

DJ 166-012-3

NOV 16 1971

Mr. James V. Davis  
City Attorney  
City of Albany  
Post Office Box 447  
Albany, Georgia 31702

Dear Mr. Davis:

This is in reference to your submission under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 of changes in polling places in the City of Albany, Georgia.

Your submission was initially received on July 23, 1971 and additional information necessary to evaluate the submission was received on September 17, 1971. The sixty days which the Attorney General has to interpose an objection to the implementation of your proposed plan expires today, November 16, 1971.

We have carefully considered the submitted changes and supporting materials as well as information received from private citizens. After carefully reviewing the available facts, we find that the changes in polling places are dependent upon legislation passed by the Georgia Legislature which requires that the City of Albany and Dougherty County elections be held on the same day. We also note that this legislation has never been submitted to the Attorney General nor was it the subject of a suit for declaratory judgment in

the District of Columbia District Court.

In view of the complex nature of the submitted polling place changes, intertwined with and dependent upon State Legislation, I must, on behalf of the Attorney General, interpose a technical objection to implementation of the proposed polling place changes until the Georgia Legislation providing for city and county elections on the same day has been submitted. This objection is subject to reconsideration by the Attorney General upon receipt of the State Legislation authorizing city and county elections on the same day.

In considering the racial effect of the State Legislation providing for city and county elections on the same day, we are particularly concerned with the effect of this Act on a substantial concentration of Negro voters located in the area directly north of Monroe Vocational School who are required to vote in two polling places, the polling places for county district #3 and city district #4, on the same day.

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding this matter do not hesitate in contacting me or my staff.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division