

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR POLK COUNTY

ALEXANDRA WILSON Petitioner(s) VS. PAUL PATE Respondent(s)	05771 EQCE092993 ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR EQUITABLE EXTENSION
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This matter comes before the Court on the Emergency Petition for Equitable Extension of Ballot-Access Deadline, filed by Plaintiff Alexandra "Sondra" Wilson on May 27, 2026. Plaintiff appears pro se. She asks the Court to extend the June 2, 2026 ballot-access deadline set under Iowa Code chapter 44 to July 15, 2026, invoking the Court's general equitable powers under Iowa Code section 602.6101. The Court has read the Petition and the attached materials.

Equitable relief of the kind Plaintiff requests is extraordinary, and the party seeking it must first show a likelihood of success on the merits. *League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa v. Pate*, 950 N.W.2d 204, 209 (Iowa 2020); *Max 100 L.C. v. Iowa Realty Co.*, 621 N.W.2d 178, 181 (Iowa 2001). There is no basis to provide a temporary remedy if the moving party cannot show a likelihood of success in proving the underlying legal wrong. *Planned Parenthood of Heartland, Inc. v. Reynolds ex rel. State*, 9 N.W.3d 37, 45 (Iowa 2024).

Plaintiff has not articulated a legal basis for the relief she seeks. She points to no statute, rule, or decision authorizing a court to extend the ballot-access deadline that the General Assembly has fixed by statute. The June 2 deadline appears in Iowa Code chapter 44, and Plaintiff acknowledges that the Secretary of State's Office identified no administrative mechanism for an extension. A general invocation of the Court's equitable powers does not, standing alone, supply authority to set aside or move a statutory deadline. Equity ordinarily operates within the law rather than against a clear statutory command. Absent some legal basis for displacing the deadline, the Court has no ground on which to grant the requested extension, however diligent Plaintiff's efforts may have been.

Because Plaintiff has not identified a legal basis for an equitable extension, she cannot show a likelihood of success on the merits, and the Petition fails at the threshold. The Court does not reach the remaining considerations.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Emergency Petition for Equitable Extension of Ballot-Access Deadline is DENIED.



State of Iowa Courts

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OTHER ORDER

So Ordered

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Beattie', written over a horizontal line.

Scott J. Beattie, District Court Judge,
Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

Electronically signed on 2026-05-28 10:51:12