

The Supreme Court of Ohio

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

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MAUREEN O'CONNOR

JUSTICE
R. PATRICK DeWINE

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R. PATRICK DeWINE
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February 24, 2022

Ms. Sandra Grosko
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of Ohio
65 South Front Street/8th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: *League of Women Voters v. Ohio Redistricting Commission, 2021-1193, Bennett v. Ohio Redistricting Commission, 2021-1198, and Ohio Organizing Collaborative v. Ohio Redistricting Commission, 2021-1210*

Dear Ms. Grosko:

Today, the Chief Justice entered an order scheduling a hearing on March 1, 2022, under the above referenced case numbers. See R.C. 2705.02. Such a matter is considered a "special proceeding." *In re Contempt of Common Pleas Court*, 30 Ohio St.2d 182, 187, 283 N.E.2d 126, (1972). It is "a new and independent proceeding" that is auxiliary to the main action. See *Hansen v. Hansen*, 132 Ohio App.3d 795, 799, 726 N.E.2d 557 (1999), quoting 17 Corpus Juris Secundum, Contempt, Section 62(6), at 159-160 (1963).

It is possible that in this special proceeding the court could consider sanctions directed at individual members of the redistricting commission. See R.C. 2705.05. Because of this possibility, I intend to recuse myself from the March 1, 2022, hearing and the consideration of matters related thereto.

Very truly yours,



R. Patrick DeWine

FILED

FEB 24 2022

CLERK OF COURT
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

RPD/pdt

**Cc: Chief Justice O'Connor
Diane Hayes
Amy Reitz**