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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
5 AT SEATTLE

6 BENANCIO GARCIA III,
7 Plaintiff,

8 v.

9 STEVEN HOBBS,
10 Defendant.

Cause No. C22-5152RSL

ORDER OF JOINDER

11 This matter comes before the Court on defendant Steven Hobbs’ “Motion to Join
12 Required Parties.” Dkt. # 11. Plaintiff filed this lawsuit to challenge the redistricting plan for
13 Washington’s state legislative districts, alleging that Legislative District 15 in the Yakima
14 Valley as an illegal racial gerrymander in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the
15 Fourteenth Amendment to United States Constitution. Plaintiff requests that the Court enjoin the
16 Secretary of State from utilizing the existing legislative map and order the creation of a valid
17 state legislative plan that does not violate the Equal Protection Clause.

18 Plaintiff chose to sue Steven Hobbs, Washington’s Secretary of State. Secretary Hobbs
19 has the responsibility of overseeing elections in the State of Washington. RCW 29A04.216 and
20 29A.04.230. To the extent plaintiff seeks an order enjoining enforcement of the existing maps,
21 Secretary Hobbs would be the appropriate recipient of that order. He asserts, however, that he

1 does not have an interest in defending the existing districting plan and that he would not have
2 the power to create a new plan even if plaintiff is successful in this litigation. He argues that the
3 Washington State Redistricting Commission (“the Commission”), its members, and/or the State
4 of Washington should be joined as defendants in order to ensure that plaintiff’s Equal Protection
5 claim is resolved through the adversarial process and that complete relief can be afforded.
6 Plaintiff has not opposed the motion to join.

7 For the reasons set forth in the Order of Joinder entered in *Palmer v. Hobbs*, C22-
8 5035RSL (May 6, 2022), the Court finds that, at this unique procedural juncture in the
9 redistricting process, the State of Washington’s participation in this lawsuit is necessary to
10 ensure that the Court has the power to provide the relief plaintiff requests. The Court therefore
11 orders joinder pursuant to Rule 19(a)(1)(A).¹ Plaintiff shall, within seven days of the date of this
12 Order, file an amended complaint adding the State of Washington as a defendant.

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14 Dated this 2nd day of June, 2022.

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16 Robert S. Lasnik
17 United States District Judge
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21 ¹ The Court has determined that three judges are required in this case and has initiated the
22 process for obtaining the necessary designations. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2284(b)(3), a single judge may
conduct all proceedings except the trial. There is, therefore, no reason to delay resolution of this motion.