

Denial of Voter Registration Efforts

Goodwin v. Meyer

(William F. Downes, D. Wyo. 1:04-cv-256)

Three citizens of Wyoming and 40 Doe plaintiffs filed a federal complaint in Wyoming's Casper courthouse on September 23, 2004, against Wyoming's secretary of state, three county clerks, and 20 unknown government officials, challenging Wyoming's proscriptions on voter registration drives.¹ Each of the named plaintiffs apparently was refused voter registration forms in one of the named counties.² Five days later, the plaintiffs filed a motion for a preliminary injunction and expedited hearing.³ The court set a hearing for three days after that.⁴

Attorneys for the plaintiffs and the secretary appeared at the hearing in person, and attorneys for the counties appeared by telephone.⁵ Three days later, Judge William F. Downes denied the injunction by telephone.⁶ Ten days after that, Judge Downes issued a written ruling, concluding that the plaintiffs failed to show irreparable injury because voter registration forms were available on the Internet.⁷ On November 12, Judge Downes granted the plaintiffs a voluntary dismissal.⁸

1. [Complaint](#), *Goodwin v. Meyer*, No. 1:04-cv-256 (D. Wyo. Sept. 23, 2004), D.E. 1.

2. *Id.* at 3–4.

3. [Motion](#), *Goodwin*, No. 1:04-cv-256 (D. Wyo. Sept. 28, 2004), D.E. 3.

4. [Notice](#), *id.* (Sept. 30, 2004), D.E. 6

5. [Minutes](#), *id.* (Oct. 1, 2004), D.E. 18.

6. [Minutes](#), *id.* (Oct. 4, 2004), D.E. 19; *see* Ilene Olson, *Tort Reform in Wyoming Attracts Out-of-Town Attorney*, *Wyo. Trib.-Eagle*, Oct. 5, 2004.

7. [Order](#), *Goodwin*, No. 1:04-cv-256 (D. Wyo. Oct. 14, 2004), D.E. 24.

8. [Order](#), *id.* (Nov. 15, 2004), D.E. 31.