

FILED

July 31, 2020

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

A20-1000

In re Minnesota Voters Alliance.

ORDER

Minnesota Voters Alliance and individual plaintiffs (collectively, Minnesota Voters Alliance) have filed petitions for a writ of mandamus in three judicial districts in Minnesota, challenging the appointment practices for absentee ballot boards in Minneapolis, Duluth, and Ramsey County. The petitions present substantially similar issues and will require consideration of essentially the same legal questions regarding the statutes that govern absentee ballot boards. Thus, the City of Minneapolis and its election officials move pursuant to Rule 113.03 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts for assignment of these cases to a single judge. The City of Duluth, Ramsey County, and Minnesota Voters Alliance agree that assignment of these cases to a single judge will promote an efficient resolution of the cases. In addition, in its response to the motion for interdistrict assignment, Minnesota Voters Alliance states that it expects to file a fourth case based on the same issues and statutes, in Olmsted County District Court.

Based on a review of the motion and the petitions filed in the district courts, it appears that the three pending cases present almost identical issues. Thus, assignment of these cases to a single judge in a single judicial district will provide an efficient process for managing

and resolving these cases, will prevent inconsistent rulings and eliminate duplicative litigation in different districts, and will conserve the resources of the parties, their counsel, and the judiciary. After consultation with the chief judges of the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Judicial Districts, the undersigned concludes that the cases should be assigned to a single judge in Ramsey County, in the Second Judicial District.

Based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to Minn. Gen. R. Prac. 113.03, and Minn. Stat. § 2.724, subd. 2 (2018), the Honorable Thomas A. Gilligan, Jr., Ramsey County District Court, Second Judicial District, having consented, is appointed to hear and decide all matters, including pretrial and trial proceedings, in the following cases currently filed in Minnesota district courts: *Minnesota Voters Alliance, et al. v. County of Ramsey, et al.*, 62-CV-20-4124 (Ramsey Cty. Dist. Ct.); *Minnesota Voters Alliance, et al. v. City of Minneapolis, et al.*, 62-CV-20-9085 (Hennepin Cty. Dist. Ct.); and *Minnesota Voters Alliance, et al. v. City of Duluth, et al.*, 69DU-CV-20-1252 (St. Louis Cty. Dist. Ct.). Any additional cases that may be filed on or before the general election on November 3, 2020, in any district court seeking declaratory, injunctive, or other relief with respect to the appointment practices for absentee ballot boards, shall also be assigned to Judge Gilligan. Any decisions regarding formal consolidation of the cases, for trial or other purposes, are left to the discretion of Judge Gilligan.

2. The Clerk of the Appellate Courts shall provide a copy of this order to Judge Gilligan, the chief judges of the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Judicial Districts, the district

administrators for the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Judicial Districts, and the State Court Administrator.

Dated: July 31, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lorie S. Gildea".

Lorie S. Gildea
Chief Justice