

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
NORTHERN DIVISION**

**JOSEPH THOMAS, et al,**

**Plaintiffs**

vs.

**Civil Action No. 3:18cv441-CWR-FKB**

**PHIL BRYANT, Governor of  
Mississippi, et al.,**

**Defendants.**

**SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION  
TO EXTEND QUALIFYING DEADLINE IN TWO SENATE DISTRICTS**

In the course of research to respond to the motion for stay filed in the Fifth Circuit yesterday by the Governor and Secretary of State, the Plaintiffs found authority from the Supreme Court that further supports their motion to postpone the qualifying deadline. Accordingly, they are submitting this short supplement to their supporting memorandum.

In the Mississippi legislative redistricting case of *Connor v. Johnson*, 402 U.S. 690, 692-93 (1971), the Supreme Court instructed the district court to postpone the qualifying deadline in order to implement a remedial plan: “The District Court is instructed, absent insurmountable difficulties, to devise and put into effect a single-member district plan for Hinds County by [June 14, 1971]. In light of this disposition, the District Court is directed to extend the June 4 filing date for legislative candidates from Hinds County to an appropriate date so that those candidates and the State of Mississippi may act in light of the new districts into which Hinds County will be divided.” Although the district court later concluded there were “insurmountable difficulties” and declined to put the single-member district plan into effect, *Connor v. Johnson*, 330 F.Supp.

521 (S.D. Miss. 1971 (three-judge court), the Supreme Court's directive makes it clear that district courts have the authority to postpone qualifying deadlines in appropriate cases.

February 26, 2019,

Respectfully submitted,

BETH L. ORLANSKY, MSB 3938  
MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR JUSTICE  
P.O. Box 1023  
Jackson, MS 39205-1023  
(601) 352-2269  
[borlansky@mscenterforjustice.org](mailto:borlansky@mscenterforjustice.org)

KRISTEN CLARKE  
JON GREENBAUM  
EZRA D. ROSENBERG  
ARUSHA GORDON  
POOJA CHAUDHURI  
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL  
RIGHTS UNDER LAW  
1401 New York Ave., NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 662-8600  
[erosenberg@lawyerscommittee.org](mailto:erosenberg@lawyerscommittee.org)  
[agordon@lawyerscommittee.org](mailto:agordon@lawyerscommittee.org)  
*Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

*s/ Robert B. McDuff*  
ROBERT B. MCDUFF, MSB 2532  
767 North Congress Street  
Jackson, MS 39202  
(601) 969-0802  
[rbm@mcdufflaw.com](mailto:rbm@mcdufflaw.com)

ELLIS TURNAGE, MSB 8131  
TURNAGE LAW OFFICE  
108 N. Pearman Ave  
Cleveland, MS 38732  
(662) 843-2811  
[eturnage@etlawms.com](mailto:eturnage@etlawms.com)

PETER KRAUS  
CHARLES SIEGEL  
CAITLYN SILHAN  
WATERS KRAUS  
3141 Hood Street, Suite 700  
Dallas, TX 75219  
(214) 357-6244  
[pkraus@waterskraus.com](mailto:pkraus@waterskraus.com)  
[csiegel@waterskraus.com](mailto:csiegel@waterskraus.com)  
[csilhan@waterskraus.com](mailto:csilhan@waterskraus.com)  
*Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on February 26, 2019, I electronically filed a copy of the foregoing using the ECF system which sent notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

s/Robert B. McDuff