



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 13, 2022**

Candidate for Ohio Secretary of State Terpsehore (Tore) P. Maras filed a [lawsuit in the Ohio Supreme Court, case #2022-1270](#) to be afforded equal opportunity to appoint poll observers to inspect the casting and counting of the vote and to bar the use of electronic voting machines in the November election.

According to Warner Mendenhall, of Mendenhall Law Group, who filed the lawsuit on Maras's behalf, "Ohio law has a provision that requires the ability to observe the count of the vote and the basic theory is that you cannot observe the counting of votes if it's taking place in a black box [voting machine]. So we think that is a contradiction and we are asking that Tore Maras be allowed to have observers that can observe the count and inspect the counting of ballots in this election."

In Ohio, unlike corporate sponsored, party-affiliated candidates who can appoint observers at any precinct or board of elections in the state, independent candidates are held to a different set of rules that require they join with four other candidates to get an observer appointed.

The lawsuit's Co-counsel John Pfleiderer, also of Mendenhall Law Group, said, "The issue with that law, as it's actually applied impractically, is that there aren't four other independent candidates on the ballot, so you're stuck with a law that is very difficult to comply with and leads to it being nearly impossible to get your own observers in the polling places."

Maras's lawsuit seeks the Ohio Supreme Court to deem that particular part of the statute is unconstitutional for equal protection reasons. Mendenhall said, "It's equal protection violations under the Ohio Constitution and also under the U.S. Constitution, so there is a chance to get to the U.S. Supreme Court." This is important considering the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court [has already condemned the disparate treatment of independent candidates compared to party candidates in Ohio election laws](#).

Additionally, Maras is attempting to bring long-overdue transparency to the election process on behalf of all Ohioans by petitioning the court to allow the people to inspect the voting machines used to tabulate or record any votes.

According to Mendenhall, “Under Ohio law, you have a right to inspect the machines and that includes the hardware, the software, everything about the machines that’s going on. We think that because of the contracts that they’ve entered into [with the machine manufacturers], they’ll be very resistant to that, which leads to a simple solution: hand count the paper ballots. That really ends the problem with election security at electronic machines.”

Maras has repeatedly stated publicly that she has firsthand knowledge of how electronic voting machines are utilized to steal elections by virtue of having participated in operations in dozens of countries in which that was the goal. It is detrimental to our constitutional republic when the people are obstructed from their own election process. Our vote is our voice; without that, there is no government of, by, and for the people.

The ability of independent candidates like Maras to have any poll observers rests upon the whims of the political establishment, the same system that pulled every trick in the book to deny Ohioans the ability to consider her as an option at the ballot box. This is unacceptable not only for independent candidates, but also for the 75% of Ohio voters who are politically unaffiliated and those who yearn for candidates outside of the two-party system. Frankly, it is quite puzzling why the corporate-sponsored major party candidates do not share the same concerns about inspecting voting machines. This is not just about Maras; it is about all Ohioans. Your vote is your voice and your ballot is a representation of your First Amendment.

Mendenhall stated, “We think that Ohioans from every political party should appreciate having fair elections that are observed and more importantly observable. When you get the federal government doing all of the certifications and they are the only ones that understand what’s happening inside these machines, we think that takes away the power and function of the observers that were granted under Ohio law.”

Actions speak louder than words. Maras has a history of fighting for the rights of all Ohioans and the restoration of election integrity in Ohio. With her lawsuit, she is striving to protect Your Vote – Your Voice. As goes Ohio, so goes the nation.

Friends of Maras for Ohio