

12. "Generally, Indiana courts have a strong preference for deciding matters on the merits as opposed to legal technicalities." City of Lawrenceburg v. Franklin City, 131 N.E.3d 758 (Ind. Ct. App. 2019).
13. Given the time-sensitive nature of the injunctive relief sought by Plaintiff, the inconsistency in "for cause" and "automatic" existing between Indiana Trial Rule 6(b) and Local Rule 53-TR00-0204, that an overarching purpose of Local Rules is to facilitate cases being heard on the merits rather than on legal technicalities (i.e., an automatic enlargement of time without cause increasing the likelihood of the claim being rendered moot), and that Plaintiff's claim appears likely to become moot in a matter of weeks, the Court has determined it appropriate to deviate from the automatic 30-day enlargement provided in Local Rule 53-TR00-0204 and to limit the enlargement of time in the absence of good cause for a further extension.
14. Each Defendant's Request for an Automatic 30-Day Enlargement of Time is denied.
15. Each Defendant hereby is granted an enlargement of time of 10 days such that Answers from each Defendant shall be filed with the Court on or before September 28, 2023, absent additional enlargement relief being hereafter timely sought and granted "for cause".

SO ORDERED this 19th Day of September, 2023.



Luke Rudisill, Special Judge
Monroe Circuit Court VIII

Distribution:

File/RJO

Petitioner

Molly Turner-King, Attorney for Defendant Monroe County Voter Registration Office
Trent Bennett and Kari Morrigan, Attorneys for Defendants Diego Morales/Indiana Secretary of
State and Indiana Election Division