



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

MAY 24 1993

Mr. Larry J. Broussard
Superintendent
Evangeline Parish School Board
1101 Te Mamou Road
Ville Platte, Louisiana 70586

Dear Mr. Broussard:

This refers to the 1992 redistricting plan for the Evangeline Parish School District in Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1973c. We received your response to our January 12, 1993, request for additional information on March 23, 1993; supplemental information was received on April 2 and 13, 1993.

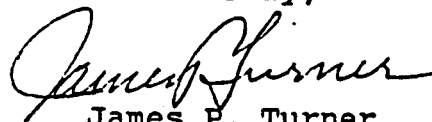
We have considered carefully the limited information that you have provided, as well as Census data and information and comments from other interested persons. The 1990 Census shows that black persons constitute 26 percent of the population of the school district (23 percent of the school district's voting age population) with almost half of the parish's black population located in the City of Ville Platte. Under the school board's existing plan, with 13 single-member districts, there is only one district that has a black population majority, and that district, District 13, is 92 percent black in total population. The 1992 redistricting plan maintains a high black population majority in District 13 (at 81 percent) and provides for a second majority-black district, District 8.

Your initial submission did not contain sufficient information to enable us to determine that the proposed redistricting has neither a discriminatory purpose nor a discriminatory effect. Accordingly, we made a timely request for additional information on January 12, 1993. See the Procedures for the Administration of Section 5 (28 C.F.R. 51.37).

We note that under Section 5 you have the right to seek a declaratory judgment from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia that the proposed change has neither the purpose nor will have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color. In addition, you may request that the Attorney General reconsider the objection. However, until the objection is withdrawn or a judgment from the District of Columbia Court is obtained, the 1992 redistricting plan continues to be legally unenforceable. Clark v. Roemer, 111 S. Ct. 2096 (1991); 28 C.F.R. 51.10 and 51.45.

To enable us to meet our responsibility to enforce the Voting Rights Act, please inform us of the action the Evangeline Parish School District plans to take concerning this matter. If you have any questions, you should call George Schneider (202-307-3153), an attorney in the Voting Section.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division