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06-CV-00726-FINAFF

CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
BY [Signature] DEPUTY
MAY 24 2006
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES, as an organization and representative of its members; WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR REFORM NOW (ACORN), as an organization and representative of its members; ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE-AMERICANS OF GREATER SEATTLE, as an organization and representative of its members; CHINESE INFORMATION & SERVICE CENTER, as an organization and representative of its clients; FILIPINO AMERICAN POLITICAL ACTION GROUP OF WASHINGTON, as an organization and representative of its members; KOREAN AMERICAN VOTERS ALLIANCE, as an organization and representative of its members; SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU) – LOCAL 775, as an organization and representative of its members; and WASHINGTON CITIZEN ACTION, as an organization and representative of its members,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SAM REED, in his official capacity as Secretary of State for the State of Washington,

Defendant.

NO. CV06-0726 RSM

DECLARATION OF SHARI SONG IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

HILLIS CLARK MARTIN & PETERSON, P.S.

500 Galland Building, 1221 Second Ave
Seattle WA 98101-2925
206.623.1746; fax 206.623.7789

Declaration of Shari Song In Support of Plaintiffs' Motion For a Preliminary Injunction (CV06-0726)-Page 1 of 8

ORIGINAL

1 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Shari Song, hereby declare as follows:

2 1. My name is Shari Song. I reside in King County, and I am currently
3 registered to vote in Washington State.

4 2. Since March 2005, I have been the President of the Korean American Voters
5 Alliance ("KAVA"), a nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering the political unity
6 of Korean Americans in Washington State. Voter registration and strength in numbers are
7 absolutely critical to this empowerment.

8 3. KAVA is a Plaintiff in this matter. This declaration is based on personal
9 knowledge, except where otherwise noted.

10 4. KAVA was founded in 2002. We represent approximately 4,200 registered
11 Korean American voters across the state, mostly concentrated in the Seattle area. Although
12 we do not require dues as a condition of membership, many of our members also donate to
13 KAVA.

14 5. KAVA advocates on behalf of our members and the broader Korean
15 American community, with elected officials and with the general public. We are actively
16 engaged in small business concerns, voting rights, and other issues of interest to the Korean
17 American community. Our conventions and events bring lawmakers and Korean Americans
18 together for dialogue and relationship building. Our translated materials help people to
19 educate themselves about voting and civic participation.

20 6. Our involvement in public policy education, formation, and advocacy is
21 central to our utility to our members. It is critical to these advocacy efforts that our
22 members be recognized as active constituents of their elected officials. Voter registration is
23 a crucial component of this process.

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1 7. Our membership is restricted to registered voters. As part of our membership
2 recruitment activities, we regularly strive to ensure that as many eligible members of the
3 Korean American community as possible are registered to vote.

4 8. This year, as in the past, we plan to encourage Korean American citizens to
5 register to vote and to assist them directly in registering to vote, including assisting our
6 registered members with answering questions about and submitting changes to their voter
7 registration. We will educate our members and the general public in nonpartisan fashion
8 about the importance of registration and about how and where to register and vote.
9

10 9. In particular, we plan, as in the past, to assist citizens with voter registration
11 at Korean American community events and festivals. We also plan to maintain a presence
12 outside of Korean supermarkets, to register members of the community. One of our most
13 substantial voter registration drives will occur in conjunction with our annual convention for
14 the Korean American community. We have planned this convention for September 2006, in
15 part to ensure that registration applications completed at the convention are submitted by
16 Washington's voter registration deadline. We expect that between 1000 and 1500 members
17 and prospective members will attend.
18

19 10. We are also engaged in other efforts supporting voter registration. For
20 example, we staff volunteers to answer questions that KAVA members and other members
21 of the Korean American community may have about voter registration, and provide voter
22 registration forms—in both Korean and English—to those who request them. We also
23 dedicate a portion of our website to informing citizens about how and where to register to
24 vote, including a voter information guide published in Korean, complete with a translated
25 voter registration form, which is attached as Exhibit A. We will also support the efforts of
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1 partners and other affiliated organizations, both within and outside of the Korean American
2 community, to assist citizens with voter registration.

3 11. In the past few years, we have registered several hundred new voters per
4 year, and we expect that we will register similar numbers of voters this year. We generally
5 increase our voter registration activity in late summer and early fall, and likewise expect to
6 do so again this year.

7
8 12. I am familiar with many common errors and inconsistencies in databases
9 containing names, especially names of Korean American citizens. Many Korean American
10 given names have two syllables, which I have seen represented in inconsistent ways in
11 different sources – including inconsistent hyphenation or capitalization. For example, it
12 would not be unusual for one individual to be represented in different official records as
13 “Young Mee Kim,” “Young-mee Kim,” “Young-Mee Kim,” “Youngmee Kim,” or “Young
14 M. Kim,” or even with an “Americanized” name such as “Susan Kim” or “Susan Y. Kim.”
15

16
17 13. My own experience also shows that individuals may be represented
18 differently in different official sources. For many years, I considered my own name to be
19 “Shari Ahn” or “Sangmee Ahn” or “Shari Sangmee Ahn.” I was registered under one of
20 these names with the Social Security Administration, but because I considered each of these
21 my valid name, I am not sure which name I was listed under with the Social Security
22 Administration. I then married and changed my name to “Shari Ahn Song,” and registered
23 to vote under the name “Shari Ahn Song.” At the time I registered to vote, I had not yet
24 changed my name as listed in the records of the Social Security Administration. If
25 Washington State had attempted to compare my name on my voter registration form to my
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1 name as listed with the Social Security Administration, the names would not have matched
2 exactly.

3 14. I have reviewed RCW 29A.08.107. I understand that, pursuant to state law,
4 Washington State voters will not be registered to vote if the names, identifying numbers, and
5 other personal information on a voter registration form are not able to be matched with data
6 maintained by the State Department of Licensing or the U.S. Social Security Administration.
7 I understand that "matching" is an unreliable process. It is my firm belief that the risk of
8 disenfranchising eligible members as a result of unreliable "matching" procedures is too
9 high.
10

11
12 15. It is my firm belief that eligible members of KAVA who attempt to change
13 their registration information in 2006, and eligible non-members whom we encourage to
14 register or assist with registration in 2006, will not be registered to vote because the
15 Secretary of State is unable to "match" information on their voter registration forms.
16

17 16. When the information on the voter registration forms of our members or
18 prospective members is not "matched," we will have to divert substantial time and resources
19 from other programs to attempting to resolve the "matching" problem on our members'
20 behalf. In order to ensure that eligible members and non-members whom we encourage to
21 register or assist with registering are actually registered, we will have to devote additional
22 resources to proactive education and outreach concerning voter registration to these
23 communities, as well as to assisting individual would-be voters. These resources would
24 otherwise be earmarked for activities unrelated to voter registration.
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27 17. Even when this time and resources are diverted from other activities to
28 address the consequences of the "match" process, it is my firm belief that KAVA will not be

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1 able to ensure that citizens who attempt to register in 2006 with KAVA encouragement or
2 assistance will be registered to vote by the end of the year.

3 18. I believe that Washington State's refusal to register eligible citizens for
4 whom the Secretary of State is unable to "match" information to other government databases
5 will result in the disenfranchisement of both members and prospective members whom
6 KAVA encourages and assists to register to vote. Many of these citizens will be directly
7 harmed by the disenfranchisement.
8

9 19. Moreover, this disenfranchisement will impede KAVA's ability to fulfill its
10 organizational purposes, will frustrate its organizational goals and its efforts to advocate on
11 its members' behalf, and will render KAVA staff time and resources spent on voter
12 registration useless.
13

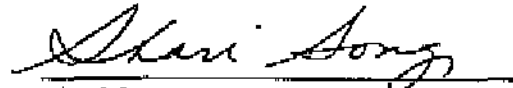
14 20. If Washington State is not enjoined from refusing to register voters whose
15 information cannot be "matched," KAVA members will suffer harm, and KAVA will suffer
16 harm, as the voters of this state are disenfranchised. For this reason, we respectfully request
17 that this court grant the relief we so urgently need.
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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: Bellevue, WA

May 23, 2006


Shari Song

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 24, 2006, I ~~electronically~~ filed this *Declaration of Shari Song* with the Clerk of the Court using the ~~CM/ECF system~~ which will send notification of such filing to the following:

N/A

and I hereby certify that I have sent for service via hand delivered by legal messenger to be served on May 25, 2006 this document to the following non CM/ECF participants:

Sam Reed, Secretary of State, State of Washington
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

Rob McKenna, Attorney General for the State of Washington
Office of the Attorney General
1125 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 24th day of May, 2006 at Seattle, Washington.

/s/ Sarah A. Dunne / *Sarah A. Dunne*
Sarah A. Dunne, WSBA #34869

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