

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

FAIR FIGHT ACTION, INC., *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BRAD RAFFENSPERGER, in his
official capacity as Secretary of State of
Georgia, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action File

No. 1:18-cv-05391-SCJ

**DEFENDANTS' LIMITED RESPONSE TO
PLAINTIFFS' "SUPPLEMENTAL STATUS UPDATE" [Doc. 198]**

This Court asked for an update on the status of a document production. [Doc. 194]. Plaintiffs have misused the opportunity to re-argue their complaints about the discovery process. Plaintiffs' objections are not properly before this Court, and the Court should disregard them at this time. Defendants do not intend to belabor the point regarding Plaintiffs' newly identified custodians and search terms (provided by Plaintiffs *after* the first Rule 30(b)(6) deposition of the Secretary of State's office). But, when Plaintiffs filed their reply, [Doc. 198], without first consulting Defendants, this very limited response became necessary.

With the most recent filing, Plaintiffs make clear that their case has fallen quite short of their rhetoric. Recognizing this, Plaintiffs have shifted their focus to obscure complaints about metadata, custodians, and, most recently, an over-inclusive production of documents related to training of local superintendents. It is important to recall that Defendants objected to Plaintiffs' initial requests for the production of documents—in fact, many of Plaintiffs' requests encompassed the entirety of the Elections Division's operations. As to the search terms and new custodians, Defendants made this Court aware of the vast amount of data those terms were applied to, [Doc. 196], and have now determined that the broad terms eliminated significantly less than half of all custodian emails from 2016 to present.¹

Regarding Defendants' recent production of training materials, the Parties had several discussions about what exactly it was that Plaintiffs wanted, but unfortunately those discussions often provided very little clarity to Defendants. With the benefit of the most recent conversations, Defendants provided an entire file set, and Plaintiffs now complain that *too many* documents were produced. [Doc. 198]. The State Defendants provided that

¹ The search of “((select* OR vot*OR elect* OR ballot) w/10 (proper* OR qualif* OR count* OR primar* OR elect* OR general))” alone hit on over half of the total documents searched.

file set in a good faith attempt to produce information quickly. Yesterday, Defendants informed Plaintiffs that the most recent training document production contained a substantial number of documents located in an archive folder that is not accessed in the normal course of business.²

Defendants also informed Plaintiffs that the State decided to forego an extensive review so that Plaintiffs would have the documents sooner, in an effort to move discovery forward. Recognizing Plaintiffs' concerns regarding the large production, Defendants consented to postponing the deposition of Plaintiffs' relevant expert and offered to claw back the production and limit the training documents for those within the relevant time period (2016 to present).³ Yet, **instead of communicating with Defendants, Plaintiffs filed a pleading with the Court.** Worse yet, the Plaintiffs' filing [Doc. 198] does not inform the Court of the full nature of the production. Defendants felt compelled to provide this response to make sure that the context of the most recent production was in the record.

² A true and accurate copy of Defendants' email to counsel is attached as **Exhibit A.**

³ Defendants also offered to otherwise identify these pre-2016 documents and leave them with Plaintiffs. Defendants have yet to receive a response from Plaintiffs' counsel.

Defendants do not intend to file another reply or response with the Court on this issue.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of January, 2020.

**Robbin Ross Alloy Belinfante Littlefield
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/s/ Josh Belinfante

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **DEFENDANTS' LIMITED RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' "SUPPLEMENTAL STATUS UPDATE"** [Doc. 198] was prepared double-spaced in 13-point Century Schoolbook font pursuant to Local Rule 5.1(C).

/s/ Josh Belinfante
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day filed the within and foregoing
DEFENDANTS' LIMITED RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS'
"SUPPLEMENTAL STATUS UPDATE" [Doc. 198] by using the CM/ECF
system, which will automatically send an email notification of such filing to
all counsel of record.

This 17th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Josh Belinfante
Josh Belinfante