

1 **Scharf-Norton Center for Constitutional Litigation at the**
2 **GOLDWATER INSTITUTE**

3 Clint Bolick (Ariz. Bar No. 021684)
4 Diane S. Cohen (Ariz. Bar No. 027791)
5 500 E. Coronado Road
6 Phoenix, AZ 85004
7 (602) 462-5000
8 CBolick@GoldwaterInstitute.org
9 DCohen@GoldwaterInstitute.org
10 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

11 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

13 Diane Wickberg,) No. 10-CV-8177-PCT-JAT
14) Hon. James A. Teilborg
15 Plaintiff,)
16 v.) **PLAINTIFF’S EX PARTE MOTION FOR A**
17) **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**
18 Candace D. Owens, et al.,) **OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION**
19) **FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**
20 Defendants.)
21 Oral Arguments Requested

22 Now comes Plaintiff Diane Wickberg, by and through her attorneys, and moves
23 ex parte, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 6(c)(1)(C) and 65, for a temporary
24 restraining order or, in the alternative, a preliminary injunction. This Motion is
25 supported by the Memorandum of Points and Authorities below.

26 **INTRODUCTION**

27 Plaintiff moves this Court for a temporary restraining order barring Defendants
28 and Defendants’ agents and employees from enforcing any and all Arizona and
Coconino County electioneering laws and rules, including but not limited to A.R.S. §§
16-515(A), 16-1013(A)(1), and 16-1018, against Plaintiff and other similarly situated
individuals who wear the Flagstaff tea party shirt at issue to the polling sites in Coconino

1 County during the November 2, 2010 election. The shirt at issue is described in
2 paragraph 5 of Diane Wickberg's Affidavit, attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Plaintiff further
3 requests that upon the issuance of a Court order prohibiting such enforcement,
4 Defendants shall disseminate the order to all Coconino County poll workers and any
5 other employees who will be working at polling sites. Finally, Plaintiff requests that any
6 temporary restraining order bond be waived or reduced to a nominal amount.
7

8
9 The undersigned counsel, Diane Cohen, certifies that on September 29 and
10 October 11, she contacted Plaintiff's counsel via telephone and discussed Plaintiff's
11 intent to file a motion for equitable relief before the November 2 election. The
12 undersigned explained that this was being done in an attempt to gain Defendants'
13 cooperation on a discovery and briefing schedule necessary for a preliminary injunction.
14 On October 1 and 6, Plaintiff's counsel and defense counsel also communicated via e-
15 mail regarding Plaintiff's need for expedited discovery and briefing. The scope and time
16 period of intended discovery were specifically discussed; however, Defendants were not
17 ultimately amenable to entering into any type of agreement.
18

19
20 Plaintiff is mindful that if the Court treats this Motion as a motion for a temporary
21 restraining order without notice and opts not to exercise its discretion under Fed. R. Civ.
22 P. 6(c)(1) to waive or shorten the 14 day notice requirement, the requested relief may
23 expire prior to November 2, 2010. Should this occur, Plaintiff is prepared to diligently
24 seek an extension of the Court's order so that it continues to shield her from harm during
25 the upcoming November 2 election.
26
27
28

1 There are only 21 days between the filing of this Motion and the November 2
2 election. Given the need to obtain immediate relief, and so that any such order can be
3 disseminated to poll employees throughout Coconino County in enough time prior to the
4 election, Plaintiff believes in good faith that the application of a temporary restraining
5 order is the best vehicle to secure relief. Should the Court deem this application
6 improper, in the alternative Plaintiff requests that the Court treat this Motion as a motion
7 for preliminary injunction, and enter a scheduling order that would afford Plaintiff the
8 opportunity to secure relief from harm in a timely manner prior to the November 2
9 election.

10 Plaintiff was irreparably harmed on both May 18 and August 24, 2010. She
11 continues to be harmed by the chilling effect on her speech caused by Defendant's
12 credible threats. Additionally, Mrs. Wickberg faces future irreparable harm because she
13 is forced to decide whether she will forgo her constitutional right to wear her shirt on
14 November 2 or face certain harassment, if not arrest, imprisonment and fine, should she
15 choose to stand up for her rights. Under our Constitution, this is a choice a citizen
16 should not have to face or make. Given the law and facts, as set forth below, Plaintiff is
17 likely to succeed on the merits. Further, the equities and public interest favor the
18 requested relief. Accordingly, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court grant this
19 Motion and enter the attached proposed order.

20 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

21 On two occasions, May 18, 2010 and August 24, 2010, Plaintiff Diane Wickberg
22 was stopped and harassed by Defendants' employees as she attempted to vote in
23

1 Coconino County for the mere fact that she was wearing a shirt that depicted the United
2 States Constitution and contained the language, “We the People . . . Reclaiming our
3 Constitution Now . . . Flagstaff Tea Party” (Affidavit of Plaintiff Diane Wickberg, ¶¶5-
4 8, attached as Exhibit 1). She was targeted not because her shirt advocates for or against
5 a party, person or measure on either ballot—it does not (Ex. 1, ¶13, Attach. C)—but
6 because of the Defendant County Recorder’s¹ admitted bias against tea parties in general
7 and willful ignorance of the Flagstaff tea party (Ex. 1, ¶¶ 9-10, 13-15, Attach. A, C-E;
8
9 *see generally* Affidavit of Joy Staveley, attached as Exhibit 2, ¶¶ 6-8).²

11 On September 20, 2010, Plaintiff filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42
12 U.S.C. §1983 against Coconino County and Defendant Owens, in her individual
13 capacity and in her official capacity as Coconino County Recorder (Docket 1). In the
14 Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Owens violated her constitutional rights to
15 free speech and association, equal protection, and due process.
16

17 **I. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

18 The facts are fully set forth in the attached affidavits and attachments thereto
19 (Exs. 1 and 2) and are incorporated herein by reference.
20
21
22

23 ¹ Defendant County Recorder is tasked with “preserving First Amendment Rights and
24 enforcing statutory prohibitions on electioneering, displaying political materials and
25 influencing others in a polling place” (Ex. 1 ¶ 12; Ex. 1 Attach. B).

26 ² The Flagstaff tea party is a local, decentralized, non-partisan, civic organization that
27 does not endorse candidates or ballot measures and focuses on education and promoting
28 involvement from its members and the general public on issues of public concern. (Ex.
1 ¶ 3; *see also*, <http://rocn-flagstaff.ning.com> (last visited October 6, 2010.)

1 **II. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

2 “The standard for issuing a temporary restraining order is identical to the standard
3 for issuing a preliminary injunction.” *Cochran v. Rollins*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66534,
4 1-2, 2008 WL 3891578, 1 (D. Ariz. August 20, 2008). The standard for a preliminary
5 injunction is satisfied when the movant shows: 1) a likelihood of success on the merits;
6 2) a likelihood of irreparable harm; 3) the existence of serious questions going to the
7 merits and the balance tips in the movant’s favor; and 4) the injunction is in the public
8 interest. *Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, __ U.S. __, 129 S.Ct 365, 376
9 (2008); *Alliance for the Wild Rockies et al. v. Cottrell et al.*, 2010 U.S. APP. LEXIS
10 13022, 2010 WL 264087 (9th Cir. June 24, 2010) (clarifying an aspect of the post-
11 *Winter* standard for preliminary injunction, holding that the “serious questions going to
12 the merits” test survives *Winter*).

13 **III. ARGUMENT**

14 **A. Plaintiff’s Constitutional Rights Were Violated**

15 **1) Plaintiff’s First Amendment Rights**

16 The First Amendment issue in this case is whether a government official can
17 excise, as “electioneering,” one particular civic group’s shirt from the public discourse,
18 either on the theory that the shirt at issue tacitly asserts undue influence over voters or
19 upon a more general assertion that a government official may properly silence groups as a
20 matter of personal predilection that the shirt may “intimidate” voters. Defendant Owens
21 ostensibly relies on A.R.S. § 16-515(A), §16-1018, and the rules found in the Secretary
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 of State's (SOS)³ Elections Procedures Manual in support of her position that wearing the
2 Flagstaff tea party constitutes electioneering under Arizona law (Ex. 1, Attach. E);
3 however, this reliance is inexplicable given that the SOS looked at the facts in this case,
4 applied the same law, and found that the shirt did not rise to the level of electioneering
5 (Ex. 1, Attach. C).

7 **Arizona Election Law**

8
9 Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 16-515 provides in relevant part:

10 a person shall not be allowed to remain inside the seventy-five foot limit while
11 polls are open, except for the purpose of voting . . . and *no political or*
12 *electioneering materials may be displayed within the seventy-five foot limit.*

13 (emphasis added).

14 A.R.S. § 16-1018 provides in relevant part: "A person who commits any of the
15 following acts is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor: 1. Knowingly electioneers on election
16 day within a polling place" The SOS's Election Procedures Manual prohibits
17 "campaign related materials including but not limited to campaign signs, buttons,
18 literature, shirts, bumper stickers, advertisements, endorsements or written materials"
19 within the 75 foot limit. ARIZ. SEC'Y OF STATE, ELECTIONS PROCEDURES MANUAL 150
20 (May 2010), *available at*
21 http://www.azsos.gov/election/Electronic_Voting_System/2010/Manual.pdf (last visited
22 Oct. 12, 2010).

23
24
25
26
27 ³ The SOS is the Chief Election Officer of the State of Arizona who "prescribe[s] rules to
28 achieve and maintain the maximum degree of correctness, impartiality, uniformity and
efficiency on the procedures for early voting and voting." A.R.S. § 16-142(A)(1).

1 The Arizona Court of Appeals has noted that Arizona law does not define
2 “electioneering.” *Fish v. H.S. Redeker*, 2 Ariz. App. 602, 411 P.2d 40 (1966). However,
3 in its decision, the *Fish* Court undertook a historical analysis of Arizona election law and
4 found that its purpose is to “prevent interference with the efficient handling of the voters
5 by the election board and to prevent delay or intimidation of voters entering the polling
6 place by political workers seeking a ‘last chance’ effort to change their vote.” *Id.* at 602,
7 411 P.2d at 42 (citing *State v. Robles*, 88 Ariz. 253, 355 P.2d 895 (1960)).⁴ *Fish* thus
8 supports the principle that “electioneering” cannot mean anything other than express
9 advocacy.

10 *Fish* and the SOS’ July 1, 2010 opinion (Ex. 1, Attach. C) are consistent⁵ with the
11 U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Burson v. Freeman*, 504 U.S. 191 (1992), a case where

12
13
14
15
16 ⁴ The SOS’s opinion as set forth in the July 1 correspondence is also consistent with
17 public policy inherent in Arizona election law. For example, A.R.S. §16-901.01,
18 provides definitions for terms used in the election code, and defines “expressly
19 advocates” as used in the chapter as “conveying a communication containing a phrase
20 such as ‘vote for,’ ‘elect’ . . . ‘support’ . . . ‘vote against,’ ‘defeat’ . . . or a campaign
21 slogan or words that can have no reasonable meaning other than to advocate the election
22 or defeat of one or more clearly identified candidates . . .” Likewise, A.R.S. §16-1013
makes it illegal to coerce or intimidate a voter to “cast or refrain from casting his vote
for any particular person or measure at an election.” A.R.S. §16-1017 makes it unlawful
to “induce a voter to vote for against a particular candidate or issue.”

23 ⁵ Pursuant to A.R.S. §1-213:

24 Words and phrases shall be construed according to the common and approved use
25 of the language. Technical words and phrases and those which have acquired a
26 peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law shall be construed according to such
peculiar and appropriate meaning.

27 Accordingly, Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “electioneering” as “tak[ing] an
28 active part in an election; *specifically*: to work for the election of a candidate or party.”

1 the Court held that Tennessee could forbid a professional campaign worker from actively
2 engaging voters outside of a polling place. In *Burson*, the Court weighed “the
3 accommodation of the right to engage in political discourse with the right to vote,” 504
4 U.S. at 198, and held that States may prohibit electioneering around polling places
5 because “States’ [have] compelling interests in preventing voter intimidation and election
6 fraud.” *Id.* at 206. However, unlike the *Burson* petitioner, who was a professional
7 campaign worker seeking to loiter outside of a polling place in order to actively engage
8 voters, Mrs. Wickberg is not a professional operative and there is nothing about her
9 conduct that is demonstrably incompatible with the act of voting: she did not loiter
10 outside the polls on May 18 or August 24, 2010, nor did she make any affirmative
11 attempt to actively engage and exert undue influence over other voters, nor does the shirt
12 itself advocate for any candidate, party or measure on the ballot (*See* Ex. 1; *see generally*
13 Complaint (Docket. 1) ¶¶ 12-31).

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
Based on the foregoing, we know “electioneering” and “political” cannot mean
anything other than *speech that advocates for or against a candidate, party or measure*
on the ballot because any other definition sets us on a slippery slope wherein government
officials would be free to use their own subjective beliefs to decide what these terms
mean. Under the standardless discretion currently applied by Defendant Owens there is
no principled distinction in Coconino County between banning tea party shirts and
banning such things as a Star of David or crucifix based on the fact that some Jewish and

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/electioneering> (last visited Oct. 9, 2010).

1 Christian groups endorse candidates. Indeed, myriad types of attire would be banned
2 from the polling sites based on Defendant Owens' logic. For example, there are
3 numerous labor unions, like the Phoenix Firefighters Local 493, which endorse
4 candidates and ballot measures. Would firefighters need to check their uniforms at the
5 polling site door according to Defendant Owens? In Arizona alone there are numerous
6 political action committees, representing a cross section of professions, vocations and
7 interests, such as dentists, teachers and food workers (*See* Ex. 3). Would dental coats,
8 Arizona Education Association pins, and chefs' hats and aprons need to be checked at the
9 polling site door because dentists', teachers' and food workers' groups endorse
10 candidates and support ballot measures? Neither Arizona election laws nor the United
11 States Constitution can condone such regulation.

12 **Defendant Owen Engages in Viewpoint Discrimination**

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
Aside from the absence of any legitimate interest to justify Defendant Owens'
actions against Mrs. Wickberg, Defendant Owens' de facto blanket ban on Flagstaff tea
party shirts also runs afoul of the Constitution because it is clearly motivated by a desire
to suppress Mrs. Wickberg's point of view.

It is axiomatic that the government may not regulate speech based on its
substantive content or the message it conveys. . . . Viewpoint discrimination is
thus an egregious form of content discrimination. The government must abstain
from regulating speech when the specific motivating ideology or the opinion or
perspective of the speaker is the rationale for the restriction.

Rosenberger v. Rector & Visitors of the Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819, 829 (1995) (citations
omitted). Moreover, there is ample evidence that, in applying electioneering laws against
Mrs. Wickberg's expressive conduct, Defendant Owens willfully and deliberately

1 ignored facts relevant to this case. Among the facts Defendant Owens knew but
2 recklessly disregarded are:

- 3 • There were no “tea party” candidates on the August 24, 2010 ballot. *See*
4 Ariz. Sec’y of State’s list of 2010 Primary Election Candidates,
5 <http://www.azsos.gov/election/2010/Primary/FullListing.htm> (last visited
6 Oct. 9, 2010).
- 7 • There are no “tea party” candidates on the upcoming November 2, 2010
8 ballot. *See* Ariz. Sec’y of State’s list of 2010 General Election Partisan
9 Candidates,
10 <http://www.azsos.gov/election/2010/general/PartisanCandidates.htm> (last
11 visited Oct. 9, 2010).
- 12 • The Flagstaff tea party’s policy is to remain non-partisan and avoid
13 express advocacy of candidates, political parties or propositions (Ex. 1 ¶
14 3; Ex. 2 ¶¶ 1, 7); *see also* Disclaimer on Flagstaff tea party website,
15 <http://rocn-flagstaff.ning.com/> (last visited Oct. 11, 2010).

16 Defendant Owens also ignored the Secretary of State’s August 2, 2010 letter to Plaintiff’s
17 counsel in which the SOS stated that Mrs. Wickberg’s shirt would only be electioneering
18 under certain circumstances, such as “if a candidate posts political signs or issues direct
19 mail pieces that read ‘tea party candidate . . . ’” (Ex. 1, Attach. E). Notwithstanding the
20 fact that Plaintiff believes this is an erroneous interpretation of the law,⁶ even under that
21 standard, the tea party shirt does not amount to electioneering because none of those

22 ⁶ The SOS’s August 2nd correspondence assumes an incredibly broad definition of
23 “political or electioneering materials” that unnecessarily raises vagueness and
24 overbreadth questions about A.R.S. § 16-515’s constitutionality. *Morrison v. Olson*, 487
25 U.S. 654, 682 (1988) (“[I]t is the duty of federal courts to construe a statute in order to
26 save it from constitutional infirmities”). Plaintiff believes the standard articulated in the
27 SOS’ first letter (Ex. 1, Attach. C)—whether there has been an “attempt to persuade or
28 influence voters to vote for or against a particular candidate, party of proposition in this
election”—provides a much clearer and more objective definition of electioneering that
amply protects the State’s legitimate interests while circumscribing the discretion of
government officials to engage in impermissible viewpoint discrimination.

1 conditions were present. Despite the facts, Defendant Owens insisted on enforcing
2 electioneering law against Mrs. Wickberg in the past and promises to enforce
3 electioneering laws against Mrs. Wickberg in the future if she wears her shirt to the polls.
4

5 “The [viewpoint discrimination] test is whether the government has excluded
6 perspectives on a subject matter otherwise permitted by the forum.” *Faith Ctr. Church*
7 *Evangelistic Ministries v. Glover*, 480 F.3d 891, 912 (9th Cir. 2007); *cf. Flint v.*
8 *Dennison*, 488 F.3d 816, 833 (9th Cir. 2007) (“Viewpoint neutrality is the requirement
9 that government not favor one speaker’s message over another’s regarding the same
10 topic”). Here, Defendant Owens acknowledged that she treats similarly situated groups
11 differently. Although Defendant Owens issued a de facto blanket ban on Flagstaff tea
12 party shirts because “the perception of the tea party is that they have an agenda,” are
13 “threatening,” and are “a part of the Republican party,” (Ex. 2 ¶ 6), when presented with
14 a hypothetical involving a citizen voting in a Sierra Club shirt, Defendant Owens
15 admitted that whether the shirt was permissible depended on whether the Sierra Club was
16 supporting a “particular ballot issue” at the time (Ex. 2 ¶ 8).
17
18
19

20 **2) Plaintiff Is Entitled to Equal Protection under the Law**

21 “The purpose of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is to
22 secure every person within the State’s jurisdiction against intentional and arbitrary
23 discrimination, whether occasioned by express terms of a statute or by its improper
24 execution.” *Lazy Y Ranch LTD v. Behrens*, 546 F.3d 580, 588 (9th Cir. 2008) (quoting
25 *Village of Willowbrook v. Olech*, 528 U.S. 562, 564 (2000)). As set forth above, the
26 evidence establishes, based on Owens’ own admissions, that she treated, and will
27
28

1 continue to treat, Flagstaff tea party members differently from members of similarly
2 situated groups, based on her “perception” of (or in other words “bias against”) the
3 group. (Ex 2 ¶¶ 4-6).

4
5 In order to successfully defend against Plaintiff’s equal protection claim,
6 Defendant Owens must show that her decisions were a narrowly tailored means of
7 achieving a substantial and legitimate objective. *Police Dep’t of Chicago v. Mosley*, 408
8 U.S. 92, 101-02 (1972). Defendant Owens will be unable to meet this burden based on
9 the law and her own admissions. First, as established above, the State has no legitimate
10 interest in regulating voter attire that does not expressly advocate for or against a
11 candidate, party or measure on the ballot. Second, even if the State had a legitimate
12 interest here, it cannot further that interest by discriminating on the basis of the
13 expressive conduct’s content, as Defendant Owens does. *Id.* This is unquestionably an
14 equal protection violation. *Id.* at 96 (“[U]nder the Equal Protection Clause, not to
15 mention the First Amendment itself, government may not grant the use of a forum to
16 people whose views it finds acceptable, but deny use to those wishing to express less
17 favored or more controversial views”).

21 **3) Due Process Must Guide the Enforcement of Arizona Election Laws**

22 The Constitution abhors the misuse of discretion as a license for arbitrary
23 procedure. *E.g., Am. Hosp. Ass’n v. NLRB*, 499 U.S. 606, 612 (1991) (“The requirement
24 that the [NLRB] exercise its discretion in every disputed case cannot fairly or logically
25 be read to command the Board to exercise standardless discretion in each case”);
26 *Shuttlesworth v. Birmingham*, 394 U.S. 147, 150 (1969) (“There can be no doubt that
27
28

1 the [law], as it is written, conferred upon the City Commission virtually unbridled and
2 absolute power to prohibit [free speech] . . . For in deciding whether or not to withhold a
3 permit, the members of the Commission were to be guided only by their own ideas of
4 ‘public welfare, peace, safety, health, decency, good order, morals or convenience’”).

5
6 Because Defendant Owens insists on applying electioneering law against Mrs.
7 Wickberg based on her novel “eye of the beholder” standard (*see* Ex. 2 ¶¶ 4, 6), the
8 reality is that the Recorder has willfully and deliberately chosen to apply no discernable
9 standards at all.
10

11 It is settled by a long line of . . . [Supreme Court decisions] that a [law], which
12 . . . makes the peaceful enjoyment of freedom which the Constitution guarantees
13 contingent upon the uncontrolled will of an official . . . is an unconstitutional
14 censorship or prior restraint upon the enjoyment of those freedoms.

15 *Shuttlesworth*, 394 U.S. at 151.

16 The standardless discretion at issue in this case involves more than First
17 Amendment censorship. Defendant Owens has a duty as the final policymaker in charge
18 of elections to “supplant[] the original discretionary chaos with some degree of order”
19 by “regularizing the system of deciding in each case [through] classifications, rules,
20 principles, and precedents” *NLRB*, 499 U.S. at 612 (quoting K. DAVIS,
21 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW TEXT, § 6.04, p. 145 (3d ed. 1972)) (emphasis added). As the
22 Supreme Court notes, “Sensible men could not refuse to use such instruments and a
23 sensible [government] would not expect them to.” *Id.* Defendant Owens nevertheless
24 refused to promulgate such instruments, even after the shortcomings of her procedures
25 were pointed out to her by the SOS, as well as commanded by the Arizona appellate
26
27
28

1 courts, preferring instead to embrace the power of unbridled discretion. The result was a
2 loss of Plaintiff's constitutional rights, taken from her without due process of law.

3
4 **B. A Preliminary Injunction Should be Granted**

5 **1) Plaintiff Will Suffer Irreparable Injury Absent Injunctive Relief**

6 The loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time
7 unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury.” *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976).
8 Under Ninth Circuit law, “a party seeking preliminary injunctive relief in a First
9 Amendment context can establish irreparable injury sufficient to merit the grant of relief
10 by demonstrating the existence of a colorable First Amendment claim.” *Sammartano v.*
11 *First Judicial Dist. Court*, 303 F.3d 959, 973 (9th Cir. 2002). As set forth above and in
12 the supporting affidavits, Defendant Owens will continue enforcing electioneering laws
13 against Mrs. Wickberg in an arbitrary, capricious and standardless manner come
14 November 2, 2010. With just 21 days until the next election, Plaintiff is suffering and
15 will continue to suffer real and significant irreparable harm, harm that cannot be
16 remedied except through injunctive relief. *See Designer Skin, LLC*, 2008 U.S. Dist.
17 LEXIS 68467, 2008 WL 4174882, at *5.

18
19
20
21 **2) Plaintiff Is Likely to Succeed on the Merits**

22 As discussed above, the evidence strongly supports Plaintiff's Complaint. Given
23 Defendant Owens' willful ignorance of the law and guidance from the SOS, and her own
24 admissions regarding her discriminatory treatment of Plaintiff solely due to the group to
25 which she belongs, Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits.
26
27
28

1 **3) The Balance of Hardship Tips in Favor of Issuing the Injunction**

2 The balance of the hardships alone tips in favor of issuing the injunction. There
3 would be absolutely no harm to Defendants by allowing Mrs. Wickberg to wear her shirt
4 to the polls on November 2nd. An injunction against Defendant Owens’ conduct here
5 will in no way compromise the Recorder’s ability to protect against voter intimidation or
6 efforts within 75’ of the polls to influence voter conduct.
7

8 **4) The Public Interest Clearly Favor Issuing a Preliminary Injunction**

9 The public has an interest in laws being enforced constitutionally. *Cf. American*
10 *Civil Liberties Union v. Ashcroft*, 322 F.3d 240, 2551 n.11 (3rd Cir. 2003) (“Neither the
11 Government nor the public generally can claim an interest in the enforcement of an
12 unconstitutional law”). Moreover, the public interest ordinarily favors preliminarily
13 enjoining the unconstitutional enforcement of a law. *See Sammartano*, 303 F.3d at 974
14 (collecting cases).
15

16 The Ninth Circuit has recognized only limited exceptions to this general rule,
17 such as where nuclear safety is involved, provided that the government adduces
18 evidence showing specifically how other legitimate interests would be harmed by
19 enjoining the unconstitutional application of a law. *See Sammartano*, 303 F.3d at 974
20 (citing *Hale v. Dep’t of Energy*, 806 F.2d 910, 918 (9th Cir. 1986)). Accordingly, in this
21 case, Defendants must show harm to legitimate public interests—apart from the
22 *illegitimate* interests in protecting the public from undifferentiated threats or censoring
23 groups based on their viewpoint—to overcome the strong public interest in favor of
24 preliminarily enjoining laws that violate the First Amendment. *Id.*
25
26
27
28

1 **C. Upon Issuing an Injunction, the Court Should Waive Bond Because**
2 **Plaintiff Advances a Constitutional Claim and Defendants are**
3 **Unlikely to Suffer Pecuniary Harm from an Injunction**

4 ““Rule 65(c) invests the district court ‘with discretion as to the amount of security
5 required, if any.’” In particular, ‘[t]he district court may dispense with the filing of a
6 bond when it concludes there is no realistic likelihood of harm to the defendant from
7 enjoining his or her conduct.’” *Johnson v. Couturier*, 572 F.3d 1067, 1086 (9th Cir.
8 2009) (internal citations omitted). As set forth above, there is no realistic likelihood of
9 harm to Defendants from being wrongfully enjoined. Furthermore, persuasive authority
10 recommends that courts exercise their discretion and waive bond for plaintiffs in cases
11 involving constitutional rights. *See, e.g., Olshock v. Village of Skokie*, 401 F. Supp.
12 1219 (N.D. Ill. 1975). Accordingly, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court use its
13 discretion and either waive bond or set it at a nominal amount.
14
15

16 **IV. CONCLUSION**

17 **WHEREFORE**, in light of the foregoing, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this
18 Court grant her motion for temporary restraining order, as forth in the proposed order.
19

20 **OCTOBER 13, 2010**

21 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

22
23 s/ Diane S. Cohen
24 Clint Bolick (Ariz. Bar No. 021684)
25 Diane S. Cohen (Ariz. Bar No. 027791)
26 GOLDWATER INSTITUTE
27 500 E. Coronado Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85004
28 P: (602) 462-5000
 CBolick@GoldwaterInstitute.org
 DCohen@GoldwaterInstitute.org
 Attorneys for Plaintiff

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I, Diane Cohen, an attorney, hereby certify that on October 13, 2010 I served the
3 attached document by prepaid USPS First Class Mail on the following, who are not
4 registered participants of the CM/ECF System:
5

6 Michelle D'Andrea, Deputy County Attorney
7 Coconino County Attorney's Office
8 110 E. Cherry Avenue
9 Flagstaff, AZ 86001

10 Coconino County
11 c/o Candace D. Owens, Recording Officer for Coconino County
12 110 E. Cherry Ave
13 Flagstaff, AZ 86001

14 Coconino County
15 c/o Steve Peru, County Manager and CEO of Coconino County
16 219 E. Cherry Ave.
17 Flagstaff, AZ 86001

18 Diane S. Cohen
19 Attorney for Plaintiff

20 s/ Diane Cohen
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28