

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY

ALEXANDRA “SONDRA” WILSON,	)	
	)	
<i>Plaintiff,</i>	)	Case No. _____
	)	
v.	)	In Equity
	)	
PAUL D. PATE, in his official capacity as	)	
Secretary of State of Iowa	)	
<i>Defendant</i>	)	
	)	
_____	)	

EMERGENCY PETITION FOR EQUITABLE EXTENSION OF BALLOT-ACCESS DEADLINE

COMES NOW Alexandra “Sondra” Wilson, appearing pro se, and respectfully requests equitable relief in the form of a limited extension to the June 2, 2026, ballot-access deadline due to extraordinary litigation burdens arising from ongoing legal proceedings, including numerous filing deadlines and hearings during the active signature-gathering period. Ongoing litigation includes forthcoming filings prior to the August 4 trial. Plaintiff therefore requests an alternative and equitable deadline to be set for July 15, 2026.

**PARTIES**

Plaintiff Alexandra “Sondra” Wilson is an independent candidate for Governor of Iowa who is actively engaged in petition circulation for ballot access in the 2026 general election. Plaintiff resides in Story County, Iowa.

Defendant Paul D. Pate, in his official capacity as Secretary of State of Iowa, is the state official responsible for administering ballot-access requirements under Iowa Code chapter 44 and is the proper party for purposes of the equitable relief requested.

## **JURISDICTION**

This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to its general equitable powers under Iowa Code § 602.6101.

## **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

1. On March 31, 2023 I announced my candidacy for Iowa governor. Since that time, I have invested substantial personal finances, time, and effort into building my campaign and developing a detailed public policy platform addressing infrastructure, healthcare, education, and justice reform. My campaign has also been made possible by supporters, including volunteers and campaign contributors. My campaign website may be found at [WildWillpower.org](https://WildWillpower.org).

2. I have been performing political activity for many years. Prior to announcing my candidacy, I founded and directed a political organization called Wild Willpower PAC. In 2022, materially false and misleading allegations and documents were entered into an administrative record, including documents that I contend were falsified or materially altered in a manner that damaged my reputation and adversely affected my campaign activities. In December 2023, I filed suit pro se seeking to challenge those allegations, establish the authenticity of the underlying evidence, and clear my name. The litigation for case no. LACV053674 remains ongoing, and trial is currently scheduled for August 4, 2026.

3. Since January 1 this year, I have had multiple filing deadlines and hearings associated with this case. Each has required a significant amount of preparation. These obligations directly took away from time needed to gather signatures and work on my campaign. Filing deadlines and hearings were as follows:

Date	Litigation Requirement	Campaign Impact
Jan. 7	Amended Petition and Exhibits A–G	Required extensive drafting and document preparation during signature-gathering period
Jan. 28	Reply and Reply Brief	Required legal research and response preparation
Feb. 9	Hearing	Required hearing preparation and attendance
Feb. 11	Notice of Withdrawal	Additional procedural filing obligations
Mar. 2	Discovery Request	Required review and preparation of evidentiary materials
Apr. 14	Motion to Compel and Resistance to Summary Judgment	Extensive briefing obligations during active campaign season
May 26	Hearing	Final hearing preparation immediately before ballot deadline

4. I am currently drafting an amended petition that comports with the Court’s April 22 order and anticipate additional filings may become necessary as litigation continues. This is why I am requesting a July 15 deadline, to ensure ongoing litigation does not continue to interfere.

5. During active petitioning periods, I was regularly able to gather substantial numbers of signatures, often approximately 60 per day. Had it not been for these deadlines and the significant amount of preparation involved, I was on track to gather the required 3,500 signatures by the June 2 deadline. Beginning on or about May 16, 2026, I shifted away from gathering signatures and instead began preparing for the May 26 hearing and to file this emergency deadline extension request. Prior to redirecting time toward hearing preparation and emergency filings, I had already gathered approximately 1,000 signatures toward the statutory requirement.

6. Prior to filing this petition, I contacted the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office seeking guidance regarding any available administrative remedy or extension procedure. In response, the

Office indicated that no statutory administrative mechanism exists and that any such relief would require a court order. A copy of that correspondence is attached as Exhibit A.

### **ARGUMENT FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF**

7. As the only currently declared independent candidate in the 2026 gubernatorial election, my campaign offers Iowa voters an additional political perspective outside the two major parties. My platform addresses issues including healthcare, infrastructure, education, justice reform, and civil rights. Many Iowans, including my supporters and campaign volunteers, do not feel adequately represented by the existing party candidates and seek broader political participation and discussion during this election cycle. I believe Iowa voters benefit from having the opportunity to hear and evaluate a wider range of viewpoints during the election process.

8. I contend that the litigation described above arose from materially false and misleading allegations that substantially interfered with my campaign activities and consumed significant time during the ballot-access period. Under these circumstances, strict enforcement of the June 2 deadline would unfairly deprive Iowa voters of an independent candidate choice despite my substantial efforts toward compliance. I therefore respectfully request equitable relief in the form of an extension of the ballot-access deadline to July 15, 2026.

### **LEGAL BASIS FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF**

9. Iowa courts may grant equitable relief where strict enforcement of a statutory deadline would result in injustice despite a party's diligent efforts. Equity is particularly appropriate where circumstances outside the party's control materially impair the ability to comply. Plaintiff has exercised diligence in petition circulation, but extraordinary litigation burdens arising from

ongoing court-imposed deadlines substantially interfered with her ability to meet the June 2 deadline. Under these circumstances, equitable extension is warranted.

10. Plaintiff does not seek waiver of ballot-access requirements, but only a temporary equitable extension sufficient to complete the signature-gathering process.

**REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION**

11. The June 2, 2026 ballot-access deadline is imminent. Absent expedited consideration, the relief requested herein may become moot before the Court has an opportunity to rule. Plaintiff therefore respectfully requests expedited consideration and hearing on this petition at the earliest practicable opportunity.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a. Equitable extension of the ballot-access deadline to July 15, 2026;
- b. Expedited consideration and hearing due to the imminence of the June 2, 2026 statutory deadline;
- c. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Executed on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

/s/ Alexandra “Sondra” Wilson  
Alexandra “Sondra” Wilson  
Pro Se Plaintiff  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on May 27, 2026, I served a copy of this Petition and attached Exhibit A on Defendant Paul D. Pate, Secretary of State of Iowa, by email at [IVoters.Support@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:IVoters.Support@sos.iowa.gov) and [sos@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:sos@sos.iowa.gov).

Defendant for Service Purposes

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