

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF
ELECTIONS

v.

ANTHONY J. AMBRIDGE, et al.

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IN THE

SUPREME COURT

OF MARYLAND

No. 26, September Term, 2024

O R D E R

Whereas on September 20, 2024, this Court set forth an expedited briefing schedule in this matter, with all Appellants' briefs due on September 27, 2024 at noon, the Appellees' brief due on October 3, 2024 at 5:00pm, and any reply briefs due on October 4, 2024. All Appellants' briefs were filed timely;

Whereas Appellees filed a motion to exceed the word limit at 3:52pm on October 3, 2024, just over an hour before their brief was due. Appellees did not submit a copy of their proposed brief as an exhibit to the motion, nor does the motion identify how many additional words they seek. Instead, the motion requests unrestricted relief from the word limit;

Whereas, without requesting or receiving relief from the briefing deadline established 13 days ago, Appellees failed to file any brief by the deadline set forth in this Court's scheduling order;

Whereas, at 9:03 p.m. on October 3, the Court entered its order denying Appellees' motion to exceed the word count and directed that if Appellees sought leave to file their brief out of time, the brief must be attached to their motion;

Whereas, just after 8:00 a.m. on October 4, Appellees filed their revised motion to exceed the word count limit, their motion for leave to file their brief out of time, and their proposed brief. In their brief, Appellees certify that the brief contains 23,818 words. The Appellants all oppose the motion to exceed the word count limit and the motion for leave to file Appellees' brief out of time;

Whereas, at the Court's direction, the Clerk conferred with counsel as to their availability for a rescheduled oral argument. All counsel confirmed their availability at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Upon consideration of the revised motion to exceed the word count limit, the motion for leave to file Appellees' brief out of time, Appellants' responses to those motions, and the circumstances in which this case arises, it is this 4th day of October, 2024, by the Supreme Court of Maryland,

ORDERED that Appellees' Revised Motion to Exceed Word Limit is DENIED; and it is further

ORDERED that Appellees' Motion for Leave to File Brief Beyond Deadline is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART. Appellees' non-compliant brief is STRICKEN. Appellees are granted leave until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4, 2024, to file a brief in full compliance with the style and formatting rules, including the 13,000-word limit on the size of Appellees' brief; and it is further

ORDERED that any reply briefs are due on or before 12:00 noon on Tuesday, October 8, 2024; and it is further

ORDERED that oral argument is rescheduled to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.



/s/ Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

*Justice Watts did not participate in the consideration of this matter.