

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

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE, )  
OF THE NAACP, et al., )  
 )  
Plaintiffs, )  
 )  
v. ) 1:13CV658  
 )  
PATRICK LLOYD MCCRORY, in his )  
Official capacity as Governor of )  
North Carolina, et al., )  
 )  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH )  
CAROLINA, et al., )  
 )  
Plaintiffs, )  
 )  
v. ) 1:13CV660  
 )  
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, )  
et al., )  
 )  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. ) 1:13CV861  
 )  
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, )  
et al., )  
 )  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER**

Before the court is Defendants' objection to the Magistrate Judge's Order denying their motion to reschedule the trial date. (Doc. 209.)<sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs have responded. (Docs. 212, 213, 214.) The court held a telephone conference with the parties on the motion and objections on February 6, 2015.

Pursuant to the Guidelines for Resolving Scheduling Conflicts for State and Federal courts in North Carolina (see Doc. 209-2), this court has conferred with the Superior Court Judge presiding over the related case pending in State court, Currie et al. v. State of North Carolina et al., Case No. 13-CVS-1419. The courts have agreed, and this court hereby orders, that the trial or trials in the federal cases will begin on a date between July 6 and July 13, 2015, the exact starting date to be determined at a later time.

A related issue before the court is whether these captioned cases should be consolidated for trial. At the outset of these cases, the United States, with the consent of the Defendants, moved to consolidate all three cases for all purposes. (Doc. 17.) The NAACP and League of Women Voters, however, objected to

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<sup>1</sup> Because of the similar nature of the filings in these related cases, the court will refer to documents in case 1:13CV861, except where necessary to distinguish the cases.

consolidation for purposes beyond discovery at that time. (Id.) Because of this objection, the Magistrate Judge ordered the cases consolidated for discovery purposes only, expressly leaving open the issue of consolidation for trial. (Doc. 30.)

The court may consolidate these related cases for trial on the motion of a party or on its own motion. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a); Devlin v. Transp. Commc'ns Int'l Union, 175 F.3d 121, 130 (2d Cir. 1999); 9A Charles A. Wright et al., Federal Practice and Procedure § 2383 & n.17 (3d ed. 2008). The parties in all three cases are ORDERED to meet and confer on the propriety of consolidation of the three cases for trial. If the parties are in agreement as to consolidation for trial, they shall so inform the court in a joint filing by April 15, 2015; alternatively, if any party wishes to update its briefing on the United States' motion to consolidate (Doc. 17), it shall do so by April 15, 2015.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ Thomas D. Schroeder  
United States District Judge

March 31, 2015