[J-96-2020] IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA MIDDLE DISTRICT

PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY,
NILOFER NINA AHMAD, DANILO
BURGOS, AUSTIN DAVIS, DWIGHT

BURGOS, AUSTIN DAVIS, DWIGHT EVANS, ISABELLA FITZGERALD, EDWARD GAINEY, MANUEL M. GUZMAN,

JR., JORDAN A. HARRIS, ARTHUR HAYWOOD, MALCOLM KENYATTA, PATTY H. KIM, STEPHEN KINSEY, PETER

SCHWEYER, SHARIF STREET, AND

ANTHONY H. WILLIAMS

No. 133 MM 2020

Emergency Applications to Stay

٧.

KATHY BOOCKVAR, IN HER CAPACITY

AS SECRETARY OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA;

ADAMS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS;

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF

ELECTIONS; ARMSTRONG COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS; BEAVER

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS:

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF

ELECTIONS; BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF

ELECTIONS; BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF

ELECTIONS; BRADFORD COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS; BUCKS COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS; BUTLER

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS;

CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF

ELECTIONS; CAMERON COUNTY BOARD

OF ELECTIONS; CARBON COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS; CENTRE

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS;

CHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF

ELECTIONS; CLARION COUNTY BOARD

OF ELECTIONS; CLEARFIELD COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS: CLINTON

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS;

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF

ELECTIONS; CRAWFORD COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS: CUMBERLAND** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF **ELECTIONS: DELAWARE COUNTY** BOARD OF ELECTIONS; ELK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: ERIE COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS; FAYETTE** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; FULTON COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS: GREENE** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; HUNTINGDON COUNTY BOARD OF **ELECTIONS**; INDIANA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: JEFFERSON COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS; JUNIATA** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; LACKAWANNA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; LANCASTER COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS: LAWRENCE** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: LEBANON COUNTY BOARD OF **ELECTIONS: LEHIGH COUNTY BOARD** OF ELECTIONS: LUZERNE COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS: LYCOMING** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: MCKEAN COUNTY BOARD OF **ELECTIONS: MERCER COUNTY BOARD** OF ELECTIONS; MIFFLIN COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS: MONROE** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: MONTOUR COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF **ELECTIONS: PHILADELPHIA COUNTY** BOARD OF ELECTIONS; PIKE COUNTY **BOARD OF ELECTIONS: POTTER** COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; SCHUYLKILL COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; SNYDER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; SOMERSET COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS; SULLIVAN
COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS;
SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS; TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS; UNION COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS; VENANGO COUNTY BOARD
OF ELECTIONS; WARREN COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS; WASHINGTON
COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS;
WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS; WESTMORELAND COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS; WYOMING
COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS; AND
YORK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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FILED: September 24, 2020

PETITION OF: KATHY BOOCKVAR, IN HER CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DISSENTING STATEMENT

JUSTICE MUNDY

In my view, Intervenors¹ make a substantial case on the merits that this Court should stay the portion of our opinion extending the deadline for receipt of mail-in ballots past 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020, Election Day.² In *Pennsylvania Democratic Party v. Boockvar*, ___ A.3d ___, 2020 WL 5554644 (Pa. 2020), a majority of this Court held that all mail-in ballots postmarked by 8:00 on Election Day, and received by 5:00 p.m.

¹ Intervenors refers to the Republican Party of Pennsylvania and Joseph B. Scarnati III, President Pro Tempore, Jake Corman, Majority Leader of the Pennsylvania Senate, Bryan Cutler, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and Kerry Benninghoff, Majority Leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

² A stay may be granted where Petitioners, "make a substantial case on the merits and show that without the stay, irreparable injury will be suffered. Additionally, before granting a request for a stay, the court must be satisfied the issuance of the stay will not substantially harm other interested parties in the proceedings and will not adversely affect the public interest." *Maritrans G.P., Inc. v. Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz,* 573 A.2d 1001, 1003 (1990).

November 6, 2020, even those lacking a postmark or bearing an illegible postmark, would be counted. *Id.* at *37. Without further explanation, the majority qualified that such ballots "will be presumed to have been mailed by Election Day unless a preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that it was mailed after Election Day." *Id.* The Republican Party of Pennsylvania Intervenors argue that virtually no evidence exists to overcome such a presumption, and "the Court's presumption opens the door to illegally and untimely cast or mailed ballots being counted in, and tainting the results of, the imminent general election in which millions of Pennsylvanians will exercise their right to vote." Republican Party of Pennsylvania Application for Partial Stay at 4.

Intervenors assert that there is a substantial likelihood that they will be successful on the merits of the stay application and writ of certiorari to be filed in the United States Supreme Court. Citing to *Republican Nat'l Comm. v. Democratic Nat'l Comm.*, 140 S. Ct. 1205 (2020), Intervenors note that the United States Supreme Court stayed a Wisconsin Supreme Court judgment and held that "[e]xtending the date by which ballots may be cast by voters after the scheduled election day fundamentally alters the nature of the election." *Id.* at 1207. It is reasonable that the United States Supreme Court may view this Court's presumption regarding ballots lacking a postmark or bearing an illegible postmark in the same light. As a result, I would grant a stay to preserve the public confidence in the integrity of the upcoming election.