

No Federal Relief from Long Lines

Howard v. Currie

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

Having observed long lines in the morning on general-election day 2000, a party and its presidential campaign sued for relief from expected long lines in the evening. The court denied relief.

Subject: Poll hours. *Topic:* Polling hours.

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 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 voting 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.*