



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**COALITION OF INDEPENDENTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO DEFEND  
STATE'S OPEN PRIMARY SYSTEM WIN IN RULING TODAY**

*New York, NY*— U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs this afternoon threw out a lawsuit brought by the Republican Party seeking to force the State to close its primaries so that only registered members of a political party could vote.

"This is a great day for independents and for all the voters of South Carolina," said Harry Kresky, lead counsel for a diverse coalition of independents and organizations who were granted the right to intervene and defend the open primary system. "Judge Childs held that the state's interest in full participation in the electoral process outweighs the interest of any political party in having the system they like best."

Wayne Griffin, chair of the South Carolina Independence Party added, "'I think it's a great day for all South Carolinians. We still have the right to vote in open primaries which is good for our democracy."

The coalition of Intervenor-Defendants included:

- Wayne Griffin and Reginald Griffin of Greer, SC; Brett Bursey of Lexington, SC; and Alan Olson of Columbia, SC. These voters consider themselves to be independents and do not wish to enroll in a major party as a condition of voting in a primary election for nomination for public office.
- The South Carolina Independence Party; the South Carolina Constitution Party; the Progressive Network Education Fund, Inc.; the Columbia Tea party, Inc.; and the Committee for a Unified Independent Party, Inc. (d/b/a IndependentVoting.org).
- The following members of the Black Legislative Caucus of the South Carolina House of Representatives: Terry Alexander (District 59), Karl B. Allen (District 25), Jerry N.Govan, Jr. (District 95), Chris Hart (District 73), Leon Howard (District 76), Joseph Jefferson, Jr. (District 102), John Richard C. King (District 49), David J.Mack, III (District 109), Harold Mitchell, Jr. (District 31), Joseph Neal (District 44), Anne Parks (District 12), Ronnie Sabb (District 101), and Robert Williams (District 62).

The intervenors were represented by attorneys Harry Kresky of New York City, general counsel to IndependentVoting.org, and Fletcher N. Smith of Greenville, SC. The lawsuit was

captioned *South Carolina Republican Party, et al., v. State Of South Carolina, et al.*, CA No. 6:10-1407-JMC., and was heard in the Greenville Division of the U.S. District Court.

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