

AUG 12 1974

Honorable George E. Crawford
Court of Ordinary
Jones County
Gray, Georgia 31032

Dear Judge Crawford:

This letter is in reference to your submission to the Attorney General, pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, of a change in polling place in the Davidson-Burden District in Jones County. Your submission was received on July 24, 1974.

Your plan would move the polling place for the Davidson-Burden District from the Balkcom Store, to the Lions Club Fairground building, for the August 13, 1974 primary election. The proposed polling place site requires a significant number of electors in the Davidson-Burden District to travel an additional 3-1/2 miles, in order to vote.

After a careful investigation and analysis of all information gathered regarding this proposal, we are unable to conclude that this polling place change will not have a discriminatory impact. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General, I must interpose an objection to the implementation of the change.

I am aware of the fact that elections are scheduled for tomorrow in your county and, for that reason, I regret that our response could not be made sooner. However, under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act the Attorney General has 60 days in which to respond to a submission such as this. As you know, we did not receive your submission until July 24, 1974, and a response at this time was made possible only through our making every effort to expedite the matter.

Of course, as provided by Section 5, you may seek a judgment in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia declaring that the voting change has neither the purpose nor will have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

Sincerely,

J. STANLEY POTTINGER
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division