

The Honorable Robert S. Lasnik

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA**

SUSAN SOTO PALMER, et al.,

 Plaintiffs,

 v.

STEVEN HOBBS, et al.,

 Defendants.

NO. 3:22-cv-05035-RSL

DECLARATION OF KATHY FISHER IN
SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT SECRETARY
OF STATE STEVEN HOBBS' RESPONSE
TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

I, Kathy Fisher, declare as follows:

- 1. I am over the age of 18, competent to testify as to the matters herein, and make this declaration based on my personal knowledge.
- 2. I am the Elections Manager for the Yakima County Auditor's Office, a position I have held since 2007. Under the direct supervision of Charles Ross, the elected Yakima County Auditor, ex-officio supervisor of elections as designated by Wash. Rev. Code § 29A.04.025, it is my responsibility to oversee and conduct all elections held within Yakima County.
- 3. Our office could readily accommodate changes to legislative districts in a future election cycle. However, our preparation for the 2022 election cycle is well underway.
- 4. As soon as the legislature finalized amendments to the Redistricting Commission's district maps, I forwarded them to our county Geographic Information Services

1 (GIS) department. They upload shapefiles and adjust precinct lines in the software at my
2 direction.

3 5. We have approximately 127,000 registered voters in Yakima County.

4 6. We have more than 170 precincts in Yakima County.

5 7. When district lines change, we need to ensure that no legislative, congressional,
6 or commissioner districts split precincts—that is, cross precinct boundary lines. A voting
7 precinct may only contain one congressional, legislative, and commissioner district.

8 8. Our office has a staff of four people. I am the only one responsible for precinct
9 mapping.

10 9. I review every precinct myself and make needed adjustments.

11 10. In addition to avoiding precinct splits, I must ensure every precinct as best as
12 possible, follows natural or man-made boundaries such as streets or rivers.

13 11. This review took me approximately three weeks.

14 12. At this point, I have completed my precinct boundary line changes and given all
15 of my changes to the GIS department.

16 13. By state law, the county legislative authority must approve precinct boundary
17 changes. I submitted the revised precincts to the Yakima County Commission in early March.

18 14. The Commission approved the revised precinct boundaries at its legislative
19 agenda on March 15.

20 15. The next step is to make changes to voter records. GIS updates have been
21 reviewed for accuracy and the new boundaries have been uploaded into the statewide voter
22 registration database (VoteWA) by the Secretary of State's office. The data is again verified for
23 accuracy and, by law, voters are mailed new voter ID cards if a change in voting precinct
24 resulted.

25 16. Precinct changes must be finalized two weeks before candidate filing begins. This
26 year the candidate filing period is May 16-20.

1 17. We begin laying out ballots immediately after candidate filing ends.

2 18. For every different combination of positions a precinct or portion of a precinct
3 could vote for, we need to create a different ballot version. For a typical even-numbered election
4 year primary, we need to design approximately 9 unique ballot versions.

5 19. We must also prepare our local voter pamphlet, which is mandated by law. For
6 the primary, we prepare material for local and legislative offices.

7 20. Ballot creation and verification and voter pamphlet preparation takes two staff
8 working full-time for approximately one month to complete.

9 21. Candidates must submit a photograph and statement for the voter pamphlet by
10 May 27, one week after the filing deadline.

11 22. Under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, we provide bilingual ballots and a
12 Spanish version of our voter pamphlet to voters. We do those translations in house.

13 23. State and federal law require that ballots be available or mailed to overseas and
14 military voters 45 days before the election—so, for the 2022 primary, June 18. Because that date
15 falls on a Saturday this year, for practical purposes our deadline is Friday, June 17.

16 24. About 900 overseas and military voters request a ballot by mail, and we print and
17 mail those in-house.

18 25. The voter guide must be available online to those voters on the same day as
19 overseas and military ballots are mailed.

20 26. Our ballots and voter files are typically due to our printer around the same date
21 as or a few days before the military/overseas ballots are mailed out. These ballots must be mailed
22 by July 15.

23 27. For the printed voter guide, a print-ready copy is due to the printer June 24.

24 28. For budgetary and logistical reasons, and because the work requires experience
25 in the subject matter, it is not possible for us to hire additional staff to assist with precinct revision
26 or ballot and voter guide preparation before the 2022 primary.

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

SIGNED this 7th day of March 2022, at Yakima, Washington.


KATHY FISHER
Elections Manager
Yakima County Auditor's Office

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I hereby declare that on this day I caused the foregoing document to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the Court’s CM/ECF System which will serve a copy of this document upon all counsel of record.

DATED this 21st day of March 2022, at Olympia, Washington.

s/ Leena Vanderwood
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