

PRESS RELEASE

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HISTORIC WA STATE ELECTION INTEGRITY LAWSUIT DEPOSES KING COUNTY ELECTION DIRECTOR WHICH MAY TRIGGER THE INSPECTION OF THE 2020 BALLOTS

In October of 2021, Washington Election Integrity Coalition United, (WEiCU pronounced We See You), filed a lawsuit against King County and its election director **Julie Wise** for denying their August 2021 public records request (PRR) for the 2020 ballots, ballot images, spoiled ballots and ballots marked undeliverable. The denial of this PRR was based on the fallacy that making them available for inspection would violate the voters privacy under the ‘**absolute secrecy**’ clause of the WA State Constitution. Per WA State law (**RCW 29A.08.161.**) ballots *are anonymous* and cannot contain any personal data of the voter.

On May 12, 2023 Judge LeRoy McCullough granted the Democrat Central Committee's motion to intervene on grounds that *their interests were impacted* by the lawsuit and they should be allowed to be in the case to protect those interests. The judge's comments during the hearing seemed to acknowledge the seriousness of the allegations in WEiCU's complaint. The judge asked the Democrat Party *not to disturb* the flow of the case in reference to filing *any motions to dismiss* and reminded everyone of the upcoming **trial date of October 23, 2023**. This means that **WEiCU's** Election Integrity Lawsuit will be among the literal few across the country that have made it to trial.

In March of 2023, the WA State Legislature passed [Senate Bill 5459](#) which exempts the review of ballots, cast ballots, cast vote records, and source code used to tabulate votes. On February 3, 2023, [King County Elections Director Julie Wise publicly testified](#) (1:03:30) in favor of the Bill before the Senate. Wise asserted that SB 5459 was necessary due to the “intentional spreading of lies” about elections and her office “drowning” in public records requests asking for “sensitive” information. Wise did not comment on the fact that under state law, cast ballots are anonymous public records that cannot be tied back to a voter.

On Thursday May 18, 2023 WEiCU took the [deposition of Julie Wise](#) who stated under oath that Washington State Ballots (are) anonymous, then later in the deposition contradicted herself under oath. Director Wise was asked in her deposition as to why she would need to testify in favor of passing a law (in 2023) to exempt ballots from public disclosure if there was already a law in place (in 2021) that “prohibited” her from complying with WEiCU's public records request for the 2020 ballots. Her answer was, “For Clarity.”

On June 2 at 10:30 am, Judge McCullough is being asked by WEiCU to affirm and declare that WA State ballots are anonymous. WEiCU Director Tamborine Borrelli says, “I opted for the Motion for Declaratory Judgement so we can cut right to the heart of the matter. There *is nothing* tying the ballot to the voter. We the People have the right to examine *our ballots* and when the Judge affirms ballots *are indeed anonymous*, that is exactly what we intend to do.”

* [All files viewable at weicu.org](#)

WEiCU is a Washington State 501c3 committed to transparent, secure and publicly verified elections. [Support our Lawsuit and statewide campaign](#) to return to in person with ID, hand counted paper ballots at weicu.org

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