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September 7, 2023

Hon. Scott S. Harris, Clerk
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: *Jackie Williams Simpson et al v. John Thurston, Secretary of State of the State of Arkansas,* Docket No. 23-138

Request of Appellee to Extend Time For Filing Response

Dear Mr. Harris:

I represent the Appellants in the captioned matter.

I have received a copy of a letter from the Office of Attorney General of the State of Arkansas dated September 6, 2023, who represents the Appellee in this case, requesting a 30-day extension of time within which to comply with the Court's order to file a response to the Jurisdictional Statement by October 2, 2023. As noted in the State's request for extension of time, the Appellants object to the granting of such extension.

The basis for Appellants' objection is that the reapportionment law that is challenged in this case was adopted in October 2021; suit was filed challenging the law on March 7, 2022; and a final order of the three-judge panel assigned to the case was issued over a year later in May 2023. In the meantime, the 2022 congressional election was held using the challenged reapportionment law. The 2024 congressional election is approaching, and it is important to candidates and voters alike to know as soon as possible in which congressional district they are located. This matter needs to be resolved.

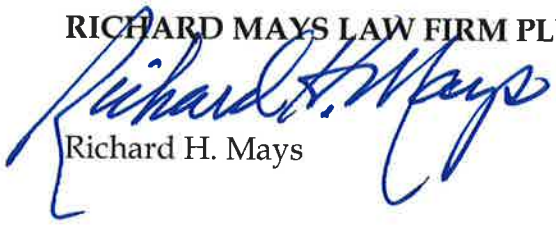
While I appreciate that the Office of Attorney General is busy, they also have a substantial number of very competent attorneys. The Attorney General presently has almost 30 days remaining within which to prepare a response to the Appellants' Jurisdictional Statement, which should be adequate, especially considering that the

Attorney General has been aware of this for some time. This matter is as significant and important as those other matters referred to in the Attorney General's letter.

Finally, I would point out that Rule 18.3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides that "An application to extend the time to file a jurisdictional statement is not favored." It would seem logical that an application to extend the time to respond to a jurisdictional statement would also not be favored.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD MAYS LAW FIRM PLLC



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RHM/nj

cc: Nicholas J. Bronni
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