

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
CIVIL DIVISION**

**DEBORAH SPRINGER SUTTLAR, JUDY GREEN, FRED LOVE,  
in his individual and official capacity as State Representative, KWAMI ABDUL-BEY,  
CLARICE ABDUL-BEY, and PAULA WITHERS,**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**V.**

**NO. 60CV-22-1849**

**JOHN THURSTON, in his official capacity  
as the Secretary of State of Arkansas and in his official capacity as the Chairman of the  
Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners,  
and SHARON BROOKS, BILENDA  
HARRIS-RITTER, WILLIAM LUTHER,  
CHARLES ROBERTS, WENDY BRANDON, JAMIE CLEMMER and  
JAMES HARMON SMITH III, in their official capacities  
As members of the Arkansas State Board of  
Election Commissioners,**

**DEFENDANTS**

**PLAINTIFFS' BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' REQUEST FOR  
EXPEDITED TREATMENT**

On September 1, 2022, over five months after Plaintiffs filed their Complaint, Defendants filed an untimely answer<sup>1</sup> and moved for judgment on the pleadings pursuant to Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1), 12(b)(6), and (12)(c). Additionally, Defendants ask this Court to order Plaintiffs to respond to the 12(c) motion by September 8, 2022.<sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs oppose Defendants'

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<sup>1</sup> Although Defendants' answer is untimely, Plaintiffs have not moved to strike because, as Plaintiffs stated in their Partial Motion for Summary Judgment, the facts alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint are admitted since Defendants never filed a timely responsive pleading. Plaintiffs seek to avoid an order striking the Defendants' untimely answer because it could create an opportunity for further delay through meritless interlocutory appeals.

<sup>2</sup> In a September 2, 2022 email to the Court, counsel for Defendants relayed that Defendants do not object to their 7-day requested deadline beginning on September 2, the day the Clerk's office accepted the filing, rather than September 1, the day Defendants filed. For the reasons stated

request for expedited treatment of their untimely motion. Plaintiffs agree that expeditious resolution of this action is critical, but Defendants' stated intent to file a meritless interlocutory appeal is not sufficient grounds to deprive Plaintiffs of the time that the Rules of Civil Procedure provide for responding to Defendants' motion for judgment on the pleadings.

Plaintiffs accordingly request that the Court deny Defendants' request for expedited treatment and instead order Plaintiffs to respond to Defendants' motion for judgment on the pleadings on or before the September 21, 2022 deadline established by Arkansas Rule of Civil Procedure 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Askew III, Ark. Bar No. 86005  
McKenzie L. Raub, Ark. Bar No. 2019142  
KUTAK ROCK LLP  
124 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 2000  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3740  
Tel: (501) 975-3141  
Fax: (501) 975-3001  
jess.askew@kutakrock.com  
mckenzie.raub@kutakrock.com

Aria Branch\*  
Aaron M. Mukerjee\*  
Marilyn Gabriela Robb\*  
Elias Law Group LLP  
10 G. Street NE  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20002  
Tel: (202) 968-4654  
Fax: (202) 968-4498  
abbranch@elias.law  
amukerjee@elias.law  
mrobb@elias.law  
*\*Admitted pro hac vice*

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herein, Plaintiffs oppose Defendants' request for expedited treatment, regardless of whether the clock starts on September 1 or September 2.

*/s/ Alexander T. Jones*

Alexander T. Jones, Ark. Bar No. 2015246  
200 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 2300  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3699  
Tel: (501) 212-1241  
Fax: (501) 376-9442  
alexandertaylorjones@gmail.com

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on September 2, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the Arkansas Judiciary Electronic Filing System, which shall send notification of such filing to the following counsel-of-record:

Dylan L. Jacobs  
Deputy Solicitor General  
Office of the Arkansas Attorney General  
323 Center Street, Suite 200  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
dylan.jacobs@arkansasag.gov

*/s/ Alexander T. Jones*

Alexander T. Jones