

Dustin Thomas House Darden
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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE**

DANIEL J. SULLIVAN, JR.,
Appellant,

v.

STATE OF ALASKA,
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS,
Appellee.

Case No. 3AN-26-07485 CI

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF

(EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION REQUESTED)

Dustin Darden, a declared candidate for United States Senate in the 2026 Alaska primary election, asks this Court for permission to file the attached brief as amicus curiae (a non-party who offers the Court a relevant outside perspective). Mr. Darden supports Appellant Daniel J. Sullivan, Jr.'s pending Motion for Stay or, in the Alternative, for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction.

WHY MR. DARDEN SHOULD BE HEARD

1. Mr. Darden is running for the same office, in the same election, on the same ballot. He is directly affected by how the Division of Elections decides who appears on that ballot.
2. As a candidate, Mr. Darden has a duty to tell voters who the real candidates are. When the Division removes a candidate close to the printing deadline and the removal is later challenged, voters get confused about who is actually running. Mr. Darden has to spend his own time and resources clearing up that confusion so his constituents know their real choices.

3. Mr. Darden has his own future candidacies to think about. A candidate should not have to worry that he will be pulled off a ballot simply because another candidate shares a similar name, or because of irrelevant personal details, such as a favorite color. If the Division can remove Mr. Sullivan the way it did here, any future candidate, including Mr. Darden, could face the same treatment without a clear legal standard to stop it.

4. Mr. Darden is a registered Republican, the same party as Mr. Sullivan. He files this brief anyway to make clear that his support has nothing to do with party loyalty. It is about the First Amendment right of any candidate, of any party, to remain on the ballot unless removed for a lawful, clearly stated reason. He would make the same argument for a candidate of any party.

5. Mr. Darden brings this concern to the Court peacefully, through the ordinary tools of the legal system: a written motion and brief. He believes the proper way to challenge usurpations of government power is in open court, with words and the written record, not outside of it. That is the purpose of this filing.

NO DELAY OR PREJUDICE TO ANY PARTY

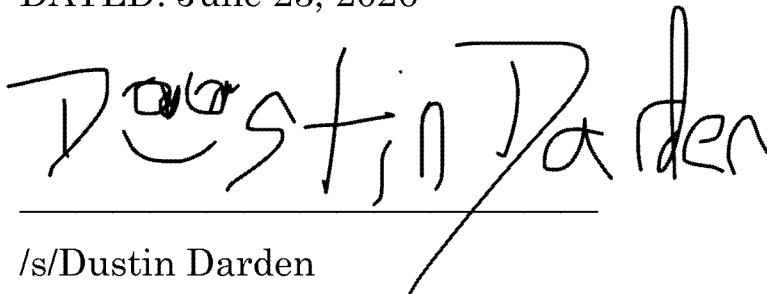
6. This brief asks for no new relief. It supports the relief Appellant has already requested. Granting leave will not slow down the Court's decision.

7. Given the Division's plan to print ballots on June 28, 2026, Mr. Darden asks that this motion be considered on the same expedited basis as the underlying motion. He is filing in writing because work obligations prevent him from attending today's 3:00 p.m. hearing in person.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Darden respectfully asks the Court to grant leave to file the attached amicus brief.

DATED: June 23, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dustin Darden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

/s/Dustin Darden

Dustin Darden

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STATE OF ALASKA,
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS,
Appellee.

Case No. 3AN-26-07485 CI

BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE DUSTIN DARDEN
IN SUPPORT OF APPELLANT'S MOTION FOR STAY OR,
IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER
AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

WHO MR. DARDEN IS

Dustin Darden is a declared candidate for United States Senate in the same August 18, 2026 Alaska primary that Mr. Sullivan was removed from. Mr. Darden takes no position on whether Mr. Sullivan is legally qualified for the office; that question belongs to Mr. Sullivan's own briefing. Mr. Darden writes only to explain how this removal, and removals like it, affect candidates and voters in real, practical ways.

WHY THIS MATTERS

1. Voters need to know who is actually running. When a candidate is removed from the ballot close to the printing deadline, and that removal is being challenged in court, voters are left confused about who their real choices are. As a candidate, Mr. Darden is the one who has to explain that confusion to his own constituents — who is on the ballot, who is not, and why. That is a real burden the Division's decision created, and it falls on candidates and voters, not on the Division.

2. Future candidates need a clear, stable rule. Mr. Darden plans to run again in future elections. He should not have to worry that he could be removed from a ballot simply because another candidate has a similar name, or over some unrelated personal detail. If the Division can remove Mr. Sullivan the way it did here, with no clear standard, every future candidate is at risk of the same treatment. A clear ruling from this Court protects every candidate who comes after this election, not just the parties in this case.

3. This is not about party. Mr. Darden is a registered Republican, the same party as Mr. Sullivan. He supports Mr. Sullivan's motion anyway, because the right at stake is the First Amendment right of any candidate, of any party, to stay on the ballot absent a lawful, clearly explained reason for removal. Mr. Darden would make this same argument for a candidate of any party, including one running against him.

4. The right way to challenge government overreach is in open court. Mr. Darden brings this concern to the Court through the lawful, peaceful means available to every citizen: a written brief in an open judicial proceeding. He believes that is exactly how usurpations of government

power should be challenged, and it is why he asks the Court to resolve this matter promptly and on the public record.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Mr. Darden respectfully asks the Court to consider this brief and to resolve Appellant's pending Motion for Stay promptly, in light of the Division's June 28, 2026 ballot-printing deadline.

DATED: June 23, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dustin Darden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "D" and "A". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature, and a diagonal line extends from the bottom of the "D" down to the right, crossing the horizontal line.

/s/Dustin Darden

Dustin Darden

Pro Se Amicus Curiae

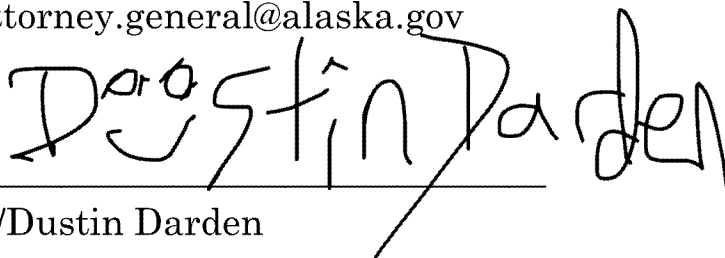
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on June 23, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Brief, with the attached proposed Brief of Amicus Curiae, was served via [email / mail / hand delivery/ True Filing] on:

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/s/Dustin Darden

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