IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

COMMON CAUSE GEORGIA, as an organization,

Plaintiff,

v. Case No. 18-cv-05102-AT

BRIAN KEMP, in his official capacity as Secretary of State of Georgia

Defendant.

DECLARATION OF JENNIFER ROSE FLANAGAN

JENNIFER ROSE FLANAGAN declares as follows:

1. I am currently the Vice President for State Operations at Common Cause. I work out of Common Cause’s office in Denver, Colorado. In this position, I work with Common Cause’s senior management team and I oversee all of the work of the state organizations of Common Cause in 35 states, including Common Cause Georgia. I have worked for Common Cause since 2004.
Although Common Cause has a number of different aspects to our mission, throughout my time working for the organization, a focus of my professional practice has largely been in the area of voting and elections.

2. Common Cause’s mission statement states that the organization is “dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy; . . . work[ing] to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest; promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all; and empower all people to make their voices heard in the political process.” As part of this mission, Common Cause is committed to ensuring that every eligible American, and every eligible Common Cause member, has the right to vote and the opportunity to exercise that right.

3. In order to achieve these goals, Common Cause undertakes many different projects and works to protect the right to vote in many different ways. For example, year-round, we work with local election officials to review voting laws and procedures to ensure that all eligible voters are able to vote and to have their votes counted accurately.

4. One of the many things that Common Cause does in connection with Election Day is to run the grassroots field operations of the National Election
Protection Program. One of my responsibilities is to oversee this work. As part of this program, we promote the use of a voter protection hotline (866-OUR-VOTE). Calls to this national hotline are answered by trained volunteer attorneys who address questions from voters before and on Election Day. We help coordinate this program and also support the field programs on the ground in 30 states, including Georgia. We also help recruit and train poll monitors (who can try to address problems on the ground at the polling places) and hotline volunteers (who handle more complicated questions that get raised).

5. On Election Day 2018—as I did on Election Day in 2012, 2014, and 2016—I worked at the hotline’s “command center” in Washington DC, where we monitored the efforts of all of the call centers across the country, including Georgia.

6. We train volunteers on the ground in individual states to try to address as many issues as possible that are brought to their attention. However, at the command center, we constantly check in with the local teams to better understand what issues are arising in each state. This year, Georgia received, by far, the greatest amount of attention at the command center.
7. Throughout the day, we were receiving complaints of multiple different problems in Georgia. We heard repeated complaints about voting machines not working, people being sent to the wrong polling places, eligible voters not being locatable on the rolls, misinformation from poll workers, and polling places running out of provisional ballots. Given the security issues concerning the Georgia voter registration database that were raised in the days leading up to Election Day, we were anticipating challenges in Georgia. However, we did not anticipate anything near the volume of problems that were brought to our attention. We had an exceptionally high volume of calls from Georgia as compared to other states.

8. As a result of these issues, at least 4-6 of us at the command center met frequently throughout the day to discuss what types of remedies might be available for the problems our teams were encountering on the ground in Georgia. The problems we most frequently discussed were long lines, the high use of provisional ballots, and the fact that a number of polling places ran out of provisional ballots. The issue of polling places running out of provisional ballots arose at polling places all over the state, and was very concerning because there was no clear plan for resolving the situation. We also received reports that voters
were checking their registration and voting location online but when they showed up to vote, they were being told they were at the wrong location.

9. All of the time and attention we had to spend on Georgia diverted Common Cause’s limited resources from other important issues. For example, all of this attention the senior management team at the command center spent on Georgia took time that we could have been focusing on issues arising in other states and helping other voters.

10. Another example is that Common Cause’s social media team had to focus a substantial amount of their time on getting out the message about the right to vote by provisional ballot in Georgia, rather than on issues in other states or the more general get-out-the-vote message they would otherwise have been focused on.

11. In addition, Common Cause’s team on the ground in Georgia had to change their focus and spend significant amount of time on addressing these issues rather than spending time encouraging eligible voters to vote and sending the message that we will help them if they need help, more generally.

12. Finally, as a result of all of the focus on Georgia, we had to send additional staff members to work on the ground in Georgia in advance of Election
Day. Had the security problems with the database not occurred and not caused us to anticipate greater needs in Georgia, we would have sent those staff members to other states. Other states and the command center were therefore understaffed as a direct result of the issues that arose in Georgia.

13. We also had to shift our volunteer priorities within the state to go to the polling locations with the longest lines to support voters, moving them away from other assigned locations.

14. Based on my prior experience at the command center on Election Day in 2012, 2014, and 2016, I can say that it was unusual to have to focus this much attention on just one state. While it is not unusual for isolated issues to arise in various states, and for there to be technical issues and long lines, I found it very unusual to have to spend so much time and resources on one state and to receive this volume of complaints from one state. Usually, the problems are more isolated and our management team can divide and conquer. In Georgia this year, that simply was not possible. We had 4-6 people at the command center essentially focused on Georgia at all times.

15. The media attention to the security issues with the Georgia voter registration database frustrated Common Cause’s mission to encourage increased
voter participation because there were competing narratives in the media
discouraging voter participation and impeding the ability of voters to vote with
confidence that their votes will be counted.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct
to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed this 8th day of November, 2018, in Denver, Colorado.

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Jennifer Rose Flanagan