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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE;  
NEVADA REPUBLICAN PARTY; DONALD J.  
TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT 2024, INC.; and  
DONALD J. SZYMANSKI,  
Plaintiffs,

v.

CARI-ANN BURGESS, *in her official capacity as the  
Washoe County Registrar of Voters*; JAN  
GALASSINI, *in her official capacity as the Washoe  
County Clerk*; LORENA PORTILLO, *in her official  
capacity as the Clark County Registrar of Voters*; LYNN  
MARIE GOYA, *in her official capacity as the Clark  
County Clerk*; FRANCISCO AGUILAR, *in his offi-  
cial capacity as Nevada Secretary of State*,  
Defendants.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiffs the Republican National Committee, the Nevada Republican Party, Donald J. Trump for President 2024, Inc., and Donald J. Szymanski bring this action to challenge Section 293.269921 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. Plaintiffs allege as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Under the U.S. Constitution, states have broad discretion to decide how to conduct federal elections. But their election laws must comply with the higher law of the U.S. Constitution and with federal laws enacted under it.

2. Exercising its constitutional power under the Elections Clause and the Electors Clause, Congress has established a uniform, national day to elect members of Congress and to appoint presidential electors. 2 U.S.C. §§1, 7; 3 U.S.C. §1. Congress enacted these laws “to provide a uniform time of electing Representatives,” Senators, and presidential electors. Cong. Globe, 42d Cong., 2d Sess. 112 (1871).





1 spend money on mail ballot chase programs and post-election activities. The mail ballot  
2 deadline also specifically and disproportionately harms Republican candidates.

3 15. Plaintiff Nevada Republican Party (NVGOP) is a political party in Nevada  
4 with its principal place of business at 2810 West Charleston Blvd. #69, Las Vegas, NV  
5 89102. The Nevada Republican Central Committee (NRCC) is the NVGOP's governing  
6 body. The NVGOP and NRCC exercise their federal and state constitutional rights of  
7 speech, assembly, petition, and association to "provide the statutory leadership of the  
8 Nevada Republican Party as directed in the Nevada Revised statutes," to "recruit, de-  
9 velop, and elect representative government at the national, state, and local levels," and  
10 to "promote sound, honest, and representative government at the national, state and  
11 local levels." NRCC Bylaws, art. II, §§1.A-1.C.

12 16. The NVGOP represents over 550,000 registered Republican voters in Ne-  
13 vada.

14 17. The NVGOP has the same interests in this case as the RNC and seeks to  
15 vindicate those interests in the same ways.

16 18. Plaintiff Donald J. Trump for President 2024, Inc. (Trump Campaign) is  
17 the principal committee for President Donald J. Trump's campaign with its headquarters  
18 in West Palm Beach, FL.

19 19. The Trump Campaign has the same interests in this case as the RNC with  
20 respect to the candidacy of President Trump and seeks to vindicate those interests in  
21 the same ways.

22 20. Donald J. Szymanski is a registered Nevada voter and resident of Clark  
23 County. He regularly votes in Nevada's primary and general elections, and he plans to  
24 vote in the November 2024 general election, including for U.S. President, Senate, and

1 House of Representatives. Mr. Szymanski is registered as a Republican, supports Repub-  
2 lican candidates, and has volunteered on behalf of the Republican Party.

3 21. Defendant Cari-Ann Burgess is the Registrar of Voters for Washoe  
4 County. She is the county’s chief election officer and is responsible for “establish[ing]  
5 procedures for the processing and counting of mail ballots” in Washoe County. Nev.  
6 Rev. Stat. §293.269925(1); *see id.* §§293.269911-.269937, 244.164. Defendant Burgess is  
7 sued in her official capacity.

8 22. Defendant Jan Galassini is the Washoe County Clerk. She is responsible  
9 for certifying the election results in Washoe County. Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.393. Defend-  
10 ant Galassini is sued in her official capacity.

11 23. Defendant Lorena Portillo is the Registrar of Voters for Clark County. She  
12 is the county’s chief election officer and is responsible for “establish[ing] procedures for  
13 the processing and counting of mail ballots” in Clark County. Nev. Rev. Stat.  
14 §293.269925(1); *see id.* §§293.269911-.269937, 244.164. Defendant Portillo is sued in her  
15 official capacity.

16 24. Defendant Lynn Marie Goya is the Clark County Clerk. She is responsible  
17 for certifying the election results in Clark County. Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.393. Defendant  
18 Goya is sued in her official capacity.

19 25. Defendant Francisco Aguilar is the Secretary of State of Nevada. He serves  
20 “as the Chief Officer of Elections” for Nevada and “is responsible for the execution  
21 and enforcement of the provisions of title 24 of NRS and all other provisions of state  
22 and federal law relating to elections in” Nevada. Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.124. He is sued in  
23 his official capacity.

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**ALLEGATIONS**

**I. There is only one federal Election Day.**

26. The U.S. Constitution’s Elections Clause vests state legislatures with power to set the time, place, and manner of congressional elections. U.S. Const. art. I, §4, cl. 1.

27. But the Elections Clause also reserves to “Congress” the power to “at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.” *Id.*

28. A law governs “‘the election’ of a Senator or Representative” when it “plainly refer[s] to the combined actions of voters and officials meant to make a final selection of an officeholder.” *Foster v. Love*, 522 U.S. 67, 71 (1997).

29. Exercising its constitutional power to pass laws governing elections for federal offices, Congress has established one specific day as the uniform, national Election Day for members of the United States House of Representatives and of the United States Senate. For both offices, the “Tuesday next after the 1st Monday in November” is “the day for the election.” 2 U.S.C. §7 (elections for members of the House of Representatives held on that day “in every even numbered year”); *see also id.* §1 (Senators to be elected “[a]t the regular election held in any State next preceding the expiration of the term for which any Senator was elected to represent such State in Congress, at which a Representative to Congress is regularly by law to be chosen”).

30. The U.S. Constitution also vests in “Congress” the power to “determine the Time of chusing the Electors” for the offices of President and Vice President. U.S. Const. art. II, §1, cl. 4.

1           31. Exercising that power, Congress has established that “[t]he electors of  
2 President and Vice President shall be appointed, in each State, on election day, in ac-  
3 cordance with the laws of the State enacted prior to election day.” 3 U.S.C. §1.

4           32. Together, 2 U.S.C. §§1, 7, and 3 U.S.C. §1 establish the Tuesday after the  
5 first Monday in November as the uniform, national Election Day for members of Con-  
6 gress and as the uniform, national day for appointing electors for President and Vice  
7 President.

8           33. Those “uniform rules for federal elections” are “binding on the States” and  
9 superior to conflicting state law. *Foster*, 522 U.S. at 69. “[T]he regulations made by Con-  
10 gress are paramount to those made by the State legislature; and if they conflict therewith,  
11 the latter, so far as the conflict extends, ceases to be operative.” *Id.* (quoting *Ex parte*  
12 *Siebold*, 100 U.S. 371, 384 (1879)). In other words, if a state law governing elections for  
13 federal offices “conflicts with federal law,” that state law is “void.” *Id.* at 74.

14           **II. Nevada’s mail ballot deadline extends the election beyond the federal elec-**  
15           **tion day.**

16           34. Under Nevada law, “[I]n order for a mail ballot to be counted for any elec-  
17 tion, the ballot must be ... [m]ailed to the county clerk,” “postmarked on or before the  
18 day of the election,” and “[r]eceived by the clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the fourth day  
19 following the election.” Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.269921(1).

20           35. Nevada law further provides that “[i]f a mail ballot is received by mail not  
21 later than 5 p.m. on the third day following the election and the date of the postmark  
22 cannot be determined, the mail ballot shall be deemed to have been postmarked on or  
23 before the day of the election.” *Id.* §293.269921(2).





1           47.    The RNC, NVGOP, and Trump Campaign intend to conduct their cam-  
2 paigns in accordance with federal law.

3           48.    The RNC, NVGOP, and Trump Campaign rely on provisions of federal  
4 and state law in conducting their campaigns, which include resources allocated to the  
5 post-election counting and certification processes. For example, Nevada law guarantees  
6 Plaintiffs the right to be represented on county mail ballot central counting boards. *See*  
7 Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.269929(2) (“The voters appointed as election board officers for the  
8 mail ballot central counting board must not all be of the same political party.”). Nevada  
9 law also guarantees the right to observe the handling and counting of mail ballots. *See*  
10 Nev. Rev. Stat. §293.269931(1); Nev. Admin. Code §§293.322(3), (4); 356(1). Counting  
11 ballots received after Election Day thus requires Plaintiffs and their members to divert  
12 more time and money to post-election mail ballot activities. *See* Nev. Rev. Stat.  
13 §293.269931 (counting may continue up to “the seventh day following an election”).

14           49.    Nevada’s law also requires the RNC, NVGOP, and Trump Campaign to  
15 maintain mail-ballot-specific get-out-the-vote operations to encourage mail ballot voters  
16 to return their mail ballots through Election Day. Funding and staffing these operations  
17 diverts resources from in-person Election Day get-out-the-vote activities.

18           50.    In addition, late-arriving ballots are not valid, so counting them dilutes the  
19 weight of timely, valid ballots.

20           51.    Dilution of honest votes, to any degree, by the casting of fraudulent or  
21 illegitimate votes violates the right to vote.

22           52.    The Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the “the  
23 right of all qualified citizens to vote, in state as well as in federal elections.” *Reynolds v.*  
24 *Sims*, 77 U.S. 533, 554 (1964). “Obviously included within the right to [vote], secured by

1 the Constitution, is the right of qualified voters within a state to cast their ballots and  
2 have them counted.” *United States v. Classic*, 313 U.S. 299, 315 (1941). “[T]he right to  
3 have the vote counted” means counted “at full value without dilution or discount.” *Reyn-*  
4 *olds*, 377 U.S. at 555 n.29 (quoting *South v. Peters*, 339 U.S. 276, 279 (1950) (Douglas, J.,  
5 dissenting)).

6 53. Thus, both direct denials and practices that count invalid ballots dilute the  
7 effectiveness of individual votes and violate the Fourteenth Amendment. *See id.* at 555  
8 (“[T]he right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of the weight of a  
9 citizen’s vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the fran-  
10 chise.”).

11 54. “Every voter in a federal ... election, whether he votes for a candidate with  
12 little chance of winning or for one with little chance of losing, has a right under the  
13 Constitution to have his vote fairly counted, without its being distorted by fraudulently  
14 cast votes.” *Anderson v. United States*, 417 U.S. 211, 227 (1974); *see also Baker v. Carr*, 369  
15 U.S. 186, 208 (1962).

16 55. Fraudulent votes “debase[]” and “dilute” the weight of each validly cast  
17 vote. *Anderson*, 417 U.S. at 227. When it comes to “dilut[ing] the influence of honest  
18 votes in an election,” whether the dilution is “in greater or less degree is immaterial”—  
19 it is a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. *Id.* at 226.

20 56. Because voting by mail is starkly polarized by party, that dilution directly  
21 and specifically harms Plaintiffs. For example, according to the MIT Election Lab, 46%  
22 of Democratic voters in the 2022 General Election mailed in their ballots, compared to  
23 only 27% of Republicans. Charles Stewart III, *How We Voted in 2022*, at 10,  
24

1 <https://perma.cc/444Z-58ZY>. That means the late-arriving mail ballots that are  
2 counted disproportionately break for Democrats.

3 57. Voting by mail is even more polarized by party in Nevada specifically. For  
4 example, in Nevada’s 2020 general election, 60.3% of Democratic voters voted by mail,  
5 compared to just 36.9% of Republican voters. *See Nev. Sec’y of State, 2020 General Elec-*  
6 *tion Turnout*, <https://perma.cc/Z6F3-SM4N>. Likewise in its 2022 general election,  
7 61.3% of Democrats and just 40% of Republicans voted by mail. *See Nev. Sec’y of*  
8 *State, 2022 General Election Turnout*, <https://perma.cc/N7G7-RUQ9>.

9 58. Mail ballots from Democratic voters also tend to arrive late, in part because  
10 “Democratic get-out-the-vote drives—which habitually occur shortly before election  
11 day—may delay maximum Democratic voting across-the-board, and produce a ‘blue  
12 shift’ in late mail ballots.” Ed Kilgore, *Why Do the Last Votes Counted Skew Democratic?*,  
13 *Intelligencer* (Aug. 10, 2020), <https://perma.cc/R78D-3Q58>. Indeed, “even if Republi-  
14 cans and Democrats voted in person and by mail at identical levels, Democrats tend to  
15 vote later, which in turn (particularly in elections with heavy voting by mail) means early  
16 Republican leads in close races could be fragile.” *Id.*

17 59. According to data reported by the Nevada Secretary of State’s office, in  
18 the Nevada 2024 primary elections, Democrats disproportionately voted by mail com-  
19 pared to Republicans. Office of Nev. Sec’y of State, *2024 Presidential Preference Primary*  
20 *Turnout: Cumulative Presidential Preference Primary Election Turnout – Final* (Feb. 20, 2024),  
21 [perma.cc/7USY-5NMY](https://perma.cc/7USY-5NMY). Democrats also had significantly more mail ballots rejected for  
22 not being returned correctly. Office of Nev. Sec’y of State, *2024 Presidential Preference*  
23 *Primary Turnout: Mail Ballot Information – Cumulative Totals* (Feb. 20, 2024),  
24 [perma.cc/7NTN-JV6L](https://perma.cc/7NTN-JV6L).







1 relief:

- 2 A. A declaratory judgment that the relevant parts of Nev. Rev. Stat.  
3 §293.269921 violate the Fourteenth Amendment, 2 U.S.C. §§1, 7, and 3  
4 U.S.C. §1;
- 5 B. Preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting Defendants from im-  
6 plementing and enforcing the relevant parts of Nev. Rev. Stat.  
7 §293.269921, including prohibiting Defendants from counting mail ballots  
8 for federal office for the November 2024 general election that are received  
9 by election officials after the day of the election; or, alternatively, prohibit-  
10 ing Defendants from counting ballots for federal office for the November  
11 2024 general election that are not postmarked by the day of the election;
- 12 C. Plaintiffs' reasonable costs and expenses of this action, including attorneys'  
13 fees; and
- 14 D. All other further relief that Plaintiffs may be entitled to.
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Dated: May 3, 2024

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