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November 17, 2020

Via Email and Publication

Re: Prohibition on Reducing Number of Polling Locations

Dear Georgia Elections Officials:

The ACLU of Georgia appreciates your tireless efforts in administering the November 3 general election. Thanks to your preparation in advance of the Election Day, wait times remained short at polling locations across the state on Election Day.

The ACLU of Georgia writes to request or confirm that on January 5, 2021, Election Day for the runoff elections, there will be no illegal reduction in the number of polling places compared to the number of polling places used during the successful November 3, 2020 election. Under Georgia law, the deadline for changing the number of polling places for the January 5 runoff passed on November 6, sixty days before January 5, 2021.¹

Providing the same number of polling locations that were available during the general election will help to ensure that the runoff election will be just as successful as the general election. It cannot be assumed that Election Day turnout for the runoff will be less than the Election Day turnout for the general election, given intense national attention and the fact that much of the runoff early voting period takes place during the holiday season. It is thus imperative that counties maintain the elections infrastructure used in November to accommodate large numbers of voters, ensuring that your successes continue.

Through its poll worker recruitment program, the ACLU of Georgia stands ready to help counties ensure that these polling locations are adequately staffed.

¹ Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-265(f), “[a] polling place shall not be changed on a day in which a primary, election, or runoff is held, or during the 60 day period prior to any general primary or general election or runoff from such primary or election[.]”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean J. Young".

Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rahul Garabadu".

Rahul Garabadu
Voting Rights Staff Attorney (provisionally admitted to practice)
ACLU of Georgia