# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT FAIRBANKS

The Alaska Democratic Party, Katie Hurley and Warren Keogh,	) ) )
Plaintiffs,	) ) )
V.	) )
Alaska Redistricting Board,	, ) )
Defendant.	) )

## ANSWER TO COMPLAINT AND APPLICATION TO COMPEL CORRECTION OF ERRORS IN PROCLAMATION OF REDISTRICTING (ALASKA CONSTITUTION, ART. IV, § 11)

COMES NOW Defendant, Alaska Redistricting Board ("the Board"), by and through counsel, Patton Boggs LLP, and hereby answers the Complaint and Application to Compel Correction of Errors in Proclamation of Redistricting filed by the Alaska Democratic Party, Katie Hurley and Warren Keogh ("Plaintiffs"), as follows:

I.

## PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Any factual allegation admitted to herein is admitted only to the specific fact in question, not as to any purported conclusions, characterizations, implications, or speculations contained therein or elsewhere in the Application. The denial of any factual allegations by the Board may not be construed as an admission of the negative of such allegation. The Board denies each and every allegation contained in the

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Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 263-6300 Fax: (907) 263-6345 Application, including any headings or subheadings, except as specifically admitted,

qualified, or otherwise responded to herein. The Board reserves its right to amend its

Answer and defenses to the Application.

II.

RESPONSES TO ALLEGATIONS IN THE APPLICATION

1. The Board lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny

the allegations contained in paragraph 1 of the Application, and therefore, denies the

same.

The Board lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny 2.

the allegations contained in paragraph 2 of the Application, and therefore, denies the

same.

The Board admits that the Alaska Democratic Party ("ADP") is a political 3.

The Board lacks sufficient information and knowledge to admit or deny the

remaining allegations contained in paragraph 3 of the Application, and therefore, denies

the same.

The Board admits it is a five-member board established by the Alaska 4.

Constitution whose duty it is to redistrict Alaska state election districts every ten years

after the official reporting of the decennial census of the United States. The Board

denies each and every other allegation in Paragraph 4 of the Application.

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ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD'S ANSWER TO ADP PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION Alaska Democratic Party, et. al v. Alaska Redistricting Board, Case No. 4FA-13-2435 CI 5. Paragraph 5 of the Application contains legal conclusions for which no

response is required. If a response by the Board is required, denied.

6. In response to the allegation in paragraph 6 of the Application, the Board

admits that this Court had jurisdiction over the subject matter of the complaint but

denies that the proper method for raising objections to the Board's 2013 Proclamation

Plan is through the filing of a complaint or application to correct errors.

7. In response to the allegations in paragraph 7 of the Application, the Board

admits that pursuant to Alaska R. Civ. P. 3, that Fourth Judicial District is a proper

venue for this Application, but denies that that the proper method for raising objections

to the Board's 2013 Proclamation Plan is through the filing of a complaint or

application to correct errors.

8. In response to paragraph 8 of the Application, the Board admits that on

June 13, 2011, it adopted its "Proclamation of Final Redistricting and Accompanying

Report" which contained a final plan for the redistricting of Alaska's legislative

districts. The Board further admits that on March 14, 2012, the Alaska Supreme Court

issued an order which held inter alia that the Board had failed to follow the proper

process (since come to be known as the "Hickel Process") for determining whether it

was necessary to depart from strict adherence to the Alaska Constitution in order to

comply with Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act and remanded the matter to the

Board.

PATTON BOGGS LLP 601 West Fifth Avenue

Suite 700 Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 263-6300 9. In response to paragraph 9 of the Application, the Board admits that on

April 5, 2012 the Board adopted its "Proclamation of Redistricting" for its "Amended

Proclamation Plan" as well as its "Written Findings in Support of Alaska Redistricting

Board's Amended Proclamation Plan." The Board further admits that on December 28,

2012, the Alaska Supreme Court issued an order which held inter alia that the Board

had failed to comply with its March 14, 2012 Order by not properly following the

Hickel Process and remanded the matter to the Board but reversed the trial court on two

other issues. The Board denies each and every other allegation in paragraph 9 of the

Application.

10. In response to paragraph 10 of the Application, the Board admits that it

adopted its "2013 Proclamation Plan," "Proclamation of Redistricting" and "Written

Findings in Support of the 2013 Proclamation Plan" on July 14, 2013. The Board

denies each and every other allegation in paragraph 10 of the complaint.

11. In response to paragraph 11 of the Application, the Board admits that

official reporting of the 2010 decennial census of the United States established that the

Matanuska-Susitna Borough ("Mat-Su Borough" or "MSB") had a population of 88,985

or approximately 5.01 ideal House seats. The Board further admits that the MSB

contains enough population for five House seats entirely within its boundaries without

including population from outside the MSB. The Board denies each and every other

allegation in paragraph 11 of the Application.

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Suite 700 Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 263-6300 Fax: (907) 263-6345 12. In response to paragraph 12 of the Application, the Board admits that

there are six House Districts in the 2013 Proclamation Plan (HD 7-12) which contain

people who reside within the boundaries of the MSB. The Board further admits that

House Districts 9 and 12 and Senate Districts E and F contain people who reside outside

the MSB.

13. Denied.

14. Denied

15. In response to paragraph 15 of the Application, the Board admits that

official reporting of the 2010 decennial census of the United States established that the

Kenai Peninsula Borough ("KPB") had a population of 55,400 (approximately 3.12

ideal House Districts.) The Board denies each and every other allegation in paragraph

15 of the Application.

16. In response to paragraph 16 of the Application, the Board admits that it is

theoretically possible, but not constitutionally mandated, to draw three House seats

entirely within the KPB without including population from outside the KPB or

including KPB residents in House districts outside the KPB, but denies any such

districts created would comply with the equal population requirements of the Alaska

Constitution.

17. In response to paragraph 17 of the Application, the Board admits that the

communities of Halibut Cove, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seldovia, and Tyonek are

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located in House District 32 in the 2013 Proclamation Plan. The Board denies each and every other allegation in paragraph 17 of the Application.

18. Denied.

Denied. 19.

In response to paragraph 20 of the Application, the Board admits that the 20. communities of Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Evensville and Hughes are located in House District 40 in the 2013 Proclamation Plan. The Board denies each and every other allegation in paragraph 20 of the Application.

In response to paragraph 21 of the Application, the Board admits that the 21. communities of Galena, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato, and Ruby are located in House District 39 in the 2013 Proclamation Plan. The Board denies each and every other allegation in paragraph 21 of the Application.

In response to paragraph 22 of the Application, the Board admits that the 22. communities of Anvik, Grayling, Holy Cross, McGrath, Nikolai, Shageluk, and Takotna are located in House District 37 in the 2013 Proclamation Plan. The Board denies each and every other allegation in paragraph 22 of the Application.

23. Denied.

24. Denied.

### AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Plaintiffs have failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted in 1. whole or in part.

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- 2. The Plaintiffs have followed the incorrect process for making challenges and/or objections to a remanded redistricting plan.
- 3. Certain prayers for relief by Plaintiffs violate the separation of powers doctrine and Article VI, Section 11 of the Alaska Constitution.

WHEREFORE, having answered the Application, the Board prays for the following relief:

- A. An order dismissing Plaintiffs' Application with prejudice;
- B. An award of the costs and attorneys' fees the Board incurred in defending this action, and,
  - C. For such other and further relief that this Court deems just and equitable.
     DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2013.

PATTON BOGGS LLP Counsel for Defendant Alaska Redistricting Board

By:

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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 27th day of August 2013, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on the following via:

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