DECLARATION OF MICHAEL SLATER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROJECT VOTE

I, Michael Slater, being of sound mind, declare as follows:

1. I am the Executive Director of Project Vote. In that capacity, I manage and oversee the various programs run by Project Vote in the areas of voter participation, election administration, and implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA").

2. Project Vote is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Louisiana, with headquarters in Washington, D.C, and an Ohio office located at 3615 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114. The mission of Project Vote is to strengthen American democracy by ensuring broad participation in the country’s civic life. We do this by trying to facilitate the registration and participation of as many eligible American voters as possible. In particular, we seek to promote political involvement by minority and low-income voters, whose voices we believe are marginalized in the current political process.

3. Specifically, we conduct three different programs in order to enhance participation in American democracy. First, we conduct a Voter Participation Program, as part of which we seek to register as many Americans to vote as possible and to encourage them to vote. Project Vote also provides professional training, management, evaluation, and technical services for voter engagement and voter participation activities in low and moderate-income communities in Ohio. Second, we conduct an Election Administration Program, in which we study and recommend best practices in every aspect of the implementation of elections, from the design of registration forms to provisional vote counting.
procedures. Finally, we conduct a National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Implementation Project, in which we seek to ensure that states are complying with the provisions of the NVRA that require them to offer voter registration services to clients of public assistance programs such as the federal food stamps program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF"), and Medicaid.

4. In addition to its work assisting eligible Ohio citizens to register to vote, Project Vote runs an extensive get-out-the-vote program and is developing plans for a simultaneous registration and get-out-the-vote program during the 5-day window of time in Ohio in which voters may register and cast an absentee ballot to be counted on November 4, 2008 as outlined in by Ohio Secretary of State, Jennifer Brunner, in Directive 2008-67. Plans for the registration and get out the vote project encompass various parts of the state, including the greater Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron and Toledo areas.

5. Project Vote has determined that individuals in the minority and low-income communities that it serves work long hours, often in multiple jobs, that transportation is less readily available, and that individuals in these communities are statistically more likely to change addresses frequently. Thus, the communities Project Vote serves would benefit from an opportunity to register, or update a registration, and vote in one visit to an election board. Moreover, long lines and a lack of sufficient voting machines have historically occurred in Ohio more often in minority and low-income communities than in the community at large, which has caused voters to leave the polls without casting a vote due to work or family obligations on Election Day. The ability to register and cast a ballot prior to Election Day would assist voters in those communities to exercise their franchise and have their voices counted. The denial of the right to register and cast an
absentee ballot during this period will detract from Project Vote's mission to facilitate the registration and participation of eligible Ohio voters in under-represented minority and low-income communities.

6. Project Vote has previously engaged in litigation to protect voting rights of members of the minority and low-income Ohio citizens in Project Vote v. Blackwell, , U.S. District Court, N.D. Ohio (Case 1:06-cv-01628-KMO), in addition to litigation in other states.

7. Many eligible Ohio citizens in the communities that Project Vote serves wish to register between now and October 6, 2008 and vote early, or help others register and vote early for the November 4, 2008 election. Due to the pending mandamus case filed by Rhonda Colvin and C. Douglas Moody, and the opinion issued by some Ohio county prosecutors to their boards of elections, Project Vote is deeply concerned the absentee ballots of eligible Ohio minority and low-income citizens may not be counted on Election Day.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Executed this 24 day of September 2008 in Salem, Oregon.

Michael Slater, Executive Director
Project Vote