)(2): this motion is timely; they have a clear

interest in ensuring the continued privacy of their and their members' personal information; that interest is directly threatened and could be severely impaired by this suit; and they are not adequately represented by the existing parties in this matter.

Alternatively, Proposed Intervenor should be granted permissive intervention under Rule 24(b) to ensure that Rhode Island voters have a voice in this case, the core subject of which is the disclosure of *their* personal information. At a minimum, Proposed Intervenor will help to develop the issues in this case. And Proposed Intervenor will abide by any schedule ordered by the Court or agreed to by the existing parties—they will not delay this action.

For the reasons set forth in the accompanying memorandum, Proposed Intervenor respectfully request that the Court grant them intervention as of right—or in the alternative grant permissive intervention—to allow them to protect the significant interests they have at stake in this case.

Dated: December 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Amy R. Romero

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on December 9, 2025, I electronically filed the within motion and it is available for viewing and downloading from the Court's CM/ECF System, and that the participants in the case that are registered CM/ECF users will be served electronically by the CM/ECF system, and that I provided the same documents by email to: Kathryn M. Sabatini (ksabatini@riag.ri.gov), Civil Division Chief of the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General.

/s/ Amy R. Romero

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF SEIU DISTRICT 1199NE,  
RHODE ISLAND ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS,  
CAROLYN BETENSKY, AND MICHAEL “ZACK” MEZERA’S  
MOTION TO INTERVENE AS DEFENDANTS**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Justice (“DOJ”) recently embarked on an unprecedented nationwide campaign to amass a wide array of highly sensitive personal information about voters in a centralized database. As part of this operation, DOJ has sued state officials in more than a dozen states in an effort to obtain those states’ voter registration lists. One of those states is Rhode Island; in the present action, DOJ sued Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore on December 2, 2025, asking this Court to compel the production of Rhode Island’s complete and unredacted voter registration list, which contains sensitive and private information about every voter in the state. This assault intrudes not only on Rhode Island’s constitutional prerogative to maintain and protect its own voter registration list but also on the privacy of individual Rhode Island voters who have good reason to fear their personal information being handed over to the federal government.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 24 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, SEIU District 1199NE (“1199NE”), the Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans (“the Alliance”), Carolyn Betensky, and Michael “Zack” Mezera (collectively, “Proposed Intervenor”) move to intervene in this litigation to defend against the federal government’s overreach. 1199NE, a labor union that advocates and lobbies on behalf of its members, seeks to intervene both to preserve the privacy rights of its members and to protect its own mission-critical ability to politically empower members who are worried about investigation, scrutiny, and retaliation from the federal government. The Alliance, whose members are retirees and disproportionately likely

to be targeted by scams of various kinds, similarly seeks to protect its members' privacy and preserve its own ability to conduct its core civic engagement work. And Mr. Mezera and Dr. Betensky are registered Rhode Island voters who seek to protect the privacy of their own sensitive personal information and prevent the improper disclosure of such information to DOJ.

Multiple courts have allowed individuals and groups similarly situated to Proposed Intervenor, including another state chapter of the Alliance, to intervene as defendants in the other suits DOJ has brought seeking voter lists. *See generally United States v. Oregon*, No. 6:25-cv-01666, 2025 WL 3496571 (D. Or. Dec. 5, 2025) (granting intervention as of right to Oregon social welfare organization and three registered Oregon voters); *United States v. Benson*, No. 1:25-cv-01148 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 9, 2025), ECF No. 45 (granting intervention as of right to Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans and Michigan voters); Minute Order, *United States v. Weber*, No. 2:25-cv-09149 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2025), ECF No. 70 (granting two separate motions to intervene by groups including NAACP and League of Women Voters of California). This Court should do the same.

Proposed Intervenor readily satisfy the standard for intervention as of right. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(a). They have a clear interest in ensuring the continued privacy of their personal information, and that interest is directly threatened and could be severely impaired by this suit. While Secretary of State Amore is a governmental defendant who must consider the "broader public-policy implications" of the issues presented in this suit, Proposed Intervenor are solely concerned with protecting

their privacy, “full stop.” *Berger v. N.C. State Conf. of the NAACP*, 597 U.S. 179, 196 (2022) (citing *Trbovich v. United Mine Workers of Am.*, 404 U.S. 528, 538–39 (1972)). As such, Secretary Amore has competing obligations that Proposed Intervenors do not and thus may not litigate the case as vigorously as Proposed Intervenors. And once Proposed Intervenors’ privacy rights are violated, the harm cannot be undone. Federal courts routinely grant intervention as of right to intervenors like these to ensure that their rights are zealously defended.

Alternatively, Proposed Intervenors should be granted permissive intervention under Rule 24(b) to ensure that Rhode Island voters have a voice in this case, the core subject of which is the disclosure of *their* personal information. At a minimum, Proposed Intervenors will help to develop the issues in this case and ensure vigorous presentation of arguments that the existing Defendant may be limited in presenting. Those considerations weigh strongly in favor of permissive intervention. And Proposed Intervenors will abide by any schedule ordered by the Court or agreed to by the existing parties—they will not delay this case.

## BACKGROUND

### **I. Federal law has long made voter list maintenance a state responsibility, consistent with the constitutional separation of powers.**

The U.S. Constitution “invests the States with responsibility for the mechanics” of elections, subject to any decision by Congress to “preempt state legislative choices.” *Foster v. Love*, 522 U.S. 67, 69 (1997); *see also* U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1. Accordingly, as a default matter, the Constitution assigns states the

responsibility for determining voter eligibility and maintaining lists of eligible voters. *See Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Ariz., Inc.*, 570 U.S. 1, 17 (2013).

While Congress has enacted certain laws governing voter registration, these laws augment existing “state voter-registration systems,” *id.* at 5, and confirm that states are the custodians of voter registration data. Congress in 1993 enacted the National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”) to serve “two main objectives: increasing voter registration and removing ineligible persons from the States’ voter registration rolls.” *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Inst.*, 584 U.S. 756, 761 (2018); *see also* 52 U.S.C. § 20501(b). The NVRA tellingly charges *states*—not the federal government—with the “administration of voter registration for elections for Federal office,” 52 U.S.C. § 20507(a), including as to maintaining voter lists (subject to strict procedural safeguards), *id.* § 20507(c)–(g). It similarly makes *states* the custodians of voter lists, *see Husted*, 584 U.S. at 761.

In the wake of the 2000 elections, Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) “to improve voting systems and voter access.” *Republican Nat’l Comm. v. N.C. State Bd. of Elections*, 120 F.4th 390, 394 (4th Cir. 2024). Like the NVRA, HAVA regulates how *states* maintain voter lists, requiring they create a “computerized statewide voter registration list” and “perform list maintenance.” 52 U.S.C. § 21083(a)(1)(A), (a)(2)(A). HAVA is abundantly clear that this list is to be “defined, maintained, and administered at the State level.” *Id.* § 21083(a)(1)(A).

**II. The Department of Justice has embarked on an unprecedented nationwide campaign to amass personal voter registration data held by the states.**

This spring, DOJ launched a campaign to demand broad and unprecedented access to state voter files, including personal information about each registered voter like date of birth, driver's license number, and social security number. DOJ has reportedly sent demands to at least forty states, with plans to make similar demands on all fifty states.<sup>1</sup> It seeks to use the data to create a national voter database that will, in turn, be used to seek to substantiate President Trump's unfounded accusations that millions of non-citizens have voted illegally in recent elections.<sup>2</sup> The vast majority of states have refused to comply, appropriately declining to turn over sensitive personal information that is typically protected by state law.<sup>3</sup> Rhode Island law, for example, provides confidentiality protections for sensitive personal information provided in the context of voter registration. *See* 410 R.I.C.R. 20-00-19.5(I).

As part of this broader pressure campaign, DOJ set its sights on Rhode Island. On September 8, 2025, DOJ sent a letter to Secretary of State Amore asking that the

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<sup>1</sup> *See* Devlin Barrett & Nick Corasaniti, *Trump Administration Quietly Seeks to Build National Voter Roll*, N.Y. Times (Sep. 9, 2025), <https://perma.cc/8VP4-WRXD>; Nancy Lavin & Christopher Shea, *DOJ Hits Rhode Island With Lawsuit Over Voter List Data*, R.I. Current (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://rhodeislandcurrent.com/2025/12/02/doj-hits-rhode-island-with-lawsuit-over-voter-list-data/>.

<sup>2</sup> Barrett & Corasantini, *supra* note 1.

<sup>3</sup> *See* Kaylie Martinez-Ochoa, Eileen O'Connor & Patrick Berry, *Tracker of Justice Department Requests for Voter Information*, Brennan Ctr. for Just. (Dec. 5, 2025), <https://perma.cc/24DT-7TTF> (reporting that only two states—Indiana and Wyoming—have given DOJ everything it sought).

Secretary provide DOJ with “a copy of Rhode Island’s statewide voter registration list” within fourteen days. Riordan Decl., Ex. 1 at 1, ECF No. 2-2. DOJ was explicit that the statewide voter registration list “should contain *all fields*” and “must include the registrant’s full name, date of birth, residential address, his or her state driver’s license number or the last four digits of the registrant’s social security number[.]” Riordan Decl., Ex. 1 at 1. Secretary Amore responded by letter eight days later, on September 16, 2025. Riordan Decl., Ex. 2 at 1, ECF No. 2-2. In that response, Secretary Amore stated that Rhode Island would provide DOJ with “a copy of the publicly available voter registration list,” but objected to the request for “*all fields*,” including personally identifiable information such as driver’s license number and partial social security number. Riordan Decl., Ex. 2 at 1.

As noted, around the same time as DOJ was making these demands of Rhode Island, it made similar demands to scores of other states, the vast majority of which have refused to turn over highly sensitive personal voter information. Beginning in September 2025, DOJ began filing lawsuits against some—but not all—of these states. On September 16, 2025, DOJ brought actions against Oregon and Maine, alleging in both cases that DOJ was entitled to the voter information it sought under three statutes: the NVRA, HAVA, and the Civil Rights Act of 1960.<sup>4</sup> On September 25, 2025, DOJ filed another set of lawsuits, this time against California, Michigan,

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<sup>4</sup> *Justice Department Sues Oregon and Maine for Failure to Provide Voter Registration Rolls*, U.S. Dep’t of Just. (Sept. 16, 2025), <https://perma.cc/2F92-EEXT>.



Minnesota, New York, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania.<sup>5</sup> Again, DOJ brought its claims under all of these same three statutes, excepting only the NVRA claim in states that are exempt from the NVRA.

### **III. The Department of Justice sues Secretary Amore to obtain Rhode Island's voter registration list.**

DOJ filed this suit on December 2, 2025, seeking to compel Secretary Amore to provide Rhode Island's full, unredacted statewide voter registration list. *See generally* Compl., ECF No. 1. This action is part of a *third* wave of suits filed by DOJ, in which DOJ simultaneously brought actions against Delaware, Maryland, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.<sup>6</sup>

Interestingly, however, in this action DOJ has chosen not to bring claims under either HAVA or the NVRA, as it did in the previous suits. Instead, DOJ brings only a single count: namely, it alleges that, in refusing to fully comply with DOJ's requests, Secretary Amore violated Section 303 of the Civil Rights Act of 1960. This act is a long dormant Civil Rights era law that permits DOJ to review certain voting records to investigate "question[s] concerning infringement or denial of . . . constitutional voting rights." *Kennedy v. Lynd*, 306 F.2d 222, 228 (5th Cir. 1962). Congress enacted the law to preserve "the right of all qualified citizens to vote without discrimination

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<sup>5</sup> *Justice Department Sues Six States for Failure to Provide Voter Registration Rolls*, U.S. Dep't of Just. (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://perma.cc/PE2W-7F9J>.

<sup>6</sup> *Justice Department Sues Six Additional States for Failure to Provide Voter Registration Rolls*, U.S. Dep't of Just. (Dec. 2, 2025), <https://perma.cc/3C7K-MXQC>.

on account of race,” and specifically to facilitate “investigation[s]” authorized under the Civil Rights Act of 1957. H.R. Rep. No. 86-956, at 7 (1959).

DOJ, however, admits that it is not seeking to enforce these laws or investigate the unconstitutional denial of the right to vote. Instead, DOJ’s own *stated* purpose in making the request was “to ascertain Rhode Island’s compliance with the list maintenance requirements of the NVRA and HAVA.” Compl. ¶ 20. These are laws with their own separate procedures and enforcement mechanisms. And DOJ has not brought claims against Rhode Island under those statutes, unlike in its previous lawsuits against *other* states. Rather, in this case, DOJ hangs its hat solely on Section 303 of the Civil Rights Act of 1960. But Section 303 is not a roving authorization for the federal government to demand any voter information it wants from any state for any purpose the federal government can conceivably concoct. Accordingly, Section 303 does not require the disclosure DOJ seeks here.<sup>7</sup>

#### **IV. Proposed Intervenors’ personal information is placed in jeopardy by DOJ’s demands.**

Proposed Intervenors include 1199NE and the Alliance, organizations whose members are registered voters across Rhode Island, as well as civically engaged, registered voters in Rhode Island whose confidential personal information—driver’s

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<sup>7</sup> Moreover, even if Section 303 did apply, it would not prohibit Rhode Island from redacting confidential and sensitive voter information that has nothing to do with investigating the denial of the right to vote, just as it would be entitled to do under the NVRA. *See Pub. Int. Legal Found., Inc. v. Bellows*, 92 F.4th 36, 56 (1st Cir. 2024).

license numbers, partial social security numbers, and full dates of birth—will be disclosed to DOJ if it prevails in its suit.

**1199NE.** 1199NE, the New England Health Care Employees Union, represents healthcare workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island and has united workers to win a voice at work to demand improvements for people in nursing homes, hospitals, and state- and community-based healthcare services. Ex. A (“Baril Decl.”) ¶ 3. 1199NE has more than 30,000 members, including 4,000 to 5,000 in Rhode Island, who elect leadership and decide priorities. *Id.* ¶ 4. 1199NE is very politically engaged; it advocates on behalf of its members and lobbies for and proposes legislation that protects healthcare workers. *Id.* ¶ 5.

To that end, it is important to 1199NE that its members are politically engaged and able to register to vote and vote, and it runs various programs to register and turn out its members to vote. *Id.* 1199NE’s ability to help its members become and stay politically engaged and advance legislation important to its membership will be directly frustrated by DOJ’s efforts to obtain a complete, unredacted state voter file. *Id.* ¶¶ 6–12. 1199NE’s members—which include many workers outside of hospitals who are foreign-born, low-income, and marginalized—fear that if their personal information is handed over to the federal government, additional scrutiny, investigation, and retaliation will follow, not only against themselves but also against their family and community members. *Id.* ¶¶ 8–10. In particular, members who are naturalized citizens are concerned that the federal government will use the complete voter registration information to accuse them of illegally registering and may opt out

of registering out of fear that they will be targeted and wrongfully accused. *Id.* ¶ 9. DOJ's efforts to obtain Rhode Island's complete voter registration list thus threaten to sow distrust among members, deter them from voter registration and voting due to fear, and make it harder for 1199NE to turn out these members and accomplish a core part of its work of engaging members to participate politically. *Id.* ¶¶ 6–12. Union members have also been targeted by right-wing organizations and in connection with immigration enforcement raids, and 1199NE is concerned that the personal information in Rhode Island's voter registration list may be used to further target, persecute, and blacklist its members. *Id.* ¶ 13.

***The Alliance.*** The Alliance is a nonpartisan organization incorporated in Rhode Island and a chartered state affiliate of the national Alliance for Retired Americans. *See* Ex. B (“Boudreau Decl.”) ¶ 4. Its mission is to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for retirees after a lifetime of work. *Id.* ¶ 6. The Alliance has approximately 22,000 members in Rhode Island, including retirees from public and private sector unions, community organizations, and individual activists. *Id.* ¶ 5. Most of those members are more than 60 years old. *Id.*

Should DOJ prevail in this suit, it will affect the Alliance and its members in several ways. The Alliance is acutely aware that its members, who tend to be older citizens, are frequently targeted for different types of scams. *See id.* ¶ 9. Many of its members, including Mr. Boudreau, have serious concerns regarding the disclosure of their personal information to DOJ. They fear that the federal government will not adequately safeguard this information and that it will expose the Alliance's members

in particular to potential harm. *See id.* ¶¶ 8, 11. In addition, a central goal of the Alliance’s civic engagement work is to encourage its members to be politically active and to participate in the electoral process. *Id.* ¶ 7. That will become more difficult if Rhode Island voters, including its members, fear that their personal information will be turned over to the federal government simply because they have registered to vote. *Id.* ¶ 10.

**Carolyn Betensky.** Dr. Carolyn Betensky is a registered voter in Rhode Island and is a professor and chair of the English Department at the University of Rhode Island. Ex. C (“Betensky Decl.”) ¶¶ 2–3. She is also a leader of her union, the American Association of University Professors (“AAUP”), and has served in the past as a national and local board member for the organization. *Id.* ¶ 3. The AAUP has been a strong proponent of academic freedom, even in the face of threats against academics who research topics the federal government views with hostility. *See id.* ¶¶ 3, 8. And as an activist herself, Dr. Betensky has attended numerous demonstrations, including several against the policies of the Trump administration. *Id.* ¶ 5. She has also volunteered to register student voters and to serve as an election observer because she believes strongly in the right to vote. *Id.* ¶ 4.

Due to her positions with AAUP and her own activism, Dr. Betensky is concerned by how DOJ may use her personal information. *See id.* ¶ 8. Academics and activists alike have been targeted for their opposition to the federal government. *See id.* This targeting has come from the government as well as from private actors, whom she fears may gain access to her sensitive voter information if DOJ does not properly

safeguard that data. *See id.* ¶¶ 7, 11. Dr. Betensky is also concerned about the impacts that the relief DOJ seeks may have on voter engagement efforts, especially among students who already face barriers to participating as new voters. *Id.* ¶ 10. And as a regular international traveler, she fears hostile enforcement at the border when she returns to the United States. *See id.* ¶ 9. In short, Dr. Betensky reasonably fears that DOJ's efforts to obtain Rhode Island's statewide voter list will make her organizational work more difficult and her individual information less secure.

**Michael “Zack” Mezera.** Michael “Zack” Mezera is a registered voter in Rhode Island. Ex. D (“Mezera Decl.”) ¶ 2. For more than a decade he has worked in the fields of politics and organizing in Rhode Island, including most recently as Rhode Island Political Director for the Working Families Party. *Id.* ¶ 3. In that capacity and elsewhere, he has often been involved in public-facing political activity, for example testifying before the Rhode Island General Assembly, writing opinion pieces, and organizing political protests. *Id.* ¶ 6. At times, this involves taking public stances opposed to the current administration; for example, Mr. Mezera was a lead organizer of Rhode Island's “Hands Off” protest in the spring of 2025. *See id.* Mr. Mezera opposes the disclosure of his sensitive personal information to the federal government for multiple reasons. *Id.* ¶ 7. For one, he does not trust the federal government to handle the information responsibly, and he has had his personal information leaked in previous data breaches, and is concerned about the increased risk of harm he and other Rhode Island voters will be subjected to if it does not. *See id.* ¶ 8. In addition, given the administration's known history of targeting its political enemies, he also

worries about the risk of political retribution toward himself and other political organizers he works with, many of whom are from marginalized communities and potentially susceptible to government pressure. *See id.* ¶ 9.

### LEGAL STANDARD

A movant has a right to intervene under Rule 24(a)(2) where “(1) it timely moved to intervene; (2) it has an interest relating to the property or transaction that forms the basis of the ongoing suit; (3) the disposition of the action threatens to create a practical impediment to its ability to protect[] its interest; and (4) no existing party adequately represents its interests.” *B. Fernandez & Hnos., Inc. v. Kellogg USA, Inc.*, 440 F.3d 541, 544–45 (1st Cir. 2006). Courts also have discretion to grant permissive intervention if the movant has “a claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact,” if doing so will not “unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the original parties’ rights.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(1)(B), (b)(3).<sup>8</sup> There is a strong “policy favoring liberal intervention under Rule 24.” *In re Thompson*, 965 F.2d 1136, 1143 n.11 (1st Cir. 1992).

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<sup>8</sup> In compliance with Rule 24(c)’s requirement that a motion to intervene be accompanied by a “pleading,” Proposed Intervenorors attach a proposed answer to this motion. *See* Ex. E. Proposed Intervenorors reserve the right to file a motion to dismiss under Rule 12 ahead of any deadline set by the Court or the Federal Rules.

## ARGUMENT

### **I. Proposed Intervenorors are entitled to intervene as of right under Rule 24(a)(2).**

#### **A. The motion is timely.**

Proposed Intervenorors' motion—filed a mere week after DOJ brought suit and before any case schedule has been set—is plainly timely. *See, e.g., Fiandaca v. Cunningham*, 827 F.2d 825, 834 (1st Cir. 1987) (holding motion timely where filed by intervenors “days” after “learning that their interests may be affected”); *NERO Int’l Holding, Co. v. NEROTix Unlimited Inc.*, 585 F. Supp. 3d 152, 156–57 (D. Mass. 2022) (holding motion to intervene filed “roughly two-and-a-half months after Plaintiffs filed the Complaint” to be timely). Moreover, because no case schedule has yet been set and no substantive events have yet occurred in the case, there is no risk of prejudice to the existing parties. *See NERO Int’l Holding*, 585 F. Supp. 3d at 156 (finding no prejudice where motion was filed prior to scheduling conference and “the case had not progressed past the initial pleadings”). Proposed Intervenorors further agree to abide by any schedule set by the Court or the existing parties.

#### **B. Proposed Intervenorors have an interest in protecting their sensitive and personal information from improper disclosure to DOJ, which is threatened by this action.**

Proposed Intervenorors also satisfy Rule 24(a)(2)'s interest factors because each has interests at stake in this matter that “as a practical matter, may be impaired by this litigation.” *B. Fernandez*, 440 F.3d at 545. Mr. Mezera and Dr. Betensky are registered Rhode Island voters, and each strongly opposes the disclosure of their sensitive personal information to the federal government. *See supra* Background



Section IV. “[T]hat is all Rule 24 demands” and by itself provides them with an interest that supports intervention. *Sakab Saudi Holding Co. v. Aljabri*, No. 1:21-cv-10529-NMG, 2021 WL 8999588, at \*2 (D. Mass. Oct. 26, 2021) (finding Rule 24(a)(2) satisfied where the “plaintiff’s claims ‘could result’ in the disclosure of privileged information” (quoting *B. Fernandez*, 440 F.3d at 545)); *see also, e.g., Kalbers v. U.S. Dep’t of Just.*, 22 F.4th 816, 827 (9th Cir. 2021) (recognizing “straightforward” protectable interest in confidentiality of non-public documents); *In re Sealed Case*, 237 F.3d 657, 663–64 (D.C. Cir. 2001) (holding intervenors had “legally cognizable interest in maintaining the confidentiality” of records). The District of Oregon, too, reached this same conclusion in granting intervention as of right to Oregon voters and an Oregon social-welfare organization in a nearly identical lawsuit brought by DOJ seeking that state’s voter registration list. *See Oregon*, 2025 WL 3496571, at \*1 (granting intervention because “the outcome of this litigation will directly affect the protectable privacy interests Proposed Intervenors assert”).

In addition, even beyond their privacy concerns, each individual has discrete interests tied to their participation in Rhode Island’s civic life. Mr. Mezera is a politically engaged individual whose work at times has involved taking public stances on politically charged issues, including in opposition to the current administration. *See Mezera Decl.* ¶ 6. He worries about retribution toward political organizers such as himself, many of whom are from marginalized communities and potentially susceptible to government pressure. *See id.* ¶ 9. Similarly, Dr. Betensky is also very politically engaged; she is both a member of a group that participates in anti-

administration protests and an active member of the AAUP, which has been publicly opposed to the current administration and its policies (including in active litigation). *See* Betensky Decl. ¶¶ 3, 5, 8. She also often crosses international borders to visit family in Canada and for academic purposes, and is thus concerned about being targeted by hostile border enforcement. *See id.* ¶ 9. Both individuals thus reasonably fear the prospect of their sensitive personal information being disclosed to the federal government without their consent. *See id.* ¶ 7; Mezera Decl. ¶ 7.

Much the same is true of 1199NE and the Alliance. This lawsuit threatens the personal information of 1199NE's more than 4,000 members and the Alliance's roughly 22,000 members, and the privacy of members' information is of great importance to both groups. *See* Baril Decl. ¶¶ 4, 7–12; Boudreau Decl. ¶¶ 5, 9. Some of 1199NE's members are concerned about the prospect of investigation, scrutiny, and retaliation affecting them and their families and communities if their protected personal information is handed over directly to the federal government. *See* Baril Decl. ¶¶ 8–11. Some may opt out of registering and voting out of fear of being targeted or wrongfully accused by the federal government, who they feel cannot be trusted to handle sensitive personal information responsibly. *See id.* ¶¶ 7–12. That would undermine a core part of 1199NE's mission of advocating on behalf of its members and advancing legislation that protects healthcare workers, which relies on its members' ability to participate in the electoral process. *See id.* ¶¶ 5, 12. 1199NE is also concerned about the use of personal information in Rhode Island's voter registration list to further target, persecute, and blacklist its members. *See id.* ¶ 13.

For the Alliance, too, its members' participation in the electoral process is central to its mission. *See* Boudreau Decl. ¶ 7. And that mission will also be frustrated if its members are discouraged from participating in the political process because they know being registered to vote entails the disclosure of their personal information to a federal government they cannot trust to handle it securely. *Id.* ¶¶ 10–11. Courts have long held that organizations have a recognized interest in preserving and pursuing their own mission-critical organizational activities, particularly when it comes to ensuring their constituents' ability to vote. *See, e.g., Jud. Watch, Inc. v. Ill. State Bd. of Elections*, No. 1:24-cv-01867, 2024 WL 3454706, at \*3 (N.D. Ill. July 18, 2024); *Paher v. Cegavske*, No. 3:20-cv-00243-MMD-WGC, 2020 WL 2042365, at \*2 (D. Nev. Apr. 28, 2020); *Issa v. Newsom*, No. 2:20-cv-01044-MCE-CKD, 2020 WL 3074351, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. June 10, 2020).

For similar reasons, as a “practical matter,” all of these interests “may be impaired by this litigation.” *B. Fernandez*, 440 F.3d at 545. “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 L.V., 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)). The unredacted statewide voter list that DOJ demands includes precisely the personal information that Proposed Intervenors have interests in protecting. For this simple reason, if DOJ

prevails in this action and gets access to this information, those interests will by definition be impaired.

**C. The existing parties do not adequately represent Proposed Intervenor.**

The existing parties also do not adequately represent the interests of Proposed Intervenor. As courts have long recognized, the “burden of making that showing should be treated as minimal” and the movant need only show that the existing parties’ representation “*may be*” inadequate. *Trbovich*, 404 U.S. at 538 n.10 (emphasis added).<sup>9</sup> Courts are “liberal in finding” that this requirement has been satisfied because “there is good reason in most cases to suppose that the applicant is the best judge of the representation of the applicant’s own interests.” 7C Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, *Federal Practice & Procedure* § 1909 (3d ed. 2024) .

DOJ plainly does not represent Proposed Intervenor’s interests. It is diametrically opposed to those interests, as it seeks to forcibly compel production of Proposed Intervenor’s and their members’ personal information against their wishes.

Although Secretary Amore has resisted turning over this information up to this point, he nevertheless also does not adequately represent Proposed Intervenor. 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,

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<sup>9</sup> See also *McDonough v. City of Portland*, No. 2:15-cv-00153-JDL, 2015 WL 3755289, at \*3 (D. Me. June 16, 2015) (confirming burden to show inadequate representation “is not onerous” even when an existing governmental party intends to defend the action: “the intervenor need only show that the government’s representation *may be* inadequate, not that it *is* inadequate” (citing *Conservation L. Found. of New Eng., Inc. v. Mosbacher*, 966 F.2d 39, 44 (1st Cir. 1992)).

736 (D.C. Cir. 2003). That is because the interests of government officials are “necessarily colored by [their] view of the public welfare rather than the more parochial views of a proposed intervenor whose interest is personal to it.” *Kleissler v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 157 F.3d 964, 972 (3d Cir. 1998). As a result, as the First Circuit has recognized, “a governmental entity charged by law with representing the public interest of its citizens” will not necessarily “advance the narrower interest of a private entity.” *Mosbacher*, 966 F.2d at 44. The Supreme Court, too, has emphasized this point, noting that public officials must “bear in mind broader public-policy implications,” whereas private litigants seek to vindicate their own rights “full stop.” *Berger*, 597 U.S. at 195–96 (citing *Trbovich*, 404 U.S. at 538–39).

That is precisely the case here. As DOJ itself alleges, Rhode Island and the Secretary have certain obligations with respect to voter list maintenance under both the NVRA and HAVA. *See* Compl. ¶ 20. Proposed Intervenors, in contrast, are not “constrained” by any such competing public duties, *Mosbacher*, 966 F.2d at 44, and seek solely to vindicate the narrower privacy rights of themselves and their members, “full stop,” *Berger*, 597 U.S. at 196. Their interests are thus straightforwardly “different in kind [and] degree from those” of the existing Defendants, readily satisfying the inadequacy of representation inquiry. *B. Fernandez*, 440 F.3d at 546.

Indeed, that is the same conclusion that the District of Oregon came to in granting intervention as of right in the DOJ’s suit seeking Oregon’s voter registration list. As that court held, “the existing Defendants have obligations under the NVRA and HAVA that Proposed Intervenors do not share and have broader public policy

obligations and considerations that may incentivize them to make compromises that Proposed Intervenor would not make,” while the Oregon intervenors had “specific interests in protecting their privacy . . . and in increasing voter participation by marginalized communities.” *Oregon*, 2025 WL 3496571, at \*2. The court thus held that the intervenors’ interests were not shared by Defendants and that the intervenors had “made a compelling showing sufficient to overcome any presumption of adequacy.” *Id.* Because Proposed Intervenor asserts those same interests and the exact same dynamic is present here, this Court should reach the same conclusion.

**II. Alternatively, Proposed Intervenor should be granted permissive intervention.**

This Court should alternatively exercise its discretion to grant permissive intervention. Rule 24(b) “should be construed liberally” in favor of intervention, *Animal Prot. Inst. v. Martin*, 241 F.R.D. 66, 68 (D. Me. 2007) (citation omitted), and it is readily satisfied here. Proposed Intervenor asserts a “claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact,” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(1)(B), as they seek to intervene to argue that DOJ is not entitled to relief on its claim and that DOJ is not entitled to access their and their members’ personal information, *see generally* Ex. E. Further, granting intervention would not “unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication” of the matter. Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(3). Again, Proposed Intervenor has moved with haste to intervene in this action just 7 days after the suit was filed, and Proposed Intervenor agrees to abide by any schedule entered by the Court or agreed to by the existing parties.

The nature of Proposed Intervenor's interests here also bolsters their case for intervention. The fact that Proposed Intervenor's are intervening to assert Mr. Mezera's, Dr. Betensky's, and 119NE and the Alliance's members' "confidentiality and/or privacy interest[s]" that are at stake in this case alone "warrants an opportunity to permissively intervene to protect that interest." *In re Exch. Union Co.*, No. 24-MC-91645-ADB, 2025 WL 894652, at \*3 (D. Mass. Mar. 24, 2025). In addition, courts also regularly allow civic organizations and individual voters to intervene to ensure their voices are heard when litigation implicates the rights of all voters. *See, e.g., 1789 Found. Inc. v. Fontes*, No. CV-24-02987-PHX-SPL, 2025 WL 834919, at \*4 (D. Ariz. Mar. 17, 2025) (permitting advocacy organizations to intervene as defendants); *Pub. Int. Legal Found., Inc. v. Winfrey*, 463 F. Supp. 3d 795, 802 (E.D. Mich. 2020) (permitting voting rights organizations to intervene as defendants); *League of Women Voters of N.C. v. North Carolina*, No. 1:13-cv-660, 2014 WL 12770081, at \*3 (M.D.N.C. Jan. 27, 2014) (permitting individual voters to intervene). Here, Proposed Intervenor's offer a critically important perspective in this matter that will not otherwise be represented: that of the individual voters whose information is at issue. *See supra* Background Section IV. This unique perspective will be "helpful in fully developing the case." *Daggett v. Comm'n on Governmental Ethics & Election Pracs.*, 172 F.3d 104, 113 (1st Cir. 1999); *see also Franconia Mins. (US) LLC v. United States*, 319 F.R.D. 261, 268 (D. Minn. 2017) (observing that "the Court expects to profit from a diversity of viewpoints as they illuminate the ultimate questions posed by the parties" in granting permissive intervention). These considerations, in

addition to the clear satisfaction of Rule 24(b), strongly weigh in favor of permissive intervention.

### CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Proposed Intervenors respectfully request that the Court grant them intervention as of right—or in the alternative grant permissive intervention—to allow them to protect the significant interests they have at stake in this case.

Dated: December 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Amy R. Romero

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*\* Pro Hac Vice Applications Forthcoming*

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# Exhibit A

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

GREGG M. AMORE, in his official  
capacity as Secretary of State for the  
State of Rhode Island,

*Defendant.*

Case No. 25-cv-00639-MSM-PAS

**DECLARATION OF ROB BARIL IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED  
INTERVENORS' MOTION TO INTERVENE AS DEFENDANTS**

I, Rob Baril, declare as follows:

1. I am a U.S. citizen, over the age of 18, and am competent to testify. I have personal knowledge of the facts and information set forth in this declaration.

2. I am the President of SEIU District 1199NE ("1199NE"), and I have served in that capacity since January 2019. I previously served as Organizing Director at 1199NE for a decade and helped to organize over 10,000 workers from nursing homes, group homes, and home care into 1199NE.

3. 1199NE, the New England Health Care Employees Union, represents healthcare workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island and is a bold, democratic labor organization with a long activist tradition. Since the New England branch was established in 1968, we have united more than 30,000 workers to win a voice at work

to demand improvements for people in nursing homes, hospitals, and state- and community-based healthcare services.

4. 1199NE is composed of more than 30,000 members in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Between 4,000 and 5,000 of those members are in Rhode Island. Members elect leadership and decide our policies.

5. 1199NE is very politically engaged. We advocate on behalf of our members on key issues like pay increases, health coverage, and safe staffing levels. Medicare and Medicaid provide a large portion of the funding for the services that our members provide, so we want to make sure we are electing politicians who fund healthcare services and support healthcare workers. We also lobby on behalf of our members and propose legislation that protects healthcare workers. To that end, it is important to 1199NE that our members are politically engaged and able to register to vote and vote. We assist our members in registering to vote, encourage them to vote, and run Get-Out-the-Vote campaigns. We also help our members understand the issues on the ballot and the logistics of voting.

6. If our members become less politically engaged or become less likely to register to vote and vote, we will be less able to help advance legislation that is important to our membership.

7. I became extremely concerned when I learned that the Department of Justice has recently sued Rhode Island's Secretary of State Gregg Amore in an attempt to obtain complete, unredacted voter registration information on all voters in the state, including their dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and partial social

security numbers. The privacy of 1199NE members' sensitive personal information is of great importance to us. If the Department of Justice is successful in obtaining this information, it will put this information at risk and deter our members from engaging in the political process due to fear that the federal government will mishandle or weaponize that data, thus severely harming our mission and our civic engagement work.

8. Our members who work outside of hospitals—healthcare workers who work in childcare, nursing homes, and group homes—are predominantly immigrant workers. This community is deeply concerned about the federal government's recent hostile actions towards immigrants and immigrant communities. Many of them are naturalized citizens who we help register to vote and encourage to vote, but some of them will become hesitant to do so or to engage with the political process more generally if they fear that their protected personal information will be handed over directly to the federal government. These members are concerned about scrutiny, investigation, and retaliation not only towards themselves but also towards their family members and other community members who are not citizens. The federal government's demand for Rhode Island's complete voter registration list may sow distrust of voting among these members, making it harder for 1199NE to turn out these members and accomplish a core part of our work of engaging members to participate politically.

9. Naturalized citizens who register to vote face a substantially greater risk of being wrongfully accused of being non-citizens who are illegally registered.

Our members who are naturalized citizens are concerned that the federal government will use the complete voter registration information to accuse them of illegally registering. In the face of these threats, many of our naturalized citizen members who are eligible to vote will instead opt out for fear that they will be targeted and wrongfully accused. This would detract from 1199NE's core mission of empowering these members to participate politically.

10. Our members who work outside of hospitals also tend to be relatively low income and marginalized. They usually make roughly \$15-25/hour, and do not have much political power. They are often the least likely to register and vote and are more likely to be deterred from voting due to fear of investigation, additional scrutiny, and retaliation.

11. The actions that the Department of Justice has taken to compel the production of sensitive personal information of Rhode Island voters do not give me or our members confidence that it will respect privacy laws or be a reliable custodian of the personal information of our members across the state. As a result, we are extremely concerned about the improper disclosure of the personal information of members that 1199NE serves and seeks to enfranchise.

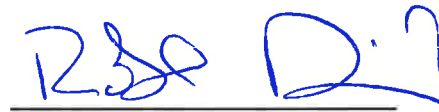
12. The threat that voters' personal information may be provided to the federal government will frustrate the work and mission of 1199NE. A critical part of 1199NE's mission is guaranteeing that our members are able to participate in the electoral process. That work could become significantly more difficult if community

members believe they could be punished, scrutinized, or investigated simply for registering to vote.

13. I am also concerned about the potential use of our members' data to target union members and activists. Right-wing groups like the Freedom Foundation have used databases of members' personal information to target members in an attempt to convince them to leave their unions and dismantle their power. We have also seen union leaders arrested and injured while observing immigration enforcement raids. 1199NE is concerned that the personal information in Rhode Island's voter registration list may be used to further target, persecute, and blacklist our members.

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

Executed on: 12/9/2025



Rob Baril  
President, SEIU District 1199NE

# Exhibit B

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

GREGG M. AMORE, in his official  
capacity as Secretary of State for the  
State of Rhode Island,

*Defendant.*

Case No. 25-cv-00639-MSM-PAS

**DECLARATION OF ROGER BOUDREAU IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED  
INTERVENORS' MOTION TO INTERVENE AS DEFENDANTS**

I, Roger Boudreau, declare as follows:

1. I am a U.S. citizen, over the age of 18, and am competent to testify. I have personal knowledge of the facts and information set forth in this declaration.
2. I am the Vice President of the Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans (the "Alliance").
3. I am a registered Rhode Island voter.
4. The Alliance is a nonpartisan organization incorporated in Rhode Island and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, social welfare organization under the Internal Revenue Code. It is a chartered state affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans.
5. The Alliance has roughly 22,000 members across Rhode Island. Most of those members are more than 60 years old. Our members include retirees from public and private sector unions, community organizations, and individual activists.

6. The mission of the Alliance is to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for retirees after a lifetime of work. We achieve this mission by dedicating significant resources to grassroots advocacy and educating and organizing our members through educational materials, presentations, letter-writing campaigns, and other outreach.

7. The political participation of our members is central to the Alliance's mission. To advance this mission, we take part in various activities to encourage political participation. For example, we encourage our members to register to vote and help them do so, and assist them in navigating the voting process. We conduct "get out the vote" activities before elections to increase the turnout of our members. And we work to educate our members on issues important to retirees and older Americans. These activities are central to the Alliance's core mission—by informing and turning out our members to vote, the Alliance reinforces the political voice of its members.

8. When I learned that the Department of Justice recently sued Rhode Island's Secretary of State Gregg Amore to compel Rhode Island to hand over complete, unredacted voter registration information on all voters in the state, including their dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and partial social security numbers, I became concerned. Should this effort succeed, it will make the Alliance's civic engagement and voter turnout work more difficult, and it will harm me personally as a Rhode Island voter whose privacy rights are at stake here.

9. The privacy and security of its members' information is important to the Alliance as an organization, which is largely comprised of older voters. We and our members are concerned about the risks of social security fraud, identity theft, and other types of fraud, which are frequently targeted at older citizens.

10. If the Department of Justice obtains Rhode Island's complete and unredacted voter registration list, it will put our members' information at risk and deter them from engaging in the electoral process out of fear that their data will be mishandled or weaponized, thus significantly harming our civic engagement work and our mission. If our members become less likely to register to vote and vote due to fear that their information will be misused, we will be less able to succeed in our civic engagement efforts. This will make it harder for the Alliance to turn out our members and accomplish a core part of our mission.

11. The actions that the Department of Justice has taken do not give me or our members confidence that it will respect privacy laws or safeguard the confidentiality of our personal data. And once this information is released, the harm is done—that information cannot be returned.

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

Executed on: 12/9/2025

Roger Boudreau  
Roger Boudreau  
Vice President, Rhode Island Alliance  
for Retired Americans

# Exhibit C

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

Case No. 25-cv-00639-MSM-PAS

GREGG M. AMORE, in his official  
capacity as Secretary of State for the  
State of Rhode Island,

*Defendant.*

**DECLARATION OF CAROLYN BETENSKY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED  
INTERVENORS' MOTION TO INTERVENE AS DEFENDANTS**

I, Carolyn Betensky, declare as follows:

1. I am a U.S. citizen, over the age of 18, am competent to testify, and have personal knowledge of the facts and information set forth in this declaration.
2. I am a registered voter in Providence County, Rhode Island. I have been registered to vote in Rhode Island since I moved to the state in 2004.
3. I care deeply about Rhode Island, the people who live here, and the laws and government policies that impact our lives. I have spent most of my professional career as a Professor of English. I am now in my fourth year as Chair of the English Department at the University of Rhode Island. Prior to that, I served for four years on the national board of the American Association of University Professors ("AAUP"), a faculty union in which I remain active. I also served on the AAUP's local board in Rhode Island for eight years. The AAUP is a national organization and a fierce

proponent of academic freedom.

4. I have specifically worked to increase voter turnout and engagement at the University of Rhode Island campus. I helped to register university students, who can face barriers accessing the franchise as new voters in the community. At the polls, I have volunteered as an election observer on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union. I help with this work because I believe elections help give every member of our community a voice, as well as a belief that their voice can be heard.

5. Personally, I am politically active and advocate for the causes I care about. For example, I am a member of a brass band that plays at street protests and union strikes to breathe more spirit into these First Amendment expressions. The band has played at demonstrations including “No Kings” and “50501” protests, which specifically reject many policies of the Trump administration and the federal government.

6. I understand that the Department of Justice has recently sued Rhode Island’s Secretary of State in order to obtain complete, unredacted voter registration history of all voters in the state, including their driver’s license numbers, partial social security numbers, and dates of birth. So far as I can tell, the Department of Justice is seeking this information largely to promote falsehoods about the security and integrity of Rhode Island’s elections, rather than for any legitimate purpose.

7. If the Department of Justice is successful in obtaining this information, it will harm me personally as a Rhode Island voter who does not wish for her information to be disclosed to the federal government. Rhode Island’s commitment to

the security and privacy of this information gives me confidence as a voter that my personal information is secure. This has become increasingly important to me both as a voter and a political activist in the current national climate, where people in and aligned with the federal government have increasingly called for and even moved to punish groups and individuals they see as political enemies.

8. Threats and attacks have been made against academics in particular who write and research topics the federal government views with hostility (such as gender and race). My union, AAUP, has to work in the face of this hostility. AAUP is also a target because it has stood up to the federal government in court. My union filed suit to challenge the federal government's policy of arresting and deporting noncitizen students and faculty who participated in pro-Palestinian First Amendment activities. I am concerned that I may be punished, too, as an active member and past leader of AAUP.

9. Furthermore, I am a frequent traveler to Canada for academic purposes and to visit my father, who lives there. I do not want to be harassed at the border for enforcement when entering the country due to my political views and participation. And I do not have confidence that the Department of Justice has been sincere in its reasons for seeking information on Rhode Island voters such as myself.


10. In my experience, Rhode Island's strong protections for voter information are important to being able to successfully promote and encourage voter engagement. The Justice Department's efforts undercut the kind of work I have done to register voters because many—especially politically active university students—

will simply opt out of the electoral system altogether for fear that participation could expose them to additional federal scrutiny, investigation, or retaliation. For voters to confidently participate in the electoral process, they must rest assured that personal identifying information they give to election officials to register to vote will not be used for unauthorized purposes. I am therefore deeply concerned that the threat of disclosure will deter qualified citizens in Rhode Island from registering to vote and, ultimately, accessing the polls to exercise their right to vote.

11. Finally, I have grave doubts that the Justice Department will adhere to proper privacy safeguards and laws if it obtains Rhode Island's voter registration list. I have been deeply concerned by public reporting noting that DOGE compromised the privacy of Social Security numbers for millions of Americans. Similarly, I have been concerned by other reports of federal agencies improperly sharing information with immigration officials, including at ICE. My privacy is important to me as an academic in the public eye due to the threats I explain above.

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

Executed on: 12/8/2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Betensky



# Exhibit D

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

GREGG M. AMORE, in his official capacity  
as Secretary of State for the State of Rhode  
Island,

*Defendant.*

Case No. 25-cv-00639-MSM-PAS

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL “ZACK” MEZERA IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED  
INTERVENORS’ MOTION TO INTERVENE AS DEFENDANTS**

I, Michael “Zack” Mezera, declare as follows:

1. I am a U.S. citizen, over the age of 18, and am competent to testify. I have personal knowledge of the facts and information set forth in this declaration.
2. I live in Providence, Rhode Island, and have lived in Rhode Island since 2009. I have been registered to vote and have voted consistently in Rhode Island since June 2010.
3. For more than a decade, I have worked in the fields of politics and organizing in Rhode Island. Most recently, from 2020 to October 2025, I served as the Rhode Island Political Director for the Working Families Party.
4. The Working Families Party is a political party with chapters in roughly 20 states, including Rhode Island. Its mission includes electing progressive candidates to office and building a multiracial coalition that serves as a political home for the working class.
5. While at the Working Families Party, my job had two major components: campaigning and advocacy. We worked to elect candidates to the Rhode Island General Assembly

who would support progressive values and fight on behalf of the working class. And we would then work with those individuals and others to coordinate an agenda, including to advance causes such as voting rights access, paid family leave, policies to support affordability, and a fairer criminal justice system.

6. In that job and elsewhere, I have often been involved in public-facing political activity. For example, I have testified on numerous occasions before the Rhode Island General Assembly. I have also at times written op-ed pieces and participated in interviews with journalists. Finally, I have helped to organize public political protests. All of this activity, at times, involves taking public stances that are opposed to the current administration. For example, I served as a lead organizer of the Rhode Island “Hands Off” protest in the spring of this year, in opposition to many of the current administration’s policies.

7. When I learned about this lawsuit and about the Department of Justice’s attempt to gain access to Rhode Island’s full, unredacted statewide voter list, I became seriously concerned. The privacy of my sensitive personal information matters to me, and I strongly oppose my sensitive personal information being handed over to the federal government, as it seeks to accomplish through this case.

8. There are at least two major reasons for this. First, I do not trust the current administration—or any administration—to handle this information responsibly. I have some personal experience with this; some of my personal passwords have been leaked in previous data breaches, and my credit card has been used to make a purchase I did not make. The dissemination of my and other Rhode Island voters’ personal information subjects all of us to increased risk of harm, including identity theft, as a result of the risk that this administration will not handle that information responsibly.

9. Second, and more fundamentally, I worry about the risk of political retribution. My job as a political organizer involves public-facing political activity. The same is true for many other individuals I have worked with toward common causes at organizations across Rhode Island. Many of those people are from marginalized communities and are potentially susceptible to government pressure. The current administration has shown no hesitation to use its power to target its political opponents. I am concerned that should the federal government succeed in obtaining this information, it may use it to do exactly that to those who have opposed it in Rhode Island.

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

Executed on: 12/8/2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael "Zack" Mezera

# Exhibit E

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

GREGG M. AMORE, in his official  
capacity as Secretary of State for the  
State of Rhode Island,

*Defendant.*

Case No. 25-cv-00639-MSM-PAS

**SEIU DISTRICT 1199NE, RHODE ISLAND ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED  
AMERICANS, CAROLYN BETENSKY, AND MICHAEL “ZACK” MEZERA’S  
PROPOSED ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF’S COMPLAINT**

Proposed Intervenor SEIU District 1199NE, the Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans, Carolyn Betensky, and Michael “Zack” Mezera answer Plaintiff’s Complaint (ECF No. 1) as follows:

The Complaint begins with one unnumbered paragraph to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor incorporate by reference the below paragraphs as their response, admit that Plaintiff has brought this action against Defendant, and deny that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief.

**INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> These headings are included because they appear in the Plaintiff’s Complaint and are duplicated to aid and assist in ease of comparison between the Plaintiff’s Complaint and the Proposed Intervenor’s answer. They are not factual assertions in and of themselves and accordingly do not require a response. Their reproduction in this answer should not be understood otherwise, nor should they be understood to make any admission on behalf of the Proposed Intervenor.

1. Paragraph 1 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that the statute and opinion cited contain the quoted text and state that the statute and opinion speak for themselves. Proposed Intervenor otherwise denies the allegations.

2. Paragraph 2 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that the statute cited contains language similar to the quoted text and state that the statute speaks for itself. Proposed Intervenor otherwise denies the allegations.

3. Paragraph 3 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that the opinion cited contains the quoted text and state that the opinion speaks for itself. Proposed Intervenor otherwise denies the allegations.

4. Paragraph 4 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that the opinions cited contain the quoted text and state that the opinions speak for themselves. Proposed Intervenor otherwise denies the allegations.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. Paragraph 5 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that this action arises under federal law and that it is brought by the United States as a Plaintiff. Proposed Intervenor otherwise denies the allegations.

6. Paragraph 6 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that Defendant Amore resides in the State of Rhode Island.

### **PARTIES**

7. Paragraph 7 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that this case is brought by the United States as a Plaintiff.

8. Paragraph 8 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that Secretary Amore is a Defendant in this action and he is being sued in his official capacity only.

### **BACKGROUND**

9. Proposed Intervenor denies the allegations in Paragraph 9.

10. Paragraph 10 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required,



Proposed Intervenorors admit that the NVRA and HAVA impose certain obligations on states with respect to voter registration lists and that the NVRA requires states to preserve certain records. Proposed Intervenorors otherwise deny the obligations.

11. Paragraph 11 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenorors admit that the statute cited contains the quoted text and that Secretary Amore is the chief election official of the State of Rhode Island. The statute otherwise speaks for itself.

12. Paragraph 12 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenorors admit that the statute cited contains the quoted text. The statute otherwise speaks for itself.

13. Paragraph 13 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenorors admit that the statute cited contains the quoted text. The statute otherwise speaks for itself.

14. Paragraph 14 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenorors admit that the statute cited contains the quoted text. The statute otherwise speaks for itself.

15. Paragraph 15 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required,

Proposed Intervenorors admit that the statute cited contains the quoted text. The statute otherwise speaks for itself.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

16. Proposed Intervenorors admit that the cited website in Paragraph 16 contains language similar to the quoted text and that the United States Election Assistance Commission conducts a biennial Election Administration and Voting Survey. The cited website otherwise speaks for itself.

17. Proposed Intervenorors admit that the cited report in Paragraph 17 contains the quoted language. The report otherwise speaks for itself.

18. Proposed Intervenorors admit that the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights sent a letter to Secretary Amore on September 8, 2025 (the “September 8 Letter”). Proposed Intervenorors deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 18.

19. Proposed Intervenorors admit that the September 8 Letter requested that Rhode Island provide a copy its statewide voter registration list. Proposed Intervenorors deny that Rhode Island was required to provide that list and further deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 19.

20. Proposed Intervenorors admit that the September 8 Letter purported to demand a copy of Rhode Island’s statewide voter registration list. Proposed Intervenorors deny that Rhode Island was required to provide that list and further deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 20.

21. Proposed Intervenorors admit that the September 8 Letter contains the quoted text and state that the letter otherwise speaks for itself. Proposed Intervenorors

deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 21.

22. Proposed Intervenor admits that the September 8 Letter stated that the records it requested would be maintained consistent with Privacy Act protections. Proposed Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 22 and therefore deny the same.

23. Paragraph 23 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 23 and therefore deny the same.

24. Proposed Intervenor admits that the September 8 Letter asked Secretary Amore to provide the information requested either by email or through a file-sharing system. The letter otherwise speaks for itself.

25. Proposed Intervenor admits that on September 16, 2025, Secretary Amore sent a letter (the "September 16 Letter") and that the September 16 Letter contains the quoted text. The letter otherwise speaks for itself.

26. Paragraph 26 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that the September 16 Letter was sent and that in the letter, Secretary Amore did not agree to provide all the requested information. The letter otherwise speaks for itself.

**COUNT ONE**  
**VIOLATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1960, 52 U.S.C. § 20703**

27. Paragraph 27 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that a document purporting to be a demand for election records was sent to Secretary Amore on September 8, 2025. Proposed Intervenor otherwise denies the allegations.

28. Paragraph 28 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor denies the allegations in Paragraph 28.

29. Paragraph 29 contains legal contentions, characterizations, conclusions, and opinions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor admits that Secretary Amore refused to provide all of the records requested but denies that Plaintiff was entitled to any of the requested records.

Immediately following Paragraph 29, the Complaint contains a request for relief, including sub-paragraphs (A)–(C), demanding equitable and declaratory relief. Proposed Intervenor denies that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief in this action.

**GENERAL DENIAL**

Proposed Intervenor denies every allegation in Plaintiff's Complaint that is not expressly admitted herein.

**AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

1. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
2. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by equity, including on

the basis of laches and unclean hands.

3. Plaintiff has failed to establish entitlement to injunctive relief.

4. The relief sought by Plaintiff is inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

5. Plaintiff lacks authority to bring a cause of action.

**PROPOSED INTERVENORS' PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, having fully answered Plaintiff's Complaint, Proposed Intervenor's pray for judgment as follows:

A. That the Court dismiss the Complaint;

B. That judgment be entered in favor of Proposed Intervenor's and against Plaintiff on Plaintiff's Complaint and that Plaintiff takes nothing thereby;

C. That Proposed Intervenor's be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under any applicable statute or equitable doctrine; and

D. For such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Dated: December 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Amy R. Romero

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