

**In the  
Supreme Court of Ohio**

<b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO,</b> :	:	
<b>et al.,</b>	:	
	:	
<i>Relators,</i>	:	<b>Case No. 2021-1449</b>
	:	
v.	:	<b>Original Action Pursuant to</b>
	:	<b>Ohio Const., Art. XIX</b>
<b>GOVERNOR MICHAEL DEWINE, et al.,</b>	:	
	:	<b>Redistricting Case</b>
<i>Respondents.</i>	:	

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**SECRETARY OF STATE FRANK LAROSE’S RESPONSE TO  
RELATORS’ MOTION FOR ORAL ARGUMENT**

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DAVE YOST  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREDA J. LEVENSON (0045916)  
*Counsel of Record*  
ACLU of Ohio Foundation, Inc.  
4506 Chester Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44103  
614-586-1972 x125  
flevenson@acluohio.org

DAVID J. CAREY (0088787)  
ACLU of Ohio Foundation, Inc.  
1108 City Park Avenue, Suite 203  
Columbus, OH 43206  
Tel: 614-586-1972 x2004  
dcarey@acluohio.org

*Counsel for Relators*

JULIE A. EBENSTEIN  
(PHV 25423-2021)\*  
American Civil Liberties Union  
125 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004  
Tel: 212-519-7866

BRIDGET C. COONTZ (0072919)\*  
*\*Counsel of Record*  
JULIE M. PFEIFFER (0069762)  
MICHAEL A. WALTON (0092201)  
Assistant Attorneys General  
Constitutional Offices Section  
30 E. Broad Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Tel: 614-466-2872 | Fax: 614-728-7592  
Bridget.Coontz@OhioAGO.gov  
Julie.Pfeiffer@OhioAGO.gov  
Michael.Walton@OhioAGO.gov

*Counsel for Secretary of State LaRose*

JAMES SMITH\*  
SARAH SUWANDA\*  
ALEX THOMSON (PHV 25462-2021)\*  
L. BRADY BENDER (PHV 25192-2021)\*  
One CityCenter  
850 Tenth Street, NW

jebenstein@aclu.org

ROBERT D. FRAM (PHV 25414-2021)\*  
DONALD BROWN (PHV 25480-2021)\*  
DAVID DENUYL (PHV 25452-2021)\*  
JULIANA GOLDROSEN  
(PHV 25193-2021)\*  
JOSHUA GONZÁLEZ  
(PHV 25424-2021)\*  
Salesforce Tower  
415 Mission Street, Suite 5400  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2533  
Tel: 415-591-6000  
rfram@cov.com

*Counsel for Relators*

*\* Pro Hac Vice Motion Forthcoming*

Washington, DC 20001-4956  
Tel: 202-662-6000  
jmsmith@cov.com

ANUPAM SHARMA (PHV 25418-2021)\*  
YALE FU (PHV 25419-2021)\*  
3000 El Camino Real  
5 Palo Alto Square, 10th Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2112  
Tel: 650- 632-4700  
asharma@cov.com

*Counsel for Relators*

*\* Pro Hac Vice Motion Forthcoming*

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Relators already asked this Court to schedule an oral argument and it declined to do so. *See Relators’ Motion for Scheduling Order; and see Scheduling Order.* Given the speed with which this case must be litigated, that decision was correct. There is not sufficient time to schedule and hold oral arguments in this case. Relators’ second motion for an oral argument ignores that fact and seeks to further delay it. But that delay will wreak havoc on Ohio’s ability to comply with all of its existing election-related deadlines. *See Respondent LaRose’s Response to Relators’ Motion for Scheduling Order.* Because of this, the Secretary respectfully requests that Relators’ second motion for oral argument be denied.

There is no doubt that this case is important. But, important cases—such as election cases—are often the ones that must be decided the quickest, and on the briefs. As this Court is well aware, time is of the essence in these congressional redistricting cases. The Secretary has already detailed how delaying the resolution of this case will negatively affect all those involved with the primary election. *See Adams, et al. v. DeWine, et al.,* No. 2021-1428, Thus, this Court

issued its comprehensive Scheduling Order which rightfully makes this case decisional by December 20, 2021. Mindful of that schedule, the Secretary of State issued an advisory which set deadlines for petition certification and protests. *See* SOS Advisory 2021-06 at p. 2-3, available at <https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/advisories/2021/adv2021-06.pdf>. Changing the schedule to accommodate oral argument will put existing election deadlines at risk and could require the Secretary to amend the Advisory 2021-06, on which boards of elections and candidates are already relying. Such confusion—like oral argument—is unnecessary. This case can be, and should be, decided on the briefs and Relators’ request for oral argument should again be denied.

In the event that the Court is inclined to grant Relators’ request, Secretary LaRose requests that any oral argument be held as soon as possible so as to not further delay resolution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVE YOST  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

*/s/ Bridget C. Coontz*

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BRIDGET C. COONTZ (0072919)\*

MICHAEL A. WALTON (0092201)

*\*Counsel of Record*

JULIE M. PFEIFFER (0069762)

Assistant Attorneys General

Constitutional Offices Section

30 E. Broad Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Tel: 614-466-2872 | Fax: 614-728-7592

Bridget.Coontz@OhioAGO.gov

Julie.Pfeiffer@OhioAGO.gov

Michael.Walton@OhioAGO.gov

*Counsel for Secretary of State Frank LaRose*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on December 15, 2021, the foregoing *Secretary Of State Frank Larose*, *Response To Relators' Motion For Oral Argument* was filed electronically. I further certify that a copy of the foregoing has been served via the electronic mail upon the following counsel for Relators.

Freda J. Levenson (0045916)  
*Counsel of Record*  
ACLU of Ohio Foundation, Inc.  
flevenson@acluohio.org

David J. Carey (0088787)  
ACLU of Ohio Foundation, Inc.  
dcarey@acluohio.org

Julie A. Ebenstein  
(PHV 25423-2021)  
American Civil Liberties Union  
jebenstein@aclu.org

Robert D. Fram (PHV 25414-2021)  
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Juliana Goldrosen (PHV 25193-2021)  
Joshua González (PHV 25424-2021)  
rfram@cov.com  
dwbrown@cov.com  
JGoldrosen@cov.com  
JGonzalez@cov.com>

James Smith  
Sarah Suwanda  
Alex Thomson (PHV 25462-2021)  
L. Brady Bender (PHV 25192-2021)  
jmsmith@cov.com  
athomas@aclu.org  
bbender@cov.com

Anupam Sharma (PHV 25418-2021)  
Yale FU (PHV 25419-2021)  
asharma@cov.com

*Counsel for Relators*

---

Phillip J. Strach (PHV-25444)  
Alyssa M. Riggins (PHV-25441)  
Thomas A. Farr (PHV-25461)  
John E. Branch, III (PHV-25460)  
phil.strach@nelsonmullins.com  
alyssa.riggins@nelsonmullins.com  
tom.farr@nelsonmullins.com  
john.branch@nelsonmullins.com

W. Stuart Dornette (0002955)  
Beth A. Bryan (0082076)  
Philip D. Williamson (0097174)  
dornette@taftlaw.com  
bryan@taftlaw.com  
pwilliamson@taftlaw.com

*Counsel for Respondents Huffman and Cupp*

*/s/ Bridget C. Coontz*

---

BRIDGET C. COONTZ (0072919)  
Assistant Attorney General