



27 School Street, Ste. 500
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 624-3900
(617) 624-3911 (fax)
<http://www.nvri.org>

November 17, 2004

Dear Director:

We write you on behalf of our clients, Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb and Libertarian Party presidential candidate Michael Badnarik. Mr. Cobb and Mr. Badnarik plan to exercise their rights under Ohio law to seek a full recount of all votes cast for President of the United States in the 2004 election (Ohio Revised Code, Section 3515.02).

While Ohio law provides that an application for a recount “shall be filed within five days after the day upon which the board of elections of such county declares the results of such election,” (Ohio Revised Code, Section 3515.02), Ohio law makes no reference to a recount demand filed in a presidential election. As you know, the Electoral College is scheduled to convene in the state capitol of every state on December 13, 2004, for the casting of the electors’ votes for President. Your office has stated publicly that the certification of the results of the 2004 election in Ohio will occur around December 6, 2004. Assuming certification occurs on December 6 and that the recount were to begin immediately on that day in every county in Ohio, this would only allow for seven days for Ohio election officials to conduct a full recount of all of the votes cast in Ohio for President prior to the electors’ meeting in Columbus on December 13.

Such a timeframe will not allow for a meaningful recount and will undermine our clients’ rights under applicable law, including the Ohio recount law. Further, the lack of a meaningful recount will also violate the rights under federal and state constitutional and statutory law of all Ohio citizens who cast a ballot for President on Election Day, including the right to vote as guaranteed under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and under Article 5 of the Ohio Constitution.

We will separately file, on behalf of our clients, the necessary demands with each County Board of Elections in Ohio and will post the necessary bonds for such a recount as required by statute (Ohio Revised Code, Section 3515.03). We are sending you this letter now so that you may begin making preparations for the recount, including initiating appropriate procedures. Immediate action is necessary so that the recount procedures may begin as soon as possible. We also wish to meet with you immediately in person or by phone to discuss the prompt initiation of the recount in every county in Ohio prior to the certification of the election results and the prompt initiation of related procedures and disclosures necessary for a meaningful recount.

We request a response to this letter via email, phone, or fax by noon, Friday, November 19, 2004. Please direct your response to John Bonifaz, co-counsel for Mr. Cobb and Mr. Badnarik. Please include in your response whether you will commence the recount procedures in advance

of the certification, upon receipt of the bonds at the county boards of elections. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John C. Bonifaz
General Counsel
National Voting Rights Institute
27 School Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 624-3900, ext. 22
(617) 624-3911 (fax)
jbonifaz@nvri.orgT

Nancy Holland Myers
Holland Myers & Myers
159 South Main Street
815 Key Building
Akron, Ohio 44308
(330) 535-1202