

DJ 166-012-3

JUL 31 1972

Mr. Charles L. Goodson  
Sanders, Mottola, Haugen, Wood & Goodson  
Attorneys at Law  
15-1/2 Greenville Street  
Newnan, Georgia 30263

Dear Mr. Goodson:

This is in reference to the changes in election procedure for Newnan, Georgia, submitted to the Attorney General on June 5, 1972, pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As you recall, on October 13, 1971, the Attorney General objected to Section 8-17 of the Newnan Code, which provided for implementation of numbered posts in the general election for city council in Newnan, Georgia. After review of the previous submission of the numbered post requirement, as well as careful examination and consideration of Act 912, I must inform you that the Attorney General is unable to conclude that the numbered post and majority requirement contained in Act 912 do not have a discriminatory purpose and will not have a discriminatory effect. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General I must interpose an objection to implementation of Act 912.

Should you wish to pursue this matter further, the Attorney General will reconsider his objection upon your request within 10 days for an opportunity to present further substantiating or explanatory information not previously available. This information may be submitted in writing or at a conference convened pursuant to Sections 51.21 and 51.23 of the Section 5 guidelines, 28 C.F.R. Part 51.

In addition, Section 5 provides that you may seek a declaratory judgment from the District Court for the District of Columbia that this Act neither has the purpose nor will have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race. Until such a judgment is rendered by that court, however, the legal effect of the objection of the Attorney General is to render Act 912 unenforceable.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division