



United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
civilrights.justice.gov

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division.

Report successfully submitted



Your record number is:



What to expect

① We review your report

Our specialists in the Civil Rights Division carefully read every report to identify civil rights violations, spot trends, and determine if we have authority to help with your report.

② Our specialists determine the next step

We may decide to:

Open an investigation or take some other action within the legal authority of the Justice Department.

Collect more information before we can look into your report.

Recommend another government agency that can properly look into your report. If so, we'll let you know.

In some cases, we may determine that we don't have legal authority to handle your report and will recommend that you seek help from a private lawyer or local legal aid organization.

③ When possible, we will follow up with you

We do our best to let you know about the outcome of our review. However, we may not always be able to provide you with updates because:

We're actively working on an investigation or case related to your report.

We're receiving and actively reviewing many requests at the same time.

If we are able to respond, we will contact you using the contact information you provided in this report. Depending on the type of report, response times can vary. If you need to reach us about your report, please refer to your report number when contacting us. This is how we keep track of your submission.

What you can do next

① Contact local legal aid organizations or a lawyer if you haven't already

Legal aid offices or members of lawyer associations in your state may be able to help you with your issue. American Bar Association, visit www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/flh-home or call (800) 285-2221 Legal Services Corporation (or Legal Aid Offices), visit www.lsc.gov/find-legal-aid or call (202) 295-1500

② Get help immediately if you are in danger

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call 911 and contact the police.

Your submission

Contact

Contact information

Your name

Cheryle Moses

Email address

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Address

-
[REDACTED]

Are you now or have ever been an active duty service member?

No

Primary concern

What is your primary reason for contacting the Civil Rights Division?

Voting rights or ability to vote affected

Location

Where did this happen?

Organization name

Polling Place

Address

-
-

Gwinnett, Georgia

Personal characteristics

Do you believe any of these personal characteristics influenced why you were treated this way?

Race/color

Date

When did this happen?

11/8/2022

Personal description

In your own words, describe what happened

Georgia state data from the November 6 Election shows that the closure of absentee ballot dropboxes has proven a major impediment to voting by people of color.

From the 2020/2021 elections to November 2022, mail-in ballots in Georgia plummeted by over 1 million, a breathtaking 81% loss of ballots --concentrated in Black-majority urban counties.

A principal cause of this drop-off: SB202, signed into law last year, limits dropboxes to no more than one per one-hundred thousand active voters. This limit affects ONLY the four large Greater Atlanta counties which are 59.7% non-white. The law shuttered 77% of Atlanta-area dropboxes, declining from 107 to 25.

At the same time, small rural counties were required to ADD at least one dropbox. The result: a radical reduction in dropboxes in urban non-white counties to 55,862 voters per dropbox. In the remainder of Georgia, 65% white, only 18,000 voters must share a dropbox, a 314% difference.

Absentee balloting in the four Atlanta-area counties plummeted by 83%, not only because of the limits on number of dropboxes, but because SB 202 slashed their availability: Dropboxes could only be placed INSIDE county offices and early voting stations. This sabotages the purpose of dropboxes -- providing access to those with jobs or obligations that require voting outside business hours.

There is a new danger as Georgia is about to hold a Senate Run-off Election. The reduction in Election Run-off time from two months to just 28 days has slashed early voting to only between 5 and 7 days.

Squeezing the Run-off into 28 days allows little time to print, mail and return ballots through the Postal Service, making dropbox access all the more important and its reduction all the more severe in non-white communities.

The sole argument for reduction in dropboxes in non-white urban areas is that the boxes supposedly allow for ballot stuffing by so-called "mules," Black men allegedly paid to sneak stolen ballots into unattended dropboxes. This phantasmagoric nonsense was promoted by a film, 2000 Mules, which was discredited by a ballot-by-ballot review by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and Secretary of State. Yet, the Governor, while acknowledging the lack of voter fraud, still signed SB202 with its arbitrary restrictions.

We recognize that the Governor, running for re-election, had to be aware that mail-in and drop-box ballots favor Democrats 2-to-1 statewide and 3-to-1 in the Atlanta counties. While there may have been a partisan advantage in restricting mail-in and drop-box voting, the effect is measurably and radically biased against vot-

ers of color.

Therefore, these new dropbox restrictions in urban counties (while increasing dropbox access in rural counties), with its measurable racial effects, violates the Civil Rights Acts [Title 52], the Voting Rights Act Section 2 and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

Immediate relief sought: DOJ must act before the Run-off to end the racial segregation of dropbox access, allowing 24/7 access as before SB202. After the Run-off, DOJ must continue to ban racially biased laws on mail-in voting.