July 3, 2023

Honorable Benjamin C. Telsey, J.S.C.
Gloucester County Justice Complex
70 Hunter Street
Woodbury, New Jersey 08096

Re: GLO-L-721-23

Dear Judge Telsey:

The Gloucester County Republican matter scheduled for a hearing on July 6, 2023 is of enormous interest to the community. This letter shall serve as a request by the New Jersey Globe, a media organization covering this election matter and others, that the hearing be livestreamed.

This is clearly in the public’s best interest. As you are aware, public confidence in elections is low; transparency and sunlight can help restore faith that judicial decisions that potentially affect the outcome of elections are fair and lawful. These matters ought to be discussed in public squares and never behind closed doors. Respectfully, the judiciary needs to be a partner in this.

Additionally, we request that the hearing video be posted on the New Jersey Courts website so that members of the public who are unavailable during the day may watch at their convenience. During the pandemic, the judiciary demonstrated the ability to livestream court hearings. As you know, the Office of Administrative Law now does this on election matters. While the Court has returned to in-person proceedings, the technology used to livestream remains available. If the Court cannot do this directly, the New Jersey Globe will assist you and broadcast your livestream on our YouTube page.

In the first century of our democracy, judges traveled by horseback to conduct trials locally so that impacted communities could observe. Times have changed, and now the courts may allow the public to watch democracy in action without taking a day off of work or losing a day’s pay.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David Wildstein
Editor, New Jersey Globe