IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ALBANY DIVISION

MATHIS KEARSE WRIGHT, JR.,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	CASE NO.: 1:14-CV-42 (WLS)
v.	:	
	:	
SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	
_____	:	

ORDER

After the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals issued a limited remand authorizing this Court to devise a remedy for the voting rights violation in advance of the May 2020 school board election (Doc. 250), this Court set a scheduling order for the remedial phase of this case. (Doc. 254.) The Court has received supplemental briefing from the Parties (Docs. 256 & 260), and the Parties have filed a notice identifying one special-master candidate whom they agree is qualified to serve and who has confirmed that he is willing and able to serve as a special master in this case (Doc. 259).

Having considered the Parties' arguments and the nature of the limited remand, the Court has decided that the best option for ensuring that an effective remedial plan is in place before the May 2020 elections is to choose the agreed-upon special-master candidate, Professor Bernard Groffman. Choosing Professor Groffman as a special master will prevent unnecessary delay that may result from referring this case to the Georgia legislature and will allow the Court to determine whether it is possible to craft remedial districts that would more

effectively address the voting rights violations than those proposed by Plaintiff. The Parties have indicated that Professor Groffman is not aware of any circumstances that would be grounds for disqualification under 28 U.S.C. § 455. (Doc. 259 at 2.) Furthermore, the Court has reviewed the curriculum vitae of Professor Groffman (Doc. 259-1) and finds that he appears qualified and well-suited to redraw the districts in this case.

Accordingly, the Court hereby notices the Parties that it has preliminarily selected Professor Groffman to serve as special master in this case, subject to any grounds for disqualification. Consistent with the Parties' proposal (Doc. 252) and this Court's scheduling order (Doc. 254), Professor Groffman shall file "an affidavit disclosing whether there is any ground for disqualification under 28 U.S.C. § 455" **no later than Wednesday, August 28, 2019**. Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(b)(3)(A). **No later than Wednesday, September 11, 2019** the Parties shall file any objections to Professor Groffman serving as special master and state whether they waive any potential grounds for disqualification. If there are no objections, the Parties shall confer and file a proposed order regarding the nature of the appointment of Professor Groffman which shall address each of the elements identified at Fed.R.Civ.P. 53(b)(2) **no later than Wednesday, September 18, 2019**.[1] If agreement cannot be made as to any element therein, the Parties shall so state.

SO ORDERED, this 14th day of August 2019.

/s/ W. Louis Sands
W. LOUIS SANDS, SR. JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

[1] The proposed order should be consistent with the Court's scheduling order (Doc. 254) to the extent possible.