

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY
No. SJ-2026-0053

**FRANKLIN WENDELL HOBBS, ELENI KALFUS, DEANZA COOK, ALAN TANNER,
KADEEM FOREMAN, AND JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ**

v.

**WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN, SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MA, IN
HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY**

ORDER

This matter came before the Court, Gaziano, J., on the Plaintiffs' complaint for relief in the nature of mandamus, filed on February 3, 2026, seeking an order from this Court ordering Respondent to comply with his mandatory duty to submit certain reports required by G.L. c. 54, § 25C(g). The parties subsequently entered into settlement discussions in an attempt to resolve this matter. The parties have now agreed and entered into a Stipulated Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit A, setting forth steps they have agreed will resolve this matter.

Upon agreement of the parties and for good cause shown, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. By no later than June 1, 2026, Respondent shall submit to this Court and to the Joint Committee on Election Laws reports that comply with G.L. c. 54, § 25C(g) for the September 3, 2024 and November 5, 2024 statewide elections.

2. Extensions of the deadline set forth in paragraph (1) of this Order shall only be granted upon a showing of good cause.
3. To ensure progress toward this deadline and continued compliance with the law, Respondent shall submit status reports to Petitioners on or before March 27, 2026; April 17, 2026; May 22, 2026; July 1, 2026; September 1, 2026; November 1, 2026; January 1, 2027; and March 1, 2027, reflecting steps taken in accordance with the parties' Stipulated Agreement. To the extent any issues arise relating to the timing of the status reports referenced in this paragraph, Petitioners and Respondent shall make good faith efforts to collaboratively resolve them.
4. Upon completion of the reports required by paragraph 1 and the March 27, 2026; April 17, 2026; May 22, 2026; July 1, 2026; September 1, 2026; and November 1, 2026 reports required by paragraph 3, the Court shall dismiss this action, unless it determines that there is good cause to keep it open longer.

By the Court, (Gaziano, J.)



Allison S. Cartwright, Clerk

Dated: March 9, 2026

Exhibit A

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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**WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN, SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MA, IN
HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY**

STIPULATED AGREEMENT

It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and between the parties that the Respondent shall:

1. By no later March 27, 2026:
 - Combine data received from all facilities, submitted pursuant to G.L. c. 54, § 25C(f)(1), for the September 3, 2024 and November 5, 2024 statewide elections; and
 - Clean and standardize data, which includes but is not limited to: review and resolve issues with name fields, review and resolve duplicate entries, review and resolve issues with citizenship field, review and resolve issues with city and town fields.
2. By no later than April 17, 2026:
 - Match data received from all facilities – combined, cleaned, and standardized pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Stipulated Agreement – against state voter data for the September 3, 2024 and November 5, 2024 statewide elections.
 - This matching includes but is not limited to: using criteria of first name, last name, and date of birth; using criteria of last name and first initial; searching for voters with a residence at a known facility; and reviewing mailing addresses.
3. By no later than May 22, 2026:
 - For all matches identified pursuant to paragraph (2) of this Stipulated Agreement, review state voter records for each individual to compile information on whether a ballot was mailed, if ballot was returned, whether ballot was rejected, and the reason for rejection, if applicable;
 - Follow up with local election officials as needed to gather

information required by paragraph (3) (a) of this Stipulated Agreement;

- Sort data by city/town; and
- Create pivot tables to identify the number of eligible voters in each city/town for the September 3, 2024 and November 5, 2024 statewide elections, and manually review data for errors.

4. By no later than June 1, 2026:

- a. Submit to this Court and to the Joint Committee on Election Laws reports that comply with G.L. c. 54, § 25C(g) for the September 3, 2024 and November 5, 2024 statewide elections.

5. Submit status reports to the Petitioners on or before March 27, 2026; April 17, 2026; and May 22, 2026, setting forth compliance with the steps listed in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this Stipulated Agreement.

6. Submit status reports to the Petitioners on or before July 1, 2026; September 1, 2026; November 1, 2026; January 1, 2027; and March 1, 2027 that include, but are not limited to:

- The Secretary's improvements to existing processes and mechanisms for data collection and analysis to streamline reports required by G.L. c. 54, § 25C(g) before the next applicable statewide election on September 1, 2026;
- The Secretary's progress toward generating complete and timely reports in accordance with G.L. c. 54, § 25C(g) with respect to the next two applicable statewide elections, to be held on September 1, 2026 and November 3, 2026.

Date: March 6, 2026

/s/ Brooke Simone

Counsel for Petitioners
Brooke Simone
Lawyers for Civil Rights

/s/ Arabela Thomas

Counsel for Respondent
Arabela Thomas
Attorney General's Office