STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF CLAIMS

MICHELLE McQUEER, individually and in her capacity as Bridgwater Township Clerk,

Plaintiff,

and

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL PARTY and MICHIGAN REPUBLICAN PARTY,

Intervening Plaintiffs,

v

Case No. 26-000172-MZ

Hon. Michael J. Riordan

JOCELYN BENSON, in her official capacity as Michigan Secretary of State, JONATHAN BRATER, in his Official Capacity as Director of Elections, and MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Defendants.
_____ /

OPINION AND ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' 10/8/26 MOTION TO SEAL

On the afternoon of October 8, 2026, defendants filed an emergency motion to seal Attachments 1, 2, and 3 to Exhibit 2 to plaintiff's October 7, 2026 motion for summary disposition. Because plaintiff did not file the exhibits and attachments separately, the Court temporarily made plaintiff's motion for summary disposition nonpublic pending the Court's resolution of this motion as required by MCR 8.119(I)(4). The Court now GRANTS defendants' motion to seal.

A court may seal "court records, in whole or in part," to protect a "specific interest" for good cause and when there is no less restrictive means to protect the cited interest. MCR

8.119(I)(1). In determining whether good cause exists, a court must consider the interests of the parties and the public. MCR 8.119(I)(2).

Defendants seek to seal unredacted extracts taken from the May 2026 *Election Day Electronic Pollbook Manual for Election Administrators* and the April 2026 *Election Day Electronic Pollbook: Election Inspector Manual*. These excerpts were downloaded from the Michigan eLearning Center. Plaintiff has access to the Center as an elected township clerk and the chief election administrator in her jurisdiction. The Center's portal instructs account holders that "Information on eLearning is owned and maintained by the Bureau of Elections and cannot be shared with individuals who do not have eLearning accounts." Members of the public who wish to access information on the site must make a public record request to the Bureau directly. This alone supports granting defendants' motion to seal. However, the Court further notes that defendants have cited a significant interest to be protected by sealing these specific attachments: shielding from public view and cyber criminals step-by-step instructions to accessing, manipulating, and altering electronic pollbooks and the qualified voter file.

Defendants also seek to seal an Activity Log Report generated from Bridgewater Township's EPB for the August 4, 2026 primary election. Defendants contend that the Report includes "username" information. The Court reviewed the Report and observed no "username" information. The document is already partially redacted and voter names have been hidden. The Report includes a "User Time Stamp" with a generic administrator code, which may be of concern to defendants. The Court will also seal this Report but does not share defendants' concern that plaintiff engaged in any misconduct in presenting this exhibit.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Court GRANTS defendants' motion to seal Exhibit 2, Attachments 1, 2, and 3 to plaintiff's October 7, 2026 motion for summary disposition.

2. Because plaintiff did not separately bookmark the motion exhibits, plaintiff is directed to file an amended motion for summary disposition with Exhibit 2, Attachments 1, 2, and 3 filed separately under seal by the close of business today.

3. The intervening plaintiffs are directed to maintain the subject exhibits in a secure location and to preserve their confidentiality, and to destroy the subject exhibits at the close of this action.

4. This is not a final order.

Date: October 9, 2026

Michael J. Riordan
Judge, Court of Claims