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## **PRESS RELEASE**

## America First Republicans Demand Equal Protection Under the Law "Separate but Equal" Ballot Scheme is Unconstitutional

**Sparta, New Jersey** -- Sussex County attorney Robert D. Kovic has filed a new lawsuit on behalf of New Jersey Republicans demanding an end to the "separate but equal" ballot scheme that has been created by federal courts.

"After decades of party bosses and other officials imposing unconstitutional elections on the people of New Jersey, it's now up to the courts to step in and once again protect our rights as they have done many times throughout our history," said Kovic. "The horror of separate but equal has no place in the Constitution or New Jersey and Republicans are not second-class citizens. We deserve the same constitutional protections as Democrats."

Kovic was referring to a recent decision by a federal district court prohibiting County Clerks from arranging Democrat ballots based on an unconstitutional County Line system but allowing Republican voters to suffer under those same old rules, reminiscent of the old days of a "separate but equal" application of laws that brought suffering to millions of Americans.

"The federal court found that our constitutional rights are being violated by the ballot designs used in our Primary elections," Kovic said. "But the court, unfortunately, wrote that it only applies to Democrats and not Republican or Independents."

Kovic said that without immediate judicial intervention, Republican and unaffiliated voters will be forced to choose between a constitutional Democrat primary and an unconstitutional Republican primary.

"Republican candidates and Republican voters cannot be treated separately this way," Kovic said. "The idea that a court would relieve Democrats of an unconstitutional system but then force Republicans to suffer under it is unacceptable, wrong and unjust."

Kovic is representing America First Republican candidates for Congress Shirley Maia-Cusick (NJ-03), Gregg Mele (NJ-06), and Hector Castillo (NJ-09) as well as U.S. Senate candidate Albert Harshaw in the lawsuit.

"We are facing another historic moment where the people must rely on the courts to right a monumental wrong," Kovic said. "My clients and I are going to fight like hell so that the people of New Jersey can enjoy the equal protection of our laws as they are entitled to."

Kovic is currently a candidate for Commissioner in Sussex County, New Jersey along with his running mate Harvey Roseff.