



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Mr. Phil Daniell
3316 S Cobb Dr. SE Ste A
Smyrna, GA 30080

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

Voting is a sacred, constitutional right and the cornerstone of our democracy, and the ACLU of Georgia expresses its gratitude for your hard work in protecting that right. To that end, we write to express recommendations concerning early voting hours and locations that will serve all voters, regardless of income level or socioeconomic background.

For over 150 years, America has limited voting to a single Tuesday based on the agrarian makeup of 19th-century America and the convenience of the wealthy, who were often the only ones eligible to vote. As the franchise expanded over the years, this limited, nonsensical schedule failed to reflect the day-to-day reality of most voters, especially lower-income voters. This eventually helped spark the recent emergence of early voting. Rather than being considered a matter of legislative grace, early voting should be considered the beginnings of a baseline standard of voting that should be the new norm of our socioeconomically diverse society.

As you are aware, the only mandated hours of early voting that state law provides beyond regular weekday business hours is a single Saturday for state and federal elections. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1). Though the law provides for four weeks of early voting during regular weekday business hours, such hours are all but useless for many lower-income voters who cannot easily take time off of work or make childcare arrangements during that time no matter how many weekday business hours are made available. Beyond that minimum, hours and locations are left completely up to the discretion of 159 different counties, resulting in voter confusion and uneven access to our democracy throughout the state.

To ensure equal access to the vote to all voters regardless of their socioeconomic status or where they live, and to prevent voter confusion, the ACLU of Georgia urges all counties to adopt the following set of early voting hours that ought to be the Gold Standard for our modern democracy. Specifically, such hours should include:

- 1) At least two weeks of weekday evening hours extending to 8 p.m.;

- 2) At least two weeks of Saturday voting, with at least 8 hours each day; and
- 3) At least two weeks of Sunday voting, with at least 8 hours each day.

Sunday voting in particular has become an integral tradition of voting in counties that have provided it, particularly among African-American churches.

In addition, we urge all counties to adopt multiple early voting locations that reflect where the populations of your county are concentrated. Limiting early voting to a single board of elections office does not make sense and can give preferential access to certain populations. Providing early voting in a single office can be tantamount to having no early voting at all.

Current state law also requires you to “provide reasonable notice” about the “availability of advance voting as well as the times, dates, and locations at which advance voting will be conducted.” O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(2). To that end, we respectfully request that, if you haven’t done so already, that you publicly post your early voting times, dates, and locations as soon as practicable because elections are right around the corner. In the future, we recommend that such dates and times be announced at least 90 days before an election.

Alternatively, we ask that you construe this letter as an Open Records Request for documents and communications reflecting the advance voting times, dates, and locations for this year’s elections, so that the ACLU of Georgia may publicize them immediately.

Georgia is the birthplace of the civil rights movement and the fight for voters’ rights on behalf of traditionally disenfranchised communities. We urge you to remain on the vanguard of that fight. By looking forward, we can fulfill the promises of the Voting Rights Act for all Georgians to have real access to exercising their sacred, constitutional right to vote.

Sincerely,



Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



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September 18, 2018

Mr. Stephen Day
Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Via Certified Mail

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September 18, 2018

Ms. Mary Carole
141 Pryor Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Via Certified Mail

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September 18, 2018

Ms. Erica Hamilton
4380 Memorial Drive
Decatur, GA 30032

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September 18, 2018

Ms. Addison Lester
Stonewall Administrative Complex
140 Stonewall Avenue West, Suite 208
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Via Certified Mail

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September 18, 2018

Ms. Mildred Schmelz
40 Atlanta Street
McDonough, GA 30253

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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September 18, 2018

Mr. Milton Kidd
8700 Hospital Drive
Douglas County Courthouse
Douglasville, GA 30134

Via Certified Mail

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September 18, 2018

Ms. Becky Perkins
210 South 7th Street 103
Cordele, GA 31015

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September 18, 2018

Mr. Robert Brady
500 W. Lamar St.
P.O. Box 1263
Americus,, GA 31709

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Sincerely,



Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Mr. Thomas Mahoney III
1117 Eisenhower Drive
Suite F
Savannah, GA 31406

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

Voting is a sacred, constitutional right and the cornerstone of our democracy, and the ACLU of Georgia expresses its gratitude for your hard work in protecting that right. To that end, we write to express recommendations concerning early voting hours and locations that will serve all voters, regardless of income level or socioeconomic background.

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Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Ms. Lynn Bailey
535 Telfair St.
Suite 500
Augusta, GA 30901

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Ms. Nancy Boren
P.O. Box 1340
Columbus, GA 31902-1340

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Dr. Tom Smiley
P.O. Drawer 1435
Gainesville, GA 30503

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Ms. Rinda Wilson
2525 Pio Nono Avenue
Suite 1200
Macon, GA 31206

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Ms. Charlotte Sosebee
155 East Washington St.
Athens, GA 30601

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Mr. Stephen Kelehear
205 N Selvidge St.
Suite K
Dalton, GA 30720

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Ms. Carla Jordan
P.O. Box 10130
Valdosta, GA 31604

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Ms. Ginger Nickerson
Albany/Dougherty County Voter Registration and
Elections
P.O. Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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As you are aware, the only mandated hours of early voting that state law provides beyond regular weekday business hours is a single Saturday for state and federal elections. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1). Though the law provides for four weeks of early voting during regular weekday business hours, such hours are all but useless for many lower-income voters who cannot easily take time off of work or make childcare arrangements during that time no matter how many weekday business hours are made available. Beyond that minimum, hours and locations are left completely up to the discretion of 159 different counties, resulting in voter confusion and uneven access to our democracy throughout the state.

To ensure equal access to the vote to all voters regardless of their socioeconomic status or where they live, and to prevent voter confusion, the ACLU of Georgia urges all counties to adopt the following set of early voting hours that ought to be the Gold Standard for our modern democracy. Specifically, such hours should include:

- 1) At least two weeks of weekday evening hours extending to 8 p.m.;
- 2) At least two weeks of Saturday voting, with at least 8 hours each day; and
- 3) At least two weeks of Sunday voting, with at least 8 hours each day.

Sunday voting in particular has become an integral tradition of voting in counties that have provided it, particularly among African-American churches.

In addition, we urge all counties to adopt multiple early voting locations that reflect where the populations of your county are concentrated. Limiting early voting to a single board of elections office does not make sense and can give preferential access to certain populations. Providing early voting in a single office can be tantamount to having no early voting at all.

Current state law also requires you to “provide reasonable notice” about the “availability of advance voting as well as the times, dates, and locations at which advance voting will be conducted.” O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(2). To that end, we respectfully request that, if you haven’t done so already, that you publicly post your early voting times, dates, and locations as soon as practicable because elections are right around the corner. In the future, we recommend that such dates and times be announced at least 90 days before an election.

Alternatively, we ask that you construe this letter as an Open Records Request for documents and communications reflecting the advance voting times, dates, and locations for this year’s elections, so that the ACLU of Georgia may publicize them immediately.

Georgia is the birthplace of the civil rights movement and the fight for voters’ rights on behalf of traditionally disenfranchised communities. We urge you to remain on the vanguard of that fight. By looking forward, we can fulfill the promises of the Voting Rights Act for all Georgians to have real access to exercising their sacred, constitutional right to vote.

Sincerely,



Andrea Young
Executive Director
ACLU of Georgia



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | info@acluga.org

September 18, 2018

Mr. Ken Collins
207 S. Irwin Ave.
Ocilla, GA 31774

Via Certified Mail

Re: Early Voting Hours and Locations that Serve All Voters

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September 18, 2018

Ms. Patricia Gibson
1815 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520

Via Certified Mail

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