



1 **IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

2 **July 5, 2023**

3 **NO. S-1-SC-39481**

4 **MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM** in her
5 **official capacity as Governor of the New Mexico,**
6 **HOWIE MORALES, in his official capacity as New**
7 **Mexico Lieutenant Governor and President of**
8 **New Mexico Senate, MIMI STEWART, in her**
9 **official capacity as President Pro Tempore of**
10 **the New Mexico Senate, and JAVIER MARTINEZ,**
11 **in his official capacity as Speaker of**
12 **the New Mexico House of Representatives,**

13 Petitioners,

14 v.

15 **HON. FRED VAN SOELEN,**
16 **District Court Judge,**
17 **Fifth Judicial District Court,**

18 Respondent,

19 and

20 **REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO,**
21 **DAVID GALLEGOS, TIMOTHY JENNINGS,**
22 **DINAH VARGAS, MANUEL GONZALES JR.,**
23 **BOBBY and DEE ANN KIMBRO, and PEARL**
24 **GARCIA,**

25 Real Parties in Interest,

26 and

27 **MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER,**

28 Defendant-Real Party in Interest.

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1 **ORDER**

2 WHEREAS, this matter initially came on for consideration by the Court
3 upon *verified petition for writ of superintending control and request for stay* and
4 responses thereto;

5 WHEREAS, this Court granted the request for stay in D-506-CV-2022-
6 00041 on October 14, 2022, and ordered the parties to file briefs on the issues
7 presented in the *verified petition for writ of superintending control*;

8 WHEREAS, this Court heard arguments in this matter on January 9, 2023,
9 and thereafter ordered the parties to file supplemental briefs addressing the issue of
10 whether the New Mexico Constitution provides greater protection than the United
11 States Constitution against partisan gerrymandering;

12 WHEREAS, this matter now comes before the Court upon the parties’
13 supplemental briefs and motion to substitute public officer and amend caption;

14 WHEREAS, the Court having considered the foregoing and being
15 sufficiently advised, Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, Justice Michael E. Vigil,
16 Justice David K. Thomson, Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora
17 concurring;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the motion to substitute is
19 GRANTED, and Javier Martinez shall be substituted for Brian Egolf as Speaker of
20 the House;

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the caption on any further pleadings filed
2 in this proceeding, if any, shall conform to the caption of this order;

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the *verified petition for writ of*
4 *superintending control* is GRANTED with respect to Petitioners' request that this
5 Court provide the district court guidance for resolving a partisan gerrymandering
6 claim;

7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the stay in D-506-CV-2022-00041 is
8 hereby VACATED, and the district court shall take all actions necessary to resolve
9 this matter **no later than October 1, 2023**;

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as a threshold matter, the district court
11 shall conduct a standing analysis for all parties;

12 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in resolving this matter, the district court
13 shall act in accordance with and apply the following holdings and standards as
14 determined herein:

- 15 1. A partisan gerrymandering claim is justiciable under Article II,
16 Section 18 of the New Mexico Constitution;
- 17 2. A partisan gerrymandering claim under the New Mexico Constitution
18 is subject to the three-part test articulated by Justice Kagan in her
19 dissent in *Rucho v. Common Cause*, 139 S.Ct. 2484, 2516 (2019);
- 20 3. Clearly, a district drawn without taking partisan interests into account
21 would not present a partisan gerrymander. *Cf.* N.M. Const. art. II, §§
22 2, 3, 4. However, as with partisan gerrymandering under the
23 Fourteenth Amendment, some degree of partisan gerrymandering is
24
25

1 permissible under Article II, Section 18 of the New Mexico
2 Constitution. *Accord Rucho*, 139 S.Ct. at 2497. At this stage in the
3 proceedings, it is unnecessary to determine the precise degree that is
4 permissible so long as the degree is not egregious in intent and effect;
5

- 6 4. Intermediate scrutiny is the proper level of scrutiny for adjudication of
7 a partisan gerrymandering claim under Article II, Section 18 of the
8 New Mexico Constitution. *See Breen v. Carlsbad Municipal Schools*,
9 2005-NMSC-028, ¶¶ 11-15, 30-32, 138 N.M. 331, 120 P.3d 413;
10
11 5. Under one-person, one-vote jurisprudence, some mathematical
12 deviation from an ideal district population may be permissible as
13 “practicable.” *Cf. Harris v. Ariz. Indep. Redistricting Comm’n*, 578
14 U.S. 253, 258-59 (2016) (quoting *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 579
15 (1964)) (“The Constitution . . . does not demand mathematical
16 perfection. In determining what is ‘practicable,’ we have recognized
17 that the Constitution permits deviation when it is justified by
18 ‘legitimate considerations incident to the effectuation of a rational
19 state policy.’”);
20
21 6. In the context of a partisan gerrymandering claim, a reasonable degree
22 of partisan gerrymandering—taking into account the inherently
23 political nature of redistricting—is likewise permissible under Article
24 II, Section 18 and the Fourteenth Amendment;
25
26 7. In evaluating the degree of partisan gerrymandering in this case, if
27 any, the district court shall consider and address evidence comparing
28 the relevant congressional district’s voter registration percentage/data,
29 regarding the individual plaintiffs’ party affiliation under the
30 challenged congressional maps, as well as the same source of data
31 under the prior maps. The district court shall also consider any other
32 evidence relevant to the district court’s application of the test
33 referenced in paragraph 2 of this order.
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35 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a writ of superintending control shall
36 issue contemporaneously with this order; and
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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an opinion in this matter shall follow.
IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable C. Shannon Bacon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 5th day of July, 2023.

Elizabeth A. Garcia, Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of New Mexico

By _____

Handwritten signature of Luzette Serrano Cortez in cursive script.

Chief Deputy Clerk of Court

I CERTIFY AND ATTEST:

A true copy was served on all parties
or their counsel of record on date filed.

Luzette Serrano Cortez

Chief Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court
of the State of New Mexico