

19-465 CHIAFALO V. WASHINGTON

DECISION BELOW: 193 Wash.2d 380

LOWER COURT CASE NUMBER: 95347-3

QUESTION PRESENTED:

A Washington State law threatens a fine for presidential electors who vote contrary to how the law directs. RCW 29A.56.340 (2016). Petitioners are three 2016 presidential electors who were fined under this provision solely because they failed to vote as the law directs, namely for the presidential and vice presidential candidates who won a majority of the popular vote in the State.

The question presented is whether enforcement of this law is unconstitutional because:

- (1) a State has no power to legally enforce how a presidential elector casts his or her ballot; and
- (2) a State penalizing an elector for exercising his or her constitutional discretion to vote violates the First Amendment.

CONSOLIDATED WITH 19-518 FOR ONE HOUR ORAL ARGUMENT.

ORDER OF MARCH 10, 2020: THIS CASE IS NO LONGER CONSOLIDATED WITH NO. 19-518, AND ONE HOUR IS ALLOTTED FOR ORAL ARGUMENT.

PRESS RELEASE OF APRIL 3, 2020

IN KEEPING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19, THE COURT WILL POSTPONE THE ORAL ARGUMENTS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE APRIL SESSION.

PRESS RELEASE OF APRIL 13, 2020

RESCHEDULED FOR ORAL ARGUMENTS BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE. THE JUSTICES AND COUNSEL WILL ALL PARTICIPATE REMOTELY.

CERT. GRANTED 1/17/2020