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## Restraining Order Muzzles Washington County Election Records Request

Clean Voter Rolls is a Political Action Committee that promotes accurate Oregon voter rolls, which are necessary for fair elections. Clean Voter Rolls PAC was formed after HB 2681 passed in 2021. This House Bill allows voters who do not vote to stay on the voter rolls indefinitely, making voter rolls inaccurate.

Washington County, Oregon. Through a public records request, Tim Sippel sought the ballot database for a public test of the Washington County election system. The County denied the request. The Washington County District Attorney then ordered the County to produce the database. In response, Washington County filed a lawsuit in the Washington County Circuit Court seeking a declaration that it does not have to produce the database. The Oregon Secretary of State has now intervened, joining the case against Mr. Sippel.

Through a separate public records request, Janice Dysinger of Clean Voter Rolls, sought among other things the ballot images from the November 2020 Election. Among the documents provided by the County was a backup of the database for the November 2020 Election, which the county contends it did not intend to produce.

When Washington County learned that Mr. Sippel had the copy of the 2020 Election Database produced by Washington County, they sought and were granted a temporary restraining order (TRO) preventing Mr. Sippel from copying or disseminating the database. Washington County and Oregon claimed that it would be irreparably harmed if Mr. Sippel distributed the database because it would present some unspecified security risk to the election system in Washington County and 14 other Oregon counties. The parties have proposed a trial date of June 21 and 23, 2022. In the meantime, the parties have agreed to extend the TRO for another 10 days and to negotiate a protective order so that experts for Mr. Sippel can have access to the database for the purpose of rebutting Washington County's case.

Mr. Sippel contends the ballot database is a public record, he is entitled to possess it, and that the County has no grounds to contend that dissemination of the database to the public would be a security risk.

In a world where organized criminal activity occurred during the 2020 election to inject a vast number of counterfeit ballots to the election systems in multiple states, as demonstrated by the recent movie *2000 Mules*, it is extremely important that Washington County make public the 2020 Election Database. The fact that Washington County is fighting as hard as it can to hide this information from the public raises the question: What are they hiding?

Supporting documents are located at <u>www.joncus.net</u>.

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