

CAUSE NO. 2024-72883

STEVEN HOTZE, M.D., JOSEPH L.	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
TRAHAN, AND CAROLINE KANE,	§	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>	§	
	§	
v.	§	
	§	157 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ANN HARRIS BENNETT, in her official	§	
capacity as the Harris County Voter	§	
Registrar, and HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS.	§	
<i>Defendants.</i>	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

HARRIS COUNTY’S ORIGINAL ANSWER

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

ANN HARRIS BENNETT in her official capacity as the Harris County Voter Registrar and HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS (“Defendants”) file this Answer to Plaintiffs Steven Hotze, M.D., Joseph L. Trahan, and Caroline Kane’s Original Petition and respectfully show the Court the following:

GENERAL DENIAL

1. Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 92, Defendants generally deny the allegations contained in Plaintiffs’ Original Petition and demand strict proof thereof.

JURISDICTIONAL BAR

2. Defendants plead governmental immunity from suit and liability as a jurisdictional bar to all of Plaintiffs’ claims. Defendants further assert that Plaintiffs’ allegations do not invoke any waiver of immunity found in Texas Law.

3. Defendants plead that Plaintiffs lack standing to bring their claims.

4. Defendants plead that Plaintiffs’ claims are moot.

AFFIRMATIVE AND OTHER DEFENSES

5. Defendants deny that all conditions precedent have been performed or have occurred.
6. Plaintiffs' Original Petition fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
7. Defendants reserve the right to assert additional defenses as they become apparent.
8. Defendants provide notice pursuant to Rule 193.7 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure that any documents or other materials produced by the Plaintiffs in response to written discovery in this case will be used by Defendants in any pretrial proceedings or at the trial of this case.

PRAYER

Defendants pray that Plaintiffs take nothing by this lawsuit, and that all relief requested by Plaintiffs be denied, and that Defendants recover all court costs and other further relief, both at law or in equity, to which they are entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

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DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY AND FIRST ASSISTANT

/s/ Eleanor Matheson

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**ATTORNEYS FOR ANN HARRIS
BENNETT AND HARRIS COUNTY**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In accordance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all attorneys and parties of record on this the 15th day of November, 2024.

/s/ Eleanor Matheson
ELEANOR MATHESON

Assistant Harris County Attorney

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