

Minnesota Voters Alliance; Mary Amlaw;  
Ken Wendling; Tim Kirk,

Petitioners,

v.

Tom Hunt, in his official capacity as  
elections official for Anoka County; Steve  
Simon, in his official capacity as Secretary  
of State; Anoka County; the Office of the  
Minnesota Secretary of State; Shannon  
Reimann, in her official capacity as chief  
executive officer of the Minnesota  
Correctional Facility – Lino Lakes,

Respondents,

Jennifer Schroeder, an individual; and  
Elizer Eugene Darris, an individual,

[Proposed] Intervenor-  
Respondents.

Case Type: Civil  
Court File No. 02-CV-23-3416  
Hon. Thomas R. Lehmann

**AFFIDAVIT OF  
JENNIFER SCHROEDER**

I, Jennifer Schroeder, declare as follows:

1. I am seeking to intervene in this lawsuit in order to maintain my right to vote. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this affidavit.
2. I was born in Edina, Minnesota on July 28, 1982. I am a white woman who now lives in Ramsey County. I come from a broken home. Addiction became part of my life very early on. I ended up bouncing around from foster home to foster home, and group home to group home. No one ever stepped in to be a role model. I felt like I was disposable.
3. Addiction slowly consumed me until it was the only thing I knew. It is the worst hell, to be inside your own head and watch your life fall apart, screaming at yourself to stop. Looking back, it is unbelievable that I wasted 25 years of my life in addiction.

4. My rock bottom was the day my newborn baby girl was taken from me. Then I got pulled over for driving without a license. I was charged with possession and convicted on October 29, 2013. It was almost a relief. I was so exhausted and sick of the life I was living.

5. I was sentenced to 365 days in a county jail, and 40 years of probation. Beyond this, my parental rights were terminated and I gave my daughter up for adoption. While it felt like I was living in the worst nightmare ever and I had loss control, this time, I did not turn to drugs. I decided that if I really wanted my daughter to know how much I loved her, I could not give up.

6. I rebuilt my life from nothing. I had no license, no car, and no credit. I had never had a checking account. I enrolled in college. I took out student loans. And I became the first person in my family to graduate. I earned a degree in addiction counseling. Until COVID, I was a counselor at Wayside Recovery Center, where I started my own recovery journey. I am now a stay-at-home mother for my son. I am determined to help people still suffering from addiction.

7. I've only been able to vote once so far, in the Gore-Bush election. I voted the second I turned 18. I follow politics more than most people I know. I have opinions on what I think is right for this nation, this state, and my community.

8. I couldn't vote because of the disenfranchisement law and have worked for many years to get it changed. I decided to challenge this law through filing a lawsuit, *Schroeder v. Minnesota Secretary of State*. The lawsuit resulted in a decision on February 15, 2023, by the Minnesota Supreme Court, which upheld the legislature's decision to deny the right to vote to people with a felony conviction who are living in the community on supervised release. However, the Supreme Court allowed for the possibility that the legislature could restore a felon's right to vote through affirmative action by the legislature.

9. I was really upset when we lost the lawsuit. I felt let down by our state's highest court. I participated in a press conference afterwards and expressed my anger at the decision, which meant that I would not be able to vote until the age of 71. There was one glimmer of hope still. The court said that the legislature could change the law to allow people like to vote while still on supervised release. And so my work at the Capitol continued.

10. In the 2023 Legislative Session, HF 28/SF 26 was introduced, which would allow people living in the community to vote while on felony supervision. The bill passed the House of Representatives on February 2, 2023, and it passed the Senate on March 2, 2023. The bill had already passed the House at the time of the Supreme Court decision. I testified at several of the hearings for the bill. The House Majority Leader, Representative Jamie Long, called me personally and asked me to testify. Even before this year, I have testified numerous times before the House and Senate in support of legislative changes to the law.

11. On March 3, 2023, only 2 weeks after the Supreme Court decision, Governor Tim Walz signed into law HF 28/SF 26.

12. The Governor's Office invited me to the signing of the bill, which I attended and spoke at, along with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State. I was nervous but also very excited. It gave me a lot of hope for the future of our government. I even got a copy of the signed bill and one of the pens used to sign it.

13. I went to the State of the State Address upon personal invitation from the Governor. During his address, he mentioned the newly passed legislation.

14. I was also invited by the Secretary of State to register to vote on the day the legislation went into effect, and I was the first person to register under the newly enacted law. It was very exciting.

15. Throughout the litigation and especially after the bill was passed, I did dozens of media interviews. I feel like I have become the face for this cause and that my story moved the legislature to act. This was a long battle, and my story humanized the issue showed the impact the disenfranchisement had on people as well as communities throughout Minnesota. I do this because I strongly believe that voting is a right that should have never been taken away from me. When they start going to the core of what this country was built on, things topple, and I felt a duty to fight for voting rights.

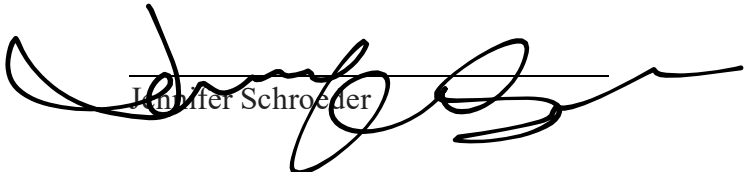
16. Despite all that I have achieved and continue to contribute to my community, my right to vote is still under attack. This has been an emotional roller coaster. I should have the right to vote for the government officials who I think will make policy changes that will enable me and my family and my community to be successful.

17. I feel that I can more adequately and thoroughly represent my own interests than the government Defendants can in this case. I understand and appreciate that my position will likely closely align with that of the Defendants. But if this lawsuit is successful, it is ultimately me who will feel the substantial impact, as well as all the other people on felony probation who wish to vote.

18. I am proud that I have turned my life around. I positively contribute to my community, and I am dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others. I believe that voting is a civil right, and I am excited to exercise this right. Every Minnesotan should have a voice and a vote. And the voices of the people struggling the most, should be heard the loudest.

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.

Executed this 26th day of August, 2023 in Hennepin County, Minnesota

  
Jennifer Schroeder