

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ROY COCKRUM, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT,
INC., ET AL.,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:17-cv-1370-ESH

**SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT
DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC.'S
MOTION TO DISMISS THE FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

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The Trump Campaign has explained that a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) requires state action if the predicate constitutional guarantee also requires state action. (Mot. to Dismiss, Dkt. 20 at 42.) That means that a plaintiff alleging interference with the right to *advocate* must show state action, since the First Amendment covers only state action. In contrast, a plaintiff alleging interference with the right to *vote* need not show state action, since the Constitution protects voting even against some private conduct. (Reply, Dkt. 42 at 29.) Since this case involves speaking rather than voting, Plaintiffs must show state action.

Plaintiffs claim that *Ex parte Yarbrough*, 110 U.S. 651 (1884), disproves this theory. That is not so, because *Yarbrough* involved voting, not speaking. In that case, members of the Ku Klux Klan “beat, bruised, wounded, and otherwise maltreated” “a citizen of African descent” in order to deter him from “the exercise of his right to vote for a member of the congress.” *Id.* at 657. The Court upheld the application of the statute to this private action, explaining that Congress had the “power to provide for preventing violence exercised on the voter as a means of controlling his vote.” *Id.* at 658; *see id.* at 661 (“power ... to protect the act of voting, the place where it is done, and the man who votes from personal violence or intimidation”). Later Supreme Court opinions confirm that *Yarbrough* rests on the premise that the right to vote, unlike the right to speak, is protected even against private action. *See, e.g.*, *United States v. Williams*, 341 U.S. 70, 77 (1951) (plurality opinion) (“The right of citizens to vote in congressional elections ... may obviously be protected by Congress from individual as well as from state interference. *Ex parte Yarbrough*, 110

U.S. 651. On the other hand, we have consistently held that the category of rights which Congress may constitutionally protect from interference by private persons excludes those rights which the Constitution merely guarantees from interference by a State”); *United States v. Guest*, 383 U.S. 745, 771 (1966) (Harlan, J., concurring in part) (“In *Ex parte Yarbrough*, ... the Court held that implicit in the Constitution is the right of citizens to be free of private interference in federal elections”).

Plaintiffs cite three further cases that supposedly disprove the existence of a state-action requirement in § 1985(3). All of these cases—decided in a preliminary-injunction or temporary-restraining-order posture—are inapposite, because they all involve voting rather than speaking. In *Arizona Democratic Party v. Arizona Republican Party*, 2016 WL 8669978, at *1 (D. Ariz. Nov. 4, 2016), the court addressed an alleged “call for the intimidation of voters in [the] presidential election.” In *North Carolina Democratic Party v. North Carolina Republican Party* (M.D.N.C. May 18, 2018) (Dkt. 57-2), the court addressed an alleged effort to “intimidat[e] voters” by “[using] unofficial poll watchers,” “monitoring polling places,” “gathering [near] a polling place,” and “photographing or otherwise intimidating voters.” And in *Daschle v. Thune* (D.S.D. Nov. 2, 2004) (Dkt. 57-3), the court addressed alleged “intimidation of prospective Native American voters” that supposedly threatened to deny a “minority” “an opportunity to vote.” These cases are thus consistent with the interpretation of § 1985(3) defended by the Campaign.

CONCLUSION

The Court should grant the motion to dismiss.

Dated: May 24, 2018

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Respectfully submitted,

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