

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

EQUAL GROUND EDUCATION FUND, INC.,
et al.,

Plaintiffs,

Case No.: 2026-CA-914

v.

CORD BYRD, in his official capacity as
Florida Secretary of State, *et al.*,

Defendants.

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR DISQUALIFICATION


THIS CAUSE comes before the Court upon Defendant Cord Byrd's Verified Motion for Disqualification of Judge. Having reviewed the motion, the response, the reply, the case file, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, the Court hereby finds:

1. On May 4, 2026, Plaintiffs filed a Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief, and the undersigned judge was assigned to this case.
2. On May 6, 2026, Plaintiffs filed a Motion for Temporary Injunction.
3. At a case management conference held May 6, 2026, the Court, pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct, disclosed to the parties that counsel for Secretary Byrd and a law partner of counsel for the Florida Senate are on the campaign committee for the undersigned judge's ongoing contested re-election campaign.
4. Shortly after the case management conference, Secretary Byrd filed his Motion to Disqualify.
5. On May 7, 2026, Plaintiff filed a Response in Opposition to the Secretary's Motion to Disqualify.

6. On May 7, 2026, Secretary Byrd filed his Verified Reply in Support of Motion for Disqualification.
7. The Court recognizes the timeliness required in this case and the need to advance the matter on the court's calendar. *See*, § 86.11, Fla. Stat. (2025); Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.330(l).
8. Pursuant to Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.330(h), because Defendant Byrd's motion is legally sufficient, the Motion to Disqualify is **GRANTED**.

DONE and **ORDERED** in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida this Thursday, May 7, 2026.

26-CA-000914-1000M 05/07/2026 01:57:54 PM



Lee Marsh, Circuit Judge

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Copies furnished to:

Counsel of record via e-service portal

Ms. Regina Shaw, Court Administration

Hon. Frank Allman, Chief Judge