

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
FOURTEENTH DIVISION

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARKANSAS

Plaintiff

v.

No. 60CV-23-1816

COLE JESTER, in his official capacity  
as the Arkansas Secretary of State

Defendant

NOTICE OF APPEAL

The Secretary of State, for his notice of appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court, states:

1. **Appealing Party.** The party taking this appeal is Cole Jester, in his official capacity as the Arkansas Secretary of State.

2. **Order Being Appealed.** The Secretary appeals from the February 12, 2026 order, which granted Plaintiff's<sup>1</sup> motion for judgment on the pleadings; and from the October 29, 2024 order, which denied the Secretary's motion to dismiss.

3. **Designation of Record.** The Secretary designates the following circuit-court entries as the record on appeal:

- Plaintiff's Amended Complaint and Exhibits to the Amended Complaint, filed March 5, 2024;
- The Secretary's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Amended Complaint and the Brief in Support of the Motion to Dismiss, filed on March 25, 2024;
- Plaintiff's Response to Motion to Dismiss Amended Complaint and Brief in Support, filed April 8, 2024;

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<sup>1</sup> On July 3, 2024, the circuit court dismissed Senator Bryan King. The Secretary therefore uses the singular "Plaintiff" throughout this notice of appeal.

- The Secretary’s Reply in Support of his Motion to Dismiss, filed April 15, 2024;
- Plaintiff’s Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and Brief in Support, filed October 24, 2024;
- The circuit court’s order denying the Secretary’s Motion to Dismiss, entered October 29, 2024;
- The Secretary’s Response to Plaintiff’s Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, filed November 7, 2024;
- The circuit court’s order granting Plaintiff’s Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, entered February 12, 2026; and
- This notice of appeal, filed February 20, 2026.

4. **Certificate of Transcript.** The Secretary has ordered the transcripts of the hearings held on October 24, 2024, and September 3, 2025, and he has made the financial arrangements required by the court reporter.

5. **Appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court.** The Arkansas Supreme Court has jurisdiction over the appeal under Arkansas Supreme Court Rule 1-2(b). This appeal involves the interpretation of the Arkansas Constitution. Ark. S. Ct. R. 1-2(b)(7). This appeal also involves issues of first impression, substantial public interest, and substantial questions of law concerning the validity of an act of the General Assembly. *See* Ark. S. Ct. R. 1-3(c).

6. **Abandonment of Claims.** To the extent required by Arkansas Rule of Appellate Procedure—Civil 3(e)(iv), the Secretary abandons any pending, unresolved claims.

Respectfully submitted,

TIM GRIFFIN  
Attorney General

By: /s/ Justin Brascher  
Justin Brascher  
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*Attorney for the Secretary of State*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on February 24, 2026, I electronically filed the foregoing document to the eFlex filing system, which provides notice to the eFlex participants.

/s/ Justin Brascher  
Justin Brascher