

**In the
Supreme Court of the United States**

Michael C. Turzai, in his capacity as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and Joseph B. Scarnatti III, in his capacity as Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tempore.,

Applicants,

v.

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, *et al.*,

Respondents.

**ON EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR STAY PENDING
RESOLUTION OF APPEAL TO THIS COURT**

**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S MOTION FOR LEAVE
TO FILE AMICUS BRIEF, MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF
ON 8 1/2 BY 11 INCH PAPER, AND AMICUS BRIEF**

To the Honorable Samuel A. Alito, Jr.
Associate Justice of the United States and
Circuit Justice for the Third Circuit

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**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AMICUS BRIEF
IN SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR STAY**

The Republican Party of Pennsylvania respectfully moves for leave of Court to file the accompanying Amicus Brief in support of Applicants' Emergency Application for Stay.

In support of their motion, Amicus asserts that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling at issue raises grave concerns about disruption of the 2018 elections. Amicus asserts the ruling creates exigent circumstances that warrant being permitted to be heard on the issue of Applicants' Emergency Application for Stay and requests its motion to file the attached amicus brief be granted.

Respectfully submitted on this 5th day in March, 2018.



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**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S MOTION FOR
LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF ON 8 1/2 BY 11 INCH PAPER FOR**

The Republican Party of Pennsylvania respectfully moves for leave of Court to file its amicus brief in support of Applicants' Emergency Application for Stay on 8 ½ by 11-inch paper rather than in booklet form.

In support of its motion, Amicus asserts that the Emergency Application for Stay filed by Applicants in this matter was filed on Wednesday, February 21, 2018. The expedited filing of the application and the resulting compressed deadline for any response prevented Amicus from being able to get this brief prepared for printing and filing in booklet form. Nonetheless, Amicus desires to be heard on the application and requests the Court grant this motion and accept the paper filing.

Respectfully submitted on this 5th day in March, 2018.



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AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY APPLICATION FOR
STAY FOR REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA¹

STATEMENT OF INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE

Amicus curiae is the Republican Party of Pennsylvania in its own capacity and, as a major political party, 25 P.S. § 2831(a), and the State committee for the Republican Party in Pennsylvania, 25 P.S. § 2834, with 350 members and numerous candidates running for the House of Representatives in this year's primary election,² on behalf of all of its members and

¹ No counsel for a party authored this brief in whole or in part, and no counsel or party made a monetary contribution intended to fund the preparation or submission of this brief. No person other than *amicus curiae*, made a monetary contribution to its preparation or submission.

² Dozens of congressional candidates are running in the primary election for Pennsylvania's eighteen congressional districts.

congressional candidates. Amicus Curiae has a vital interest in the law regarding redistricting since congressional districts directly impact constituents, campaigns, and elections. Accordingly, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's rulings have obvious and widespread implications as the 2018 election cycle is already well underway.

ARGUMENT

Applicants filed an emergency application to stay the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's: (1) January 22, 2018 per curiam order finding the 2011 Pennsylvania Congressional plan violative of the Pennsylvania Constitution; and (2) February 19, 2018 per curiam order imposing its own redistricting plan. Through these rulings, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has violated the Elections Clause, U.S. CONST. art. I, § 4, and has upended the regularly scheduled election process in Pennsylvania.

Left unstayed, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's orders will force Amicus and its congressional candidates to devote considerable resources to reaching different voters, campaigning in different districts, and fundraising from different areas. Further, in reasonable anticipation of the 2018 election cycle, and in reliance upon the existing congressional maps, Amicus and its congressional candidates have spent time receiving and expending valuable resources in furtherance of the 2018 congressional campaigns. Similarly, many citizens of Pennsylvania who have been contributing to and volunteering with congressional campaigns in their district now find themselves in different districts under the new unconstitutional plan.

Granting a stay will allow Amicus and its congressional candidates to continue to reach their constituency as established under the lawfully enacted 2011 plan, and

avoid wasting valuable campaign resources. Similarly, granting a stay will allow Pennsylvania constituents to continue contributing to and supporting their existing members of congress without waste and uncertainty while this Court considers the merits of the decision below. Accordingly, Amicus respectfully ask this Court to grant the stay application while this Court resolves the disposition of the appeal.

I. IF THIS COURT DOES NOT GRANT A STAY, CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES IN PENNSYLVANIA WILL SUFFER IRREPARABLE HARM BY THEIR PREVIOUS RELIANCE ON THE DISTRICT MAPS.

Without a stay of the decision below, Amicus and its congressional candidates will suffer irreparable harm due to their now obsolete and defunct campaign resource allocations. Amicus and its congressional candidates, and many other congressional candidates, have long been campaigning in anticipation of the 2018 election. In addition, media and opposition campaigns have already been unleashed against congressional incumbents by various political groups and activists, including Democrats. In running for their respective congressional seats, congressional candidates have invested substantial time, effort, and/or money.

Congressional candidates' personal efforts, activities, duties, and stakes in their congressional candidacies have now been thrown into chaos. These prior activities required knowing with certainty the geographic parameters of congressional districts with sufficient lead time to permit the development of a campaign strategy that is tailored to the needs of the unique voters in each district. The decisions to undertake such investment were based in no small part on the existing boundaries of the congressional districts under the lawfully enacted 2011 plan. In fact, the district boundaries were a critical factor in making decisions about each candidacy. The sudden

change in congressional districts mere moments before the 2018 elections now threatens some candidacies for Congress because they no longer live in their districts, and some of the new districts now geographically or demographically favor a primary opponent. Congressional candidates relied on the existing congressional map for over a year in making campaign and election related decisions regarding the 2018 election.

The courts have repeatedly held that upending political geography in the midst of elections can cause harm through the disruption of the political process, especially as the election approaches. *See Purcell v. Gonzalez*, 549 U.S. 1 (2006); *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 585 (1964) (“In awarding or withholding immediate relief, a court is entitled to and should consider the proximity of a forthcoming election and the mechanics and complexities of state election laws, and should act and rely upon general equitable principles. With respect to the timing of relief, a court can reasonably endeavor to avoid a disruption of the election process which might result from requiring precipitate changes that could make unreasonable or embarrassing demands on a State in adjusting to the requirements of the court’s decree.”); *see Williams v. Rhodes*, 393 U.S. 23, 35, 89 (1968) (finding last-minute addition to ballot would pose “a risk of interference with the rights of other [citizens], for example, absentee voters”).

In the present case, now that the 2018 election cycle is well underway, the new judicially ordered, unconstitutional redistricting for the 2018 congressional elections will result in “[s]erious disruption of orderly . . . election processes.” *Butcher v. Bloom*, 203 A.2d 556, 568 (Pa. 1964). Not only will congressional candidates have allocated resources directed towards voters who no longer reside in the same district—and therefore may no longer be potential constituents or supporters—they will have to

expend additional resources to reach new voters who now reside in the new districts. Congressional candidate resource allocation was carefully targeted to reach potential supporters in each congressional district. Every candidate now will have to expend additional campaign resources in order to reach new potential supporters and voters. These changes will result in candidates expending substantial resources without time to fundraise, given the fast approaching primary filing deadline.

Moreover, given the time constraints and proximity to filing deadlines, more expensive methods of campaign communication will have to be utilized in order to reach voters who are new to congressional districts. Grassroots efforts such as community organizing, door knocking, volunteer phone banking, canvassing, and barnstorming generally require candidates to expend less money, but require much more time. Given the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's orders, candidates will now be forced to utilize more expensive—and less direct—means of voter outreach such as paid “robo-calls” and advertisement through television, internet, radio, and print. The lack of direct voter contact from campaigns will fundamentally undermine the direct constituent involvement in the political process. If this Court does not grant this stay and subsequently reverses the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decisions, even more waste and harm will occur because campaigns will have reached out to new voters—who upon reversal no longer reside in those districts—while potentially ceasing to reach out to voters who had their districts switched and who reside in the original districts again.

Because of this overwhelming potential for harm, Amicus respectfully requests this Court grant the stay application pending resolution of the applicants' petition for certiorari.

II. WITHOUT A STAY, THE CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA WHO HAVE ENGAGED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS WILL SUFFER HARM BY THE CREATION OF ANY INTERIM CONGRESSIONAL MAP.

Without a stay of the decision below, the citizens of Pennsylvania will suffer irreparable harm to their involvement in the political process. Their rights to vote, to express political opinions, to work to elect candidates of choice, and to run for political office are core free expression and free assembly rights. PA. CONST. art. I §§ 7, 20; *see also* *In re Street*, 451 A.2d 427, 432 (Pa. 1982) (“While the right to associate for the advancement of political beliefs includes the right to advance a candidate who represents those interests, . . . the right of association does not encompass the right to nominate as a candidate a particular individual who fails to meet reasonable eligibility requirements . . .”).

Just as Amicus and its congressional candidates have been raising and expending funds in efforts to win the 2018 election, the citizens of Pennsylvania have been contributing to and volunteering with congressional candidates in anticipation of the 2018 election. These citizens have supported these representatives in reliance on the existing, lawfully enacted 2011 congressional map. Much of this support would not have been pledged if the contributor resided in a different district than the candidate or if a candidate was not likely to be successful in the 2018 elections. The decisions to undertake this support were based in no small part on the existing boundaries of the congressional districts.

The change in congressional districts before the 2018 elections will now result in some contributors being represented by different representatives than the ones to whom they originally contributed. Many citizens will surely be harmed by this kind of

situation because when pledging their support, they wished to support a candidate who had the potential to represent them in congress for yet another term. Essentially, these contributors relied on the existing, lawfully enacted congressional map when engaging in the political process. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's unconstitutional change to that map prior to the 2018 election, especially before this Court has had an opportunity to review the decisions of the lower court, will certainly cause irreparable harm through the misallocation of campaign contributions.

Moreover, the complete upheaval of the regularly scheduled election processes of Pennsylvania occasioned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's actions, without this Court having the opportunity to review the decision, will certainly have a chilling effect on contributor's willingness to provide funds. As this Court stated in *Buckley v. Valeo*, "[g]iven the important role of contributions in financing political campaigns, contribution restrictions could have a severe impact on political dialogue if the limitations prevented candidates and political committees from amassing the resources necessary for effective advocacy." 424 U.S. 1, 21 (1976). The unavoidable effect of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's unconstitutional redrawing of remedial maps is "voter [and contributor] confusion and consequent incentive to remain away from the polls." *Purcell v. Gonzalez*, 549 U.S. 1, 4-5 (2006).

Additionally, county Republican party organizations throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have already completed the process of interviewing congressional candidates for the purpose of determining whether and whom the county party will endorse for the primary elections. This is a process that began in earnest in January as candidates for Congress and other offices communicated with local elected

county committee people by mail, phone, and in-person visits, and then participated, in many counties, in candidate interviews with the committees. These elected Committee people, each representing their respective precincts, have already participated in straw votes to determine the strength of a given candidate. This process has culminated in the county committees meeting formally and in accordance with their respective bylaws to decide whom to endorse. With this process having concluded, in many cases, County Republican organizations' by laws provide no process for a new round of endorsement meetings under the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's new unconstitutional map.

Thus, in addition to the voter confusion that will undoubtedly take place given the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's creation of a new unconstitutional map, the citizens of Pennsylvania who are already involved in the political process through contribution and volunteering will be harmed. A grant of stay by this Court will avoid the resulting unnecessary and irreparable harm to citizens' core expression and assembly rights by removing the uncertainty, wastefulness, and hesitancy. Accordingly, Amicus respectfully requests this Court grant the stay application, while this Court considers disposition of the appeal.

III. WITHOUT A STAY, THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE STATUTORILY REQUIRED ELECTION DEADLINES WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT COST AND LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES, RISKING ADDITIONAL VOTER CONFUSION.

Deadlines for the 2018 primary and general elections are rapidly approaching. By statute, the Pennsylvania Election Code specifies the dates on which nomination petitions, including those for congressional candidates, can begin circulation and when

they must be filed. 25 Pa.C.S. § 2868. For the 2018 elections, the first day to circulate and file nomination petitions for a candidate for Congress is February 13, 2018. (Joint Stipulation of Facts below ¶ 131.) Nomination petitions must be filed by March 6, 2018. (J. Stip. ¶ 132.) Remote military-overseas absentee ballots must be mailed by March 26, 2018. (J. Stip. ¶ 135 (citing 25 Pa.C.S. § 3508(b)(1)).) The 2018 general primary election is scheduled for May 15, 2018. (J. Stip. ¶ 130 (citing 25 Pa.C.S. § 2753(a)).)

These dates also trigger responsibilities for Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties. County boards of elections are responsible for providing ballots for primary and general elections. 25 Pa.C.S. § 2961. The county boards must prepare and print ballots in the form provided by the Election Code. 25 Pa.C.S. §§ 2962, 2963 and 2964. No later than forty days before an election, the county boards of elections must notify the county committees of each political party when and where voting machines may be inspected. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3011(c). But no later than fifty days prior to a primary, county boards are responsible for mailing absentee ballots to remote military-overseas ballots—hence the March 26, 2018 deadline above. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3146.5(a). In addition, county boards of elections must receive absentee ballot applications no earlier than fifty days prior to an election and no later than the Tuesday prior to the election. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3146.2a(a). Until the Friday prior to the election, challenges may be made to the county board's approval of absentee ballot applications. 25 Pa.C.S. § 3146.2b(b). Meanwhile, county boards must display primary and general election ballots starting the Thursday prior to the election. 25 Pa.C.S. § 2968.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's new unconstitutional plan requires moving and shortening the nomination petition circulation period for congressional elections.

The Pennsylvania Department of State has issued a notice that the separate nomination petition filing process in Pennsylvania for congressional candidates will be as follows: February 27th—first day to circulate and file nomination petitions; March 20th—last day to circulate and file nomination petitions; March 22nd—ballot lottery; March 27th—last day for withdrawal by candidates who file nomination petitions and last day to file objections to nomination petitions.

Proper circulation of nomination petitions—the first event of the 2018 election calendar—takes significant effort by state and county government, candidates, and voters. Nomination petitions for Congress must include at least one thousand valid signatures of registered and enrolled members of the proper party. 25 Pa.C.S. § 2872.1(12). Candidates are well advised to obtain a number of signatures well over the required number to reduce the potential for objections to nomination petitions. *See In re Vodvarka*, 140 A.3d 639, 640–41 (Pa. 2016) (noting number of signatures challenged). The circulation of nomination petitions occur during Pennsylvania’s winter, which at times prevents circulators from securing signatures or the cancelling of signature drives or events on certain days due to adverse and harsh weather conditions.

Moreover, the unconstitutional ordering of new congressional districts before the nomination petition circulation period is causing confusion among voters. Local political parties hold events to circulate nomination petitioners in February of an election year. Voters have become familiar with congressional district boundaries and their congresspersons over the past three election cycles under the existing districts under the lawfully enacted 2011 plan. It will take a substantial amount of time to educate voters of the new changes in the political and election process under the new,

unconstitutional congressional districts, similar to efforts to inform voters when their polling place changes at or near an election.

Changing congressional districts during the nomination petition circulation period causes a higher risk that voters may sign a nomination petition for the wrong district. A voter may sign a nomination petition for only one candidate per office. 25 Pa.C.S. § 2868. Thus, for a voter who has now been moved to a new congressional district but signs a nomination petition for her old district, not only is her signature invalid, but she cannot sign a second petition in her new district either, thereby effectively eliminating her rights. This will increase the number of objections to nomination petitions, thus increasing the burden on the courts and further delaying the identity of candidates for the primary election ballots.

Furthermore, the confusion the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's unconstitutional drawing of remedial maps has created for residents of Pennsylvania's current 18th Congressional District, as a result of the ongoing special election in that district, is unparalleled. In its January 22, 2018 order, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared that "the March 13, 2018 special election for Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, which will fill a vacancy in an existing congressional seat for which the term of office ends in 11 months, shall proceed under the Congressional Redistricting Act of 2011 and is unaffected by this Order." (*See Federal Register*, Vol. 82, No. 220, 11/16/17 (announcing filing dates for Special Election in the 18th Congressional District) attached as Exhibit A hereto.) However, if the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's order is not stayed, current residents of the 18th Congressional District will endure a scenario in which they are participating in an active election to elect their representative in

Congress while also being asked to sign nominating petitions possibly for a new member of congress who could represent the reformed 18th Congressional District under the new map. Adding to this confusion, neither of the candidates currently running in the March special election reside in the newly drawn 18th District.

Implementing the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's unconstitutional congressional map will cause voter confusion, force election administrators to act outside statutorily required deadlines, and impose added costs to state and county government, and ultimately the taxpayers. In other words, the new districting plan will disrupt orderly state election processes and interfere with the normal operation of the election machinery.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should issue a stay of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's January 22, 2018 and February 19, 2018 orders pending this Court's resolution of the applicants' petition for certiorari.

Respectfully submitted on this 5th day in March, 2018.



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EXHIBIT A



Filed Date: 11/9/17.
Accession Number: 20171109-5082.
Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 11/30/17.
Docket Numbers: ER18-276-000.
Applicants: Panda Hummel Station LLC.

Description: Baseline eTariff Filing: FERC Electric Tariff, Volume No. 1 (market-based rate application) to be effective 1/9/2018.

Filed Date: 11/9/17.
Accession Number: 20171109-5094.
Comments Due: 5 p.m. ET 11/30/17.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system by clicking on the links or querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene or protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211 and § 385.214) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: November 9, 2017.
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.
 [FR Doc. 2017-24795 Filed 11-15-17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

[NOTICE 2017-13]

Filing Dates for the Pennsylvania Special Election in the 18th Congressional District

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.
ACTION: Notice of filing dates for special election.

SUMMARY: Pennsylvania has scheduled a special general election on March 13, 2018, to fill the U.S. House of Representatives seat in the 18th Congressional District vacated by Representative Tim Murphy.

Committees required to file reports in connection with the Special General Election on March 13, 2018, shall file a 12-day Pre-General Report, and a 30-day Post-General Report.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth S. Kurland, Information Division, 999 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20463; Telephone: (202) 694-1100; Toll Free (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Principal Campaign Committees

All principal campaign committees of candidates who participate in the Pennsylvania Special General Election shall file a 12-day Pre-General Report on March 1, 2018; and a Post-General Report on April 12, 2018. (See chart below for the closing date for each report.)

Note that these reports are in addition to the campaign committee's regular quarterly filings. (See chart below for the closing date for each report).

Unauthorized Committees (PACs and Party Committees)

Political committees filing on a quarterly basis in 2018 are subject to special election reporting if they make

previously undisclosed contributions or expenditures in connection with the Pennsylvania Special General Election by the close of books for the applicable report(s). (See chart below for the closing date for each report.)

Committees filing monthly that make contributions or expenditures in connection with the Pennsylvania Special General Election will continue to file according to the monthly reporting schedule.

Additional disclosure information in connection with the Pennsylvania Special General Election may be found on the FEC Web site at <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/dates-and-deadlines/>.

Disclosure of Lobbyist Bundling Activity

Principal campaign committees, party committees and Leadership PACs that are otherwise required to file reports in connection with the special elections must simultaneously file FEC Form 3L if they receive two or more bundled contributions from lobbyists/registrants or lobbyist/registant PACs that aggregate in excess of the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold during the special election reporting periods (See chart below for closing date of each period.) 11 CFR 104.22(a)(5)(v), (b).

The lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2017 is \$17,900. This threshold amount may increase in 2018 based upon the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). Once the adjusted threshold amount becomes available, the Commission will publish it in the **Federal Register** and post it on its Web site. 11 CFR 110.17(e)(2). For more information on these requirements, see **Federal Register** Notice 2009-03, 74 FR 7285 (February 17, 2009).

CALENDAR OF REPORTING DATES FOR PENNSYLVANIA SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION

Report	Close of books ¹	Reg./cert. & overnight mailing deadline	Filing deadline
Committees Involved in the Special General (03/13/18) Must File			
Pre-General	02/21/18	02/26/18	03/01/18
Post-General	04/02/18	04/12/18	04/12/18
April Quarterly	—WAIVED—
July Quarterly	06/30/18	07/15/18	07/15/18 ²

¹ The reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered as a political committee up through the close of books for the first report due.

² Notice that this filing deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday. Filing deadlines are not extended when they fall on nonworking days. Accordingly, reports filed by methods other than registered, certified or overnight mail must be received by close of business on the last business day before the deadline.

Dated: November 3, 2017.

On behalf of the Commission,

Steven T. Walther,

Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 2017-24748 Filed 11-15-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-P

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 13, 2017.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Assistant Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2017-24835 Filed 11-15-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Board of Scientific Counselors, National Center for Health Statistics (BSC, NCHS)

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the CDC, announces the following meeting for BSC, NCHS. This meeting is open to the public; however, visitors must be processed in accordance with established federal policies and procedures. For foreign nationals or non-U.S. citizens, pre-approval is required (please contact Gwen Mustaf, 301-458-4500, glm4@cdc.gov, or Charles Rothwell, cjr4@cdc.gov at least 10 days in advance for requirements). All visitors are required to present a valid form of picture identification issued by a state, federal or international government. As required by the Federal Property Management Regulations, all persons entering in or on Federal controlled property and their packages, briefcases, and other containers in their immediate possession are subject to being x-rayed and inspected. Federal law prohibits the knowing possession or the causing to be present of firearms, explosives and other dangerous weapons and illegal substances. The meeting room accommodates approximately 78 people.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 11, 2018, 11:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., EDT, and January 12, 2018, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: NCHS Headquarters, 3311 Toledo Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles J. Rothwell, Director, NCHS/CDC, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 2627, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone (301) 458-4500, email cjr4@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose: This committee is charged with providing advice and making recommendations to the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; the Director, CDC; and the Director, NCHS, regarding the scientific and technical program goals and objectives, strategies, and priorities of NCHS.

Matters to be Considered: The agenda includes welcome remarks by NCHS

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The applications will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than December 15, 2017.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (David L. Hubbard, Senior Manager) P.O. Box 442, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-2034. Comments can also be sent electronically to Comments.applications@stls.frb.org:

1. *M&P Community Bancshares, Inc., 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan, Newport, Arkansas*; to acquire additional voting shares, for a total of up to 38 percent, of M&P Community Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire Merchants & Planters Bank all of Newport, Arkansas.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire shares of a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than November 29, 2017.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (Robert L. Triplett III, Senior Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *Ginne Cook Davis Trust under the Cook 2017 Children's Trust Agreement, Byron C. Cook, Trustee, and the Katie L. Cook Trust under the Cook 2017 Children's Trust Agreement, Byron C. Cook, Trustee, to join the Cook Family Group*, to retain voting shares of Community Bank Holdings of Texas, Inc. and thereby indirectly retain shares of Community National Bank & Trust of Texas, all of Corsicana, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 9, 2017.

Yao-Chin Chao,

Assistant Secretary of the Board.

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