

EXHIBIT P

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

OHIO STATE CONFERENCE OF THE	:	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE	:	
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, et al.,	:	Case No. 2:14-CV-404
	:	
Plaintiffs,	:	Judge Peter C. Economus
	:	
v.	:	Magistrate Judge
	:	Norah McCann King
JON HUSTED, et al.,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

DECLARATION OF DANA WALCH

I, Dana Walch, hereby declare that:

1. I have served on the Franklin County Board of Elections since December 2011. I have served as the Deputy Director since that time. Every Board of Elections in Ohio has both a Director and a Deputy Director representing both of the major parties.
2. As Deputy Director, I am responsible for running the Board which includes administering all aspects of the election process: candidate petitions (the filings required to appear on the ballot) to ballot preparation, securing polling locations (finding locations, ensuring the locations are accessible, signing contracts, and ensuring contact information for emergency access), placement of over 4,000 voting machines at the over 400 voting location in Franklin County, creating the ballot (inserting candidates and issues, monitoring passage of local issues, communicating with the county prosecutor regarding ballot challenges), tabulation of results, campaign finance reports and audits, maintaining the voter registration list, and many others.
3. I am also responsible for the staffing needs of the Board. We have a full-time staff of 42 people, and we also hire seasonal staff as many as 200 people. We also hire poll workers for every election. During the 2012 election, for example, we recruited, trained, placed, and paid approximately 4,600 poll workers.
4. I am also responsible for the budget allocations for the Board. We go through a process of working with the County Commissioners (our funding entity) to set an annual budget for the Board. We receive an annual allocation for our operations per calendar year. We


then attempt to allocate our annual budget to the elections scheduled to occur that year (specials elections, primaries, general elections, etc.)

5. Budget planning for the Board of Elections begins in July or August of the year before. For example, we have now begun the budget planning process for 2015. Though we are able to request additional funds from the Commissioners, we try to avoid doing that. There is never a lot of padding in the budget, and there have been times when we've had to go back to the Commissioners for additional funds. In 2012, for example, we had to go back for the early vote center, specifically. We do anticipate having to return for additional funds this year as well, due to facility relocation.
6. The budget also accounts for absentee voting procedures, that is, mail-in absentee voting and early in-person voting. Early voting is not a separate line item in our budget, but is included in our other categories (e.g. separate item for building lease, staffing).
7. The budget for the upcoming general election has already been approved.
8. In general, expanding absentee voting requires additional funding because expanding the number of days the Board is open drives up costs. We have to provide for the extra staffing, extra security, facility costs, etc. Expanding hours has the same effect, that is, more hours means more money.
9. I am also responsible for planning for the election process. Different elections call for different types of planning, but they all require prior preparation. Planning for the next election begins after the last one wraps up; for example, after the primary in May of this year, we started looking towards the general election. Of course, we also had to plan and administer a special election in August of this year.
10. Planning for any given election includes recruiting for poll workers, which starts immediately after the previous election. Trying to find quality people is challenging, and is a process that is never ending. We also start putting the ballot together, which involves monitoring passage of local issues, candidates, and working with county prosecutor to make sure any given issue is properly put before the voters and is a lawfully submitted question. Issues can also be challenged. Finding polling locations and maintenance of voting equipment are also never ending processes. We also order materials and supplies, and ensure we have ample ballot stock. For example, the Secretary of State recently made some revisions to the provisional ballot envelope, and we had to make sure we had the correct supplies. We must also monitor and respond to any changes to state election law. On top of all of these tasks, we work all year on the voter registration list, keeping duplicates down and registering new voters.
11. All of these tasks also apply to early voting, both in-person and absentee voting by mail. We make sure have ample stock, make sure equipment is in good working order and plan for staffing needs. We also maintain a dropbox at our early voting facility where voters can drop off their completed ballot, instead of putting it in the mail. Our website can also track the entire absentee ballot process for individuals.

12. In the weeks leading up to a general election, we are increasingly busy with a variety of tasks. Staff is registering voters in person, by mail, and processing online address changes, and getting them all put into the system; monitoring vital records to make sure our voter rolls are up to date; finding and securing polling locations, signing facility contracts, and ensuring access; ensuring proper voting machine operation by testing and loading the ballots; recruiting and training poll workers (who must be trained before every election); assisting voters in person, over the phone, and by email with questions; using our full time IT staff; receiving and processing absentee ballot applications; issuing absentee ballots; sending out teams to nursing home facilities, hospitals, and jails; and, 10 days before the election, opening and scanning absentee ballots. All the while maintaining access for early in person voting.
13. In 2012, for example, we received approximately 170,000 ballots by mail, 75,000 early in person voters, and 335,000 voters on Election Day. In 2012, we had a staff of 50-70 people working at the early in person vote center.
14. Ohio elections officials in general, and certainly at the Franklin County Board of Elections, do our best to ensure that the election process runs smoothly for all voters.
15. Golden week allows registration and vote at the same time. To confirm a registration for any voter, the Board mails an acknowledgement card to the address provided. If the card comes back undeliverable, the registration is considered challenged, and a confirmation card is sent to the same address by forwardable mail. The confirmation card must be received by the Board prior to the 10th day after the election. This process can obviously take a few weeks to complete.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the forgoing is true and correct.

Executed on: July 22, 2014



DANA WALCH