

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE )  
OF THE NAACP, et al, )  
)  
Plaintiffs, )  
)  
v. ) 1:13-cv-00658  
)  
PATRICK LLOYD MCCRORY, in his )  
official capacity as Governor of )  
North Carolina, et al, )  
)  
Defendants. )

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH )  
CAROLINA, et al, )  
)  
Plaintiffs, )  
)  
v. ) 1:13-cv-00660  
)  
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, )  
et al, )  
)  
Defendants. )

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
)  
Plaintiff, )  
)  
v. ) 1:13-cv-00861  
)  
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, )  
et al, )  
)  
Defendants. )

ORDER

Before the court is a Joint Motion to Expand Page Limitations and Setting Other Procedures for Preliminary Injunction Briefing (Doc. 85) filed by Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-Intervenors and a Motion for Extension of Time to File Opposition Briefs and Reply Briefs (Doc. 115) filed by Defendants.<sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs filed a response opposing the Defendants' requested extension of the briefing deadlines. (Doc. 116.)

Plaintiffs oppose any extension of the briefing deadlines by relying on the fact that the briefing schedule was agreed to by the parties in December 2013. However, since then, the United States filed its preliminary injunction briefing totaling 70 pages (Doc. 97) and the remaining Plaintiffs filed an 80-page brief in support of their motion (Doc. 98-1). All Plaintiffs filed a joint appendix that contains approximately 2,775 pages. (Docs. 98-2 through 111.) Defendants have also moved for judgment on the pleadings with a brief that is 40 pages in length. (Doc. 95.)

The court is aware that Plaintiffs had filed a motion in April seeking an extension of the page limits for merits briefing, but the court had not acted on that motion. In the

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<sup>1</sup> The motions addressed have been filed in all three cases. For purposes of this order, the court will refer to the document numbers in case number 1:13CV861.

absence of a ruling, Local Rule 7.3(d) limits principal briefs to 20 pages and reply briefs to 10 pages. The Local Rule serves a practical purpose: to encourage the parties to focus their arguments efficiently.

To be sure, the parties could have separately filed briefs of 20 pages to combine their arguments in a fashion that would equal or exceed that which they have already filed. So, the court will not exalt form over substance and will allow the briefing. However, Plaintiffs' volume of material filed with the court renders the Defendants' request for some accommodation reasonable. Thus, Defendants' request will be granted in part. As the parties prepare for a hearing on motions for judgment on the pleadings and for preliminary injunction, they should bear in mind the importance of distilling their cases appropriately and presenting them efficiently.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that by close of business June 18, 2014, Defendants may file briefs responsive to the motion for preliminary injunction of no more than 80 pages, and Plaintiffs may file briefs responsive to the motion for judgment on the pleadings of no more than 40 pages. The deadline for replies is extended to June 30, 2014. Replies are limited to 30 pages for the preliminary injunction motions and 20 pages for the motion for judgment on the pleadings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the hearing on the motion for preliminary injunction and the motion for judgment on the pleadings is scheduled to begin Monday, July 7, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in Courtroom No. 2.

/s/ Thomas D. Schroeder  
United States District Judge

May 29, 2014  
5:49 p.m.