

DEC 12 1968

Jesse Bowles, Esquire
Court Street
Cuthbert, Georgia 31740

Dear Mr. Bowles:

I am writing to you in response to your telephone call to Mr. Robert Moore of the Southern Section of the Civil Rights Division, regarding the special election in Webster County scheduled for December 31, 1968. You indicated to Mr. Moore that the Webster County Ordinary, Mrs. Massey, wished to consolidate four polling places into a single box at the Courthouse in Preston.

The facts we have been able to obtain indicate that at the November 5, 1968 general election, 296 persons, of a total of approximately 800 voters, cast their ballots at the three rural precincts which Mrs. Massey now wishes to close for the special election. Absent any special facts pointing to a different result, our experience in voting matters would indicate that considerable confusion would probably result with respect to those 296 voters if their usual place of voting is closed.

Under these circumstances, I must, on behalf of the Attorney General, interpose an objection to the closing of the three rural polling places for this special election. Should you wish to present a factual justification for the reasonableness of the closings, the Attorney General would be pleased to reconsider his position in light of those facts.

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If I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Moore or Mr. Frank M. Dunbaugh, Chief of the Southern Section of this Division.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN J. POLLAK
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division