JOHN L. MARSHALL, ESQ. SBN 6733 570 Marsh Ave. Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 303-4882 johnladuemarshall@gmail.com	FILED Electronically CV22-00560 2022-06-10 04:45:16 PM Alicia L. Lerud Clerk of the Court Transaction # 9095395 : yviloria
LUKE A. BUSBY, ESQ. SBN 10319 316 California Ave. Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 453-0112 <u>luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com</u>	Electronically Filed Jun 13 2022 11:53 a.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court
<ul> <li>Attorneys for the Respondent</li> <li>IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COU</li> </ul>	RT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
<sup>12</sup> IN AND FOR THE COUNTY	
13	
<ul> <li>IN THE MATTER OF CHALLENGE TO THE QUALIFICATIONS OF JENNY BREKHUS,</li> <li>Jenny Brekhus, Respondent; William Mantle, Challenger, and Real Parties in Interest.</li> </ul>	CASE NO: CV22-00560 DEPT NO: 4
20 21 NOTICE OF CROSS	ς-αρρεαί
Notice is hereby given that Respondent J	
and through the undersigned counsel, hereby	
080000 000000 000000000000000000000000	
<ul> <li>POR THE 2022 MAYORAL ELECTION CONSTI-</li> <li>matter. The Respondent also tenders herewith tenders</li></ul>	

1	NRS 239B.030(4) AFFIRMATION
2	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030 the undersigned hereby affirms that this document
3	does not contain the social security number of any person.
4	
5	DATED this Jun 10, 2022
6	
7	By <u>: /s/_Luke Busby, Esq.</u> JOHN L. MARSHALL, ESQ.
8	SBN 6733 570 Marsh Ave.
10	Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 303-4882
11	johnladuemarshall@gmail.com
12	LUKE A. BUSBY, ESQ.
13	SBN 10319 316 California Ave.
14	Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 453-0112
15	luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com
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2	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
3	I certify that on the date shown below, I caused service to be completed of a true
4	and correct copy of the foregoing Document by:
5	personally delivering;
7	delivery via Reno/Carson Messenger Service;
8	sending via Federal Express (or other overnight delivery service);
9	depositing for mailing in the U.S. mail, with sufficient postage affixed thereto; or,
10	<u>X</u> delivery via electronic means (fax, eflex, NEF, etc.) to:
11	
12	KARL HALL, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO
13 14	And via US Mail and email to:
14	William Mantle
16	2040 Angel Ridge Dr. Reno, NV 89521
17	Email: mantleformayor@gmail.com
18	<b>DATED</b> this Jun 10, 2022
19	
20	By <u>: /s/_Luke Busby, Esq.</u>
21	
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24 25	
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28	

JOHN L. MARSHALL, ESQ. SBN 6733 570 Marsh Ave. Reno, Nevada 89509	FILED Electronically CV22-00560 2022-06-10 04:47:44 Pl Alicia L. Lerud Clerk of the Court Transaction # 9095420
(775) 303-4882 johnladuemarshall@gmail.com	
LUKE A. BUSBY, ESQ. SBN 10319 316 California Ave. Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 453-0112 Iuke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com	
Attorneys for the Respondent	
IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COU IN AND FOR THE COUNT	
* * *	
IN THE MATTER OF CHALLENGE TO THE QUALIFICATIONS OF JENNY BREKHUS, Jenny Brekhus, Respondent; William Mantle, Challenger, and Real Parties in Interest.	CASE NO: CV22-00560 DEPT NO: 4
/	
CASE APPEAL STATEMENT	- CROSS APPEAL
Respondent JENNY BREKHUS above nar	ned, hereby files the following Case
Statement for the appeal of the May 2, 2022 OF	RDER DENYING MOTION TO
DISMISS AND FINDING BREKHUS'S CANDIDA	CY FOR THE 2022 MAYORAL
ELECTION CONSTITUTIONAL ("Order") in the a	bove captioned matter.
(1) The District Court case number is CV2	2-00560. The Parties are JENNY
BREKHUS, Respondent, and Real Parties in Inte	erest WILLIAM MANTLE, and the

CITY OF RENO.

1	(2) The name of the judge who entered the order or judgment being appealed:
2	The Honorable Connie Steinheimer;
3	(3) The name of each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each
4	appellant are:
5	The appellant is JENNY BREKHUS.
6	Counsel for the Appellant is:
7	JOHN L. MARSHALL, ESQ.
8	SBN 6733 570 Marsh Ave.
9	Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 303-4882
10	johnladuemarshall@gmail.com
11	LUKE A. BUSBY, ESQ.
12	SBN 10319 316 California Ave.
13	Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 453-0112
14	luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com
15	(4) The name of each respondent and the name and address of appellate
16	counsel are:
17	THE CITY OF RENO:
18	Counsel for the Respondent City of Reno are:
19	KARL HALL
20	P.O. Box 1900 Reno, NV 89505
21	Phone: 775-334-2050
22	WILLIAM MANTLE, acting pro se.
23	William Mantle
24 25	2040 Angel Ridge Dr. Reno, NV 89521
26	(5) The undersigned counsel believes that all attorneys named herein are
27	licensed to practice law in Nevada, but that Mr. Mantle, acting pro se, is not so
28	licensed;

(6) The Appellant was represented by counsel at the District Court;

(7) The Appellant will be represented by counsel on appeal;

(8) The district court did not grant the Appellant leave to proceed in forma pauperis;

(9) The proceedings commenced in the District Court on April 6, 2022;

(10) The nature of the action and result in the District Court are as follows:

On April 6, 2022, the Reno City Attorney filed a Petition for an Order to Show Cause ("Petition") regarding the challenge to the qualification of Jenny Brekhus for the Office of Mayor of the City of Reno brought by William Mantle. The Petition does not address the issue of whether the challenge by Mr. Mantle was timely filed. On April 8, 2022, this Court issued an Order to Appear and Order to Show Cause regarding the challenge filed by Mr. Mantle.

The District Court held a hearing on April 20, 2022 and issued its Order on May 2, 2022 finding that the Petition was timely filed, that Ms. Brekhus' candidacy is Constitutional, and denying Brekhus' request for a finding that the challenge was frivolous and for attorney's fees and costs.

(11) This case is the subject of an appeal to the Supreme Court or the Nevada Court of Appeals filed by Mr. Mantle in Case No. 84821.

(12) This appeal does not involve child custody or visitation; and

(13) The Appellant does not believe that the appeal involves the possibility of settlement.

|| |||

|| ///

1	NRS 239B.030(4) AFFIRMATION
2	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030 the undersigned hereby affirms that this document
3	does not contain the social security number of any person.
4	
5	DATED this Jun 10, 2022
6	
7	By <u>: /s/ Luke Busby, Esq.</u> JOHN L. MARSHALL, ESQ.
8	SBN 6733 570 Marsh Ave.
9	Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 303-4882
10	johnladuemarshall@gmail.com
11 12	LUKE A. BUSBY, ESQ.
12	SBN 10319 316 California Ave.
14	Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 453-0112
15	luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com
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1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	I certify that on the date shown below, I caused service to be completed of a true
3	and correct copy of the foregoing Document by:
4	personally delivering;
5	delivery via Reno/Carson Messenger Service;
7	sending via Federal Express (or other overnight delivery service);
8	depositing for mailing in the U.S. mail, with sufficient postage affixed thereto; or,
9	<u>X</u> delivery via electronic means (fax, eflex, NEF, etc.) to:
10	
11	KARL HALL, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO
12	And via US Mail and email to:
13	William Mantle
14	2040 Angel Ridge Dr. Reno, NV 89521
15 16	Email: mantleformayor@gmail.com
17	<b>DATED</b> this Jun 10, 2022
18	
19	By <u>: /s/ Luke Busby, Esq.</u>
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## SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT STATE OF NEVADA COUNTY OF WASHOE Case History - CV22-00560

#### Case Description: IN RE: JENNY BREKHUS (D4)

### Case Number: CV22-00560 Case Type: OTHER CIVIL MATTERS - Initially Filed On: 4/6/2022

Parties		
Party Type & Name	Party Status	
JUDG - CONNIE J. STEINHEIMER - D4	Active	
ATTY - John L. Marshall, Esq 6733	Active	
ATTY - Luke Andrew Busby, Esq 10319	Active	
CA - Karl Schleigh Hall, Esq 23	Active	
CA - William J. McKean, Esq 6740	Active	
INST - WILLIAM MANTLE - @1384738	Active	
PETR - CITY OF RENO - RENO	Active	
RESP - JENNY BREKHUS - @1305981	Active	
Dis	sposed Hearings	

1 Department: D4 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 4/14/2022 at 07:08:00 Extra Event Text: EX PARTE MOTION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME TO RESPOND TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON Event Disposition: S200 - 4/20/2022

2 Department: D4 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 4/18/2022 at 14:41:00 Extra Event Text: APRIL 13, 2022 MOTION TO DISMISS, THE APRIL 15, 2022 RESPONSE AND APRIL 18, 2022 REPLY Event Disposition: S200 - 4/20/2022

3 Department: D4 -- Event: ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE -- Scheduled Date & Time: 4/20/2022 at 10:00:00

Event Disposition: D840 - 4/20/2022

4 Department: D4 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 4/20/2022 at 10:00:00 Extra Event Text: MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY AND PETITION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE REGARDING THE CANDIDA Event Disposition: S200 - 5/2/2022

Actions

	Actions
	Filing Date - Docket Code & Description
1	4/6/2022 - 3645 - Petition
	Additional Text: PETITION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE REGARDING THE CANDIDACY OF JENNY BREKHUS FOR MAYOR OF THE CITY OF RENO - Transaction 8984109 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-06-2022:12:07:05
2	4/8/2022 - 1520 - Declaration
	Additional Text: 4/06/2022 JENNY BREKHUS & WILLIAM MANTLE Transaction 8988497 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-08-2022:10:07:43
3	4/8/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 8988500 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-08-2022:10:08:11
4	4/8/2022 - FIE - **Document Filed in Error
	Additional Text: FILED IN ERROR - Transaction 8990067 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-08-2022:17:00:51

Report Does Not Contain Sealed Cases or Confidential Information

5 4/8/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 8990069 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-08-2022:17:01:20 6 4/8/2022 - 3355 - Ord to Show Cause Additional Text: ORDER TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE - HEARING SET FOR APRIL 20, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M. - Transaction 8990084 -Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-08-2022:17:08:51 4/8/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 7 Additional Text: Transaction 8990086 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-08-2022:17:09:29 8 4/11/2022 - 2520 - Notice of Appearance Additional Text: LUKE BUSBY ESQ OBO JENNY BREKHUS - Transaction 8991120 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-11-2022:10:23:46 9 4/11/2022 - \$1560 - \$Def 1st Appearance - CV Additional Text: JENNY BREKHUS - Transaction 8991120 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-11-2022:10:23:46 10 4/11/2022 - PAYRC - \*\*Payment Receipted Additional Text: A Payment of \$208.00 was made on receipt DCDC689980. 4/11/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 11 Additional Text: Transaction 8991133 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-11-2022:10:25:42 12 4/11/2022 - 2520 - Notice of Appearance Additional Text: WILLIAM MCKEAN CA - Transaction 8991887 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-11-2022:13:56:12 4/11/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 13 Additional Text: Transaction 8992038 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-11-2022:13:56:55 14 4/12/2022 - 3720 - Proof of Service Additional Text: LUKE BUSBY ESQ OBO JENNY BREKHUS & PERSONAL SERVICE ON WILLIAM MANTLE ON 4/11/2022 Transaction 8993400 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-12-2022:08:06:02 15 4/12/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 8993402 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-12-2022:08:06:41 4/13/2022 - 2490 - Motion ... 16 Additional Text: MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME - Transaction 8997463 -Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-13-2022:16:21:22 17 4/13/2022 - 1670 - Ex-Parte Mtn ... Additional Text: EX PARTE MOTION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME TO RESPOND TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME - Transaction 8997465 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-13-2022:16:24:32 4/13/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 18 Additional Text: Transaction 8997515 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-13-2022:16:21:49 4/13/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 19 Additional Text: Transaction 8997528 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-13-2022:16:26:04 20 4/14/2022 - 3860 - Request for Submission Additional Text: - Transaction 8997737 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-14-2022:07:08:17 DOCUMENT TITLE: EX PARTE MOTION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME TO RESPOND TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME PARTY SUBMITTING: LUKE BUSBY ESQ DATE SUBMITTED: 4/14/2022 SUBMITTED BY: CS DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:

21	4/14/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 8997738 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-14-2022:07:08:47
22	4/15/2022 - 4105 - Supplemental
	Additional Text: SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE REGARDING THE CANDIDACY OF JENNY BREKHUS FOR MAYOR OF THE CITY OF RENO Transaction 9001654 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-15-2022:14:46:16
23	4/15/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 9001666 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-15-2022:14:47:09
24	4/15/2022 - 2610 - Notice
	Additional Text: EXHIBIT LIST - Transaction 9001936 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-15-2022:15:56:36
25	4/15/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 9001956 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-15-2022:15:57:33
26	4/15/2022 - 3880 - Response
	Additional Text: RESPONSE TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME - Transaction 9002215 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-18-2022:08:29:32
27	4/16/2022 - 4055 - Subpoena
	Additional Text: Transaction 9002290 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-16-2022:09:45:50
28	4/16/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 9002292 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-16-2022:09:46:16
29	4/17/2022 - 2610 - Notice
	Additional Text: FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL EXHIBIT LIST - Transaction 9002379 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-18-2022:08:33:01
30	4/18/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 9002545 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:08:30:21
31	4/18/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 9002555 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:08:33:41
32	4/18/2022 - 3790 - Reply to/in Opposition
	Additional Text: REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME - Transaction 9003689 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 04-18-2022:14:43:10
33	4/18/2022 - 3860 - Request for Submission
	Additional Text: REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY - Transaction 9003699 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:14:41:33
	DOCUMENT TITLE: APRIL 13, 2022 MOTION TO DISMISS, THE APRIL 15, 2022 RESPONSE AND APRIL 18, 2022 REPLY PARTY SUBMITTING: LUKE BUSBY ESQ
	DATE SUBMITTED: 4-18-22
	SUBMITTED BY: YV
34	4/18/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 9003701 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:14:42:02
35	4/18/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
	Additional Text: Transaction 9003704 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:14:43:41
36	4/18/2022 - 1520 - Declaration

Additional Text: Declaration of Service of Subpoena - Transaction 9003710 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:14:45:35

- 37 4/18/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
   Additional Text: Transaction 9003714 Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:14:46:18
- 38 4/18/2022 3720 Proof of Service

Additional Text: Marshall of response to motion to dismiss untimely challenge via mail - Transaction 9004307 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:17:51:53

- 39 4/18/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
   Additional Text: Transaction 9004308 Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-18-2022:17:52:33
- 40 4/20/2022 S200 Request for Submission Complet No additional text exists for this entry.
- 41 4/20/2022 S200 Request for Submission Complet No additional text exists for this entry.
- 42 4/21/2022 4105 Supplemental ...

Additional Text: SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNTIMELY CHALLENGE TO CANDIDACY ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME-Transaction 9009136 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-21-2022:08:02:10

- 43 4/21/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
   Additional Text: Transaction 9009138 Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-21-2022:08:02:47
- 44 4/21/2022 MIN \*\*\*Minutes

Additional Text: ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE HEARING - 4/20/2022 (IN-PERSON) - Transaction 9010348 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-21-2022:13:31:04

- 45 4/21/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9010353 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 04-21-2022:13:31:44
- 46 4/28/2022 COC Evidence Chain of Custody Form No additional text exists for this entry.
- 47 5/2/2022 2842 Ord Denying Motion

Additional Text: ORDER DENYING MOTION TO DISMISS AND FINDING BREKHUS'S CANDIDACY FOR THE 2022 MAYORAL ELECTION CONSTITUTIONAL - Transaction 9027087 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 05-02-2022:13:22:47

- 48 5/2/2022 S200 Request for Submission Complet No additional text exists for this entry.
- 49 5/2/2022 F140 Adj Summary Judgment No additional text exists for this entry.
- 50 5/2/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9027090 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 05-02-2022:13:23:28
- 51 5/2/2022 2540 Notice of Entry of Ord Additional Text: Transaction 9027507 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 05-02-2022:14:40:15
- 52 5/2/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9027513 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 05-02-2022:14:41:03
- 53 5/31/2022 \$2515 \$Notice/Appeal Supreme Court Additional Text: DFX: CODE ENTERED ONLY TO CHARGE FILING FEE, DOCUMENTS WILL BE IMAGED AT A LATER DATE
- 54 5/31/2022 PAYRC \*\*Payment Receipted Additional Text: A Payment of -\$24.00 was made on receipt DCDC692464.

- 55 6/1/2022 SAB \*\*Supreme Court Appeal Bond Additional Text: BOND ID: SAB-22-00020
- 56 6/1/2022 2515 Notice of Appeal Supreme Court No additional text exists for this entry.
- 57 6/1/2022 1310 Case Appeal Statement No additional text exists for this entry.
- 58 6/1/2022 3720 Proof of Service No additional text exists for this entry.
- 59 6/1/2022 3720 Proof of Service No additional text exists for this entry.
- 60 6/3/2022 1310 Case Appeal Statement Additional Text: CASE APPEAL STATEMENT - Transaction 9081454 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-03-2022:09:08:50
- 61 6/3/2022 1350 Certificate of Clerk Additional Text: CERTIFICATE OF CLERK AND TRANSMITTAL - NOTICE OF APPEAL - Transaction 9081454 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-03-2022:09:08:50
- 62 6/3/2022 FIE \*\*Document Filed in Error Additional Text: Filed in Error - Payment Received
- 63 6/3/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9081459 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-03-2022:09:09:31
- 64 6/6/2022 1187 \*\*Supreme Court Case No. ... Additional Text: SUPREME COURT NO. 84821
- 65 6/8/2022 1188 Supreme Court Receipt for Doc
   Additional Text: SUPREME COURT NO. 84821 RECEIPT FOR DOCUMENTS Transaction 9090021 Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-08-2022:15:01:10
- 66 6/8/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9090031 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-08-2022:15:02:03
- 67 6/10/2022 \$2527 \$Notice of Cross Appeal Additional Text: Transaction 9095395 - Approved By: YVILORIA : 06-13-2022:08:03:18
- 68 6/10/2022 SAB \*\*Supreme Court Appeal Bond Additional Text: Transaction 9095410 - Approved By: YVILORIA : 06-13-2022:08:04:43
- 69 6/10/2022 1311 Case Appeal Stmt-Cross Appeal Additional Text: Transaction 9095420 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-10-2022:16:48:02
- 70 6/10/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9095425 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-10-2022:16:48:41
- 71 6/13/2022 PAYRC \*\*Payment Receipted Additional Text: A Payment of \$34.00 was made on receipt DCDC693079.
- 72 6/13/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9095712 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-13-2022:08:03:58

- 6/13/2022 PAYRC \*\*Payment Receipted
   Additional Text: A Payment of \$500.00 was made on receipt DCDC693081.
- 74 6/13/2022 NEF Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9095719 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-13-2022:08:05:22
- 75 6/13/2022 1350 Certificate of Clerk Additional Text: CERTIFICATE OF CLERK AND TRANSMITTAL - NOTICE OF CROSS-APPEAL - Transaction 9095822 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-13-2022:08:47:56
- 76 6/13/2022 4113 District Ct Deficiency Notice

Additional Text: NOTICE OF CROSS-APPEAL DEFICIENCY FOR SUPREME COURT FILING FEES - Transaction 9095822 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-13-2022:08:47:56

77 6/13/2022 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 9095825 - Approved By: NOREVIEW : 06-13-2022:08:48:37

1		FILED Electronically CV22-00560 2022-05-02 01:22:30 PM Alicia L. Lerud Clerk of the Court Transaction # 9027087
2		
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4		
5		
6		COURT FOR THE STATE OF NEVADA
7	IN AND FOR THE CO	OUNTY OF WASHOE
8	WILLIAM MANTLE,	Case No. CV22-00560
9	Challenger,	Department No.: 4
10	vs.	Department 110 4
11	JENNIFER BREKHUS,	
12	Respondent.	
13 14		AND FINDING BREKHUS'S CANDIDACY LECTION CONSTITUTIONAL
15	This judicial review involves a challen	ge filed by the Reno City Attorney based on a
16	complaint filed by William Mantle ("Mantle	e"). Under Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada
17	Constitution, Mantle is challenging Jennifer "J	enny" Brekhus's ("Brekhus") eligibility to be a
18	candidate for Mayor for the City of Reno during	the 2022 election.
19	I. BACKGROUND	
20	"The City of Reno is a municipal corpo	ration, organized and existing under the laws of
21	the State of Nevada through a charter approved	by the Legislature." Lorton v. Jones, 130 Nev.
22	51, 53 (2014). Under the Reno City Charter, "	t]he legislative power of the City is vested in a
23	City Council consisting of six Council Membe	rs and a Mayor. RENO CITY CHARTER, art. II, §
24	2.010(1). "The Mayor and one Council Memb	per represent the City at large and one Council
25	Member represents each ward. The Mayor	and Council Members serve for terms of 4
26	years." Id. at art. II § 2.010(3); Id. at art. V, § 5.	.0101(2)—(4). Every two years the City of Reno
27	holds an election. <i>Id.</i> at art. V, § 5.0101(2)—(4)	. Reno's City Council's membership is staggered
28	by this two-year election cycle. Id. The Mayor	and City Council Members from the Second and

Fourth Wards are elected in one cycle. *Id.* A City Council Member at large and City Council Members from the First, Third, and Fifth Wards are elected in the other. *Id.* 

In 1996, an amendment to Article 15 of the Nevada Constitution was "proposed by initiative petition and approved and ratified by the people at the 1994 and 1996 General Elections."<sup>1</sup> The Amendment states, "[n]o person may be elected to any state office or local governing body who has served in that office, or at the expiration of his current term if he is so serving will have served, 12 years or more, unless the permissible number of terms or duration of service is otherwise specified in this Constitution." NEV. CONST. art. XV, § 3(2).

The Nevada Supreme Court held that, for the purposes of Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution, the position of Mayor for the City of Reno is equal to that of other members of the City Council. Lorton, 130 Nev. 51 at 63. "The mayor of Reno is not the chief executive and administrative officer, as that role is filled by the city manager, . . ., and the mayor has no administrative duties. The mayor is the head of the city government for ceremonial purposes only. While the Reno City Charter may assign additional duties to the Reno mayor, none of those added duties change the equality of all of the members of the city council or provide a basis for the unequal application of the limitations provision to all members of the local governing body. Id. (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).

## II. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT FACTS

In 2012, Brekhus was elected to her first term as Reno City Council Member for Ward 1.<sup>2</sup> Brekhus was subsequently elected to the same position in 2016 and again in 2020.<sup>3</sup> Brekhus's current position as City Council Member for Ward 1 is scheduled to end in 2024. On March 17, 2022, Brekhus filed her Declaration of Candidacy for Mayor for the City of Reno.<sup>4</sup> The term in question, for Mayor for the City of Reno, is scheduled to end in 2026.

- <sup>2</sup>See https://www.reno.gov/government/city-council/city-council-members/ward-1-jenny-brekhus#ad-image-0 <sup>3</sup> Id.
- <sup>4</sup> April 6, 2022, *Petition for Order to Show Cause Regarding the Candidacy of Jenny Brekhus for Mayor of the City of Reno* at Exhibit 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://www.leg.state.nv.us/const/nvconst.html#Art15

1	NRS 293 governs general elections in Nevada. <sup>5</sup> NRS 293C governs local elections in
2	Nevada. <sup>6</sup> NRS 293C.186(1) states:
3 4 5	<ol> <li>After a person files a declaration of candidacy to be a candidate for an office, and not later than 5 days after the last day the person may withdraw his or her candidacy pursuant to NRS 293C.195, an elector may file with the city clerk a written challenge of the person on the grounds that the person fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State. Before accepting the challenge from the elector, the filing officer and the person of the person of the person fails to meet any constitution of the person fails to meet any constitution of the state of the challenge from the elector, the filing officer</li> </ol>
6 7 8	<ul> <li>shall notify the elector that if the challenge is found by a court to be frivolous, the elector may be required to pay the reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the person who is being challenged.</li> <li>A challenge filed pursuant to subsection 1 must: <ul> <li>(a) Indicate each qualification the person fails to meet;</li> <li>(b) Have attached all documentation and evidence supporting the challenge;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ol> <li>9</li> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>and <ul> <li>(c) Be in the form of an affidavit, signed by the elector under penalty of perjury.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Upon receipt of a challenge pursuant to subsection 1, the city clerk shall immediately transmit the challenge to the city attorney.</li> <li>4. If the city attorney determines that probable cause exists to support the challenge, the city attorney shall, not later than 5 working days after receiving the challenge, petition a court of competent jurisdiction to order the person to appear before the court. Upon receipt of such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the person to appear before the court at a hearing, at a time and place to be fixed by the court in the order, to show cause why the challenge is not valid. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the person. The court shall give priority to such proceedings over all other matters pending with the court determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the challenge is valid or that the person otherwise fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State, or if the person fails to appear at the hearing, the court determines that the challenge is frivolous, the court may order the elector who filed the challenge to pay the reasonable attorney's</li> </ul>
20	fees and court costs of the person who was challenged.
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25 26	<sup>5</sup> "The provisions of NRS 293.5772 to 293.5887, inclusive, apply to city elections. The other provisions of [NRS 293], not inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 293C of NRS or a city charter, also apply to city elections." NRS 293.126(1)—(2).
27 28	<sup>6</sup> "The provisions of [NRS 293C] apply only to city elections." NRS 293C.100
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1	III. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT PROCEDURAL HISTORY
2	On April 4, 2022, Mantle filed a Registration and Election Report/Complaint ("April 4,
3	2022, Complaint") with the Reno City Clerk. <sup>7</sup>
4	On April 6, 2022, the Reno City Attorney filed Petition for Order to Show Cause
5	Regarding the Candidacy of Jenny Brekhus for Mayor of the City of Reno ("April 6, 2022,
6	Petition").
7	On April 8, 2022, the Court issued Order to Appear and Order to Show Cause.
8	On April 13, 2022, Brekhus filed Motion to Dismiss Untimely Challenge to Candidacy on
9	Order Shortening Time ("April 13, 2022, Motion"). On April 15, 2022, Brekhus filed Supplement
10	to Petition for Order to Show Cause Regarding the Candidacy of Jenny Brekhus for Mayor of the
11	City of Reno. On April 15, 2022, Mantle filed Response to Motion to Dismiss Untimely
12	Challenge to Candidacy on Order Shortening Time ("April 15, 2022, Response"). On April 18,
13	2022, Brekhus filed Reply to Opposition to Motion to Dismiss Untimely Challenge to Candidacy
14	on Order Shortening Time ("April 18, 2022, Reply").
15	On April 15, 2022, and April 17, 2022, Brekhus filed Exhibit List and First Supplemental
16	Exhibit List, respectively.
17	On April 20, 2022, Mantle, appeared in pro per, Luke Busby, Esq. and John Marshall,
18	Esq., appeared with Brekhus, and the Reno City Attorney Karl Hall appeared on behalf of the
19	City of Reno at the scheduled Order to Show Cause Hearing. On April 21, 2022, Brekhus filed
20	Supplement to Motion to Dismiss Untimely Challenge to Candidacy on Order Shortening Time.
21	IV. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS
22	Mantle asserts that "Brekhus is an [u]nqualified [e]lector per [Article 15 § 3(2) of the
23	Nevada Constitution]. This is Brekhus'[s] [tenth] year in office for the Reno City Council. She
24	was most recently elected to a term of 4 years in 2020. Brekhus'[s] current term takes her to
25	<sup>7</sup> On March 17, 2022, Mantle filed an Election Integrity Violation Report with the Nevada
26	Secretary of State. <i>April 15, 2022, Response</i> at Exhibit 4. On April 4, 2022, a representative from the Nevada Secretary of State contacted Mantle and informed Mantle that the challenge must be
27	filed with the Washoe County Registrar. <i>Id.</i> at Exhibit 5. Mantle explained during the April 20, 2022, hearing that the Washoe County Registrar of Voters informed Mantle that the challenge

28 must be filed with the Reno City Clerk.

1 2024. . . . [Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution states], "[n]o person may be elected to 2 any state office or local governing body who has served in that office, or at the expiration of his 3 current term if he is so serving will have served, 12 years or more, unless the permissible number 4 of terms or duration of service is otherwise specified in this constitution." "I am unaware of any 5 exception in NRS, the NV [C]onstitution, or the Reno City Charter. . . . Br[e]khus is limited by 6 her current term's expiration of 12 years and thus is ineligible for election as an unqualified 7 elector per [Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution] and cannot run for election of [Mayor 8 for the City of Reno]." April 15, 2022, Response at Exhibit 6.

9 Brekhus argues that NRS 293C bars Mantel's challenge because Mantle's challenge is 10 "untimely," and, for this reason, Mantel's challenge "must be dismissed by this Court." April 13, 2022, Motion. Brekhus asserts that "[s]tatutory timelines are mandatory and jurisdictional." Id.

#### V. DISCUSSION

## a. The Court has Jurisdiction

14 "When interpreting a statute, [the Court] look[s] to [the statute's] plain language. If a 15 statute's language is plain and unambiguous, [the Court] enforce[s] the statute as written, without 16 resorting to the rules of construction. Whenever possible, [the Court] interprets a rule or statute 17 in harmony with other rules or statutes." Cervantes-Guevara v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct. in & for 18 Cty. of Clark, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 10 (2022) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). 19 "When interpreting a statute, [the Court] will give the statute its plain meaning and will examine 20 the statute as a whole without rendering words or phrases superfluous or rendering a provision 21 nugatory. [The Court] will award meaning to all words, phrases, and provisions of a statute." 22 Haney v. State, 124 Nev. 408, 411–12 (2008).

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NRS 293C.186(1) states, "[a]fter a person files a declaration of candidacy to be a 24 candidate for an office, and not later than 5 days after the last day the person may withdraw his 25 or her candidacy pursuant to NRS 293C.195, an elector may file with the city clerk a written 26 challenge" regarding the eligibility of a candidate. (emphasis added). NRS 293C.186(1) does not 27 require that an elector must file a challenge with the city clerk "no later than 5 days after the last 28 day the person may withdraw his or her candidacy," NRS 293C.186(1) only requires that,

1 "[b]efore accepting the challenge from the elector, the filing officer *shall* notify the elector that if 2 the challenge is found by a court to be frivolous, the elector may be required to pay the 3 reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the person who is being challenged" (emphasis 4 added). NRS 293C.186(1) provides one avenue for an elector to file a challenge regarding a 5 candidate's eligibility, and the only requirement stated in NRS 293C.186(1) is that the city clerk 6 must apprise the challenger of the possibility that a court could find the challenge "frivolous" 7 and the challenger may be "required to pay the reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the 8 person who is being challenged." Additionally, NRS 293C.186(1) does not prohibit an elector 9 from filing a challenge outside of the timeframe stated in NRS 293C.186(1).

10 Furthermore, NRS 293C.186(2) only mandates what a "challenge filed pursuant to 11 subsection 1 must" contain in order for the city clerk to be required to immediately transmit the 12 challenge to the city attorney. (emphasis added). Similarly, NRS 293C.186(3) instructs that, 13 "[u]pon receipt of a challenge pursuant to subsection 1, the city clerk *shall* immediately transmit 14 the challenge to the city attorney." (emphasis added). NRS 293C.186(3) mandates that the city 15 clerk must "immediately transmit" a challenge that is filed in compliance with NRS 293C.186(1) 16 and NRS 293C.186(2). However, 293.186(3) does not prohibit the city clerk from transmitting a 17 challenge to the city attorney in the event that the requirements of 293C.186(1) and 293C.186(2) 18 are not met.

19 Having determined that the City Clerk properly transmitted Mantle's April 4, 2022, 20 Complaint to the City Attorney, the Court now looks to NRS 293C.186(4). NRS 293C.186(4) 21 states that "[i]f the city attorney determines that probable cause exists to support the challenge, 22 the city attorney shall, not later than 5 working days after receiving the challenge, petition a 23 court of competent jurisdiction to order the person to appear before the court." (emphasis added) 24 NRS 293C.186(4) gives discretion to the city attorney to determine if probable cause exists, and 25 then requires the city attorney to petition a court of competent jurisdiction "not later than 5 26 working days after receiving the challenge" if the city attorney "determines that probable cause 27 exists." Here, Mantle filed his challenge on April 4, 2022. The City Attorney determined that 28 probable cause existed and petitioned the Court on April 6, 2022. The City Attorney's actions

followed the requirements of NRS 293C.186(4), and therefore the Court has jurisdiction to hear
 the instant matter.

3 Moreover, this is in accord with NRS 293.2045(1). 293C.186(5) states that if "the court 4 determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the challenge is valid or that the person 5 otherwise fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or 6 laws of this State, or if the person fails to appear at the hearing, the person is subject to the provisions of NRS 293.2045." NRS 293.2045(1) states the remedies available "[i]n addition to 7 8 any other remedy or penalty provided by law, but except as otherwise provided in NRS 9 293.1265, if a court of competent jurisdiction finds in any preelection action that a person who is 10 a candidate for any office fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the 11 Constitution or laws of this State. . . ." (emphasis added). NRS 293.2045(1) does not limit itself 12 to the preelection actions specified in NRS 293 and NRS 293C. NRS 293.2045(1) allows 13 remedies for "any preelection action." NRS 293.2045(1) does not prohibit preelection actions 14 other than those found in NRS 293 and NRS 293C. Therefore, pursuant to NRS 293.126(2), 15 because NRS 293.2045(1) is not inconsistent with any provision of NRS 293C, NRS 16 293.2045(1) applies to city elections.

For the above stated reasons, the Court has jurisdiction to hear Mantle's challenge, and the Court finds the issue of whether Mantel filed his *April 4, 2022, Complaint* within the timeframe dictated in NRS 293C.186 moot.

20 21

## b. Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution Does Not Prohibit Brekhus's Eligibility to be a Candidate for Mayor for the City of Reno during the 2022 election

Mantle argues that Brekhus is ineligible to run for Mayor for the City of Reno during the 2022 election because the scheduled end date for Brekhus's current position within the local 24 governing body brings Brekhus's time within said local governing body to twelve years. Mantle 25 argues that Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution requires Brekhus to resign her position 26 as Ward 1 City Council Member for the City of Reno before becoming eligible to run for Mayor 27 for the City of Reno.

1 However, the question before the Court is not whether a person who, at the scheduled end 2 of their current term within a local governing body would have served twelve years within the 3 same local governing body, resigned their currently held position in order to become an eligible 4 candidate for a separate position within said local governing body, the term for which would 5 bring said person's position within said local governing body to fourteen years, the question 6 before the Court is whether a person who is currently serving within a local governing body, for 7 which the scheduled end of said person's current term within the local governing body brings 8 said person to twelve years within the same local governing body, is eligible to be a candidate for 9 a separate position within said local governing body, for which the new elected term would bring 10 said person's time within said local governing body to fourteen years.

11 For this reason, the Court will not address what affect a person's resignation from their 12 current position within a local governing body, before actually serving for twelve years, would 13 have on their eligibility to be a candidate for a separate position within said local governing 14 body, the term for which would extend said candidate's time within said local governing body to 15 12 years or more. The Court will narrowly address whether a person, who at the end of their 16 currently held term within a local governing body would have served twelve years within the 17 same local governing body, is constitutionally prohibited from being a candidate for a separate 18 position within said local governing body for which the new position's term's start date is prior 19 to the scheduled end date of said person's currently held term, and for which, if the person is 20 successful in their campaign, would extend said person's time within said local governing body 21 to fourteen years.

<sup>22</sup> "Consonant with the axiomatic principle that it is emphatically the province and duty of the <sup>23</sup> judicial department to say what the law is, Nevada courts are the ultimate interpreter of the <sup>24</sup> Nevada Constitution. When interpreting a constitutional provision, [the Court's] ultimate goal is <sup>25</sup> to determine the public understanding of a legal text leading up to and in the period after its <sup>26</sup> enactment or ratification. In doing so, we look to the provision's language; if it is plain, the text <sup>27</sup> controls and we will apply it as written. Thus, when a constitutional provision's language is clear <sup>28</sup> on its face, we will not go beyond that language in determining the voters' intent or to create an

ambiguity when none exists." *Legislature of State v. Settelmeyer*, 137 Nev. Adv. Op. 21 (2021) (internal citations and quotations marks omitted).

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3 "We will apply the plain meaning of a statute unless it is ambiguous, meaning that it is 4 susceptible to two or more reasonable but inconsistent interpretations. If the constitutional 5 provision is ambiguous, we look to the history, public policy, and reason for the provision. 6 Additionally, the interpretation of a . . . constitutional provision will be harmonized with other 7 statutes." Landreth v. Malik, 127 Nev. 175, 180 (2011) (internal citations and quotation marks 8 omitted). "[A] contemporaneous construction by the [L]egislature of a constitutional provision is 9 a safe guide to its proper interpretation and creates a strong presumption that the interpretation 10 was proper, because it is likely that legislation drafted near in time to the constitutional provision 11 reflects the constitutional drafters' mindset." Ramsey v. City of N. Las Vegas, 133 Nev. 96, 98 12 (2017) (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted).

13 It is undisputed that if Brekhus were to complete her current term as Reno City Council 14 Member for Ward 1, that Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution would prohibit Brekhus 15 from serving within that local governing body again. However, Brekhus's candidacy for Mayor 16 for the City of Reno is disputed because the scheduled end date for Brekhus's current term, as 17 Ward 1 City Council Member, puts Brekhus's time for having served within the same local 18 governing body at twelve years. The Court looks to the language of the Nevada Constitution 19 when determining whether Brekhus is prohibited from being a candidate for Mayor for the City 20 of Reno during the 2022 election. Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution states, in 21 relevant part, "[n]o person may be elected to any ... local governing body who has served in that 22 office, or at the expiration of his current term if he is so serving will have served, 12 years or 23 more...." The Court parses this language into three parts.

First, the Court focuses on the language: "12 years or more. . . ." The Court finds this language expressly acknowledges that a person could serve within a local governing body for a period of more than twelve years.

Second, the Court focuses on the language: "who has served in that office. . . ." The
Court finds this language prohibits a person from serving within a local governing body if said

1 person has already served within a local governing body for a period of twelve years or more. 2 This is in accord with the remainder of the Amendment, which prohibits a person from serving 3 for twelve years or more within the same local governing body.

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Finally, the Court focuses on the language: "at the expiration of his current term if he is so serving will have served. . . ." This is the language within Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution that is being challenged. However, the Court finds only one reading of this language that is in accord with the remainder of the Amendment.

8 This language prohibits a person from becoming a candidate for a local governing body 9 if, at the beginning of the term for which said person is a candidate, said person "will have 10 served" twelve years or more within said local governing body. This language does not prohibit a 11 person from becoming a candidate for a local governing body if, at the beginning of the term for 12 which said person is a candidate, said person will not have served twelve years or more within 13 said local governing body.

14 Here, if Brekhus is successful in the 2022 Mayoral election, it would be an impossibility 15 for Brekhus to have served for twelve years or more within the same local governing body prior 16 to assuming her new term as Mayor for the City of Reno. The term for the Mayoral position for 17 which Brekhus is a candidate begins two years before Brekhus's current term is scheduled to 18 end. If Brekhus is successful in her Mayoral election, Brekhus will have served for ten years 19 within the same local governing body prior to assuming her newly elected position. For this 20 reason, if Brekhus is successful in her campaign for Mayor for the City of Reno, Brekhus would 21 be unable to have served for twelve years or more within a local governing body prior to the start 22 of her Mayoral term.

23

In regard to a person's eligibility to be a candidate for a position within a local governing 24 body, separate from said person's currently held position within said local governing body and 25 without said person having resigned said currently held position, Article 15 § (3)(2) of the 26 Nevada Constitution does not prohibit said person's eligibility based on the amount of time said 27 person could have served within said local governing body under their current term; Article 15 § 28 (3)(2) prohibits said person from becoming a candidate for a position within said local governing

body based on whether the term for the said new position begins at or after said person will have served for twelve years or more within said local governing body under said currently held position. If Brekhus is successful in her 2022 campaign for Mayor for the City of Reno, the staggered election cycles make it an impossibility for Brekhus to have served for twelve years or more within the same local governing body prior to assuming the position of Mayor for the City of Reno.

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c. The Court Does Not Find the Challenge was Frivolous and Will Not Order Mantle to Pay Reasonable Attorney's Fees and Costs

9 A "frivolous action has been defined as one that is baseless, and baseless means that the 10 pleading is [not] well grounded in fact [or is not] warranted by existing law or a good 11 faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law." Simonian v. Univ. & 12 Cmty. Coll. Sys. of Nevada, 122 Nev. 187, 196 (2006) (internal citations and quotation marks 13 omitted) (alteration in original). A "complaint appears completely frivolous on its face [when] . . 14 . it appears to lack an arguable basis either in law or in fact. . . ." Jordan v. State ex rel. Dep't of 15 Motor Vehicles & Pub. Safety, 121 Nev. 44, 57–58 (2005) (abrogated on other grounds). 16 "The decision whether to award attorney's fees is within the sound discretion of the trial 17 court." Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 674 (1993) (abrogated on other grounds). 18 The Court finds Mantle had reasonable grounds to file the April 4, 2022, Complaint, and 19 that Mantle did not file the April 4, 2022, Complaint to harass Brekhus. Mantle's April 4, 2022, 20 Complaint was grounded in fact and a good faith argument regarding whether a candidate is 21 eligible for election under Article 15 (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution. For the above stated 22 reasons, the Court finds that there was a basis in both law and fact for Mantle's April 4, 2022, 23 Complaint, and the Court does not find Mantle's April 4, 2022, Complaint frivolous. The Court 24 will not order Mantle to pay for Brekhus's reasonable attorney fees or costs. 25 /// 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///

1	VI. CONCLUSION
2	For the above stated reasons, the Court finds Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada
3	Constitution does not prohibit Brekhus's eligibility to be a candidate for Mayor for the City of
4	Reno during the 2022 election.
5	Based on the foregoing and good cause appearing,
6	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Jenny Brekhus' April 13, 2022, Motion to Dismiss
7	Untimely Challenge to Candidacy on Order Shortening Time is DENIED.
8	IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada
9	Constitution does not prohibit Brekhus's eligibility to be a candidate for Mayor for the City of
10	Reno during the 2022 election.
11	IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Jenny Brekhus's request for attorney's
12	fees and costs is DENIED.
13	DATED this <u>2</u> day of May, 2022.
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15	Comie J. Stenheimer
16	DISTRICT JUDGE
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1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	CASE NO. CV22-00560
3	I certify that I am an employee of the SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of the
4	STATE OF NEVADA, COUNTY OF WASHOE; that on the $2$ day of May, 2022, I
5	electronically filed the ORDER DENYING MOTION TO DISMISS AND FINDING
6	BREKHUS'S CANDIDACY FOR THE 2022 MAYORAL ELECTION
7	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL</b> with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system.
8	I further certify that I transmitted a true and correct copy of the foregoing document by
9	the method(s) noted below:
10	Personal delivery to the following: [NONE]
11	
12	Electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system which will send a
13	notice of electronic filing to the following:
14	KARL HALL, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO WILLIAM MANTLE
15	WILLIAM MCKEAN, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO
16	LUKE BUSBY, ESQ. for JENNY BREKHUS
17	Deposited in the Washoe County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal Service in Reno, Nevada:
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1 2 3	JOHN L. MARSHALL, ESQ. SBN 6733 570 Marsh Ave. Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 202, 4882	FILEI Electronic CV22-005 2022-05-02 02:3 Alicia L. Le Clerk of the Transaction # 9	ally 560 39:43 PM erud Court
4	(775) 303-4882 johnladuemarshall@gmail.com		
5 6 7 8	LUKE A. BUSBY, ESQ. SBN 10319 316 California Ave. Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 453-0112 Iuke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com		
9	Attorneys for the Respondent		
10 11 12 13	IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COU IN AND FOR THE COUNT		
13	* * *		
15 16	IN THE MATTER OF CHALLENGE TO THE QUALIFICATIONS OF JENNY BREKHUS,	CASE NO: CV22-00560	
17 18 19	Jenny Brekhus, Respondent; William Mantle, Challenger, and Real Parties in Interest/	DEPT NO: 4	
20			
21	NOTICE OF ENTRY	OF ORDER	
22 23	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: On May 2, 20	022 the Court entered the ORDER	
24	DENYING MOTION TO DISMISS AND FINDING	BREKHUS'S CANDIDACY FOR THE	
25	2022 MAYORAL ELECTION CONSTITUTIONAL	, a true and correct copy of which is	
26	attached hereto as Exhibit 1.		
27	///		
28	///		

1	
2	NRS 239B.030(4) AFFIRMATION
3	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030 the undersigned hereby affirms that this document
4	does not contain the social security number of any person.
5	DATED this May 2, 2022
7	By:/s/_Luke Busby, Esq
8	JOHN L. MARSHALL, ESQ. SBN 6733
9	570 Marsh Ave.
10	Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 303-4882
11	johnladuemarshall@gmail.com
12	LUKE A. BUSBY, ESQ. SBN 10319
13	316 California Ave. Reno, Nevada 89509
14 15	(775) 453-0112 <u>luke@lukeandrewbusbyltd.com</u>
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2	EXHIBIT LIST
3	1. ORDER DENYING MOTION TO DISMISS AND FINDING BREKHUS'S
4	CANDIDACY FOR THE 2022 MAYORAL ELECTION CONSTITUTIONAL
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1		
2	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
3	I certify that on the date shown below, I caused service to be completed of a true	
4	and correct copy of the foregoing Document by:	
5	personally delivering;	
7	delivery via Reno/Carson Messenger Service;	
8	sending via Federal Express (or other overnight delivery service);	
9	depositing for mailing in the U.S. mail, with sufficient postage affixed thereto; or,	
10	<u>X</u> delivery via electronic means (fax, eflex, NEF, etc.) to:	
11		
12	KARL HALL, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO	
13	WILLIAM MANTLE WILLIAM MCKEAN, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO	
14		
15	DATED this May 2, 2022	
16		
17	By <u>: /s/ Luke Busby, Esq.</u>	
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# Exhibit 1

1		FILED Electronically CV22-00560 2022-05-02 01:22:30 PM Alicia L. Lerud Clerk of the Court Transaction # 9027087
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5		
6	IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT	COURT FOR THE STATE OF NEVADA
7	IN AND FOR THE CO	OUNTY OF WASHOE
8	WILLIAM MANTLE,	Case No. CV22-00560
9	Challenger,	Department No.: 4
10	VS.	Department No.: 4
11	JENNIFER BREKHUS,	
12	Respondent.	
13 14		AND FINDING BREKHUS'S CANDIDACY LECTION CONSTITUTIONAL
15	This judicial review involves a challen	ge filed by the Reno City Attorney based on a
16	complaint filed by William Mantle ("Mantle	e"). Under Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada
17	Constitution, Mantle is challenging Jennifer "J	enny" Brekhus's ("Brekhus") eligibility to be a
18	candidate for Mayor for the City of Reno during	the 2022 election.
19	I. BACKGROUND	
20	"The City of Reno is a municipal corpo	ration, organized and existing under the laws of
21	the State of Nevada through a charter approved	by the Legislature." Lorton v. Jones, 130 Nev.
22	51, 53 (2014). Under the Reno City Charter, "	t]he legislative power of the City is vested in a
23	City Council consisting of six Council Membe	rs and a Mayor. RENO CITY CHARTER, art. II, §
24	2.010(1). "The Mayor and one Council Memb	er represent the City at large and one Council
25	Member represents each ward. The Mayor	and Council Members serve for terms of 4
26	years." Id. at art. II § 2.010(3); Id. at art. V, § 5.	0101(2)—(4). Every two years the City of Reno
27		Reno's City Council's membership is staggered
28		and City Council Members from the Second and

Fourth Wards are elected in one cycle. *Id.* A City Council Member at large and City Council Members from the First, Third, and Fifth Wards are elected in the other. *Id.* 

In 1996, an amendment to Article 15 of the Nevada Constitution was "proposed by initiative petition and approved and ratified by the people at the 1994 and 1996 General Elections."<sup>1</sup> The Amendment states, "[n]o person may be elected to any state office or local governing body who has served in that office, or at the expiration of his current term if he is so serving will have served, 12 years or more, unless the permissible number of terms or duration of service is otherwise specified in this Constitution." NEV. CONST. art. XV, § 3(2).

The Nevada Supreme Court held that, for the purposes of Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution, the position of Mayor for the City of Reno is equal to that of other members of the City Council. Lorton, 130 Nev. 51 at 63. "The mayor of Reno is not the chief executive and administrative officer, as that role is filled by the city manager, . . ., and the mayor has no administrative duties. The mayor is the head of the city government for ceremonial purposes only. While the Reno City Charter may assign additional duties to the Reno mayor, none of those added duties change the equality of all of the members of the city council or provide a basis for the unequal application of the limitations provision to all members of the local governing body. Id. (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).

## II. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT FACTS

In 2012, Brekhus was elected to her first term as Reno City Council Member for Ward 1.<sup>2</sup> Brekhus was subsequently elected to the same position in 2016 and again in 2020.<sup>3</sup> Brekhus's current position as City Council Member for Ward 1 is scheduled to end in 2024. On March 17, 2022, Brekhus filed her Declaration of Candidacy for Mayor for the City of Reno.<sup>4</sup> The term in question, for Mayor for the City of Reno, is scheduled to end in 2026.

- <sup>2</sup>See https://www.reno.gov/government/city-council/city-council-members/ward-1-jenny-brekhus#ad-image-0 <sup>3</sup> Id.
- <sup>4</sup> April 6, 2022, *Petition for Order to Show Cause Regarding the Candidacy of Jenny Brekhus for Mayor of the City of Reno* at Exhibit 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://www.leg.state.nv.us/const/nvconst.html#Art15

1	NRS 293 governs general elections in Nevada. <sup>5</sup> NRS 293C governs local elections in
2	Nevada. <sup>6</sup> NRS 293C.186(1) states:
3 4 5	<ol> <li>After a person files a declaration of candidacy to be a candidate for an office, and not later than 5 days after the last day the person may withdraw his or her candidacy pursuant to NRS 293C.195, an elector may file with the city clerk a written challenge of the person on the grounds that the person fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State. Before accepting the challenge from the elector, the filing officer and the person of the person of the person fails to meet any dualification required for the challenge from the elector, the filing officer</li> </ol>
6 7 8 9	<ul> <li>shall notify the elector that if the challenge is found by a court to be frivolous, the elector may be required to pay the reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the person who is being challenged.</li> <li>A challenge filed pursuant to subsection 1 must: <ul> <li>(a) Indicate each qualification the person fails to meet;</li> <li>(b) Have attached all documentation and evidence supporting the challenge; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ol> <li>10</li> <li>11</li> <li>12</li> <li>13</li> <li>14</li> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>(c) Be in the form of an affidavit, signed by the elector under penalty of perjury.</li> <li>3. Upon receipt of a challenge pursuant to subsection 1, the city clerk shall immediately transmit the challenge to the city attorney.</li> <li>4. If the city attorney determines that probable cause exists to support the challenge, the city attorney shall, not later than 5 working days after receiving the challenge, petition a court of competent jurisdiction to order the person to appear before the court. Upon receipt of such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the person to appear before the court of appear before the court in the order, to show cause why the challenge is not valid. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the person. The court shall give priority to such proceedings over all other matters pending with the court, except for criminal proceedings.</li> <li>5. If, at the hearing, the court determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the challenge is valid or that the person otherwise fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or laws of this State, or if the person fails to appear at the hearing, the court may order the elector who filed the challenge to pay the reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the person who was challenged.</li> </ul>
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26	<sup>5</sup> "The provisions of NRS 293.5772 to 293.5887, inclusive, apply to city elections. The other provisions of [NRS 293], not inconsistent with the provisions of chapter 293C of NRS or a city charter, also apply to city elections." NRS 293.126(1)—(2).
27 28	<sup>64</sup> The provisions of [NRS 293C] apply only to city elections." NRS 293C.100
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1	III. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT PROCEDURAL HISTORY
2	On April 4, 2022, Mantle filed a Registration and Election Report/Complaint ("April 4,
3	2022, Complaint") with the Reno City Clerk. <sup>7</sup>
4	On April 6, 2022, the Reno City Attorney filed Petition for Order to Show Cause
5	Regarding the Candidacy of Jenny Brekhus for Mayor of the City of Reno ("April 6, 2022,
6	Petition").
7	On April 8, 2022, the Court issued Order to Appear and Order to Show Cause.
8	On April 13, 2022, Brekhus filed Motion to Dismiss Untimely Challenge to Candidacy on
9	Order Shortening Time ("April 13, 2022, Motion"). On April 15, 2022, Brekhus filed Supplement
10	to Petition for Order to Show Cause Regarding the Candidacy of Jenny Brekhus for Mayor of the
11	City of Reno. On April 15, 2022, Mantle filed Response to Motion to Dismiss Untimely
12	Challenge to Candidacy on Order Shortening Time ("April 15, 2022, Response"). On April 18,
13	2022, Brekhus filed Reply to Opposition to Motion to Dismiss Untimely Challenge to Candidacy
14	on Order Shortening Time ("April 18, 2022, Reply").
15	On April 15, 2022, and April 17, 2022, Brekhus filed Exhibit List and First Supplemental
16	Exhibit List, respectively.
17	On April 20, 2022, Mantle, appeared in pro per, Luke Busby, Esq. and John Marshall,
18	Esq., appeared with Brekhus, and the Reno City Attorney Karl Hall appeared on behalf of the
19	City of Reno at the scheduled Order to Show Cause Hearing. On April 21, 2022, Brekhus filed
20	Supplement to Motion to Dismiss Untimely Challenge to Candidacy on Order Shortening Time.
21	IV. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS
22	Mantle asserts that "Brekhus is an [u]nqualified [e]lector per [Article 15 § 3(2) of the
23	Nevada Constitution]. This is Brekhus'[s] [tenth] year in office for the Reno City Council. She
24	was most recently elected to a term of 4 years in 2020. Brekhus'[s] current term takes her to
25	<sup>7</sup> On March 17, 2022, Mantle filed an Election Integrity Violation Report with the Nevada
26	Secretary of State. <i>April 15, 2022, Response</i> at Exhibit 4. On April 4, 2022, a representative from the Nevada Secretary of State contacted Mantle and informed Mantle that the challenge must be
27	filed with the Washoe County Registrar. <i>Id.</i> at Exhibit 5. Mantle explained during the April 20, 2022, hearing that the Washoe County Registrar of Voters informed Mantle that the challenge

28 must be filed with the Reno City Clerk.

1 2024.... [Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution states], "[n]o person may be elected to 2 any state office or local governing body who has served in that office, or at the expiration of his 3 current term if he is so serving will have served, 12 years or more, unless the permissible number 4 of terms or duration of service is otherwise specified in this constitution." "I am unaware of any 5 exception in NRS, the NV [C]onstitution, or the Reno City Charter. . . . Br[e]khus is limited by 6 her current term's expiration of 12 years and thus is ineligible for election as an unqualified 7 elector per [Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution] and cannot run for election of [Mayor 8 for the City of Reno]." April 15, 2022, Response at Exhibit 6.

9 Brekhus argues that NRS 293C bars Mantel's challenge because Mantle's challenge is 10 "untimely," and, for this reason, Mantel's challenge "must be dismissed by this Court." April 13, 2022, Motion. Brekhus asserts that "[s]tatutory timelines are mandatory and jurisdictional." Id.

#### V. DISCUSSION

### a. The Court has Jurisdiction

14 "When interpreting a statute, [the Court] look[s] to [the statute's] plain language. If a 15 statute's language is plain and unambiguous, [the Court] enforce[s] the statute as written, without 16 resorting to the rules of construction. Whenever possible, [the Court] interprets a rule or statute 17 in harmony with other rules or statutes." Cervantes-Guevara v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct. in & for 18 Cty. of Clark, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 10 (2022) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). 19 "When interpreting a statute, [the Court] will give the statute its plain meaning and will examine 20 the statute as a whole without rendering words or phrases superfluous or rendering a provision 21 nugatory. [The Court] will award meaning to all words, phrases, and provisions of a statute." 22 Haney v. State, 124 Nev. 408, 411–12 (2008).

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NRS 293C.186(1) states, "[a]fter a person files a declaration of candidacy to be a 24 candidate for an office, and not later than 5 days after the last day the person may withdraw his 25 or her candidacy pursuant to NRS 293C.195, an elector may file with the city clerk a written 26 challenge" regarding the eligibility of a candidate. (emphasis added). NRS 293C.186(1) does not 27 require that an elector must file a challenge with the city clerk "no later than 5 days after the last 28 day the person may withdraw his or her candidacy," NRS 293C.186(1) only requires that,

1 "[b]efore accepting the challenge from the elector, the filing officer *shall* notify the elector that if 2 the challenge is found by a court to be frivolous, the elector may be required to pay the 3 reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the person who is being challenged" (emphasis 4 added). NRS 293C.186(1) provides one avenue for an elector to file a challenge regarding a 5 candidate's eligibility, and the only requirement stated in NRS 293C.186(1) is that the city clerk 6 must apprise the challenger of the possibility that a court could find the challenge "frivolous" 7 and the challenger may be "required to pay the reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the 8 person who is being challenged." Additionally, NRS 293C.186(1) does not prohibit an elector 9 from filing a challenge outside of the timeframe stated in NRS 293C.186(1).

10 Furthermore, NRS 293C.186(2) only mandates what a "challenge filed pursuant to 11 subsection 1 must" contain in order for the city clerk to be required to immediately transmit the 12 challenge to the city attorney. (emphasis added). Similarly, NRS 293C.186(3) instructs that, 13 "[u]pon receipt of a challenge pursuant to subsection 1, the city clerk *shall* immediately transmit 14 the challenge to the city attorney." (emphasis added). NRS 293C.186(3) mandates that the city 15 clerk must "immediately transmit" a challenge that is filed in compliance with NRS 293C.186(1) 16 and NRS 293C.186(2). However, 293.186(3) does not prohibit the city clerk from transmitting a 17 challenge to the city attorney in the event that the requirements of 293C.186(1) and 293C.186(2) 18 are not met.

19 Having determined that the City Clerk properly transmitted Mantle's April 4, 2022, 20 Complaint to the City Attorney, the Court now looks to NRS 293C.186(4). NRS 293C.186(4) 21 states that "[i]f the city attorney determines that probable cause exists to support the challenge, 22 the city attorney shall, not later than 5 working days after receiving the challenge, petition a 23 court of competent jurisdiction to order the person to appear before the court." (emphasis added) 24 NRS 293C.186(4) gives discretion to the city attorney to determine if probable cause exists, and 25 then requires the city attorney to petition a court of competent jurisdiction "not later than 5 26 working days after receiving the challenge" if the city attorney "determines that probable cause 27 exists." Here, Mantle filed his challenge on April 4, 2022. The City Attorney determined that 28 probable cause existed and petitioned the Court on April 6, 2022. The City Attorney's actions

followed the requirements of NRS 293C.186(4), and therefore the Court has jurisdiction to hear
 the instant matter.

3 Moreover, this is in accord with NRS 293.2045(1). 293C.186(5) states that if "the court 4 determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the challenge is valid or that the person 5 otherwise fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the Constitution or 6 laws of this State, or if the person fails to appear at the hearing, the person is subject to the provisions of NRS 293.2045." NRS 293.2045(1) states the remedies available "[i]n addition to 7 8 any other remedy or penalty provided by law, but except as otherwise provided in NRS 9 293.1265, if a court of competent jurisdiction finds in any preelection action that a person who is 10 a candidate for any office fails to meet any qualification required for the office pursuant to the 11 Constitution or laws of this State. . . ." (emphasis added). NRS 293.2045(1) does not limit itself 12 to the preelection actions specified in NRS 293 and NRS 293C. NRS 293.2045(1) allows 13 remedies for "any preelection action." NRS 293.2045(1) does not prohibit preelection actions 14 other than those found in NRS 293 and NRS 293C. Therefore, pursuant to NRS 293.126(2), 15 because NRS 293.2045(1) is not inconsistent with any provision of NRS 293C, NRS 16 293.2045(1) applies to city elections.

For the above stated reasons, the Court has jurisdiction to hear Mantle's challenge, and the Court finds the issue of whether Mantel filed his *April 4, 2022, Complaint* within the timeframe dictated in NRS 293C.186 moot.

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## b. Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution Does Not Prohibit Brekhus's Eligibility to be a Candidate for Mayor for the City of Reno during the 2022 election

Mantle argues that Brekhus is ineligible to run for Mayor for the City of Reno during the 2022 election because the scheduled end date for Brekhus's current position within the local 24 governing body brings Brekhus's time within said local governing body to twelve years. Mantle 25 argues that Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution requires Brekhus to resign her position 26 as Ward 1 City Council Member for the City of Reno before becoming eligible to run for Mayor 27 for the City of Reno.

1 However, the question before the Court is not whether a person who, at the scheduled end 2 of their current term within a local governing body would have served twelve years within the 3 same local governing body, resigned their currently held position in order to become an eligible 4 candidate for a separate position within said local governing body, the term for which would 5 bring said person's position within said local governing body to fourteen years, the question 6 before the Court is whether a person who is currently serving within a local governing body, for 7 which the scheduled end of said person's current term within the local governing body brings 8 said person to twelve years within the same local governing body, is eligible to be a candidate for 9 a separate position within said local governing body, for which the new elected term would bring 10 said person's time within said local governing body to fourteen years.

11 For this reason, the Court will not address what affect a person's resignation from their 12 current position within a local governing body, before actually serving for twelve years, would 13 have on their eligibility to be a candidate for a separate position within said local governing 14 body, the term for which would extend said candidate's time within said local governing body to 15 12 years or more. The Court will narrowly address whether a person, who at the end of their 16 currently held term within a local governing body would have served twelve years within the 17 same local governing body, is constitutionally prohibited from being a candidate for a separate 18 position within said local governing body for which the new position's term's start date is prior 19 to the scheduled end date of said person's currently held term, and for which, if the person is 20 successful in their campaign, would extend said person's time within said local governing body 21 to fourteen years.

<sup>22</sup> "Consonant with the axiomatic principle that it is emphatically the province and duty of the <sup>23</sup> judicial department to say what the law is, Nevada courts are the ultimate interpreter of the <sup>24</sup> Nevada Constitution. When interpreting a constitutional provision, [the Court's] ultimate goal is <sup>25</sup> to determine the public understanding of a legal text leading up to and in the period after its <sup>26</sup> enactment or ratification. In doing so, we look to the provision's language; if it is plain, the text <sup>27</sup> controls and we will apply it as written. Thus, when a constitutional provision's language is clear <sup>28</sup> on its face, we will not go beyond that language in determining the voters' intent or to create an

ambiguity when none exists." *Legislature of State v. Settelmeyer*, 137 Nev. Adv. Op. 21 (2021) (internal citations and quotations marks omitted).

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3 "We will apply the plain meaning of a statute unless it is ambiguous, meaning that it is 4 susceptible to two or more reasonable but inconsistent interpretations. If the constitutional 5 provision is ambiguous, we look to the history, public policy, and reason for the provision. 6 Additionally, the interpretation of a . . . constitutional provision will be harmonized with other 7 statutes." Landreth v. Malik, 127 Nev. 175, 180 (2011) (internal citations and quotation marks 8 omitted). "[A] contemporaneous construction by the [L]egislature of a constitutional provision is 9 a safe guide to its proper interpretation and creates a strong presumption that the interpretation 10 was proper, because it is likely that legislation drafted near in time to the constitutional provision 11 reflects the constitutional drafters' mindset." Ramsey v. City of N. Las Vegas, 133 Nev. 96, 98 12 (2017) (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted).

13 It is undisputed that if Brekhus were to complete her current term as Reno City Council 14 Member for Ward 1, that Article 15 § 3(2) of the Nevada Constitution would prohibit Brekhus 15 from serving within that local governing body again. However, Brekhus's candidacy for Mayor 16 for the City of Reno is disputed because the scheduled end date for Brekhus's current term, as 17 Ward 1 City Council Member, puts Brekhus's time for having served within the same local 18 governing body at twelve years. The Court looks to the language of the Nevada Constitution 19 when determining whether Brekhus is prohibited from being a candidate for Mayor for the City 20 of Reno during the 2022 election. Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution states, in 21 relevant part, "[n]o person may be elected to any ... local governing body who has served in that 22 office, or at the expiration of his current term if he is so serving will have served, 12 years or 23 more...." The Court parses this language into three parts.

First, the Court focuses on the language: "12 years or more. . . ." The Court finds this language expressly acknowledges that a person could serve within a local governing body for a period of more than twelve years.

Second, the Court focuses on the language: "who has served in that office. . . ." The
Court finds this language prohibits a person from serving within a local governing body if said

1 person has already served within a local governing body for a period of twelve years or more. 2 This is in accord with the remainder of the Amendment, which prohibits a person from serving 3 for twelve years or more within the same local governing body.

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Finally, the Court focuses on the language: "at the expiration of his current term if he is so serving will have served. . . ." This is the language within Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution that is being challenged. However, the Court finds only one reading of this language that is in accord with the remainder of the Amendment.

8 This language prohibits a person from becoming a candidate for a local governing body 9 if, at the beginning of the term for which said person is a candidate, said person "will have 10 served" twelve years or more within said local governing body. This language does not prohibit a 11 person from becoming a candidate for a local governing body if, at the beginning of the term for 12 which said person is a candidate, said person will not have served twelve years or more within 13 said local governing body.

14 Here, if Brekhus is successful in the 2022 Mayoral election, it would be an impossibility 15 for Brekhus to have served for twelve years or more within the same local governing body prior 16 to assuming her new term as Mayor for the City of Reno. The term for the Mayoral position for 17 which Brekhus is a candidate begins two years before Brekhus's current term is scheduled to 18 end. If Brekhus is successful in her Mayoral election, Brekhus will have served for ten years 19 within the same local governing body prior to assuming her newly elected position. For this 20 reason, if Brekhus is successful in her campaign for Mayor for the City of Reno, Brekhus would 21 be unable to have served for twelve years or more within a local governing body prior to the start 22 of her Mayoral term.

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In regard to a person's eligibility to be a candidate for a position within a local governing 24 body, separate from said person's currently held position within said local governing body and 25 without said person having resigned said currently held position, Article 15 § (3)(2) of the 26 Nevada Constitution does not prohibit said person's eligibility based on the amount of time said 27 person could have served within said local governing body under their current term; Article 15 § 28 (3)(2) prohibits said person from becoming a candidate for a position within said local governing

body based on whether the term for the said new position begins at or after said person will have served for twelve years or more within said local governing body under said currently held position. If Brekhus is successful in her 2022 campaign for Mayor for the City of Reno, the staggered election cycles make it an impossibility for Brekhus to have served for twelve years or more within the same local governing body prior to assuming the position of Mayor for the City of Reno.

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c. The Court Does Not Find the Challenge was Frivolous and Will Not Order Mantle to Pay Reasonable Attorney's Fees and Costs

9 A "frivolous action has been defined as one that is baseless, and baseless means that the 10 pleading is [not] well grounded in fact [or is not] warranted by existing law or a good 11 faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law." Simonian v. Univ. & 12 Cmty. Coll. Sys. of Nevada, 122 Nev. 187, 196 (2006) (internal citations and quotation marks 13 omitted) (alteration in original). A "complaint appears completely frivolous on its face [when] . . 14 . it appears to lack an arguable basis either in law or in fact. . . ." Jordan v. State ex rel. Dep't of 15 Motor Vehicles & Pub. Safety, 121 Nev. 44, 57–58 (2005) (abrogated on other grounds). 16 "The decision whether to award attorney's fees is within the sound discretion of the trial 17 court." Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 674 (1993) (abrogated on other grounds). 18 The Court finds Mantle had reasonable grounds to file the April 4, 2022, Complaint, and 19 that Mantle did not file the April 4, 2022, Complaint to harass Brekhus. Mantle's April 4, 2022, 20 Complaint was grounded in fact and a good faith argument regarding whether a candidate is 21 eligible for election under Article 15 (3)(2) of the Nevada Constitution. For the above stated 22 reasons, the Court finds that there was a basis in both law and fact for Mantle's April 4, 2022, 23 Complaint, and the Court does not find Mantle's April 4, 2022, Complaint frivolous. The Court 24 will not order Mantle to pay for Brekhus's reasonable attorney fees or costs. 25 /// 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///

1	VI. CONCLUSION
2	For the above stated reasons, the Court finds Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada
3	Constitution does not prohibit Brekhus's eligibility to be a candidate for Mayor for the City of
4	Reno during the 2022 election.
5	Based on the foregoing and good cause appearing,
6	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Jenny Brekhus' April 13, 2022, Motion to Dismiss
7	Untimely Challenge to Candidacy on Order Shortening Time is DENIED.
8	IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Article 15 § (3)(2) of the Nevada
9	Constitution does not prohibit Brekhus's eligibility to be a candidate for Mayor for the City of
10	Reno during the 2022 election.
11	IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Jenny Brekhus's request for attorney's
12	fees and costs is DENIED.
13	DATED this <u>2</u> day of May, 2022.
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15	Comie J. Stenheimer
16	DISTRICT JUDGE
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1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	CASE NO. CV22-00560
3	I certify that I am an employee of the SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of the
4	STATE OF NEVADA, COUNTY OF WASHOE; that on the $2$ day of May, 2022, I
5	electronically filed the ORDER DENYING MOTION TO DISMISS AND FINDING
6	BREKHUS'S CANDIDACY FOR THE 2022 MAYORAL ELECTION
7	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL</b> with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system.
8	I further certify that I transmitted a true and correct copy of the foregoing document by
9	the method(s) noted below:
10	Personal delivery to the following: [NONE]
11	
12	Electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system which will send a
13	notice of electronic filing to the following:
14	KARL HALL, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO WILLIAM MANTLE
15	WILLIAM MCKEAN, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO
16	LUKE BUSBY, ESQ. for JENNY BREKHUS
17	Deposited in the Washoe County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal Service in Reno, Nevada:
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#### FILED Electronically CV22-00560 2022-04-21 01:30:38 PM Alicia L. Lerud Clerk of the Court Transaction # 9010348

# CASE NO. CV22-00560 TITLE: IN REGARDS TO JENNY BREKHUS

DATE, JUDGE OFFICERS OF		
COURT PRES		CONT'D TO
4/20/2022 HONORABLE CONNIE STEINHEIMER DEPT. NO.4 M. Stone (Clerk) J. Kernan (Reporter)	ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE Reno City Attorney Karl Hall, Esq., represented the City of Reno. Interested Party William Mantle present representing himself. Respondent Jenny Brekhus present with counsel, Luke Busby, Esq., and John Marshall, Esq. 10:00 a.m. Court convened. Appearances made for the record. Court noted the pleadings filed in this matter. Counsel Marshall requested that all exhibits attached to the pleadings be considered by the Court and admitted for purposes of this hearing. There being no objections made, COURT ENTERED ORDER that all exhibits attached to the pleadings admitted for purposes of this hearing. Motion to Dismiss Untimely Challenge to Candidacy by counsel Marshall; presented argument; objection and argument by Interested Party Mantle; reply argument by counsel Marshall. Interested Party Mantle presented objection to Jenny Brekhus' candidacy as Mayor of the City of Reno. Counsel Hall addressed the Court as to the City of Reno's finding of probable cause to file the Petition. Counsel Busby presented argument in support of Jenny Brekhus' Candidacy as Mayor of the City of Reno. Interested Party Mantle replied to counsel Busby's argument in support of Jenny Brekhus' candidacy as Mayor of the City of Reno. Counsel Hall addressed the Court as to the City of Reno's finding of probable cause to file the Petition. Counsel Hall addressed the Court as to the City of Reno's finding of probable cause to file the Petition. Although the Court believes that the Motion to Dismiss will be denied and the issue of Jenny Brekhus' candidacy, COURT took both matters under advisement. At the request of counsel Marshall and Busby, Respondent's PowerPoint presentation presented during this hearing was marked as Exhibit AA to this proceeding. Court recessed.	

Exhibits					
Title: I	Title: IN THE MATTER OF JENNY BREKHUS				
PET:CITY OF RENO RESP: JENNY BREKHUSATTY: KARL HALL, ESQ. ATTY: LUKE BUSBY, ESQ. JOHN MARSHALL, ESQ.INT. PTY:WILLIAM MANTLEATTY: PRO PERCase No:CV22-00560Dept. No: 4Clerk: M. StoneDate: 4/20/2022					
Exhibit No.	Party	Description	Marked	Offered	Admitted
AA.	Respondent	PowerPoint Presentation	4/20/200		

Print Date: 4/20/2022

		FILED Electronically CV22-00560
		2022-06-13 08:47:40 AM Alicia L. Lerud
1	Code 1350	Clerk of the Court Transaction # 9095822
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6	IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COU	IRT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
7	IN AND FOR THE COUNT	Y OF WASHOE
8		
9	WILLIAM MANGLE,	
10	Challenger,	Case No. CV22-00560
11	VS.	Dept. No. 4
12	JENNIFER BREKHUS,	
13	Respondent.	
14		
15 16	CERTIFICATE OF CLERK AND TRANSMITT	AL – NUTICE OF CROSS-APPEAL
17	I certify that I am an employee of the Seco	nd Judicial District Court of the State of
18	Nevada, County of Washoe; that on the 13th day	
19	Notice of Cross-Appeal in the above entitled matter	
20		to the Nevada Supreme Court.
21	I further certify that the transmitted record is	s a true and correct copy of the original
22	pleadings on file with the Second Judicial District C	
23	Dated this 13th day of June, 2022.	
24		CIA L. LERUD
25		rk of the Court
26		<u>/s/Y.Viloria</u> /iloria
27		outy Clerk
28		

	FILED Electronically CV22-00560 2022-06-13 08:47:40 AM Alicia L. Lerud
1	Code 4132 Clerk of the Court Transaction # 9095822
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5	IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
6	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE
7	
8	WILLIAM MANGLE, Case No. CV22-00560
9	Challenger, Dept. No. 4
10	VS.
11	JENNIFER BREKHUS,
12	Respondent.
13	I
14	
15	NOTICE OF APPEAL DEFICIENCY
16 17	TO: Clerk of the Court, Nevada Supreme Court, and All Parties or their Respective Counsel Of Record:
18	On June 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2022, Attorney Luke A. Busby, Esq., for Jenny Brekhus, filed a
19	Notice of Cross-Appeal with the Court. Attorney Busby failed to include the Two Hundred
20	Fifty Dollar (\$250.00) Supreme Court filing fee.
21	Pursuant to NRAP 3(a)(3), on June 13 <sup>th</sup> , the Notice of Cross-Appeal was filed with
22	the Nevada Supreme Court. By copy of this notice Attorney Busby, was apprised of the
23	deficiency by electronic mail.
24	Dated this 13th day of June, 2022.
25	Alicia L. Lerud Clerk of the Court
26	
27	By: <u>/s/Y.Viloria</u> Y.Viloria
28	Deputy Clerk

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
2	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE CASE NO. CV22-00560	
3	CASE NO. 0722-00300	
4	I certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of	
5	Nevada, County Of Washoe; that on the 13th day of June, 2022, I electronically filed	
6	the Notice of Cross-Appeal Deficiency with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF	
7	system.	
8	I further certify that I transmitted a true and correct copy of the foregoing document	
9	by the method(s) noted below:	
10	Electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to the following:	
11	KARL HALL, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO	
12	WILLIAM MANTLE	
13	WILLIAM MCKEAN, ESQ. for CITY OF RENO	
14	LUKE BUSBY, ESQ. for JENNY BREKHUS	
15	Deposited in the Washoe County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal Service in Reno, Nevada:	
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19	<u>By:/s/Y.Viloria</u> Y.Viloria	
20	Deputy Clerk	
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