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SHERIFF CHRISTINA CORPUS

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10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 **COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**

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13 SHERIFF CHRISTINA CORPUS, an individual,

14 Petitioner,

15 v.

16 COUNTY OF SAN MATEO BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS; MARK CHURCH, in his  
17 official capacity as CHIEF ELECTIONS  
OFFICER & ASSESSOR, and DOES 1-10,

18 Respondents.

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22 San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus (“Sheriff Corpus”) seeks relief from the San Mateo  
23 County Board of Supervisors’ (“Board of Supervisors”) improper vote on December 3, 2024, to send a  
24 proposed charter amendment initiative to the ballot on March 4, 2025, and from the chief elections  
25 officer’s unlawful decision to place the initiative on the ballot. As such, Petitioner petitions this Court,  
26 and complains against Respondents San Mateo County, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and  
27 Mark Church, in his official capacity as Chief Elections Officer & Assessor, as follows:

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Case No.:

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE  
AND COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE  
RELIEF**

1 **PARTIES**

2 1. Petitioner, Christina Corpus, is the elected Sheriff of San Mateo County, California, and  
3 she petitions the court in her official capacity.

4 2. Respondent, San Mateo County, is a charter county in California.

5 3. Respondent, Board of Supervisors, is the board of supervisors for San Mateo County, and  
6 it is being sued exclusively in its official capacity.

7 4. Respondent, Mark Church, is chief elections officer & assessor-county clerk-recorder for  
8 San Mateo County, and he is being sued exclusively in his official capacity.

9 5. The identities of Does 1-10 are presently unknown to Petitioner, and when their identities  
10 become known, their true names will be substituted. On information and belief, Petitioner alleges that  
11 Does 1-10 are other San Mateo County public employees who participated in the transmission of the  
12 proposed charter amendment from the Board to the voters, or who are required to assist in the March 4,  
13 2025, election.

14 **NEED FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF**

15 6. Preelection review is necessary and appropriate because Measure A proposes to revise  
16 the San Mateo County Charter, but (a) it was improperly calendared for a March 4, 2025, not a statewide  
17 general election; and (b) because of Supervisor Corzo and Mueller’s bias, the Board should not have  
18 voted on the proposed amendment, they are recused and disqualified from past and future action on the  
19 proposed amendment, and for that reason, the amendment cannot be lawfully exercised against Sheriff  
20 Corpus.

21 7. Sheriff Corpus will be harmed if she must continue to defend the integrity and  
22 independence of her elected position against an invalid Measure.

23 8. The voters will be harmed if Measure A appears on the March 4, 2025, and then it is  
24 found both procedurally defective and substantively invalid. (*Senate of the State of Cal. v. Jones* (1999)  
25 21 Cal.4th 1142, 1154.) As such, delaying review until after the election runs the risk that voters will  
26 approve a measure that is later ruled invalid, which “tends to denigrate the legitimate use of the initiative  
27 procedure.” (*Id.* at p. 1154.)

1 **JURISDICTION**

2 9. The Superior Court can and should issue a writ of mandate because Petitioner has no  
3 other “plain, speedy, and adequate remedy” available to her in the ordinary course of law. (Code Civ.  
4 Proc., §§ 1068, 1085, 1086, and 1094.5, quoting § 1068.)

5 10. San Mateo County is proper venue, as all actions alleged herein occurred there.

6 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

7 **A. Background**

8 11. On December 3, 2024, the Board of Supervisor voted to send what is now termed Measure  
9 A to a county-wide election on March 4, 2025. On information and belief, the Board directed Mark  
10 Church, the chief of elections, to put the measure on the ballot at the March 4, 2025, election. Measure  
11 A is the only issue for San Mateo County voters on March 4.

12 **B. March 4, 2025, is not a “general statewide election”, as required for all substantive**  
13 **amendments to county charters**

14 12. Because Measure A would amend the charter to “alter procedural or substantive  
15 protections, rights, benefits, and the employment status” of Sheriff Corpus, it must be submitted to the  
16 voters at a “general statewide elections.” (Elections Codes §§ 1415 & 9255; Government Code § 34458;  
17 see SB 311 (2013).)

18 13. “General statewide elections” is a defined phrase, and it means, the election “held on the  
19 first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.” (Elections Code § 1200.)

20 14. March 4, 2025, is not a “statewide general election”; therefore, the election on Measure  
21 A will violate the law.

22 **C. Bias of Supervisors Corzo and Mueller**

23 15. As a separate factual basis for the petition, at the time of the vote, Supervisors Corzo and  
24 Mueller were biased against Sheriff Corpus, and they had already made up their minds about the facts  
25 and whether removal was warranted. Since the vote, those supervisors have continued to show their bias  
26 against Sheriff Corpus.

27 16. Both at the December 3, 2024, board meeting *and* at all other proceedings on Measure A  
28 going forward, the Board acts in its quasi-judicial role. (*Petrovich Development Company, LLC v. City*

1 *of Sacramento* (2020) 48 Cal.App.5th 963.)

2 17. Because they are biased, Supervisors Corzo and Mueller have violated their quasi-  
3 adjudicative duties and obligations.

4 18. As a result of their past, present, and future bias, Supervisors Corzo and Mueller are  
5 disqualified, should have been disqualified from the vote on December 3, 2024, and they are retroactively  
6 disqualified. They are also disqualified from participating further in these proceedings.

7 19. Without Supervisor Corzo and Mueller’s votes, the Board would not have sent Measure  
8 A to the March 4, 2025, ballot.

9 20. Because two supervisors are disqualified, even if the voters approve Measure A, the  
10 Board cannot obtain the 4/5 vote needed to remove Sheriff Corpus.

11 21. Such an election is a waste of time, money, and trust.

12 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

13 **ONE**

14 **(Petition for Writ of Mandate)**

15 22. Petitioner incorporates all preceding paragraphs into this cause of action.

16 23. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 1068, 1085, 1086, and 1094.5, Petitioner  
17 petitions this Court for a Writ of Mandate directed at Respondents, and each of them as for forth herein.

18 24. As a result of the facts stated above, Respondents’, and each of them, have violated the  
19 law, and are causing Petitioner and the voters to sustain damage, and this Court should order they comply  
20 with the law.

21 25. The Court should order Respondents San Mateo County and Board of Supervisors to to  
22 cancel the election on Measure A.

23 26. The Court should order Respondent Mark Church to cancel the election, refuse to open  
24 the polls, refuse to count any ballots, and refuse to certify any results.

25 27. Petition does not have a plain, speedy, adequate, or alternative remedy in the course of  
26 law.

27 28. Petitioner is entitled to her prayed for relief.

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**TWO**

**(Injunctive Relief)**

29. Petitioner incorporates all preceding paragraphs into this cause of action.

30. Respondents' unlawful actions, unless immediately restrained enjoined, will cause great and irreparable injury to Petitioner.

31. Petition does not have a plain, speedy, adequate, or alternative remedy in the course of law.

32. Petitioner is entitled to her prayed for relief.

WHEREFOR, Petitioner prays:

1. That pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 1068, 1085, 1086, and 1094.5, this court issues a writ of mandate directed to Respondents, and each of them, and directing and compelling Respondents and their employees, agents, officers, and all persons acting on their behalf or in concert, including Does 1-10, to comply with their legal obligations, and to cancel the March 4, 2025, election.

2. That the court restrain and enjoin Respondents from further violations of the law.

3. That such other and further relief be granted as the Court considered just and proper.

DATED: January 10, 2025

MURPHY, PEARSON, BRADLEY & FEENEY

By Thomas P. Mazzucco

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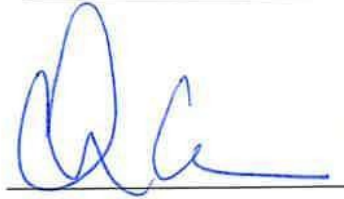
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VERIFICATION

I, Christina Corpus, declare:

I am the Petitioner in this proceeding. The facts alleged in the above petition are true to my knowledge. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 10, 2025, at San Francisco, California.



Christina Corpus, Petitioner