

George Mason University Student Voter-Registration Addresses

*New Virginia Majority Education Fund
v. Fairfax County Board of Elections
(Rossie D. Alston, Jr., E.D. Va. 1:19-cv-1379)*

A district judge ordered relief for university students whose voter-registration applications were rejected because they did not include dormitory and room numbers.

Subject: Nullifying registrations. *Topics:* Student registration; registration procedures; provisional ballots; case assignment.

A Wednesday, October 30, 2019, federal complaint filed in the Eastern District of Virginia sought remedies for a county's denying voter registration to George Mason University students who did not specify their dormitory and room numbers on their applications, alleging that this was contrary to prior practice, and alleging that the county's offered remedies were inadequate.¹ On the next day, the plaintiffs filed a motion for a preliminary injunction completing approximately 170 voter registrations in time for the November 5 election.²

The court initially assigned the case to Judge T.S. Ellis III, then to Judge Leonie M. Brinkema, and then to Judge Rossie D. Alston, Jr., who heard the case from 10:26 to 11:00 a.m. on November 1 and promised a decision by 12:30.³

Judge Alston granted relief.⁴ His order specified conditions for curing some incomplete registration applications for George Mason students in time for the election.⁵

On July 20, 2020, Judge Alston approved a voluntary dismissal of the case.⁶

1. Complaint, *New Va. Majority Educ. Fund v. Fairfax Cty. Bd. of Elections*, No. 1:19-cv-1379 (E.D. Va. Oct. 30, 2019), D.E. 1; see Amy Gardner, *Voting at GMU Made Difficult*, Wash. Post, Oct. 25, 2019, at B4.

2. Preliminary-Injunction Motion, *New Va. Majority Educ. Fund*, No. 1:19-cv-1379 (E.D. Va. Oct. 31, 2019), D.E. 9.

3. Minutes, *id.* (Nov. 1, 2019), D.E. 16; Docket Sheet, *id.* (Oct. 30, 2019).

4. Order, *id.* (Nov. 1, 2019), D.E. 17.

5. *Id.*; see Antonio Olivo, *Judge Orders Fairfax to Let GMU Students Vote*, Wash. Post, Nov. 2, 2019, at B4.

6. Order, *New Va. Majority Educ. Fund*, No. 1:19-cv-1379 (E.D. Va. July 20, 2020), D.E. 19.