

No Federal Relief from Long Lines

Howard v. Currie

(Bernard A. Friedman, E.D. Mich. 2:00-cv-74912)

The Gore and Lieberman campaign, the Democratic Party's state committee, and a Detroit voter filed a federal complaint in the Eastern District of Michigan on general election day 2000 seeking relief from expected long evening lines at the polls in Detroit, alleging long lines in the morning.¹ The Republican Party filed a motion to intervene as a defendant.²

The court assigned the case to Judge Victoria A. Roberts,³ but Judge Bernard A. Friedman heard the case from 7:14 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the day that the case was filed.⁴ Judge Friedman granted the motion to intervene and denied the plaintiffs relief.⁵ According to the *Detroit Free Press*, Judge Friedman "ruled that Detroit's long lines were bothersome but not a denial of people's rights to vote."⁶ Radio stations erroneously reported that polling hours had been extended.⁷

1. [Complaint](#), Howard v. Currie, No. 2:00-cv-74912 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 7, 2000), D.E. 1.

2. [Intervention Motion](#), *id.* (Nov. 7, 2000), D.E. 2.

3. [Docket Sheet](#), *id.* (Nov. 7, 2000); [Complaint](#), *supra* note 1.

4. [Docket Sheet](#), *supra* note 3; see *Detroit Denied More Hours*, *Detroit Free Press*, Nov. 8, 2000, at A13.

5. [Docket Sheet](#), *supra* note 3 (D.E. 8).

6. *Detroit Denied More Hours*, *supra* note 4.

7. See *id.*