

November 1, 2023

## **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

ctyjudge@wilco.org

Bill Gravell, Jr. County Judge, Williamson County 710 S. Main Street, Ste. 101 Georgetown, Texas 78626

Re: True Texas Elections, LLC, True Texas Elections SPAC, and Dr. Laura Pressley

Dear Judge Gravell:

I represent True Texas Elections, LLC, True Texas Elections Specific Purpose Political Action Committee and Dr. Laura Pressley individually with regard to various election matters.

I understand that you accused Dr. Pressley of engaging in "actions" that "single-handedly nearly cost someone their life" in her service as an election watcher, after an alternate clerk suffered a medical emergency at the Leander Public Library early voting polling location on October 30. The email containing this accusation was sent to the entire Commissioners Court, the County's Election Commission, and the County's Election Administrator. You then essentially repeated these comments in a public setting prior to the Commissioners Court meeting on October 31, coupled with a statement that you have called for a full investigation by the Williamson County Attorney, Williamson County Sheriff, and the Leander Police Department.

Your statements were inaccurate and defamatory. The facts are:

- On October 30, around 5:50 p.m., poll watchers Robert Bagwell and Dr. Laura Pressley arrived at the Leander Public Library early voting site.
- Prior to the medical emergency of the alternate early voting deputy clerk, Dr. Pressley and Mr. Bagwell were speaking to Ms. Hampton, the early voting clerk, regarding early voting results tapes, consecutively numbered ballots for the ESD #9 measure, and other election records associated with those specific polling location documents (Tex. Elec. Code Sections 51.006, 51.007, 62.007 and 62.009).

- All of those discussions and questions occurred with and were directed to Ms. Hampton and not with or to the alternate clerk.
- Dr. Pressley and Mr. Bagwell were not asking questions of and were not talking to the alternate clerk.
- Around 5:57 p.m., Mr. Bagwell was asked a specific question by Ms. Hampton: "Why does it matter" if consecutively numbered ballots are not disarranged for the voter to choose their ballot? (Tex. Elec. Code Section 62.009)
- Mr. Bagwell provided a detailed answer to Ms. Hampton, explaining how voters are checked in, the times they check in, the recording of those times in the pollbook, and how the disarrangement process ensures the anonymity of the voter and how they voted.
- Dr. Pressley was not speaking when Mr. Bagwell was answering Ms. Hampton's questions.
- At the time of the alternate clerk's medical emergency around 6:02 p.m., Dr. Pressley and Mr. Bagwell were present with Ms. Hampton, and Mr. Bagwell was speaking with Ms. Hampton.
- Dr. Pressley noticed the alternate clerk's medical issue and alerted Ms. Hampton.
- Mr. Bagwell left the polling location and turned on his cell phone to call 911. He reports that his phone log shows the 911 call occurred at 6:04 p.m.
- The only "action" Dr. Pressley took was to seek help for the alternate clerk. She was at the polling location less than 15 minutes when the event occurred.

In the October 30 email, you further ordered Dr. Pressley to only direct future election questions to you. This contravenes Section 33.058 of the Texas Election Code, which permits an election watcher to "call the attention of an election officer to any occurrence that the watcher believes to be an irregularity or violation of law" and to "discuss the matter with the officer." See Tex. Elec. Code § 33.058(b). Unlawfully preventing or obstructing a watcher from the performance of their duties may entitle the watcher to a number of legal remedies. See Tex. Elec. Code §§ 33.061 and 33.063.

The gist of your statements is that Dr. Pressley engaged in reckless, life-threatening behavior while "castigating and harassing" election workers. These statements are false, are defamatory per se, and are particularly damaging given Dr. Pressley's extensive and well-known consulting work and advocacy in election integrity matters. These statements are even more damaging given that you preside over the Election Commission, which has interviewed Dr. Pressley and is actively considering her as a replacement for the interim Election Administrator for Williamson County.

Your position as County Judge carries authority and commands attention, and your decision to make these statements and threats, first to the County Commissioners and Election Commission and then to the general public, appears calculated to use that authority to harm and intimidate my clients. On behalf of Dr. Pressley, True Texas Elections, LLC, and True Texas Elections SPAC, we ask that you cease and desist from making any further statements of this nature.

True Texas Elections, LLC, True Texas Elections SPAC, and Dr. Pressley timely request, pursuant to Sec. 73.055 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, that written and verbal corrections of the facts (as noted above) and retractions of the false and defamatory statements are issued to:

- all parties that received, or may have been blind copied, on the October 30 email:
- any parties that received any written or verbal communication referencing or incorporating the false and defamatory statements;
- the public by way of a press release; and
- the public and County Commissioners at the next Commissioners Court meeting.

Please understand that True Texas Elections, LLC, True Texas Elections SPAC, and Dr. Pressley are only seeking to exercise their legal rights and to contribute to the buttressing of election integrity in Williamson County, all within the confines of the Texas Election Code.

As Williamson County's highest elected official, you no doubt desire the same outcome as Dr. Pressley – Williamson County elections conducted in accordance with the law. Since all involved want the same thing, there should be no issues moving forward, so long as Dr. Pressley is not further defamed or prevented from exercising her rights as a duly appointed watcher in Williamson County, and timely corrections and retractions are made as noted above.

I appreciate your service to our county and welcome any discussion that would further help to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

Anna Ebv

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cc: Frank Dobrovolny, Dobrovolny Law Firm, also representing True Texas Elections, LLC, True Texas Elections SPAC, and Dr. Laura Pressley, individually via email

Williamson County Commissioners via email
Williamson County Election Commission via email
Williamson County Interim Election Administrator via email
Dee Hobbs, Williamson County Attorney via email
Shawn Dick, Williamson County District Attorney via email
Mike Gleason, Williamson County Sheriff via email
Greg Minton, Leander Police Chief via email