

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

SHELBI HINDEL, *et al.*,

*

Plaintiffs,

*

v.

*

Civil Action No. 2:15-cv-3061

JON A. HUSTED,

*

Defendant.

*

* * * * *

DECLARATION OF JAMES FETTER

I, James Fetter, declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and am competent to make this declaration.
2. I reside in Columbus, Ohio.
3. I am blind and a member of the National Federation of the Blind.
4. I am registered to vote in Ohio.
5. I use Job Access With Speech (“JA WS”) to access text on my computer. JA WS is a type of screen reader that converts the text on my computer screen into speech. I regularly use JA WS to surf the internet and fill out online forms.

6. My wife and I recently moved from Massillon, Ohio to Columbus, Ohio. In advance of the November 3, 2015 election, I attempted to update my voter registration to reflect my new address. I began trying to change my voter registration in October 2015 by visiting the Secretary of State’s voter services website.

7. Once I found the online voter registration change form within the voter services website, I could not independently fill out the form using JA WS. I had difficulty navigating the form and

entering the required information. When I tried to complete the form by checking required checkboxes, I was unable to do so because I could not check the checkboxes using JAWS. I know that the problem was not JAWS because when websites are designed to be accessible, I have no trouble navigating them and entering information into form fields.

8. Unable to change my address independently online, I asked my wife, who is sighted, to complete the online form. She was able to complete the online form in about two minutes.

9. Because I completed the change of address form so close to the election, I voted provisionally at my new polling location. My wife assisted me in completing the paper provisional ballot. Although I trust my wife to assist me with my ballot, I would not feel comfortable having someone other than she assist me if she were not available.

10. Although I prefer voting in person, I want the option of voting absentee because it is more convenient. In addition, after my negative experience voting in person in past elections, I may opt to vote absentee in the future elections to avoid repetition of what I have encountered. Although the poll workers have been very kind and tried to be helpful, they did not know how to set up the voting machine for my use. As a result, in order to vote, I had to have my wife read me the ballot and cast my votes for me.

11. I plan to vote in the March 15, 2016 presidential primary and want the option of voting absentee privately and independently in that election. I also want to be able to access information about the election on the voter services website by myself in advance of the March election.

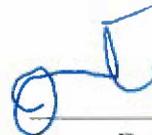
12. I cannot fill out a paper absentee ballot privately and independently. Because I am blind, I require sighted assistance to read printed text and to mark my selections on a paper ballot.

13. For the same reasons it is important to me to vote privately and independently at the polling place, it is just as important to me to vote privately and independently by absentee ballot. I want to vote for myself, not have my wife vote for me. I am also uncomfortable relying on strangers to mark my votes for me.

14. I would be able to vote absentee privately and independently if I could fill out my absentee ballot on my computer, using JAWS to read me the text of the ballot and my keyboard to make my selections. In light of the aforementioned difficulties with voting at my local precinct, I would very likely choose to vote by absentee ballot, if I could independently request and fill out the ballot.

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

Executed on: 12-07-15



James Fetter