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* *Pro hac vice application forthcoming*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA;
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, in her
official capacity as Secretary of State
of California; and DEAN C.
LOGAN, in his official capacity as
the County of Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk,

Defendants.

Case No: 2:26-cv-12025

**MOTION TO INTERVENE OF
SERVICES, IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS AND EDUCATION
NETWORK AND MI FAMILIA
EN ACCIÓN**

Hearing Date: TBD*

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26
27
28

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF AUTHORITIESIV

INTRODUCTION 1

BACKGROUND3

 I. Federal law assigns election administration responsibilities to States,
 consistent with the Constitution’s separation of powers.....3

 II. DOJ’s prior efforts to meddle with California’s voter-list practices
 have been rejected by courts repeatedly.....4

 III. DOJ’s new lawsuit threatens disenfranchisement of lawful voters and
 chaos weeks before the November 2026 election.6

 IV. Proposed Intervenors have strong interests in preventing DOJ’s
 demands.....9

LEGAL STANDARD..... 11

ARGUMENT..... 12

 I. Proposed Intervenors are entitled to intervene as of right. 12

 A. This motion is timely. 12

 B. Proposed Intervenors’ interests are threatened by this
 action..... 12

 1. The requested relief threatens Proposed Intervenors’
 voter engagement efforts and deters the voters they
 serve..... 13

 2. The requested relief would make it more difficult for
 Proposed Intervenors to carry out their missions. 15

 C. The existing parties do not adequately represent Proposed
 Intervenors’ interests..... 16

 II. The Court should alternatively grant permissive intervention.....20

CONCLUSION.....21

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

1	2 Cases	3 Page(s)
4	<i>1789 Found. Inc. v. Fontes</i> ,	
5	No. CV-24-02987, 2025 WL 834919 (D. Ariz. Mar. 17, 2025)	13, 16
6	<i>Arakaki v. Cayetano</i> ,	
7	324 F.3d 1078 (9th Cir. 2003)	11, 12, 18
8	<i>Arcia v. Fla. Sec’y of State</i> ,	
9	772 F.3d 1335 (11th Cir. 2014)	4
10	<i>Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Ariz., Inc.</i> ,	
11	570 U.S. 1 (2013).....	3
12	<i>Barke v. Banks</i> ,	
13	No. 8:20-cv-358, 2020 WL 2315857 (C.D. Cal. May 7, 2020)	18
14	<i>Bellitto v. Snipes</i> ,	
15	No. 16-cv-61474, 2016 WL 5118568 (S.D. Fla. Sep. 21, 2016)	13, 14
16	<i>Bellitto v. Snipes</i> ,	
17	935 F.3d 1192 (11th Cir. 2019)	18, 19
18	<i>Berger v. N.C. State Conf. of the NAACP</i> ,	
19	597 U.S. 179 (2022).....	3, 18, 20
20	<i>Callahan v. Brookdale Senior Living Cmtys., Inc.</i> ,	
21	42 F.4th 1013 (9th Cir. 2022)	21
22	<i>Citizens for Balanced Use v. Mont. Wilderness Ass’n</i> ,	
23	647 F.3d 893 (9th Cir. 2011)	17, 18
24	<i>Clark v. Putnam Cnty.</i> ,	
25	168 F.3d 458 (11th Cir. 1999)	19
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27	No. 1:26-cv-1352, 2026 WL 3033772 (D.D.C. Oct. 9, 2026)	5–7

1	<i>Foster v. Love,</i>	
2	<u>522 U.S. 67</u> (1997).....	3
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4	<u>644 F.3d 836</u> (9th Cir. 2011)	12
5	<i>Fund for Animals, Inc. v. Norton,</i>	
6	<u>322 F.3d 728</u> (D.C. Cir. 2003).....	17
7	<i>GHP Mgmt. Corp. v. City of Los Angeles,</i>	
8	<u>339 F.R.D. 621</u> (C.D. Cal. 2021).....	17
9	<i>In re Exch. Union Co.,</i>	
10	No. 24-mc-91645, <u>2025 WL 894652</u> (D. Mass. Mar. 24, 2025).....	21
11	<i>Issa v. Newsom,</i>	
12	No. 2:20-cv-1044, <u>2020 WL 3074351</u> (E.D. Cal. June 10, 2020)	12, 16
13	<i>Jud. Watch, Inc. v. Ill. State Bd. of Elections,</i>	
14	No. 24 C 1867, <u>2024 WL 3454706</u> (N.D. Ill. July 18, 2024)	13, 14, 16
15	<i>Kleissler v. U.S. Forest Serv.,</i>	
16	<u>157 F.3d 964</u> (3d Cir. 1998)	17
17	<i>La Union del Pueblo Entero v. Abbott,</i>	
18	<u>29 F.4th 299</u> (5th Cir. 2022)	16
19	<i>League of Women Voters of N.C. v. North Carolina,</i>	
20	No. 1:13-cv-660, <u>2014 WL 12770081</u> (M.D.N.C. Jan 27, 2014)	20
21	<i>League of Women Voters v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.,</i>	
22	<u>835 F. Supp. 3d 79</u> (D.D.C. 2026).....	8
23	<i>March for Our Lives Idaho v. McGrane,</i>	
24	<u>697 F. Supp. 3d 1029</u> (D. Idaho 2023)	14
25	<i>Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes,</i>	
26	<u>129 F.4th 691</u> (9th Cir. 2025)	4

27
28

1	<i>Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes,</i>	
2	<u>719 F. Supp. 3d 929</u> (D. Ariz. 2024)	2, 10, 14, 16
3	<i>Paher v. Cegavske,</i>	
4	No. 3:20-cv-243, <u>2020 WL 2042365</u> (D. Nev. Apr. 28, 2020).....	16
5	<i>Pub. Int. Legal Found., Inc. v. Winfrey,</i>	
6	<u>463 F. Supp. 3d 795</u> (E.D. Mich. 2020)	19, 20
7	<i>Republican Nat’l Comm. v. Aguilar,</i>	
8	No. 2:24-cv-518, <u>2024 WL 3409860</u> (D. Nev. July 12, 2024)	20
9	<i>San Jose Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. Dist. Ct.,</i>	
10	<u>187 F.3d 1096</u> (9th Cir. 1999)	12
11	<i>Sw. Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. Berg,</i>	
12	<u>268 F.3d 810</u> (9th Cir. 2001)	11, 13, 16
13	<i>Trbovich v. United Mine Workers of Am.,</i>	
14	<u>404 U.S. 528</u> (1972).....	17, 18
15	<i>United Guar. Residential Ins. Co. v. Phila. Sav. Fund Soc’y,</i>	
16	<u>819 F.2d 473</u> (4th Cir. 1987)	19
17	<i>United States v. Benson,</i>	
18	<u>179 F.4th 470</u> (6th Cir. 2026)	5
19	<i>United States v. Benson,</i>	
20	No. 1:25-CV-1148, <u>2025 WL 3520406</u> (W.D. Mich. Dec. 9, 2025)	19
21	<i>United States v. Oregon,</i>	
22	No. 6:25-cv-1666, <u>2025 WL 3496571</u> (D. Or. Dec. 5, 2025)	15, 19
23	<i>United States v. Weber,</i>	
24	<u>816 F. Supp. 3d 1168</u> (C.D. Cal. 2026).....	2, 3, 5
25	<i>W. Expl. LLC v. U.S. Dep’t of Interior,</i>	
26	No. 3:15-cv-00491, <u>2016 WL 355122</u> (D. Nev. Jan. 28, 2016).....	17

1 *W. Watersheds Project v. Haaland*,
2 22 F.4th 828 (9th Cir. 2022) 11, 12, 21
3 *Yniguez v. Arizona*,
4 939 F.2d 727 (9th Cir. 1991) 14
5
6 **Constitution**
7 U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1 3
8
9 **Statutes**
10 52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A) 1, 4
11 Cal. Elec. Code § 3000.5(a) 9
12
13 **Rules**
14 Fed. R. Civ. P. 24 12, 20
15
16 **Other Authorities**
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21 Letter from Anonymous Whistleblower to Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator
22 (Sep. 8, 2026) 9
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27
28

1	Rebecca Shabad, <i>Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin Threatens States</i>	
2	<i>Over Elections</i> , NBC News (July 17, 2026).....	19
3	Sarah N. Lynch, <i>Top U.S. DOJ Official Orders California to Review List of Possible</i>	
4	<i>Noncitizens Who Received Mail Ballots</i> , CBS News (Oct. 14, 2026),	
5	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-california-noncitizens-mail-	
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INTRODUCTION

Less than three weeks before Election Day, and with ballots already in the hands of California voters, the U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”) asks this Court to deny ballots to lawfully registered voters and set aside ballots already cast by others. The targeted voters—over 20,000 in total—were identified on a list derived through an error-prone matching process and delivered to local officials on a thumb drive, with a password on a sticky note, which DOJ gave officials only 48 hours to review before DOJ filed its lawsuit seeking to compel California to do its bidding.

No federal law authorizes DOJ’s extraordinary demand, which would upend California’s elections and would result in an unprecedented intrusion of the federal government into state-run election administration. The Constitution assigns States the authority to set and enforce voter qualifications and administer their elections, subject to certain safeguards enacted by Congress and designed to protect voters during federal elections. Among them, the National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”) bars systematic programs to remove ineligible voters from the rolls in the 90 days before an election, because that is when mistakes based on flawed data are most likely to disenfranchise eligible voters. 52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A). DOJ’s demand, which arrives well inside that window, seeks an end-run around that statutory protection and constitutional structure—all in pursuit of strong-arming California into aligning its election procedures with the preferences of the President. Put simply, DOJ seeks to enlist this Court in an effort to take over California’s elections and decide who gets to have their votes count. DOJ’s effort is lawless.

Proposed Intervenors—Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (“SIREN”), and Mi Familia en Acción (“MFA”)—are nonprofit organizations that represent and serve California voters. They move to intervene as Defendants under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24 to protect their interests and the interests of the

1 members and communities they represent from DOJ’s assault. DOJ’s requested
2 relief threatens to disenfranchise Proposed Intervenor’s members and constituents,
3 including naturalized citizens who are highly likely to get swept up in DOJ’s error-
4 prone citizenship verification campaign. It also threatens to undermine Proposed
5 Intervenor’s voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote efforts
6 because naturalized citizens and other eligible voters in communities Proposed
7 Intervenor serve will likely be deterred from voting for fear of being misidentified
8 as noncitizen voters and having their ballots ultimately discarded.

9 Proposed Intervenor are no strangers to combatting voter suppression,
10 including from DOJ. MFA’s sister organization—Mi Familia Vota—brought
11 successful litigation challenging several discriminatory provisions of Arizona’s
12 voting laws that would have harmed naturalized citizens; the district court found
13 the organization had standing to challenge those laws to protect its constituents and
14 organizational mission. *See Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes*, 719 F. Supp. 3d 929, 984–
15 85 (D. Ariz. 2024), *aff’d in part, vacated in part*, 129 F.4th 691 (9th Cir. 2025),
16 *cert. granted sub nom. Republican Nat’l Comm. v. Mi Familia Vota*, 146 S. Ct.
17 2799 (2026). SIREN successfully intervened and prevailed in DOJ’s lawsuit
18 demanding California’s unredacted voter files over purported concerns with
19 ineligible voters. *United States v. Weber*, 816 F. Supp. 3d 1168, 1179 (C.D. Cal.
20 2026) (“*Weber*”), *appeal argued*, No. 26-1232 (9th Cir. May 19, 2026). SIREN
21 also successfully intervened in *Wagner v. Weber*, a private lawsuit (to which DOJ
22 now seeks to relate this action) seeking to compel voter purges under the NVRA.
23 Minutes of Motion Hearing, *Wagner v. Weber*, No. 8:26-cv-1263-MCS (C.D. Cal.
24 Sep. 28, 2026) (“*Wagner*”), ECF No. 35. In both cases, the courts recognized that
25 Secretary Weber does not adequately represent the interests of private civic
26 organizations: She is an election official who must “bear in mind broader public-
27 policy implications,” whereas Proposed Intervenor seek to vindicate their own

1 interests “full stop.” *Berger v. N.C. State Conf. of the NAACP*, 597 U.S. 179, 196
2 (2022). And on DOJ’s compressed timeline, she and the other governmental
3 defendants in this matter must weigh threats of federal retaliation if they do not
4 compromise with DOJ. Proposed Intervenorors face no such countervailing
5 considerations and will defend their interests with zeal.

6 For these reasons and those set forth below, the Court should grant Proposed
7 Intervenorors’ motion to intervene as of right under Rule 24(a)(2). Alternatively, the
8 Court should grant permissive intervention under Rule 24(b).

9 BACKGROUND

10 I. Federal law assigns election administration responsibilities to 11 States, consistent with the Constitution’s separation of powers.

12 The Constitution’s Elections Clause “invests the States with responsibility
13 for the mechanics of congressional elections,” subject only to Congress’s power to
14 “preempt state legislative choices.” *Foster v. Love*, 522 U.S. 67, 69 (1997). Even
15 then, Congress’s power is strictly limited to preempting State laws on the “Times,
16 Places and Manner of holding Elections.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1. Nothing in
17 that limited grant of authority empowers the federal government to decide *who* gets
18 to vote; the Constitution commits the power to set and enforce voter qualifications
19 to the *States*. See *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Ariz., Inc.*, 570 U.S. 1, 16–17
20 (2013). This structure is deliberate: since the founding, the Elections Clause “has
21 constitutionally prevented the centralization of election management in the
22 Executive.” *Weber*, 816 F. Supp. 3d at 1175.

23 Congress has enacted certain laws governing voter registration, but nothing
24 in those laws empowers the federal government to create a list of registered voters
25 whom it “believes” to be noncitizens and then demand that States deny them access
26 to the ballot box. Compl. ¶ 45. To the contrary, the NVRA charges *States* with the
27 “administration of voter registration for elections for Federal office.” 52 U.S.C.

1 § 20507(a). The whole premise of that regulatory scheme is that if a voter is
2 registered at the time of an election, they get to cast a ballot and have that ballot
3 count. *See Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes*, 129 F.4th 691, 711 (9th Cir. 2025) (rejecting
4 “narrow view” that the NVRA governs only “voter registration—not rules for
5 casting a ballot by mail” as “contrary to the text of the NVRA which declares the
6 right ‘to vote’ is a fundamental right and establishes purposes beyond
7 registration”), *cert. granted sub nom. Republican Nat’l Comm. v. Mi Familia Vota*,
8 146 S. Ct. 2799 (2026).

9 The NVRA also imposes strict procedural safeguards on removing voters
10 from the rolls, which DOJ seeks to circumvent here. Most notably, the NVRA
11 requires States to “complete, not later than 90 days prior to the date of a primary or
12 general election for Federal office, any program the purpose of which is to
13 systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of
14 eligible voters.” 52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A). The 90-day bar applies to removal
15 programs targeting suspected noncitizens. *See Mi Familia Vota*, 129 F.4th at 715–
16 17. Congress drew this line because the window before an election is when
17 erroneous “maintenance” is most likely to disenfranchise entirely eligible voters,
18 who might have little or no time to correct the error. *See Arcia v. Fla. Sec’y of State*,
19 772 F.3d 1335, 1346 (11th Cir. 2014). DOJ’s eleventh-hour demand here to have
20 California refuse to send ballots to some voters and refuse to count ballots cast by
21 others is a blatant attempt to make an end-run around this requirement.

22 **II. DOJ’s prior efforts to meddle with California’s voter-list** 23 **practices have been rejected by courts repeatedly.**

24 This lawsuit is the latest chapter in a now-18-months-long federal campaign
25 to intrude upon States’ election administration processes—a campaign courts have
26 rejected at every turn. In March of 2025, the President directed the Attorney
27 General to obtain States’ voter information and “prioritize enforcement” against
28

1 States that do not cooperate. *Common Cause v. U.S. Dep’t of Just.* No. 1:26-cv-
2 1352, [2026 WL 3033772](#), at *4 (D.D.C. Oct. 9, 2026) (discussing Exec. Order No.
3 14248, [90 Fed. Reg. 14005](#) (Mar. 25, 2025)). DOJ then demanded unredacted voter
4 lists from nearly every State, shared the data with the Department of Homeland
5 Security (“DHS”) to run it through the Systematic Alien Verification for
6 Entitlements (“SAVE”) database, and pressed States to remove voters flagged as
7 potentially ineligible. *Id.* at *4–6.

8 California refused to hand over voters’ sensitive data, and DOJ sued. *See*
9 Complaint, *Weber*, No. 2:25-cv-9149 (C.D. Cal. Sep. 25, 2025), ECF No. 1. SIREN
10 and other organizations intervened, and the court granted their motion to dismiss.
11 *Weber*, [816 F. Supp. 3d at 1196](#). Every federal district court to address DOJ’s
12 similar demands for unredacted voter lists has dismissed DOJ’s lawsuits. *See*
13 *Common Cause*, [2026 WL 3033772](#), at *65 n.3 (collecting cases); *see also United*
14 *States v. Benson*, [179 F.4th 470](#) (6th Cir.), *reh’g en banc denied*, [187 F.4th 462](#) (6th
15 Cir. 2026).

16 Just last week, a federal court in D.C. went further and vacated the policy at
17 the heart of DOJ’s unlawful campaign. In *Common Cause*, the court held DOJ’s
18 “Voter List Maintenance Policy”—collecting state voter lists, running them
19 through SAVE, and demanding that States remove the voters DOJ flagged—
20 unlawful several times over. *Common Cause*, [2026 WL 3033772](#), at *1, *8. The
21 court explained that “[b]ehind all the window dressing, the challenged policy
22 represents the federal government’s attempt to decide who gets to vote. But
23 Congress has left that authority where our Constitution has always placed it: with
24 the states.” *Id.* at *1. The court also held DOJ’s efforts were arbitrary and capricious
25 because DOJ “entirely failed to consider the risk that its use of citizenship records”
26 would lead to flawed demands to “remove U.S. citizens.” *Id.* at *8. It emphasized
27 that DOJ’s efforts to target purported noncitizens have already resulted in the

1 “remov[al of] citizens from the voter rolls in their home states and risks
2 disenfranchising many more.” *Id.* at *2.

3 **III. DOJ’s new lawsuit threatens disenfranchisement of lawful voters**
4 **and chaos weeks before the November 2026 election.**

5 On July 16, 2026, Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin sent
6 Secretary Weber a letter alleging that there may be “as many as 190,832”
7 noncitizens registered to vote in California. Compl. Ex. A at 1 (July 16, 2026 Letter
8 from Markwayne Mullin, Sec’y of Dep’t of Homeland Sec.), ECF No. 1-1.
9 Secretary Weber responded on July 23, requesting “[a] detailed description of the
10 methodology utilized by DHS to identify these allegedly ineligible voters,”
11 including the “data sources, software, and matching criteria utilized in this
12 analysis.” Compl. Ex. B at 2 (July 23, 2026 Letter from Shirley N. Weber, Cal.
13 Sec’y of State), ECF No. 1-2.

14 DOJ’s only apparent response to that request for further information came
15 on October 13—just three weeks before the November 3 general election, and after
16 California had already begun mailing ballots to registered voters—in the form of a
17 48-hour ultimatum. *See* Compl. ¶ 47; Compl. Ex. C (Oct. 13, 2026 Letter from R.
18 Trent McCotter, Acting Deputy Att’y Gen.), ECF No. 1-3. DOJ sent a letter stating
19 that it delivered to Los Angeles County (but not, apparently, Secretary Weber) a
20 “password-protected thumb drive” of individuals the federal government “believes
21 are likely noncitizens” who were sent vote-by-mail ballots. Compl. Ex. C at 1. DOJ
22 then demanded that election officials (1) refuse to send ballots to anyone on the list
23 until their citizenship is confirmed; (2) “segregate[]” any ballots those voters
24 return; and (3) not tabulate ballots already returned “until citizenship can be
25 determined.” *Id.* at 3. If California does not comply, the letter warned, DOJ “will
26 have no choice but to seek emergency relief.” *Id.* DOJ did not answer any of
27
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1 Secretary Weber’s questions regarding the methodology used to create the list or
2 the sources of data used to create it.

3 DOJ sent a similar letter directly to the Los Angeles County Registrar.
4 Compl. Ex. D (Oct. 13, 2026 Letter from R. Trent McCotter, Acting Deputy Att’y
5 Gen.), ECF No. 1-4. The Registrar confirmed that his office received DOJ’s letter
6 but said it had not opened the accompanying USB drive, which came with a
7 handwritten password, because doing so “would conflict with established data
8 privacy and information security protocols.”¹ He added that his office does not
9 consider the drive a secure medium, and that DOJ’s letter does not say how many
10 voters are on the list or what information the records contain.²

11 Everything known about how the federal government generates its lists of
12 purported “noncitizens” indicates that DOJ’s list likely sweeps in eligible voters,
13 particularly naturalized citizens. Just last week, a federal court stressed that DOJ
14 has “failed to consider the risk that its use of citizenship records known to be
15 unreliable would lead [it] to demand that states remove U.S. citizens from their
16 voter rolls.” *Common Cause*, 2026 WL 3033772, at *8. Earlier this year, DHS told
17 Nevada that federal records showed the State may have nearly 16,000 noncitizens
18 on its rolls—but when pressed, DHS then cut the number to 185, meaning over
19 15,000 citizens were falsely flagged as possible noncitizens.³ Even then, Nevada
20 election officials informed DHS that “[a]s for the 185 individuals, our records
21

22 ¹ Sarah N. Lynch, *Top U.S. DOJ Official Orders California to Review List of*
23 *Possible Noncitizens Who Received Mail Ballots*, CBS News (Oct. 14, 2026),
24 [https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-california-noncitizens-mail-](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-california-noncitizens-mail-ballots/)
25 [ballots/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-california-noncitizens-mail-ballots/).

26 ² *See id.*

27 ³ Nick Corasaniti, *From 16,000 to 185 to Zero: Trump’s Claims of Illegal Voting in*
28 *Nevada Fizzle*, N.Y. Times (Sep. 24, 2026),
[https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/24/us/politics/nevada-voters-homeland-security-](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/24/us/politics/nevada-voters-homeland-security-trump.html)
[trump.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/24/us/politics/nevada-voters-homeland-security-trump.html).

1 indicate that they were citizens,” and DHS provided no information to suggest
2 otherwise.⁴ Similar examples abound. An independent review in Travis County,
3 Texas, found that 25% of voters alleged by the federal government to be
4 “noncitizens” had already proven their citizenship. *League of Women Voters v. U.S.*
5 *Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 835 F. Supp. 3d 79, 115 (D.D.C. 2026). A separate manual
6 audit conducted by Utah found that, of 8,917 individuals flagged as “potential
7 noncitizens” by the federal government, nearly all were citizens.⁵

8 The government’s correspondence indicates that its data in California may
9 be similarly inaccurate. Secretary Mullin’s initial letter to Secretary Weber
10 indicated that there could be “as many as 190,832 non-citizens” registered to vote,
11 *see* Compl. Ex. A (Letter from Secretary Mullin); that number has been revised
12 downward significantly, though it remains indeterminate. *Compare* Compl. ¶ 46
13 (identifying “nearly 20,000” suspected noncitizens registered to vote), *with* Compl.
14 ¶ 47 (noting that the list provided to Defendants included “over 20,000 individuals”
15 it believes are noncitizens).

16 Finally, a federal whistleblower has described deeply troubling processes
17 that likely produced DOJ’s list. According to a September disclosure, officers
18 working for DHS’s “Unlawful Voter Initiative” were given less than two hours of
19 training, quotas of reviewing records for 40 voters a day (about 12 minutes each),
20 and unreliable data that likely included naturalized citizens.⁶ Officials described
21

22 ⁴ *See id.*

23 ⁵ Jack Friedman & Wren Orey, *Evaluating How the USCIS SAVE System Performs*
24 *in Practice: Evidence from Election Offices*, MIT Election Lab (Oct. 1, 2026),
25 [https://electionlab.mit.edu/articles/evaluating-how-uscis-save-system-performs-](https://electionlab.mit.edu/articles/evaluating-how-uscis-save-system-performs-practice)
26 [practice](https://electionlab.mit.edu/articles/evaluating-how-uscis-save-system-performs-practice).

27 ⁶ *See* Letter from Anonymous Whistleblower to Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator (Sep. 8,
28 2026), *available at* [https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/09.13.26-](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/09.13.26-Senate-Whistleblower-Letter-DHS-USCIS_combined_signed.pdf)
[Senate-Whistleblower-Letter-DHS-USCIS_combined_signed.pdf](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/09.13.26-Senate-Whistleblower-Letter-DHS-USCIS_combined_signed.pdf).

1 the data as compiled with “supplemental magic.”⁷ The disclosure also reports that
2 officers were directed to search California’s voter lookup system specifically using
3 individuals’ personal information.⁸

4 DOJ has now filed suit seeking extraordinary relief from this Court: an
5 injunction enjoining California from sending to or tabulating mail ballots from
6 registered voters on DOJ’s list of suspected noncitizens. Compl. ¶ 63.

7 **IV. Proposed Intervenorors have strong interests in preventing DOJ’s**
8 **demands.**

9 Proposed Intervenorors are dedicated to protecting the rights of California
10 voters, many of whom are naturalized citizens most likely to be wrongly flagged
11 by federal citizenship data. *See* Ex. A, Decl. of Huy Tran (“Tran Decl.”) ¶¶ 4–6;
12 Ex. B, Decl. of Angelica Razo (“Razo Decl.”) ¶¶ 5–6, 9. Each organization works
13 to register, educate, and turn out voters in communities historically excluded from
14 the political process. Tran Decl. ¶¶ 4–5, 7; Razo Decl. ¶¶ 3–5. And each is in the
15 middle of its get-out-the-vote program for an election in which ballots have already
16 been sent out to voters. *See* [Cal. Elec. Code § 3000.5\(a\)](#).

17 If DOJ obtains the relief it seeks, members who are eligible citizens could
18 have their ballots withheld, set aside, or left uncounted, with no notice of why they
19 were flagged and no opportunity to clear their names before the results are certified.
20 *See supra* Background § III. Proposed Intervenorors cannot ignore that kind of last-
21 minute disruption. They would have to pull staff and volunteers from planned get-
22 out-the-vote work to identify affected constituents, help them prove their
23 citizenship, and make sure their ballots are counted. Tran Decl. ¶ 11; Razo Decl.
24 ¶ 13.

25
26
27 ⁷ *Id.*
⁸ *Id.*

1 **SIREN.** SIREN is an advocacy and direct-services organization that
2 empowers immigrants and refugees through community education, organizing,
3 policy advocacy, civic engagement, and legal services. Tran Decl. ¶¶ 3–4. It has
4 roughly 120 members throughout California, and it serves a broader constituency
5 of immigrants, refugees, and naturalized citizens. *Id.* ¶ 4. A core part of SIREN’s
6 work is helping recently naturalized citizens register and vote for the first time. *Id.*
7 ¶ 6. Those voters face the greatest risk of being wrongly flagged as noncitizens,
8 because federal records often fail to reflect naturalization. *Id.* ¶¶ 14–15; *supra*
9 Background § III. Many already fear registering to vote will invite government
10 scrutiny, and enforcement of a secret federal list of “likely noncitizens” whose
11 ballots must be investigated and set aside would confirm those fears, undermining
12 SIREN’s mission. Tran Decl. ¶¶ 9, 14.

13 **Mi Familia en Acción.** MFA is a national nonprofit civic engagement
14 organization that works to build Latino political power by expanding the electorate
15 through citizenship assistance, voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-
16 vote programs. Razo Decl. ¶ 3–4. MFA and its affiliate, Mi Familia Vota, have a
17 long history of protecting the right to vote, including in litigation against the federal
18 government and state governments to eliminate voting restrictions that place
19 unlawful burdens on naturalized citizens. *See, e.g., Mi Familia Vota*, 719 F. Supp.
20 3d 929.

21 MFA’s work in California includes encouraging Latino voters and allied
22 communities to participate in the electoral process. Razo Decl. ¶¶ 4–5. In the next
23 few weeks before Election Day, MFA intends to engage with approximately 50,000
24 voters in California. *Id.* ¶ 7. As with SIREN, many of the individuals MFA serves
25 are naturalized citizens, who are the voters most likely to appear on a list generated
26 from outdated federal records. *Id.* ¶¶ 5–6. If DOJ’s demand succeeds, MFA would
27 have to divert staff and volunteers from voter turnout work in the final weeks of
28

1 the election to help those voters confirm their status and ensure their ballots are
2 counted. *Id.* ¶¶ 10–11, 13. And DOJ’s misguided and highly error-prone quest to
3 identify purported noncitizen voters deters eligible citizens that MFA seeks to bring
4 into the electorate. *Id.* ¶ 12.

5 LEGAL STANDARD

6 A party seeking to intervene as of right must satisfy four requirements:

7 (1) the applicant must timely move to intervene; (2) the
8 applicant must have a significantly protectable interest
9 relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the
10 action; (3) the applicant must be situated such that the
11 disposition of the action may impair or impede the party’s
12 ability to protect that interest; and (4) the applicant’s interest
13 must not be adequately represented by existing parties.

14 *Arakaki v. Cayetano*, 324 F.3d 1078, 1083 (9th Cir. 2003).

15 Rule 24(a)(2) “traditionally receives liberal construction in favor of
16 applicants for intervention,” *id.*, and the Ninth Circuit requires “interpret[ing] these
17 requirements broadly in favor of intervention,” guided by “practical considerations,
18 not technical distinctions.” *W. Watersheds Project v. Haaland*, 22 F.4th 828, 835
19 (9th Cir. 2022) (quoting *Citizens for Balanced Use v. Mont. Wilderness Ass’n*, 647
20 F.3d 893, 897 (9th Cir. 2011)). Courts must “take all well-pleaded, nonconclusory
21 allegations in the motion to intervene, the proposed complaint or answer in
22 intervention, and declarations supporting the motion as true absent sham, frivolity
23 or other objections.” *Sw. Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. Berg*, 268 F.3d 810, 820
24 (9th Cir. 2001).

25 “A motion for permissive intervention pursuant to Rule 24(b) is directed to
26 the sound discretion of the district court.” *San Jose Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. Dist.*
27 *Ct.*, 187 F.3d 1096, 1100 (9th Cir. 1999). Only two factors must be satisfied where,

as here, the intervening party does not intend to assert additional “new claims” for relief: (1) the motion must be timely and (2) the applicant’s claim or defense must have a question of law or fact in common with the main action. *Freedom from Religion Found. v. Geithner*, 644 F.3d 836, 841, 844 (9th Cir. 2011).⁹

ARGUMENT

I. Proposed Intervenors are entitled to intervene as of right.

A. This motion is timely.

Proposed Intervenors’ motion is indisputably timely. To make this determination, courts consider the totality of the circumstances, including “(1) the stage of the proceeding at which an applicant seeks to intervene; (2) the prejudice to other parties; and (3) the reason for and length of [any] delay.” *W. Watersheds Project*, 22 F.4th at 835–36. These factors are plainly satisfied as this motion comes merely hours after Plaintiff’s filing. *See Issa v. Newsom*, No. 2:20-cv-1044, 2020 WL 3074351, at *2 (E.D. Cal. June 10, 2020) (concluding motion to intervene was timely when filed before any “substantive proceedings have occurred”).

B. Proposed Intervenors’ interests are threatened by this action.

Proposed Intervenors also have several “significantly protectable interest[s]” at stake in this suit, all of which are at risk of being “impair[ed] or impede[d]” by the “disposition of the action.” *Arakaki*, 324 F.3d at 1083.

Each of Proposed Intervenors has a strong interest in ensuring that the members of the communities they serve can exercise their right to vote. Further, each of Proposed Intervenors has a distinct interest in preserving their own voter engagement efforts, which will be hampered by DOJ’s attempts to prevent lawfully

⁹ Rule 24(c) requires intervention motions to be “accompanied by a pleading.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(c). Proposed Intervenors attach a proposed Answer to ensure compliance with Rule 24(c), *see* Ex. C, though they also reserve the right to move to dismiss under Rule 12(b) at the appropriate juncture.

1 registered voters—and naturalized citizens in particular—from receiving and
2 voting mail ballots. The risk this suit poses to any of these interests supports
3 intervention as of right. *See Berg*, [268 F.3d at 822](#) (emphasizing these elements are
4 satisfied where a proposed intervenor is “substantially affected in a practical sense
5 by the determination made in an action”).

6 **1. The requested relief threatens Proposed Intervenor’s**
7 **voter engagement efforts and deters the voters they**
8 **serve.**

9 Proposed Intervenor has an interest in ensuring that their members and
10 constituents can participate in the upcoming election, free of unfounded threats or
11 unlawful restrictions. Promoting voter turnout and civic engagement is at the core
12 of each organization’s mission. Tran Decl. ¶ 5; Razo Decl. ¶ 3. DOJ’s attempt to
13 force California to deny these voters access to mail ballots—or impose
14 supplemental barriers to their participation in the voting process—based on
15 erroneous data is antithetical to those interests.

16 Courts routinely grant intervention as of right to civic organizations like
17 Proposed Intervenor that seek to protect their members and communities from
18 potential disenfranchisement or unlawful interference with their right to vote,
19 recognizing that they have “significant protectable organizational and associational
20 interests in protecting their own constituents’ voting rights.” *1789 Found. Inc. v.*
21 *Fontes*, No. CV-24-02987, [2025 WL 834919](#), at *3 (D. Ariz. Mar. 17, 2025); *see*
22 *also Jud. Watch, Inc. v. Ill. State Bd. of Elections*, No. 24 C 1867, [2024 WL](#)
23 [3454706](#), at *6 (N.D. Ill. July 18, 2024) (similar); *Bellitto v. Snipes*, No. 16-cv-
24 61474, [2016 WL 5118568](#), at *2 (S.D. Fla. Sep. 21, 2016) (similar). In *Judicial*
25 *Watch*, for example, the court found that two organizations representing voters had
26 “an associational interest in protecting their members from unlawful removal from
27 the voter rolls should Plaintiffs succeed in obtaining their requested relief.” 2024

1 [WL 3454706](#), at *3. Likewise, in *Bellitto*, the court found that an organization
2 representing tens of thousands of healthcare workers and retirees in Florida had a
3 protectable interest in avoiding “the court ordered ‘voter list maintenance’ sought
4 by Plaintiffs.” [2016 WL 5118568](#), at *1–2. Here, DOJ seeks an order requiring
5 California to refuse to send ballots to or tabulate ballots cast by lawfully registered
6 voters—but the threat to Proposed Intervenor’s members and constituents is the
7 same as if DOJ sought to remove them from the rolls: either way, eligible voters
8 would be denied the ability to cast a vote that counts.

9 In fact, harm to this particular interest—preserving the voting rights of
10 members and constituents—has often been found to satisfy Article III’s more
11 onerous standing requirements. *E.g.*, *Mi Familia Vota*, [719 F. Supp. 3d at 983–88](#)
12 (finding organizations had standing to protect members’ voting rights); *March for*
13 *Our Lives Idaho v. McGrane*, [697 F. Supp. 3d 1029, 1041–42](#) (D. Idaho 2023)
14 (similar), *appeal argued*, 24-6376 (9th Cir. Sep. 19, 2025). That this interest meets
15 the “more stringent” requirement of Article III “compels the conclusion that
16 [Proposed Intervenor] have an adequate interest” for purposes of Rule 24. *Yniguez*
17 *v. Arizona*, [939 F.2d 727, 735](#) (9th Cir. 1991).

18 Proposed Intervenor also have an acute interest in this action because the
19 relief DOJ seeks would deter the voters that Proposed Intervenor serve from
20 participating in the political process. Naturalized citizens in particular already vote
21 at much lower rates than other voters and are likely to be deterred from voting if
22 DOJ prevails—either because they are concerned that exercising their
23 constitutional right to vote will subject them and their families to false accusations
24 and inappropriate scrutiny, or because they believe their votes may not count and
25 so conclude voting is not worth it. Tran Decl. ¶ 15; Razo Decl. ¶ 12. This directly
26 threatens Proposed Intervenor’s mission-critical work of encouraging naturalized
27 citizens and others to register to vote and then vote. Tran Decl. ¶¶ 11–12, 16; Razo

Decl. ¶¶ 5–6. This, too, supports intervention. *See United States v. Oregon*, No. 6:25-cv-1666, [2025 WL 3496571](#), at *1 (D. Or. Dec. 5, 2025) (finding protectable interest that supports intervention when organization alleged DOJ’s requested relief would “deter qualified voters in marginalized communities from registering to vote in Oregon and engaging in the political process more broadly”).

2. The requested relief would make it more difficult for Proposed Intervenors to carry out their missions.

Each of the Proposed Intervenors expends significant organizational resources to promote voter registration and voting among their members and communities. Razo Decl. ¶¶ 3–7; Tran Decl. ¶¶ 5–6. SIREN, for example, trains its members and other volunteers to support its GOTV efforts through direct canvassing; this year’s training is tomorrow (October 16), and days of action are scheduled throughout the coming weeks. Tran Decl. ¶ 6. MFA similarly mobilizes voters through direct outreach and intends to engage with approximately 50,000 voters in California in the lead-up to the November election. Razo Decl. ¶ 7. The relief DOJ seeks would undercut these efforts, requiring Proposed Intervenors to divert time and resources towards staunching harm to these core activities, including with new and revised programs that account for the need to aid voters who are swept into DOJ’s unlawful eleventh-hour demand, and provide support to new voters, including naturalized citizens, who are deterred by DOJ’s continuous threats and accusations of unlawful voting. *See* Tran Decl. ¶ 15; Razo Decl. ¶ 12.

Courts have recognized that such threats to core organizational efforts constitute an impairment of a protectable interest under Rule 24. For example, the Fifth Circuit recognized impairment of a significant protectable interest where litigation “may change what” an organization “must do to prepare for upcoming elections.” *La Union del Pueblo Entero v. Abbott*, [29 F.4th 299, 307](#) (5th Cir. 2022) (reversing denial of intervention in election-related lawsuit). As there, Proposed

Intervenors here “will have to expend resources to educate their members on the shifting situation in the lead-up” to future elections if this suit is successful. *Id.* And the Ninth Circuit’s case law confirms that Rule 24 facilitates intervention precisely to avoid such “practical . . . impair[ments].” *Berg*, [268 F.3d at 818–22](#); *see also* *1789 Found.*, [2025 WL 834919](#), at *3–4 (granting intervention in part because of organizations’ interest in “preserving their financial resources”); *Jud. Watch, Inc.*, [2024 WL 3454706](#), at *3 (finding labor unions had “organizational interest in avoiding adverse reallocation of resources to protect the voting rights of their members”); *Issa*, [2020 WL 3074351](#), at *3 (finding significant protectable interest in organizations “diverting their limited resources to educate their members on the election procedures”); *Paher v. Cegavske*, No. 3:20-cv-243, [2020 WL 2042365](#), at *2 (D. Nev. Apr. 28, 2020) (finding “significant protectable interest” in “organizational intervenors’ efforts to promote the franchise”). Indeed, this too would satisfy even the more stringent requirement of Article III standing, and so necessarily supports finding a protectable interest in support of a Rule 24 motion. *See Mi Familia Vota*, [719 F. Supp. 3d at 985](#) (finding MFA’s affiliate had standing to challenge Arizona voting law that would “frustrate[] Mi Familia Vota’s mission and w[ould] require it to divert resources to counteract its effects”).

C. The existing parties do not adequately represent Proposed Intervenors’ interests.

Proposed Intervenors cannot be assured their interests will be represented absent intervention. “[T]he requirement of inadequacy of representation is satisfied if the applicant shows that representation of its interests ‘may be’ inadequate,” and therefore “the burden of making this showing is minimal.” *W. Expl. LLC v. U.S. Dep’t of Interior*, No. 3:15-cv-00491, [2016 WL 355122](#), at *3 (D. Nev. Jan. 28, 2016) (quoting *Sagebrush Rebellion, Inc. v. Watt*, [713 F.2d 525, 528](#) (9th Cir. 1983)) (emphasis added); *see also* *Trbovich v. United Mine Workers of Am.*, 404

1 U.S. 528, 538 n.10 (1972) (describing the burden of showing inadequate
2 representation as “minimal”). Accordingly, courts are “liberal in finding” this
3 requirement to be met because “there is good reason in most cases to suppose that
4 the applicant is the best judge of the representation of the applicant’s own
5 interests.” 7C *Wright & Miller’s Federal Practice & Procedure* § 1909 (3d ed.).
6 And the Ninth Circuit “stress[es] that intervention of right does not require an
7 absolute certainty . . . that existing parties will not adequately represent [an
8 intervenor’s] interests.” *Citizens for Balanced Use*, 647 F.3d at 900. Proposed
9 Intervenors readily surpass this low hurdle.

10 DOJ, of course, does not adequately represent Proposed Intervenors’
11 interests—its push to upend California elections and disenfranchise voters poses
12 the threat to Proposed Intervenors’ interest that they seek to defend against. Nor
13 can the government Defendants adequately represent Proposed Intervenors’
14 interests. As public officials, their decisions are “necessarily colored by [their] view
15 of the public welfare rather than the more parochial views of a proposed intervenor
16 whose interest is personal to it.” *Kleissler v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 157 F.3d 964, 972
17 (3d Cir. 1998). Recognizing the competing interests faced by public officials,
18 courts have “often concluded that governmental entities do not adequately
19 represent the interests of aspiring intervenors,” *Fund for Animals, Inc. v. Norton*,
20 322 F.3d 728, 736 (D.C. Cir. 2003)—even when they seek the same ultimate
21 outcome in litigation. *See GHP Mgmt. Corp. v. City of Los Angeles*, 339 F.R.D.
22 621, 624 (C.D. Cal. 2021) (explaining courts “have permitted intervention on the
23 government’s side in recognition that the intervenors’ interests are narrower than
24 that of the government and therefore may not be adequately represented” (quoting
25 *Arakaki*, 324 F.3d at 1087)); *Barke v. Banks*, No. 8:20-cv-358, 2020 WL 2315857,
26 at *3 (C.D. Cal. May 7, 2020) (collecting cases); *see also, e.g., Citizens for*
27 *Balanced Use*, 647 F.3d at 899 (similar).

1 In fact, the Supreme Court recently emphasized this point, explaining that
2 public officials must “bear in mind broader public-policy implications,” whereas
3 private litigants—like Proposed Intervenors—seek to vindicate their own rights
4 “full stop.” *Berger*, 597 U.S. at 195–96 (citing *Trbovich*, 404 U.S. at 538–39). The
5 Supreme Court thus instructed courts not to conduct the adequacy of representation
6 analysis at too “high [a] level of abstraction,” and reaffirmed that, even where the
7 parties’ interests “seem[] closely aligned,” the burden to demonstrate inadequate
8 representation remains “minimal” unless those interests are “identical.” *Id.* at 196
9 (citation omitted). Nor may interests be deemed “identical” merely because they
10 are “related.” *Id.* (quoting *Trbovich*, 404 U.S. at 538–39). Rather, “[w]here ‘the
11 absentee’s interest is similar to, but not identical with, that of one of the parties,’
12 that normally is not enough to trigger a presumption of adequate representation.”
13 *Id.* at 197 (quoting 7C *Wright & Miller’s Federal Practice & Procedure* § 1909).
14 In other words, even if the government Defendants also oppose the relief that DOJ
15 seeks at a high level of abstraction, it does not follow that they share “identical”
16 interests with Proposed Intervenors. *Id.* at 196–97.

17 Here, the interests of the government Defendants and Proposed Intervenors
18 diverge widely; they are plainly not “identical.” *Id.* Unlike Proposed Intervenors,
19 the government Defendants are charged with “easing barriers to registration and
20 voting, while at the same time protecting electoral integrity and the maintenance of
21 accurate voter rolls.” *Bellitto v. Snipes*, 935 F.3d. 1192, 1198 (11th Cir. 2019).
22 These competing goals “naturally create some tension.” *Id.* In contrast, as other
23 courts have recognized, organizations like Proposed Intervenors have “[t]he
24 mission and interest” to pursue only one of these interests, *Pub. Int. Legal Found.,*
25 *Inc. v. Winfrey*, 463 F. Supp. 3d. 795, 801 (E.D. Mich. 2020)—that is, to eliminate
26 “barriers to registration and voting,” *Bellitto*, 935 F.3d at 1198; *see also Oregon,*
27 2025 WL 3496571, at *2 (finding election officials “do not share” proposed

1 intervenors’ interest in “increasing voter participation by marginalized
2 communities”). As a result of these diverging interests, the government
3 Defendants’ representation of Proposed Intervenor cannot be presumed to be
4 adequate. *See United Guar. Residential Ins. Co. v. Phila. Sav. Fund Soc’y*, 819 F.2d
5 473, 475 (4th Cir. 1987) (explaining that, under *Trbovich*, “when a party to an
6 existing suit is obligated to serve two distinct interests, which, although related, are
7 not identical, another with one of those interests should be entitled to intervene”).

8 What’s more, the government Defendants are “elected officials, and like all
9 elected officials they have an interest in remaining politically popular and effective
10 leaders,” even if it means “compromising the proposed intervenors” interests.
11 *Clark v. Putnam Cnty.*, 168 F.3d 458, 462 (11th Cir. 1999) (citation modified). That
12 concern is particularly strong here because the federal government has threatened
13 to withhold grants, issue fines, and even pursue criminal prosecution against
14 election officials, like the government Defendants here, if they do not meet the
15 administration’s demands—considerations which “may incentivize them to make
16 compromises that Proposed Intervenor would not make.”¹⁰ *Oregon*, 2025 WL
17 3496571, at *2; *see also United States v. Benson*, No. 1:25-CV-1148, 2025 WL
18 3520406, at *6 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 9, 2025) (finding election officials’ incentive to
19 “comply with federal law” and “preserve comity with the federal government”
20 demonstrates they do not adequately represent private intervenors). Proposed
21 Intervenor, by contrast, will defend their interests with zeal, undeterred by the
22 federal government’s threats.

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25 ¹⁰ Rebecca Shabad, *Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin Threatens*
26 *States Over Elections*, NBC News (July 17, 2026),
27 [https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/homeland-security-secretary-](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/homeland-security-secretary-markwayne-mullin-threatens-states-election-rcna588002)
28 [markwayne-mullin-threatens-states-election-rcna588002](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/homeland-security-secretary-markwayne-mullin-threatens-states-election-rcna588002).

1 In sum, the government Defendants’ competing obligations mean that they
2 are unlikely to adequately represent Proposed Intervenor’s unburdened interest in
3 protecting and advancing the voting rights of their members and the communities
4 they represent, “full stop.” *Berger*, 597 U.S. at 195–96.

5 **II. The Court should alternatively grant permissive intervention.**

6 In the alternative, the Court should exercise its discretion to grant permissive
7 intervention. Proposed Intervenor’s assert a “defense that shares with the main
8 action a common question of law or fact,” and granting intervention would not
9 “unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication” of the matter. Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(1),
10 (3). Proposed Intervenor’s have also moved promptly, *see supra* Argument § I.A,
11 and agree to abide by any schedule set by the Court. And Proposed Intervenor’s
12 defense requires resolution of the same factual and legal issues raised in the
13 underlying lawsuit. *See* Ex. C (Proposed Answer).

14 Courts regularly grant permissive intervention to civic organizations to
15 ensure that a pro-voter perspective is offered—rather than only the views of a
16 plaintiff who seeks to deny voters access to mail ballots, and government officials
17 who are tasked with neutrally administering voting laws. *E.g.*, *Republican Nat’l*
18 *Comm. v. Aguilar*, No. 2:24-cv-518, 2024 WL 3409860, at *3 (D. Nev. July 12,
19 2024) (granting permissive intervention in NVRA case); *Winfrey*, 463 F. Supp. 3d
20 at 799 (same); Order at 1, *Jud. Watch, Inc. v. Pennsylvania*, No. 1:20-cv-708 (M.D.
21 Pa. Nov. 19, 2020), ECF No. 50 (same); Order at 2, *Daunt v. Benson*, No. 1:20-cv-
22 522 (W.D. Mich. Sep. 28, 2020), ECF No. 30 (same); Order at 4–5, *Voter Integrity*
23 *Project NC, Inc. v. Wake Cnty. Bd. of Elections*, No. 5:16-cv-683 (E.D.N.C. Dec.
24 1, 2016), ECF No. 26 (same); *League of Women Voters of N.C. v. North Carolina*,
25 No. 1:13-cv-660, 2014 WL 12770081, at *3 (M.D.N.C. Jan 27, 2014) (same as to
26 individual voters).

1 The Ninth Circuit has also identified additional considerations the Court may
2 consider in weighing permissive intervention requests. *See Callahan v. Brookdale*
3 *Senior Living Cmtys., Inc.*, [42 F.4th 1013, 1022](#) (9th Cir. 2022). Those
4 considerations—including Proposed Intervenor’s interests, the inadequacy of the
5 representation of those interests, and the intervenors’ contribution to the factual and
6 legal issues, *see id.*—buttress the case for intervention here. Proposed Intervenor
7 have significant interests at stake, *see supra* Argument § I.B, and their involvement
8 will center the rights of voters who are most likely to be impacted by DOJ’s attempt
9 to interfere with California’s voting procedures. *See, e.g., In re Exch. Union Co.*,
10 No. 24-mc-91645, [2025 WL 894652](#), at *3 (D. Mass. Mar. 24, 2025) (granting
11 permissive intervention to protect “privacy interest”).

12 In sum, because Rule 24 is read “broadly in favor of intervention,” *W.*
13 *Watersheds Project*, [22 F.4th at 835](#), and because Proposed Intervenor’s
14 participation will assist rather than prejudice efficient development and resolution
15 of this matter, the Court should grant permissive intervention in the event it does
16 not grant intervention as of right.

17 CONCLUSION

18 Proposed Intervenor respectfully request that this Court grant intervention
19 as of right, or, in the alternative, grant permissive intervention.
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1 Dated: October 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

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21
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24 ** Pro hac vice application forthcoming*

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The undersigned, counsel of record for Proposed Intervenor-Defendants SIREN and MFA certifies that this brief contains 6,342 words, which complies with the word limit of Local Rule 11-6.1.

Dated: October 15, 2026

/s/ Max Schoening
Max Schoening

Exhibit A

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA;
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, in her
official capacity as Secretary of State
of California; and DEAN C.
LOGAN, in his official capacity as
the County of Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk,

Defendants.

Case No: 2:26-cv-12025

**DECLARATION OF HUY TRAN
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
INTERVENE**

1 I, Huy Tran, hereby declare as follows:

2 1. I am a U.S. citizen, over the age of 18, am competent to testify, and
3 have personal knowledge of the facts and information set forth in this declaration.

4 2. I am the Executive Director of the Services, Immigrant Rights and
5 Education Network (“SIREN”). I have served in that position since May 2023. I was
6 initially named the Interim Executive Director and later appointed Executive
7 Director by SIREN’s board of directors in May 2024. In this role, I am responsible
8 for overseeing SIREN’s operations and all its daily activities. I am familiar with the
9 challenges—including those related to voting rights—faced by our members and the
10 immigrant communities we serve.

11 3. SIREN is a non-partisan organization based in San Jose, California, that
12 incorporated in 1998. Today, SIREN’s mission is to empower immigrants and
13 refugees through community education and organizing, leadership development,
14 policy advocacy, civic engagement, and legal services. SIREN’s core belief is that
15 all people are entitled to essential services, human dignity, basic rights and
16 protections, and access to full participation in society.

17 4. SIREN accomplishes its mission through the work and volunteerism of
18 its approximately 120 members—including fellows, interns, and participants in
19 SIREN’s youth program and our Comunidad, our general membership. SIREN’s
20 members are spread primarily throughout the Bay Area and the Central Valley, but
21 it has members throughout the State, including in Los Angeles County. Many of
22 SIREN’s members are registered voters. We also accomplish our mission through
23 our coalition work at the national, statewide, and local levels.

24 5. SIREN is unique among immigrant and refugee rights organizations in
25 that it combines policy work, community organizing, civic engagement, and direct
26 services. Because our work focuses on helping immigrants themselves become
27 agents of change, we work to encourage and help them participate in the political

1 process by voting. For this reason, voter-registration, voter-education, voter-
2 assistance, and get-out-the-vote (“GOTV”) programs are all critical components of
3 achieving our mission.

4 6. SIREN is now in the final weeks of its GOTV and voter-education
5 efforts for the November 2026 general election. These programs combine voter
6 education about how to register to vote and cast ballots in California with
7 information about issues that impact the communities SIREN serves. This work
8 includes person-to-person canvassing as well as messaging campaigns on various
9 platforms, and in these final weeks it focuses on helping voters in our communities
10 return their mail ballots and make sure their votes are counted. SIREN also hosts
11 candidate forums to help ensure that the California voters most affected by
12 immigrant-rights issues can hear directly from candidates. SIREN has planned its
13 staff time, volunteer capacity, and resources for the remainder of the election around
14 this work. In fact, our GOTV volunteer orientation is *tomorrow*, October 16, and we
15 have several key days of action planned: On Sunday, October 18, and the following
16 Sunday, October 25, SIREN’s members will be canvassing in the Central Valley.

17 7. Due to individuals, organizations, and government officials who are
18 increasingly advancing false narratives that noncitizens are voting in U.S. elections
19 and exploiting government services, SIREN, its members, and the communities
20 SIREN serves have become the subject of aggressive retaliation for our advocacy
21 for the rights and dignity of immigrants.

22 8. Unfortunately, SIREN and its members have also been singled out and
23 targeted by federal officials who disagree with our mission. For example, in the
24 summer of 2025, SIREN received a letter from the U.S. House Committee on
25 Homeland Security requesting that SIREN provide information about its members
26 and complete a survey. The Committee also requested that SIREN turn over
27 sensitive documents related to SIREN’s funding, contracts, and all services provided
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1 to immigrants, including legal services, translation services, transportation, and
2 housing. The federal government's unwarranted scrutiny of immigrant communities
3 has placed SIREN on high alert.

4 9. I understand that the Department of Justice ("DOJ") has sued
5 California, asking the Court to order the State to withhold mail ballots from, and to
6 set aside and refuse to count ballots cast by, roughly 20,000 registered voters whom
7 the federal government has identified as "likely noncitizens."

8 10. California counties began mailing ballots to registered voters weeks
9 ago. Voting is already underway, including by SIREN's members. If DOJ succeeds,
10 voters in the communities SIREN serves in California (and possibly even SIREN's
11 members) will be at risk of having their ballots withheld, set aside, or left uncounted.
12 This is of particular concern because these communities and our membership include
13 many naturalized citizens, who are the most likely to be wrongly flagged by federal
14 citizenship data (as I discuss more below), as well as migrant workers who often
15 leave their residences for extended time periods, making them more likely to miss a
16 notice from local election authorities asking them to confirm their eligibility. Voters
17 whose ballots are set aside may not even realize it has happened or be able to prove
18 their citizenship in time for their ballots to be counted and therefore may be
19 disenfranchised. It is critical to SIREN's mission, and the programming serving that
20 mission, that SIREN's members' and other voters' right to vote is secure and free
21 from last-minute meddling by federal agencies.

22 11. SIREN would need to re-tool its civic engagement and GOTV
23 programs in the middle of an election if DOJ is successful in this lawsuit. To mitigate
24 the impact of DOJ's demands, SIREN would need to develop programs to help its
25 members and other voters check whether their ballots have been received and
26 counted, and gather the required documents to prove their citizenship in time for
27 their votes to count if they are set aside under DOJ's relief. These efforts would
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1 require SIREN to spend significant time and resources on new programming,
2 including creating materials, re-training volunteers for an altered landscape, and
3 fielding questions from worried community members, *all within a matter of days*.
4 This will divert SIREN's limited resources from other mission-critical work at the
5 very moment those resources are most needed, but it is a necessary response as
6 SIREN's GOTV and other engagement work would be less impactful if our members
7 and others in the communities we serve cannot have their votes counted, or have to
8 face additional hurdles to do so.

9 12. The timing of DOJ's demands makes these injuries to SIREN all the
10 worse. The final weeks before Election Day are the most important period of
11 SIREN's civic engagement work, and (as noted) SIREN has already planned its staff
12 time, volunteer capacity, and resources for this period around turning out voters and
13 helping them return their ballots.

14 13. I am also extremely concerned that DOJ is using this lawsuit to
15 accomplish what it could not accomplish through prior litigation. In 2025, SIREN
16 helped successfully defend a case where DOJ attempted to force California to turn
17 over its unredacted voter registration list, which included personal information of
18 SIREN members. Due in part to the arguments advanced by SIREN and its co-
19 intervenors, the court dismissed DOJ's efforts to obtain California's voter list in that
20 lawsuit.¹ And SIREN successfully intervened in a separate lawsuit filed by a political
21 candidate seeking to force California to remove more voters from its rolls.²

22 14. I understand that DOJ's list was likely generated by matching voter
23 information against unreliable federal databases, putting SIREN members and the
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26 ¹ See *United States v. Weber*, [816 F. Supp. 3d 1168](#) (C.D. Cal. 2026), *argued*, No.
27 26-1232 (9th Cir. May 19, 2026).

28 ² See *Wagner v. Weber*, No. 8:26-cv-01263, ECF No. 35 (C.D. Cal.).

1 communities we serve, which include many naturalized citizens, at risk of being
2 inaccurately flagged as ineligible voters. SIREN is aware that courts have found that
3 the federal citizenship data is often out-of-date and unreliable in determining an
4 individual's citizenship status for purposes of voter registration. Naturalized
5 citizens, for example, have provided evidence to courts that their registrations have
6 been revoked and questioned due to inaccurate Social Security Administration
7 records.

8 15. Given this reality, I am unfortunately confident that DOJ's demands
9 will intimidate and deter our members and constituents from engaging in the political
10 process for fear of the federal government improperly scrutinizing them. SIREN's
11 core civic engagement efforts specifically include assisting recently naturalized
12 citizens and those who just turned eighteen with the voter registration and voting
13 process. We have spent decades building up a reputation for trust among the
14 communities we serve. We are proud to engage in this important work, but that work
15 becomes significantly more difficult if community members believe their ballots will
16 not be counted, or that they could be punished, scrutinized, or investigated, or that
17 they could put their families at risk, simply by registering to vote and casting a ballot.

18 16. If DOJ is successful in forcing the State to withhold, set aside, or refuse
19 to count ballots on the eve of the election, SIREN will be forced to expend its limited
20 resources not only to ensure voters' ballots are counted, but to rebuild trust among
21 these communities to continue engaging in the organization's core work.
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1 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
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4 Executed On: 10/15/2026

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6 Huy Tran
7 Huy Tran
8 Executive Director, SIREN
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Exhibit B

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

V.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA;
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, in her
official capacity as Secretary of State
of California; and DEAN C.
LOGAN, in his official capacity as
the County of Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk,
Defendants.

Case No: 2:26-cv-12025

**DECLARATION OF
ANGELICA RAZO IN
SUPPORT OF MI FAMILIA EN
ACCIÓN'S MOTION TO
INTERVENE AS DEFENDANT**

1 I, Angelica Razo, hereby declare as follows:

2 1. I am a U.S. citizen, over the age of 18, am competent to testify, and
3 have personal knowledge of the facts and information set forth in this declaration.

4 2. I am National Director of Campaigns and Programs of Mi Familia en
5 Acción (“MFA”). I have served in that position since April 2025. I am responsible
6 for overseeing MFA’s state strategies and local plans, which includes providing
7 support to our state chapters. I also oversee our state leadership teams and support
8 our national strategic efforts.

9 3. MFA is a national, non-profit civic engagement organization with a
10 mission of uniting Latino, immigrant, and allied communities to promote social and
11 economic justice through increased civic participation. MFA and its sister
12 organization Mi Familia Vota encourage non-partisan voter registration and voter
13 participation and have challenged voter suppression around the nation. *See, e.g., Mi*
14 *Familia Vota v. Fontes*, 129 F.4th 691 (9th Cir. 2025), *cert. granted sub nom.*
15 *Republican Nat’l Comm. v. Mi Familia Vota*, 146 S. Ct. 2799 (2026). MFA has
16 operations in eight states, including California.

17 4. MFA’s operations in California include voter registration, voter
18 education, and voter mobilization programs, particularly among the Latino,
19 immigrant, and allied communities. MFA focuses on engaging low-propensity
20 voters who may not be served by other organizations. MFA has helped countless
21 Californians register to vote and has also conducted voter education and get-out-the-
22 vote campaigns.

23 5. The communities MFA serves in California include recently
24 naturalized citizens. MFA is dedicated to ensuring that naturalized citizens have
25 access to the franchise on the same terms as all other citizens. To accomplish that,
26 MFA has dedicated substantial resources to registering naturalized citizens,
27 encouraging them to vote, and educating them about their rights as voters. This work
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1 is particularly important for naturalized citizens because many are not aware of their
2 rights; in fact, rates of voter registration and voter participation are historically lower
3 for naturalized citizens than other groups.

4 6. I know from my work and the work of others at MFA that many
5 naturalized citizens are also hesitant to register to vote and to vote because of threats
6 made against them and their families by public officials, particularly under the
7 current administration. Many naturalized citizens fear that they may expose
8 themselves to extra scrutiny or retaliation if they exercise their constitutional right
9 to vote. MFA works to dispel such concerns so that naturalized citizens are not
10 deterred from participating in our democracy.

11 7. The midterm elections in California are already underway, as is MFA's
12 work in California relating to those elections. MFA has already dedicated significant
13 resources to encouraging voters in the communities it serves to register to vote and
14 to vote, including by mail. And MFA will continue to do so in the weeks leading up
15 to the election, which will conclude in just a few short weeks. In the upcoming weeks
16 MFA intends to engage with approximately 50,000 voters in California.

17 8. I understand that the Department of Justice ("DOJ") has sued
18 California, asking the Court to order the State not to tabulate vote-by-mail ballots
19 from individuals that the federal government identified as possible noncitizens,
20 unless their citizenship can be confirmed.

21 9. I also understand that when the federal government and state
22 governments have previously tried to create lists of suspected noncitizens on voter
23 rolls, the error rates have been extraordinarily high, with many *citizens*—particularly
24 naturalized citizens, whose records in various government databases may not be up-
25 to-date or accurate—falsely misidentified as noncitizens.

26 10. California municipalities began mailing ballots to registered voters
27 earlier this month, and voting is already underway. If DOJ succeeds, voters in the
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1 communities MFA serves in California will be at risk of having their ballots—
2 including some that are already cast—set aside or left uncounted. This is of particular
3 concern because these communities include many naturalized citizens, who are the
4 most likely to be wrongly flagged by federal databases. Further, voters whose ballots
5 are set aside may not even realize it has happened or be able to prove their citizenship
6 in time for their ballots to be counted. The result will be disenfranchisement. It is
7 critical to MFA’s mission, and the programming serving that mission, that the right
8 to vote is secure and free from interference by federal agencies—including these last
9 minute wrongful efforts by DOJ.

10 11. If DOJ is successful and California sets aside or refuses to tabulate
11 ballots cast by thousands of registered voters, it would not only undermine and undo
12 much of the work MFA has already done, it would also severely impair MFA’s work
13 going forward in the final weeks before election day. Voters that MFA encouraged
14 to vote may well be included erroneously on DOJ’s list; if their ballots are not
15 counted because of DOJ’s extraordinary demand, MFA’s work encouraging them to
16 vote will be directly undone. Further, MFA would be forced to retool its programing
17 to attempt to identify impacted voters and assist them in proving their citizenship,
18 which for many voters is difficult. That would be time-consuming and resource-
19 intensive, detracting from MFA’s other mission-critical voter engagement work at a
20 particularly crucial time.

21 12. Making matters worse, many voters in the communities MFA serves
22 may be deterred from participating in voting at all given DOJ’s threats. Some may
23 conclude that voting exposes themselves to unnecessary risks of being misidentified
24 as a noncitizen. And some may conclude that, since their lawfully cast ballots may
25 never be counted, voting is not worth it. This would also directly undermine MFA’s
26 prior work and impair its work going forward for the 2026 election and beyond.

1 13. The timing of DOJ's demands further exacerbates these injuries to
2 MFA. The final weeks before Election Day are the most important period of MFA's
3 voter engagement work, and MFA has already planned its staff time, volunteer
4 capacity, and resources for this period around turning out voters and helping them
5 return their ballots. Every hour that MFA's staff and volunteers spend responding to
6 the chaos sowed by DOJ's demands is an hour they cannot spend helping voters in
7 our communities make sure their votes are counted and executing MFA's other
8 election programming. There is no time now for MFA to plan for, absorb, or recover
9 from this disruption; the lost staff time and volunteer energy is a total loss. And if
10 eligible voters' ballots are unjustly set aside or go uncounted in this election, that
11 harm obviously cannot be undone after Election Day.

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13 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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16 Executed On: 10/15/2026

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18 Angelica Razo
19 Angelica Razo

Exhibit C

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28 * *Pro hac vice application forthcoming*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, SHIRLEY
N. WEBER, in her official capacity as
Secretary of State of California, and
DEAN C. LOGAN, in his official
capacity as the County of Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk,
Defendants.

Case No: 2:26-cv-12025

**PROPOSED ANSWER OF
SERVICES, IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS AND EDUCATION
NETWORK AND MI FAMILIA
EN ACCIÓN**

Hearing Date: TBD*

Proposed Intervenor Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
("SIREN") and Mi Familia Vota en Acción ("MFA") answer Plaintiff's Complaint
(ECF No. 1) as follows:

INTRODUCTION¹

1. Paragraph 1 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
characterizations to which no response is required.

2. Paragraph 2 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is

¹ Headings are included because they appear in the Plaintiff's complaint; they are duplicated to aid
and assist in ease of comparison between the complaint and Intervenor-Defendants' answer. They are
not factual assertions and accordingly do not require a response. Their reproduction in this answer
should not be understood otherwise, nor should they be understood to make any admission on behalf
of Proposed Intervenor. To the extent the headings in Plaintiff's complaint are incorporated in their
allegations, they are denied.

1 required, Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the
2 truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 2 and therefore deny them.

3 3. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to
4 the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 3 and therefore deny them.

5 4. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to
6 the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 4 and therefore deny them.

7 5. Denied.

8 6. Paragraph 6 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
9 characterizations to which no response is required. Otherwise, Proposed Intervenor
10 deny the allegations.

11 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12 7. Paragraph 7 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
13 characterizations to which no response is required.

14 8. Denied.

15 9. Denied.

16 10. Denied.

17 11. Paragraph 11 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
18 characterizations to which no response is required.

19 12. Paragraph 12 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
20 characterizations to which no response is required.

21 **PARTIES**

22 13. Paragraph 13 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
23 characterizations to which no response is required.

24 14. Admitted.

25 15. Proposed Intervenor admit that Shirley Weber is the California
26 Secretary of State and that she is sued in her official capacity. The remaining
27
28

1 allegations in Paragraph 15 contain legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
2 characterizations to which no response is required.

3 16. Proposed Intervenors admit that Dean C. Logan is the County of Los
4 Angeles Registrar-Recorder / County Clerk. The remaining allegations in Paragraph
5 16 contain legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and characterizations to which
6 no response is required.

7 **LEGAL BACKGROUND**

8 **I. Federal Law Prohibits Noncitizens from Voting in Federal** 9 **Elections.**

10 17. Paragraph 17 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
11 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
12 required, Proposed Intervenors state that the quoted statute speaks for itself.

13 18. Paragraph 18 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
14 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
15 required, Proposed Intervenors state that the quoted statute speaks for itself.

16 19. Paragraph 19 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
17 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
18 required, Proposed Intervenors state that the quoted statutes speak for themselves.

19 20. Paragraph 20 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
20 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
21 required, Proposed Intervenors state that the quoted sources speak for themselves.

22 **II. California's Vote-By-Mail Regime**

23 **A. California's Vote-by-Mail Ballots**

24 21. Admitted.

25 22. Admitted.

1 23. Paragraph 23 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
2 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
3 required, Proposed Intervenor state that the quoted statute speaks for itself.

4 24. Paragraph 24 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
5 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
6 required, Proposed Intervenor state that the quoted statutes speak for themselves.

7 25. Paragraph 25 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
8 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
9 required, Proposed Intervenor state that the cited statutes speak for themselves.

10 **B. Election Officials Count a Vote-by-Mail Ballot if They Verify**
11 **the Signature**

12 26. Paragraph 26 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
13 characterizations to which no response is required. Otherwise, the quoted statutes
14 speak for themselves.

15 27. Paragraph 27 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
16 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
17 required, Proposed Intervenor state that the cited statutes and regulations speak for
18 themselves.

19 28. Paragraph 28 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
20 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
21 required, Proposed Intervenor state that the quoted regulations speak for
22 themselves.

23 29. Paragraph 29 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
24 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
25 required, Proposed Intervenor state that the cited statutes speak for themselves.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

30. Admitted that USCIS is responsible for adjudicating immigrant visa and naturalization applications. Proposed Intervenor otherwise lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 30 and therefore deny them.

31. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 31 and therefore deny them.

32. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 32 and therefore deny them.

I. Federal Agencies' Process to Identify Likely Noncitizens on Voter Rolls in Federal Elections

A. USCIS' Processes to Determine Likely Noncitizens on Voter Rolls

33. Admitted that California's redacted voter roll is available for purchase. Proposed Intervenor otherwise lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 33 and therefore deny them, including as to footnote 1.

34. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 34 and therefore deny them.

35. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 35 and therefore deny them.

36. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 36 and therefore deny them.

37. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 37 and therefore deny them.

38. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 38 and therefore deny them.

B. HSI's Processes to Determine Likely Noncitizens on Voter Rolls

39. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 39 and therefore deny them.

40. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 40 and therefore deny them.

41. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 41 and therefore deny them.

42. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 42 and therefore deny them.

43. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 43 and therefore deny them.

II. Federal Agencies Identified Likely Noncitizens Registered to Vote in California, and the United States Notified Defendants of these Voters.

44. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 44 and therefore deny them.

45. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 45 and therefore deny them.

46. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 46 and therefore deny them.

47. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 47 and therefore deny them.

48. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 48 and therefore deny them.

49. Admitted that the United States has sued California. Otherwise, denied.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

**Violation of the Supremacy Clause as Applied to California's Actions of
Knowingly Sending Vote-By-Mail Ballots to Likely Noncitizens and
Ultimately Counting Those Ballots in Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 611**

50. In response to Paragraph 50, Proposed Intervenor incorporate by reference each of their preceding admissions, denials, and statements as if fully set forth herein.

51. Paragraph 51 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and characterizations to which no response is required.

52. Paragraph 52 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and characterizations to which no response is required.

53. Paragraph 53 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor deny the allegations.

54. Paragraph 54 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and characterizations to which no response is required.

55. Paragraph 55 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and characterizations to which no response is required.

56. Paragraph 56 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Proposed Intervenor deny the allegations.

57. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 57 and therefore deny them.

58. Proposed Intervenor lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in Paragraph 58 and therefore deny them.

1 59. Paragraph 59 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
2 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
3 required, Proposed Intervenor deny the allegations.

4 60. Paragraph 60 contains legal contentions, conclusions, opinions, and
5 characterizations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is
6 required, Proposed Intervenor deny the allegations.

7 61. Denied.

8 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

9 The complaint includes a Prayer for Relief demanding equitable and declaratory
10 relief. Proposed Intervenor deny that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief in this action.

11 **GENERAL DENIAL**

12 Proposed Intervenor deny every allegation in Plaintiff's Complaint that is not
13 expressly admitted herein.

14 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

- 15 1. Plaintiff's claim is barred for lack of jurisdiction.
- 16 2. Plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
- 17 3. Plaintiff's claim and requests for relief are barred by equity, including
18 on the basis of laches.
- 19 4. The relief sought by Plaintiff is inconsistent with and foreclosed by
20 federal statutes and the United States Constitution.
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1 Dated: October 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

2 /s/ Max Schoening

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21 *Counsel for Proposed Intervenor-Defendants*

22 *SIREN and MFA*

23 ** Pro hac vice application forthcoming*

Exhibit D

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27 *Services, Immigrant Rights and Education*
28 *Network and Mi Familia en Acción*

* *Pro hac vice application forthcoming*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No: 26-cv-12025

**DECLARATION OF COUNSEL
TYLER L. BISHOP UNDER
LOCAL RULE 7-3**

Hearing Date: TBD*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA;
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, in her
official capacity as Secretary of State
of California; and DEAN C.
LOGAN, in his official capacity as
the County of Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk,

Defendants.

1 I, Tyler L. Bishop, hereby declare as follows:

2 1. I am a U.S. citizen, over the age of 18, am competent to testify, and
3 have personal knowledge of the facts and information set forth in this declaration.

4 2. I am an associate at Elias Law Group LLP. I am counsel for Services,
5 Immigrant Rights and Education Network (“SIREN”) and Mi Familia en Acción
6 (“MFA”), who are Proposed Intervenors in this matter.

7 3. I made a good-faith attempt to confer with counsel for Plaintiff and
8 Defendants about the relief sought by this Motion, as required by Local Rule 7-3.

9 4. I conferred with counsel for Defendant Secretary of State Shirley
10 Weber on October 15, 2026, by phone. Counsel for the Secretary indicated that she
11 would take no position on Proposed Intervenors’ motion.

12 5. I emailed Plaintiff’s counsel, on October 15, 2026, indicating Proposed
13 Intervenors’ intent to file the instant motion and attempting to schedule a telephonic
14 or video conference urgently, in light of Plaintiff’s stated intent to seek emergency
15 relief relating to the ongoing election. Plaintiff’s counsel proposed meeting and
16 conferring on October 20, 2026.

17 6. I informed Plaintiff’s counsel that we sought to confer on October 15,
18 2026, because Plaintiff seeks emergency relief. I offered to confer with Plaintiff’s
19 counsel at any time on October 15, by either telephone or video. Plaintiff’s counsel
20 responded that they are unavailable to confer until October 20, 2026, and did not
21 state Plaintiff’s position on the motion.

22

23 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

24 Executed on: October 15, 2026

25

26 /s/ Tyler L. Bishop
27 Tyler L. Bishop

28