## ORIGINAL

## Supreme Court of the Anited States

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF

TEXAS, ET AL.,

Appellants,

v.

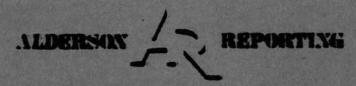
: NO. 80-1290

JOHN L. FASHING ET AL.

Washington, D. C.

Tuesday, January 12, 1982

Pages 1 thru 47



1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.,
4	GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF :
5	TEXAS, ET AL.,
6	Appellants, :
7	v. : No. 80-1290
8	JOHN L. FASHING ET AL.
9	x
10	Washington, D. C.
11	Tuesday, January 12, 1982
12	The above-entitled matter came on for oral argument
13	before the Supreme Court of the United States at 1:02
14	o'clock p.m.
15	
16	APPEARANCES:
17	JAMES P. ALLISON, ESQ., Assistant Attorney General
18	of Texas, Austin, Texas; on behalf of the
19	Appellants.
20	RAYMOND C. CABALLERO, ESQ., El Paso, Texas; on
21	behalf of the Appellees.
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23	
24	
25	

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## PROCEEDINGS

- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: We will hear arguments next
- 3 in Clements against Fashing.
- 4 Mr. Allison, you may proceed whenever you are ready.
- 5 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JAMES P. ALLISON, ESQ.,
- 6 ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANTS
- 7 MR. ALLISON: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please
- 8 the Court, this case involves Article XVI, Section 65 of the
- 9 Texas Constitution, the resign to run provision, and Article
- 10 III, Section 19, concerning eligibility to the state
- 11 legislature. The action was brought for declaratory
- 12 judgment and injunctive relief alleging violation of the
- 13 First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S.
- 14 Constitution.

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- 15 The officeholder plaintiffs were a judge of the
- 16 county court at law, two justices of the peace, and a
- 17 constable. Other plaintiffs included citizens and
- 18 registered voters. The defendants were the local and state
- 19 officers who were charged with the enforcement of the
- 20 challenged provisions.
- 21 The district court held that both Article XVI.
- 22 Section 65, and Article III, Section 19, contravened the
- 23 equal protection clause of the U. S. Constitution, and
- 24 therefore the district court granted the plaintiffs' motion
- 25 for summary judgment and injunctive relief. The U. S. Court

- 1 of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court 2 opinion adopted in the memorandum pending in the district 3 court.
- A short, very brief historical background on these provisions and the Texas political system would be helpful in analyzing these provisions.
- The current Texas constitution was adopted in 8 1876. The constitution provides for a very decentralized 9 system of government. Under this constitution, almost all 10 local and state offices are elected, and from 1876 until the 11 1950s each of these, almost all of these were elected for a 12 two-year term.
- In the 1950s, four-year terms were extended to most 14 of these offices. In 1954, four-year terms were extended to 15 the precinct and county offices included in Article XVI, 16 Section 65. In 1958, after the people of the state had 17 extended four-year terms to these offices, the resign to run 18 provision in Article XVI, Section 65, was adopted.
- 19 Article III, Section 19 has been included in the 20 Texas constitution since the constitution of the Republic of 21 Texas was drafted in 1836.
- I would first like to point out an error in the 23 conclusions reached by the district court in its memorandum 24 opinion. The district court found and apparently relied 25 heavily upon a distinction between the application of the

- 1 resign to run rule to the office of justice of the peace and
- 2 its application to the office of municipal court judge.
- 3 The district court stated that the justice of the
- 4 peace is included under Article XVI, Section 65, and the
- 5 municipal court judge, who has very similar jurisdiction, is
- 6 not, and found that to be a distinction of some great
- 7 importance in finding that the resign to run rule
- 8 contravened the constitution.
- 9 What the district court overlooked was Article XI,
- 10 Section 11 of the Texas constitution, adopted in 1958, at
- 11 the same time as the resign to run rule in Article XVI,
- 12 Section 65. Article XI, Section 11, states that any
- 13 municipality which extends the terms of its officers from
- 14 two years to four years, that once that is done, that those
- 15 officers will be under the same resign to run provisions as
- 16 offices that are under Article XVI, Section 65.
- 17 So there is no distinction between the application
- 18 of the resign to run rules, between the office of justice of
- 19 the peace and any municipal office, whether it be municipal
- 20 judge --
- 21 QUESTION: Was that called to the attention of the
- 22 district judge?
- 23 MR. ALLISON: No, Your Honor. To the best of my
- 24 knowledge it was not.
- 25 QUESTION: Even after the judgment?

- 1 MR. ALLISON: I don't know, Your Honor. I did not
- 2 have this case until after the Fifth Circuit had ruled on it.
- 3 QUESTION: But municipal judges who still have
- 4 two-year terms are still subject to the resign to run rule?
- 5 MR. ALLISON: No, sir.
- 6 QUESTION: I mean, they aren't. They are not
- 7 subject to it.
- 8 MR. ALLISON: They are not.
- 9 QUESTION: Yes, that's right.
- 10 MR. ALLISON: Because no one with a two-year term
- 11 is subject to the resign to run rule. Only when they adopt
- 12 a four-year term.
- 13 QUESTION: Does that necessarily destroy the
- 14 holding below?
- MR. ALLISON: I think it destroys the contrast,
- 16 because any time that a municipal judge is in the same
- 17 position as a justice of the peace, that is, holding a
- 18 four-year term, it is under exactly the same rule.
- 19 QUESTION: Well, it might depend on whether the
- 20 difference is relevant.
- 21 MR. ALLISON: It might.
- QUESTION: Is there any question but what the state
- 23 trial court of general jurisdiction or the district court is
- 24 subject to Article III, Section 19?
- 25 MR. ALLISON: Article III, Section 19, or Article

- 1 XVI, Section 65?
- 2 QUESTION: Article III, Section 19.
- MR. ALLISON: No, it is subject to Article III,
- 4 Section 19.
- 5 In analyzing these provisions, I think it important
- 6 to note the activities or rights which are not restricted
- 7 under these two provisions. There is no question that the
- 8 right to vote is not included and is not restricted under
- 9 either of these provisions. Neither is the right to support
- 10 other candidates, the right to speak out on issues, or the
- 11 right to test the water.
- 12 QUESTION: May I get back to just a moment to what
- 13 you tell us was the error of the district court? What can
- 14 we do about that? Can we correct it?
- 15 MR. ALLISON: I don't think -- I think you can
- 16 correct it by reversing the judgment. I pointed out simply
- 17 that the district court was in error in arriving at that
- 18 conclusion, and using it --
- 19 QUESTION: Yes, but you said this was relied on
- 20 very heavily.
- 21 MR. ALLISON: It appears to be.
- 22 QUESTION: To support the finding of
- 23 unconstitutionality.
- 24 MR. ALLISON: Yes, sir.
- 25 QUESTION: But it is a matter of Texas law, I

- 1 guess, isn't it?
- 2 MR. ALLISON: Well --
- 3 QUESTION: Ordinarily, we don't second guess
- 4 holdings of district judges or courts of appeals --
- 5 MR. ALLISON: In this case --
- 6 QUESTION: -- as to what state law is.
- 7 MR. ALLISON: In this case, it appears to be a
- 8 conclusion of law as to whether or not there is a rule --
- 9 QUESTION: Well, I know, but we have to read the
- 10 section that you said he misconstrued, and we would have to
- 11 do what? Construe it ourselves?
- MR. ALLISON: I think you would have to reach the
- 13 conclusion that there is no difference between the
- 14 application of resign to run rules between these two offices.
- 15 QUESTION: What is the highest Texas court that
- 16 would take care of a question like this? The Supreme
- 17 Court? Is it the Texas Supreme Court?
- 18 MR. ALLISON: If it were presented to it, yes, sir.
- 19 QUESTION: Do you say that is an error of law or an
- 20 error of fact by the district judge, by the trial judge?
- 21 MR. ALLISON: I think it is both. I think the
- 22 court was in error as to the fact of whether or not there
- 23 was a resign to run rule applicable to the municipal court
- 24 judges, and then did arrive at an erroneous conclusion of
- 25 law that Article XVI, Section 65, creates a difference in

- 1 classification between the two offices.
- 2 QUESTION: But the real error was in not giving the
- 3 judge a chance to straighten it out. Right?
- 4 MR. ALLISON: I do not know. I don't know if the
- 5 judge would straighten it out had he --
- 6 QUESTION: He wasn't given the opportunity. You
- 7 didn't call it to his attention.
- 8 MR. ALLISON: To my knowledge, it was not.
- 9 QUESTION: You said you didn't, but I mean your
- 10 office was responsible for it.
- MR. ALLISON: The record does not reflect that it
- 12 was called to his attention at that time.
- 13 QUESTION: And it could have been straightened out
- 14 then, couldn't it?
- MR. ALLISON: Right. It was pointed out to the
- 16 Fifth Circuit.
- 17 QUESTION: Did I understand you to say the judge
- 18 overlooked the recent statute?
- 19 MR. ALLISON: No, sir, he overlooked Article II,
- 20 Section 11, of the Texas constitution.
- 21 QUESTION: That was not newly enacted, of course.
- 22 MR. ALLISON: No, sir, it was adopted at the same
- 23 time as Article XVI, Section 65, the resign to run
- 24 provision. It was on the same ballot.
- QUESTION: His opinion did not mention that at all?

- 1 MR. ALLISON: No, sir.
- 2 QUESTION: So what you are saying is, he simply, so
- 3 far as the face of his opinion goes, did not consider an
- 4 article and section of the Texas constitution.
- 5 MR. ALLISON: Yes, Your Honor.
- 6 QUESTION: So he didn't construe it, he just
- 7 apparently didn't cite it at all.
- 8 MR. ALLISON: Right.
- 9 QUESTION: Or consider it.
- 10 MR. ALLISON: That's correct.
- I would further point out that among the activities

  12 not restricted to Article XVI, Section 65, is the right to

  13 test the water, that persons who contemplate running for

  14 office in Texas have the opportunity to go out and solicit

  15 possible support without having to resign an office, and

  16 that is in direct opposition to the position taken by the

  17 plaintiff appellees in this case.
- I would further point out that the Texas resign to
  19 run rule does not involve any suspect classifications.
  20 There is no direct burden on any particular portion of the
  21 electorate or upon any particular political viewpoint. The
  22 only effects upon the voters would be if they wished to
  23 support a particular candidate and that candidate was in
  24 mid-term of an office he was holding at the time, and he
  25 declined to run because of the resign to run rule.

- 1 In that limited sense you could say that the
- 2 Article XVI, Section 65, resign to run provision has some
- 3 slight effect upon the pool of candidates available to the
- 4 voters. Otherwise, it has none.
- 5 Article XVI, Section 65, appears to be a unique
- 6 resign to run provision. Although a majority of the states
- 7 now have some resign to run rule, Article XVI, Section 65
- 8 differs as nearly as I can determine from all of these, in
- 9 that Article XVI, Section 65, applies only to the first
- 10 three years of a four-year term. In the last year of your
- 11 term in Texas, you are free to run for any office, either
- 12 re-election of the office you then hold or for any other
- 13 office that you might choose to announce for.
- I believe this is important in weighing the
- 15 rationale behind the adoption of the resign to run rule. In
- 16 1954, when the four-year terms were extended, replacing the
- 17 two-year terms, the people of Texas staggered the terms to
- 18 be served. That is, they provided that approximately
- 19 one-half of the officeholders would come up every two years,
- 20 thereby shortening the ballot.
- 21 What this also did was create a temptation and an
- 22 opportunity for an officeholder in mid-term, in the middle
- 23 of the four-year term that had been extended to him, to run
- 24 for another office, to take a free ride while continuing to
- 25 hold the office that he had been elected to for a four-year

1 term.

The state interests served by the resign to run

rule have been widely discussed in other cases, and were

recognized by the district court in its opinion in this

case. The resign to run rule prevents abuse of office, and

in this case, by applying it to the first three years of the

term, it also prevents neglect of the duties of the office,

and that a person may not go out and use his time to run for

office while occupying the office he has been elected to.

It also prevents abuse of office by a losing

11 candidate who if he were allowed to run in mid-term would

12 return to the office that he had presently held and continue

13 to serve for two years after having run and lost for another

14 race, and certainly it also eliminates even the appearance

15 of impropriety of candidates who are holding an office being

16 allowed to run for higher office or other office in the

17 middle of their term.

There is no less restrictive means to achieve these 19 ends. The other possibilities, a leave of absence 20 provision, for example, would certainly not prevent the 21 abuse of office by a losing candidate who would return to 22 the office. The criminal statute, which prohibits abuse of 23 office or abuse of official power, does not in any way 24 affect the neglect of duties that could occur while an 25 officeholder left his office and went out and ran for

- 1 another office in the middle of his term.
- QUESTION: Do you see any comparison or analogy
- 3 between the resign to run provision and the provision of
- 4 Article I, Section 6, of the United States Constitution,
- 5 that says no Senator or Representative shall during the time
- 6 for which he was elected be appointed to any civil office
- 7 under the authority of the United States which shall have
- 8 been created or the emoluments thereof have been increased
- 9 during such time?
- 10 MR. ALLISON: Yes, I certainly see an analogy
- 11 between that and Article III, Section 18, of the Texas
- 12 constitution, which has the same provision, and I have cited
- 13 it further in my argument. And I certainly see an analogy
- 14 between that and the provisions of both the federal Hatch
- 15 Act and the state Hatch Act, which also prohibits candidacy.
- The plaintiffs in this case, the appellees here,
- 17 argue that apparently the resign to run rule is defective
- 18 because it is under-inclusive. They argue that it does not
- 19 apply to everyone, it only applies to them. And it is true
- 20 that there are a number of offices excepted from the rule.
- 21 The process at arriving at a decision through the
- 22 legislature is always one of compromise, and certainly that
- 23 was involved in the arriving at this resign to run rule, but
- 24 to hold the resign to run rule unconstitutional simply
- 25 because it makes too many exceptions would require that a

- 1 statute or constitutional provision either go all the way in
- 2 treating a problem or not attack the problem at all.
- 3 QUESTION: Do you think the exemption of state
- 4 legislators from the rule was the result of compromise?
- 5 MR. ALLISON: Possibly, though I would certainly
- 6 point out that members of the house of representatives only
- 7 serve a two-year term anyway, so the resign to run rule
- 8 purpose of preventing them from neglecting their duties in
- 9 mid-term while running for another office would have no
- 10 application to them, because they have to run either for
- 11 re-election or for other office every two years.
- 12 The state senate, that may have been the case.
- 13 QUESTION: Well, do we have to find that this is
- 14 the result of a compromise, or this is the deliberate choice
- 15 of the state legislature for reasons which they haven't
- 16 explained, and perhaps don't need to explain?
- 17 MR. ALLISON: I think that the provisions can be
- 18 upheld on the basis of any rational basis for their
- 19 application, but if you go beyond that --
- 20 QUESTION: Do you have any system of preserving the
- 21 legislative history, the evolution of a statute in Texas?
- 22 MR. ALLISON: Unfortunately, at the time these
- 23 provisions were adopted, 1954 and 1958, there was no
- 24 legislative history as such in Texas.
- 25 QUESTION: These were amendments proposed by the

- 1 legislature, were they?
- 2 MR. ALLISON: Amendments proposed by the
- 3 legislature, adopted by the people.
- 4 QUESTION: Yes.
- 5 MR. ALLISON: I would point out that the exceptions
- 6 found in Article XVI, Section 65, are not classes of
- 7 persons. They do not involve any suspect categories. They
- 8 are exceptions of specific positions, and the presumption
- 9 there is that the legislature based these exemptions upon
- 10 some circumstances within their knowledge, and that the
- 11 judiciary will not normally invade that province of the
- 12 legislature.
- 13 Article III, Section 19, has been similarly
- 14 attacked on the same basis, that it creates classifications,
- 15 and the same arguments apply.
- 16 I would also point out that the standing of these
- 17 plaintiffs to attack Article III, Section 19, is
- 18 particularly objected to by the appellants in that there is
- 19 no plaintiff who indicated a definite intention to run for
- 20 the legislature. Article III, Section 19, provides that any
- 21 person holding a lucrative office in the state shall not be
- 22 eligible for the legislature during the term for which they
- 23 are elected. None of the plaintiffs in this case indicated
- 24 that they definitely intended to come within that provision.
- One of the plaintiffs said that if it weren't for

- 1 Article XVI, Section 65, that required him to resign the
- 2 position he then held, he might run for the legislature or
- 3 he might run for one or two other offices that he named in
- 4 his affidavit. We do not believe that that meets the
- 5 standard case or controversy requirement in order to
- 6 challenge the constitutionality of Article III, Section 19.
- 7 QUESTION: But I gather each of these plaintiffs
- 8 falls within one of the categories to whom Section 19
- 9 applies? I mean, he is either a judge or one of the other
- 10 offices, is he?
- 11 MR. ALLISON: Each of them would.
- 12 QUESTION: Each of them would.
- 13 MR. ALLISON: Yes, they were all holders of a
- 14 lucrative office.

20 offices mentioned.

- 15 QUESTION: But none of them has suggested he wanted
- 16 to run for the legislature except the one who said maybe he 17 might.
- 18 MR. ALLISON: Except the one who said he might run 19 for the legislature, or he might run for one or two other
- 21 The district court also did not mention Article
- 22 III, Section 18, which provides that no senator or
- 23 representative shall during the term for which he was
- 24 elected be eligible to, one, any civil office or profit
- 25 under this state which shall have been created or the

- 1 emoluments of which may have been increased during such
- 2 term, or two, any office or place the appointment to which
- 3 may be made in whole or in part by either branch of the
- 4 legislature.
- 5 This is the equalizer between the application of
- 6 Article III, Section 19, which says that if you are holding
- 7 a lucrative office in another branch you cannot run for the
- 8 legislature during that term, and Article III, Section 18,
- 9 states that if you are in the legislature you cannot run
- 10 during your term for an office that you created or increased
- 11 the emoluments of or that the legislature may act upon the
- 12 appointment. That provision prevents abuse by legislators.
- 13 QUESTION: General Allison, you say this is an
- 14 equalizer, but a moment ago you said that the
- 15 classifications here are not classifications of persons, but
- 16 rather classification of offices. Do I understand that
- 17 argument to mean that you don't understand there to be a
- 18 constitutional duty to treat all offices alike, and if so,
- 19 you don't even need the equalizer if that argument is
- 20 right? Is that correct?
- 21 MR. ALLISON: That's correct. I am working on two
- 22 levels. If you adopt the rational basis argument, then any
- 23 rational basis that can be found to sustain these provisions
- 24 is sufficient to uphold them, but if you go further, and if
- 25 you adopt either the means to the end test or some type of

- 1 balancing test, then these other provisions come into play.
- 2 QUESTION: If I understood your argument about the
- 3 difference between offices, not persons, you don't even need
- 4 a rational basis, because the persons just happen to occupy
- 5 different offices, and there is no constitutional
- 6 requirement that different state offices have the same
- 7 emoluments. There is no constitutional requirement that a
- 8 county judge be paid the same as a circuit judge, for
- 9 example. Is that what you are arguing?
- MR. ALLISON: Not exactly.
- 11 QUESTION: What is the constitutional requirement
- 12 that different offices have the same emoluments, burdens or
- 13 benefits?
- MR. ALLISON: I don't think there is any.
- 15 QUESTION: Well, then you don't even need a
- 16 rational basis.
- 17 MR. ALLISON: Well, I think you need a rational
- 18 basis when you differentiate or distinguish between the
- 19 qualfications to be a candidate for an office.
- QUESTION: Why? Why couldn't you say, you need a
- 21 college education to be a circuit judge, and you need a high
- 22 school education to be a county judge? What is wrong with
- 23 that?
- 24 MR. ALLISON: You can.
- 25 QUESTION: Even if it is not rational. Even if the

- 1 one has greater responsibility than the other. What is the
  2 constitutional objection?
- 3 MR. ALLISON: Well, that is a rational basis.
- 4 QUESTION: No, I am saying, even if the more
- 5 difficult job you merely required a high school education
- 6 for, I don't know why the Constitution would prevent the
- 7 Texas legislature from doing that.
- 8 MR. ALLISON: I don't think it would.
- 9 QUESTION: Well, I took it that you were attempting
- 10 to respond to the rationale of the Fifth Circuit on this.
- 11 Was that the point you were trying to make?
- 12 MR. ALLISON: Yes, it was.
- 13 There is no question that these provisions of the
- 14 Texas constitution create some restrictions on candidate
- 15 access to the ballot, but this Court in Bullock versus
- 16 Carter set the standard in stating that in approaching
- 17 candidate restrictions, it is essential to examine in a
- 18 realistic light the extent and nature of their impact on the
- 19 voters.
- 20 As I have stated, these provisions serve legitimate
  21 state interests. That has not been contested either at the
  22 district court or the Fifth Circuit level. They serve them
- 22 district court of the fifth circuit level. They serve them
- 23 in the least restrictive means possible, and the
- 24 classifications that are created are reasonably related to
- 25 the interests to be achieved, so regardless of the standard

- 1 adopted, be it rational basis, means to an end, the
  2 ends-means test, or even strict scrutiny, these provisions
  3 meet the standards.
- This Court also in U. S. Civil Service Commission

  5 versus National Association of Letter Carriers, quoted

  6 Thomas Jefferson, stating as follows: "The right of any

  7 officer to give his vote at elections as a qualified citizen

  8 is not meant to be restrained, nor, however given, shall it

  9 have any effect to his prejudice, but it is expected that he

  10 will not attempt to influence the votes of others nor take

  11 any part in the business of electioneering, that being

  12 deemed inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution and

  13 his duties to it."
- The people of the state of Texas have elected to 15 require their officers to adhere to this principle. Such is 16 their right under the Constitution.
- 17 QUESTION: Mr. Allison, if one subject to the 18 resign to run rule -- those are four-year term people?
- 19 MR. ALLISON: Yes, sir.
- QUESTION: Now, if you want to run for an office
  21 for the term beginning when yours expires, you are going to
  22 have to start running while you are in office.
- MR. ALLISON: In the last year. Yes, sir.
- QUESTION: And so you have to resign under that?
- 25 MR. ALLISON: No, sir.

- 1 QUESTION: You don't?
- 2 MR. ALLISON: In the last year of your four-year
- 3 term, you can announce --
- 4 QUESTION: You can run for a term that starts at
- 5 the expiration of your own?
- 6 MR. ALLISON: Yes, sir.
- 7 QUESTION: Whether or not it is for re-election of
- 8 your present office or a new one?
- 9 MR. ALLISON: Yes, sir. Without restriction.
- 10 QUESTION: Mr. Allison, in your brief you advanced
- 11 a number of arguments justifying the various classifications
- 12 in Section 65, but in the answers to your interrogatories at
- 13 the trial level, or the interrogatories that were
- 14 propounded, it sounded like at best Section 65 was just the
- 15 product of maybe some sloppy legislative drafting, and that
- 16 these arguments are rather an afterthought. Is that the
- 17 case?
- 18 MR. ALLISON: It is difficult if not impossible to
- 19 say. There is no legislative history in Texas to support
- 20 what the rationale may have been for the provisions. The
- 21 defendants in this case are the executive officers charged
- 22 with enforcing them, and they had no role in the adoption of
- 23 the provisions. To ask them what was the rationale or the
- 24 basis in the minds of the legislature at the time they
- 25 adopted the provision, it is almost impossible to answer.

- I advanced several arguments that could have been,
  and that certainly can be sustained as a rational basis for
  these provisions.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Mr. Caballero?
- 5 ORAL ARGUMENT OF RAYMOND C. CABALLERO, ESQ.,
- 6 ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLEES
- 7 MR. CABALLERO: Yes, Your Honor.

17 later on.

- 8 Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court,
  9 Texas in Article XVI, Section 40, has a prohibition against
  10 dual officeholding. That means that you cannot hold more
  11 than one lucrative office at the same time. Article XVI,
  12 Section 65, is not a dual officeholding prohibition.
  13 Article III, Section 19, started out as a dual officeholding
  14 provision, and in 1836, they added that clause, "during the
  15 term for which he is elected or appointed." That is what
  16 causes the problem in III, 19, that I will be discussing
- In terms of the legislative history here, Section 19 65 of Article XVI was passed in 1954, after the resolution 20 of the legislature to place it on the ballot for the 21 revision of the constitution at the general election, and 22 its purpose, and if you look at the headnote, says it is a 23 transitional article to provide for the staggering of 24 elections between the various officeholders who had been 25 granted four-year terms.

- In 1958, the paragraph in question here in Section 2 65 was also made part of the constitution, and at exactly 3 the same time, verbatim, the same clause came into Article 4 XI, Section 11, that I will be discussing here in just a 5 second.
- There is no reason that I know, nor did the state advance any in the courts below, other than that it -- well, the state in the court below simply said that it was going to prevent abuse of office, and therefore that is why the article was placed in there.
- Now, the question was raised here this morning that
  the district court made an error of fact or of law in
  neglecting to mention Article XI, Section 11. That was the
  provision enacted in 1958 which allowed cities in the state
  for Texas to give four-year terms to mayors and members of
  the city council. They had to vote it in. They didn't give
  triautomatically. Very few cities took advantage of that
  provision to give members of its city council four-year
  terms. Perhaps counsel here in rebuttal can mention one. I
  don't know of any, but there may be some.
- Certainly El Paso, Texas, where this case arose,

  22 did not take advantage of it, and where Judge Hudspeth sat

  23 at the time members of the city council and municipal courts

  24 only had terms of two years.
- 25 QUESTION: Well, isn't the point that if the

- 1 municipal judges had only two-year terms, and the justices
  2 of the peace four years, that it is --
- 3 MR. CABALLERO: I apologize. The municipal court
- 4 judges had four-year terms, but under our provision, we do
- 5 not have the application in El Paso nor in most areas of the
- 6 state of Texas of the four-year Article XI, Section 11,
- 7 statute. The members of the city council run for two years,
- 8 but the municipal court judges have four-year terms, but the
- 9 statute does not apply to offices in -- I am sorry, they
- 10 have two-year terms. That statute does not apply in El Paso.
- 11 My confusion is -- is this. The problem here is
- 12 that municipal court judges run -- municipal elections in
- 13 Texas are in odd years. State and county elections are in
- 14 even years. That means that a municipal court judge, when
- 15 he comes around, he wants to run in a state election, in an
- 16 even year, does not have to resign the office, even though
- 17 he is only holding a two-year term.
- 18 QUESTION: Yes, but he has less than a year to go.
- 19 MR. CABALLERO: He has less than a year to go.
- 20 There is no prohibition at all to a municipal court judge
- 21 running.
- Now, the times here as far as the Texas election
- 23 process is concerned are important. The filing date in
- 24 Texas since 1959 has been the first Monday in February of an
- 25 even year. The way you are elected is, your term runs until

- 1 January 31st of an even year. That means, for example, if
  2 my term as a judge or another officeholder, I would be in
  3 office now. If I wanted to run for another office, I would
  4 have to file by February 1. However, if I went out and
  5 solicited any kind of support for that other office prior to
  6 January 1 of this year, the statute does not say private
  7 announcement or public announcement, it simply says by the
  8 mere solicitation of a campaign contribution, or the
  9 announcement of any kind, I am going to be a candidate for
  10 some other office. That automatically causes you to vacate
  11 your office.
- An officerholder -- and therefore you lose that

  13 office immediately, and you lose your livelihood for a

  14 period of a year, even if you win the office that you are

  15 now seeking, and that is even if you are running in the last

  16 year of your term.
- It is even worse if you are running mid-term, that 18 is, if you have a four-year term and you are running two 19 years into your term, because then you lose three years of 20 your term.
- QUESTION: Counsel, are you arguing that the burden 22 is so severe that it is unconstitutional even if it applied 23 to everybody?
- MR. CABALLERO: Yes, that is one thing that I am 25 arguing, that this statute -- and I argued in the court

- 1 below, this statute has problems. Both statutes have
- 2 problems. Even if you -- well, Section 65 has problems even
- 3 if you applied it to everyone.
- 4 QUESTION: Well, presumably when they ran for the
- 5 original office, they took it subject to the burdens that
- 6 the statute imposed.
- 7 MR. CABALLERO: That's correct.
- 8 QUESTION: So long as there is no equal protection
- 9 problem. What else would there be?
- 10 MR. CABALLERO: Because it imposes a burden on
- 11 voters and on candidates that is unnecessary. What goal is
- 12 it, Your Honor, that you are trying to further by placing a
- 13 burden? When you place a burden on election rights, our
- 14 contention is there should be some reason for it. The state
- 15 has been able to advance, according to the district court,
- 16 no valid reason for placing such burdens on candidates.
- 17 QUESTION: Well, what happens with states that say
- 18 you can only serve one term?
- 19 MR. CABALLERO: There are states that provide that
- 20 for certain offices you can only hold office for one term.
- 21 QUESTION: There certainly are. That is right.
- 22 What is wrong with that?
- 23 MR. CABALLERO: I don't know of any prohibition
- 24 against providing for one term.
- 25 QUESTION: Well, isn't that a little more stringent

- 1 than this one?
- 2 MR. CABALLERO: Yes, Your Honor, it is more
- 3 stringent.
- 4 QUESTION: Under this one, you can serve 26 terms,
- 5 provided you abide by the law.
- 6 MR. CABALLERO: The problem with this provision
- 7 is --
- 8 QUESTION: And the other one, you can't serve but
- 9 one anyway.
- 10 MR. CABALLERO: That's correct.
- 11 QUESTION: When you talk about restrictions, I
- 12 think you had better get another word, don't you?
- MR. CABALLERO: Well, the problem is, when you are
- 14 running for that one term, Your Honor, you run for the one
- 15 term knowing that you are going to keep the one term. The
- 16 problem --
- 17 QUESTION: You run knowing that you can't campaign
- 18 for the other one.
- 19 MR. CABALLERO: You run knowing probably that you
- 20 cannot campaign for any other office.
- 21 QUESTION: That's right. Why is one so bad and the
- 22 other one is not?
- 23 MR. CABALLERO: I think that in this case, Your
- 24 Honor, the policy generally should be that -- I think you
- 25 mentioned in one of your opinions -- there are two -- there

- 1 are competing policies here. It used to be that, one, you
- 2 wanted to shorten the ballot, and the other policy was that
- 3 you wanted to provide people access to the ballot and ways
- 4 to express their viewpoints.
- In this case, the problem is, you would like to
- 6 keep people in office and have them tend to their office and
- 7 not be running for other offices. That is one policy. The
- 8 competing policy is, there are various judges on this very
- 9 Court who have come from other courts. The policy has been
- 10 that you want people to move up the political ladder, to
- 11 move up to higher office. This defeats that policy.
- 12 QUESTION: Where does that policy derive?
- 13 MR. CABALLERO: It is not written anywhere, Your
- 14 Honor. Just the policy generally --
- 15 QUESTION: Plus, I don't think any of us ran for
- 16 this office.
- 17 MR. CABALLERO: No, you --
- 18 QUESTION: I hope we didn't.
- 19 MR. CABALLERO: No, Your Honor, that is true, but
- 20 in Texas, judges are political, not appointed. You have to
- 21 run for office in Texas. That is a decision made by the
- 22 legislature, obviously making judges political persons, as
- 23 opposed to some states --
- 24 QUESTION: Wouldn't it be unconstitutional for
- 25 Congress to say that no federal judge may run for the United

- 1 States Senate without first resiging?
- MR. CABALLERO: Without first resigning?
- 3 QUESTION: Without first resigning his judicial
- 4 office.
- 5 MR. CABALLERO: My offhand impression would be that
- 6 it would not, Your Honor. Now, there is --
- 7 QUESTION: How is this different?
- 9 of Texas, and in the Moreo case there was a prohibition of 10 judicial officers running for non-judicial office. That is 11 not the case here. The prohibition in Texas was removed 12 some time ago. I can see a state validly, as in the Moreo 13 case, with which we have no quarrel, saying a judicial 14 officer may not run for non-judicial office without 15 resigning the judicial office first. That was upheld in 16 Moreo.
- In this case, we would not have a First Amendment
  18 claim, we would have strictly an equal protection claim,
  19 were that the case.
- QUESTION: May I ask you a question about your
  21 equal protection claim? What is the most glaring example of
  22 unfair treatment? There are so many offices involved, it is
  23 hard to -- and there are different dates of running and
  24 all. Just pick the two that you think are the worst.
- 25 MR. CABALLERO: All right. I will give you a

- 1 couple. There is actually a case, and you can take the cite
- 2 here, it is 377 Southwest 2nd, and it is also reported in
- 3 380 Southwest 2nd. I think it was cited in the earlier
- 4 briefs, not before this Court, by the state. That is the
- 5 case of Willis versus Potts, Willis versus Fort Worth.
- 6 It involves really both provisions that are akin to
- 7 the ones that we have in question here in this case.
- 8 QUESTION: Well, I would be much happier if you
- 9 told me about one in this particular record, the two offices
- 10 in this record that you think there is the most arbitrary
- 11 discrimination between the two.
- MR. CABALLERO: All right, I think, for example,
- 13 county judge.
- 14 QUESTION: County judge?
- MR. CABALLERO: A county court of law judge who
- 16 desires to run for the court of civil appeals, which is the
- 17 next court of appeals up above that court. Contrasted with
- 18 a district court judge, also a trial judge, sitting alone,
- 19 who also reports to the same appellate court. The district
- 20 judge is not governed by Section 65. He may run midway
- 21 through a four-year term, keep office, even if he lost.
- QUESTION: He is governed by Section 19, isn't he?
- 23 MR. CABALLERO: Yes, he may not run for the
- 24 legislature, Your Honor. That is because it is a lucrative
- 25 office. That is correct. He is ineligible for that

- 1 section. The county court of law judge, let's say that both 2 seek the same office.
- 3 QUESTION: Would it not be rational for a
- 4 legislature to think that they should protect the public
- 5 from confusing these various courts and judges, so that the
- 6 judge on this county court you speak of would be precluded
- 7 from having his picture and his posters out around the area,
- 8 saying, keep Judge Moreo on the bench. The public might
- 9 think they should keep him on when in fact he is running for
- 10 a different office. Isn't that a factor a legislature is
- 11 entitled to take into account?
- 12 MR. CABALLERO: That is sort of the -- that is a
- 13 factor, but that is the judicial officer running for a
- 14 non-judicial position, I think is what you are raising,
- 15 which is not really the question.
- QUESTION: No, I am talking about the county judge
- 17 running for the next highest court.
- 18 MR. CABALLERO: You can say that, but why would you
- 19 then turn around and say that a district judge can do that
- 20 which a county court of law judge does not? There has to be
- 21 some reason for the distinction. The state was unable to
- 22 come up with any reasons at all, even in their brief. They
- 23 said, we have already discussed that distinction. They
- 24 didn't. They never did discuss the distinction.
- 25 QUESTION: Do the courts have the same kind of

- 1 jurisdiction?
- MR. CABALLERO: Akin. The county courts at law,
- 3 being creatures of the legislature, are given all kinds of
- 4 different jurisdictions. Some of them have family,
- 5 divorce --
- 6 QUESTION: In other words, they have broader
- 7 jurisdiction than the district judges?
- 8 MR. CABALLERO: For example, in probate, they have
- 9 plenary jurisdiction.
- 10 QUESTION: Yes or no? I don't need the examples.
- 11 Does one have a different jurisdiction?
- 12 MR. CABALLERO: Yes. The district court --
- 13 QUESTION: And they get different salaries?
- 14 MR. CABALLERO: Yes, they do. The district
- 15 court --
- 16 QUESTION: What is their claim -- what
- 17 constitutional provision do they rely on to say they are
- 18 entitled to be treated equally? They are not treated
- 19 equally. They are different offices, they are paid
- 20 different salaries, with different jurisdictions.
- 21 MR. CABALLERO: They are not entitled to be treated
- 22 equally, but to the extent that they are not treated equally
- 23 there has to be some reason for it. The state --
- 24 QUESTION: Could not the legislature, which now
- 25 pays one more than the other, change its mind and decide to

- 1 pay that one less than the other?
- MR. CABALLERO: Conceivably they could.
- 3 QUESTION: Does it have to have a reason other than
- 4 they just want to save some money?
- 5 MR. CABALLERO: Under your past cases of the equal
- 6 protection clause, yes, they do have to have a reason when
- 7 they treat people --
- 8 QUESTION: What past cases deal with any
- 9 requirement to treat different offices equally? The men or
- 10 women occupy different offices. Why must the offices be
- 11 alike?
- 12 MR. CABALLERO: The offices do not have to be
- 13 alike, but to the extent that they have made a distinction,
- 14 there has to be some, even at the lowest level of scrutiny.
- 15 QUESTION: Do we have to review the distinction in
- 16 salary or distinction in jurisdition? Why is there a
- 17 federal reason why those different offices have to have
- 18 similar treatment? I don't understand the basic premise on
- 19 which the whole case rests.
- 20 Why can't Texas create the XYZ court, give it
- 21 precisely the same jurisdition as some other court, but just
- 22 pay the judges a different salary if it wants to?
- 23 MR. CABALLERO: It could.
- QUESTION: And then why can't it say, well, those
- 25 judges have to resign to run, but other judges don't?

- MR. CABALLERO: Because there, when you --
- QUESTION: They occupy different offices.
- 3 MR. CABALLERO: When you are paying one more than
- 4 the other, perhaps it is subject to attack. Perhaps there
- 5 is no valid reason why you pay one judge more than the
- 6 other. I am just assuming that one perhaps has more
- 7 jurisdiction than the other, but when you are allowing two
- 8 men with basically the same qualifications to run for the
- 9 same appellate office, they are both qualified to run for
- 10 the court of appeals, for example, on the one hand, you say,
- 11 judge, you are a judge of the county court of law, therefore
- 12 you lose your office; you are a judge of the district court,
- 13 you get to keep your office.
- 14 This Court has said even at the lowest level of
- 15 scrutiny there has to be some reason for the distinction.
- 16 The state cannot come up with any.
- 17 QUESTION: Well, when you talk about distinctions,
- 18 supposing that a county court judge is paid \$15,000 and a
- 19 district court judge is paid \$20,000, and then the
- 20 legislature decides to raise the salary of the district
- 21 judge to \$25,000 but not raise the salary of the county
- 22 court judge at all, so that whereas the county court judge
- 23 used to make 75 percent of what the district judge made, now
- 24 he makes 60 percent.
- 25 Do you think that is subject to attack under the

- 1 federal Constitution?
- 2 MR. CABALLERO: It may be subject to attack if
- 3 there was no reason, if the state -- I can see the state
- 4 easily coming up with a reason for that distinction.
- 5 QUESTION: Supposing this was something done back
- 6 in '54 or '56, and the state is in the position that they
- 7 can't explain at all why the legislature decided to do this?
- 8 Do you think that then would be subject to attack
- 9 under the Constitution?
- 10 MR. CABALLERO: For example, if this Court were to
- 11 examine it and find no reasonable -- in other words, if you
- 12 are placing burdens on some and not on others, and you are
- 13 unable to come up with any reason, and you have burdened
- 14 some rights, then I think the state statute is subject to
- 15 attack.
- 16 QUESTION: Well, is my example a burden?
- 17 MR. CABALLERO: I suppose it is a burden of sorts.
- 18 I suppose someone could conceivably come up with an
- 19 argument. Here you are talking about something that goes
- 20 way beyond a mere distinction of salaries. You are talking
- 21 about a person who is subject to losing office, and another
- 22 person who is not subject to losing office, a tremendous
- 23 distinction, not one of mere degree, but almost of kind.
- QUESTION: Would you urge that we apply a rational
- 25 basis standard then?

- 1 MR. CABALLERO: Your Honor, I am urging that you
- 2 apply a balancing test, kind of like you did in Letter
- 3 Carriers, and what the court of appeals below suggested in
- 4 Moreo, and that is, the closer -- that is a good example.
- 5 QUESTION: How would you distinguish the Letter
- 6 Carriers case, where the Court upheld the Hatch Act?
- 7 MR. CABALLERO: Well, there, the interests of the
- 8 government were tremendous. There is a policy of long
- 9 standing that in civil service in the United States, you
- 10 want to keep them as free as possible from political
- 11 pressures.
- 12 QUESTION: Well, here is a policy of long standing
- 13 in Section 19 of the state constitution.
- 14 MR. CABALLERO: Your Honor, that is what I was
- 15 saying. I don't know of any policy other than it is a
- 16 legislative enactment. I am talking about a reason for it.
- 17 For example, in Letter Carriers, there is a reason. We
- 18 don't want civil servants to become involved in the
- 19 political process to the extent where they themselves become
- 20 partisans. The reason behind Section 19, the state of Texas
- 21 has been able to come up with one. They said that it
- 22 prevents conflicts of interest. And then you pose the
- 23 hypothetical, what happens if I resign my office? Therefore
- 24 there would be no possible conflict of interest. I am still
- 25 rendered ineligible.

- 1 In that situation, they have come up with no
- 2 distinction whatsoever, no reason for it. The policy
- 3 decision that I was speaking of earlier is not one that is
- 4 contained so much in the legislation or is embodied in the
- 5 legislation, but simply something the government has come up
- 6 with, and that is the reason that you have civil service on
- 7 the federal side.
- 8 QUESTION: Counsel, supposing the Postmaster
- 9 General put into effect a policy against political activity
- 10 such as in Letter Carriers, and the Secretary of HEW did
- 11 not. Could the postal workers claim a denial of equal
- 12 protection?
- 13 MR. CABALLERO: Yes, they could, I would think, if
- 14 they --
- 15 QUESTION: So if any one department of government
- 16 imposes some such restriction like this, it is invalid
- 17 unless it is put into effect throughout the government?
- 18 MR. CABALLERO: This Court has said in the past
- 19 that -- the argument was raised by defendants in those
- 20 cases, you know, you can't expect a legislature to enact
- 21 everything all at once so everything is uniform, and this
- 22 Court has held that if someone brings a complaint that they
- 23 are being treated unequally, that you cannot guess and say,
- 24 well, maybe they -- this statute that we have here in this
- 25 case has been around for 23 years. I don't know how long we

- 1 have to wait for the legislature to come up with the
- 2 provisions to make it equal treatment. 1836, I would think,
- 3 is long enough on Section 19.
- 4 QUESTION: Well, you are starting with an
- 5 assumption that there is a constitutional requirement that
- 6 there be equal treatment.
- 7 MR. CABALLERO: There is, Your Honor. There is,
- 8 equal treatment to the extent that there is not, that there
- 9 should be some reason for it. That is the test of this
- 10 Court.
- 11 QUESTION: Well, I think you are a little too broad
- 12 on different agencies. I know some agencies in this
- 13 government you can write and print whatever you want, and I
- 14 know others you can't.
- MR. CABALLERO: That is true, and in application --
- 16 QUESTION: And I think this Court has passed on
- 17 that point.
- MR. CABALLERO: In the Willis case that I was going
- 19 to mention earlier, it is two cases, and I think they really
- 20 illustrate the problems with both cases. Willis was a
- 21 congressman from Fort Worth. Willis decided that he was
- 22 going to run for the state senate. Willis announced for
- 23 election. Filed his application, or tried to file his
- 24 application with the Democratic chairman there in Tarrant
- 25 County, and the chairman said no, Section 19 makes you

- 1 ineligible to run for the Texas senate because your term,
- 2 even if you resign today, would be extending into the
- 3 legislative term sought.
- 4 QUESTION: Is that a constitutional decision?
- 5 MR. CABALLERO: It was mentioned, but it was not
- 6 based on the constitution. They simply went and upheld --
- 7 QUESTION: It was meant to but it wasn't based on?
- 8 MR. CABALLERO: The court did not say -- the court
- 9 found nothing wrong with the provisions under the Texas or
- 10 the U. S. Constitution, Your Honor.
- 11 QUESTION: Well, would you mind if I am not bound
- 12 by that decision?
- 13 MR. CABALLERO: I don't think you are bound by the
- 14 Willis decision.
- 15 QUESTION: Thank you.
- MR. CABALLERO: But I am mentioning it simply
- 17 because of the facts that it raises. Now, in Willis, after
- 18 this person was held to be ineligible to run for the Texas
- 19 senate, as soon as he announced for the Texas senate, though
- 20 he by law could not become a candidate, it was held by the
- 21 Fort Worth City Council that he had resigned his office
- 22 because they had a -- it was not 65, but it was something
- 23 akin to 65 that says as soon as you announce for another
- 24 office, you lose your spot on the city council.
- 25 So Willis then filed a second lawsuit, and said,

- 1 since I can't be a candidate for the Texas senate, I was
  2 never a candidate, I should not be losing my office. And
  3 they held there, they applied what in effect was Section 65
  4 in the Fort Worth City Charter, and held that he had lost
  5 his office also.
- And that's the kind of situation you get here. You are not eligible to be a candidate. For example, Judge Baca in this case, who wants to run for the legislature, cannot file for the legislature. First of all, he is ineligible.

  10 Secondly, as soon as he files or announces for office, he loses the one year remaining in his term.
- QUESTION: You are suggesting that the legislature

  13 and the people of Texas haven't a right to say that if we

  14 have a person in this particual office, we want him to

  15 spend all his time, devote all his energies to that office,

  16 and not dissipate his time and energies by running for

  17 another office while he is holding the first one to which he

  18 was elected.
- MR. CABALLERO: The people of the state of Texas,

  20 Your Honor, I suppose could say that, but what has happened

  21 is that they have said some officeholders we are going to

  22 apply the rule to, and some we are not. For example, if a

  23 district attorney decides to run for governor, loses his

  24 office; the attorney general decides to run for governor, he

  25 does not lose his office. In the state's brief in this

- 1 case, they say that it shouldn't be applied to state
- 2 officeholders because they are unlikely to run for higher
- 3 office, when in fact this present attorney general has
- 4 already filed -- he has announced for office. The previous
- 5 attorney general, John Hill, filed and ran for office and
- 6 lost. Neither one of them lost their terms. Texas has 256
- 7 counties. To allow you only 37 days to test the waters, to
- 8 see whether or not you want to run for office, is so
- 9 restrictive a burden as to be unrealistic.

18 of the waters period.

- What has happened also is that these provisions

  What has happened also is that these provisions

  Texas was in 1958. At that time, the filing deadline in

  Texas was in June, which gave you about five months to test

  the waters. Immediately after these provisions were

  enacted, and I don't know how much thought was given to it.

  There is no legislative history. In 1959, the legislature

  moved up the filing deadline to the first Monday in February

  of each year, so you lost about four months of this testing
- Before, it may have been reasonable, with a June 20 deadline. Now, with 37 days, saying you cannot run for 21 statewide office or for any other office; if you merely seek 22 office you have lost your present office, that has such a 23 chilling effect that it has prevented a lot of people, 24 including my clients in this case, they claim in affidavits 25 and in pleadings that they will not run for those offices so

- 1 long as we are looking at these legislative provisions.
- 2 If there are no further questions.
- 3 QUESTION: Of course, there is another option that
- 4 is always open, I guess. They could resign their offices to
- 5 practice law privately or whatever their skills might be, go
- 6 into the private sector and then run. They are not totally
- 7 disabled.
- 8 MR. CABALLERO: They are not totally disabled, but
- 9 if you take judges, that is an unrealistic alternative.
- 10 QUESTION: I know a lot of judges who have resigned.
- 11 MR. CABALLERO: There are some who have resigned,
- 12 but what I am saying is that there are many others -- trying
- 13 to crank up a law practice when you think you might win and
- 14 have to go back into judicial office --
- 15 QUESTION: That is really ironic, because my
- 16 experience has been that most judges think lawyers are
- 17 better paid than they are. They don't think it is a great
- 18 sacrifice to go out and have a chance to practice privately.
- 19 QUESTION: Well, Mr. Caballero, as I understand it,
- 20 under Section 19, the judge could not resign and run for the
- 21 legislature.
- MR. CABALLERO: Under Section 19, it makes no
- 23 difference if you resign. You are ineligible regardless.
- 24 QUESTION: Right.
- 25 MR. CABALLERO: So long as your term extends into

- 1 the next legislative season.
- QUESTION: Well, on that score, the people of
- 3 Texas, having adopted that, have expressed the view that if
- 4 we elect you to an office, we expect you to stay there until
- 5 the end of your term, and this is one inducement, if not a
- 6 pressure, to keep you there, that you can't run for any
- 7 other office.
- 8 MR. CABALLERO: I can see them saying that, and I
- 9 think it is a fine policy.
- 10 QUESTION: They have said that in the constitution,
- 11 haven't they?
- 12 MR. CABALLERO: If it is such a compelling policy,
- 13 why haven't they said that for the other officeholders? It
- 14 leads you to believe maybe it is not such a valid reason.
- 15 QUESTION: Well, I suppose a lot of people in Texas
- 16 would say that is none of anybody's business except the
- 17 people in Texas.
- 18 MR. CABALLERO: That is true. That has been
- 19 advanced. But under the decisions of this Court, when you
- 20 do make a distinction between officeholders, they have to
- 21 give you at least, even under the minimum level of scrutiny,
- 22 some reason for it, some valid reason for it, and the state
- 23 of Texas cannot.
- In the Fourteenth Amendment area, if you look at
- 25 the interrogatories or if you look at the brief, they have

- 1 not mentioned any reason for the legislative distinction in
- 2 Section 65 other than the one you mentioned, Your Honor, and
- 3 that was legislative oversight. That I contend is not a
- 4 valid reason. They simply said it was not before the people
- 5 in 1958. They are agreeing that they never even considered
- 6 it, Your Honor, not that they had some reasons.
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Do you have anything
- 9 further, Mr. Allison?

20 apply only to that chapter.

- 10 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JAMES P. ALLISON, ESQ.,
- 11 ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANTS REBUTTAL
- 12 MR. ALLISON: Yes, Your Honor.
- In the first place, appellees continue to state

  14 that the Article XVI, Section 65, provision prohibits

  15 testing of the water. And I continue to state that it does

  16 not. They have cited a provision of the election code that

  17 defines candidacy, but if you read that entire section, it

  18 concerns the financial requirements of candidates and states

  19 at the beginning of the section that the definitions therein
- If you look at the state cases construing Article
  22 XVI, Section 65, you will not find a single case in which a
  23 person has been required to resign from an office in which
  24 they have made anything other than a clear and definite
  25 pronouncement of candidacy for another office. There is no

- 1 situation in which a person has been required to resign for
- 2 merely testing the waters. That is not the situation in
- 3 Texas. In fact, the election code was recently amended to
- 4 provide that if you try to file for another office before
- 5 January 1, and might thereby inadvertently violate Article
- 6 XVI, Section 65, that your filing will be declined, and it
- 7 will be refused, and that you can only file after January 1,
- 8 between January 1 and the first Saturday in February,
- 9 thereby preventing any inadvertent violation of Article XVI,
- 10 Section 65.
- Finally, also on the question of the burden, this

  12 case was decided on summary judgment, and the burden, if you

  13 use the rational basis test, was upon the plaintiffs to show

  14 that there was no rational basis for these provisions, and

  15 we have set forth in our brief several. Number One, Article

  16 XVI, Section 65, applies to your basic entry level stepping

  17 stone political positions, the precinct and county level

  18 positions, thereby providing a possible basis would be that

  19 the people of the state of Texas thought that it is more

  20 likely that someone entering at that level would try to run

  21 in mid-term, trying to step up while trying to hold onto the

  22 office that he had. They are entitled to make that
- Second, on statewide officials, such as the
  25 attorney general running for governor, they do not serve

- 1 staggered terms. They are all up at the same time. Their
- 2 terms expire at the same time, so they would only be running
- 3 for another state office in the last year of their term, as
- 4 provided in Article XVI, Section 65, anyway.
- 5 We believe that the plaintiffs have not met their
- 6 burden in this situation and that these provisions do not
- 7 contravene the Constitution of the United States.
- 8 QUESTION: Article III, Section 19, would not
- 9 prevent you from running in the last year of your office for
- 10 the legislature if your legislative term would begin at the
- 11 expiration of your own term?
- MR. ALLISON: It would.
- 13 QUESTION: It would what?
- 14 MR. ALLISON: It would not prevent you from running
- 15 in the last year. No, sir.
- 16 QUESTION: Yes. Yes.
- MR. ALLISON: You could run in the last year for
- 18 the legislature.
- 19 QUESTION: Well, you could begin running whenever
- 20 you wanted to, as far as Article III, Section 19, is
- 21 concerned.
- 22 MR. ALLISON: That is true.
- 23 QUESTION: As long as the term for which you are
- 24 running begins at the expiration of your own.
- 25 MR. ALLISON: That's true. And the terms all

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1 expire at the last --
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          QUESTION: But that is not so under 65.
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          MR. ALLISON: No, sir.
          CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you, gentlemen. The
5 case is submitted.
        (Whereupon, at 1:55 o'clock p.m., the case in the
7 above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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## CERTIFICATION

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc. hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcription of electronic sound recording of the oral argument before the Supreme Court of the United States in the matter of: William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of the State of Texas, Et Al., Appellants, v. John L. Fashing Et Al. No. 80-1290

and that these pages constitute the original transcript of the proceedings for the records of the Court.

BY Lugane Jours

SUPREME COURT, U.S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE