

We have carefully studied the plan which you submitted on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and have reviewed all the information furnished and the facts available to us. We have concluded that portions of the boundary lines between districts 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the plan are drawn in a manner which unnecessarily fragments a large black neighborhood in the city of Grenada. The district lines as proposed in the plan have the clear effect of dividing significant portions of the black community in Grenada and this dilutes the voting strength of these blacks. In our view this is an unnecessary and avoidable effect in seeking to reapportion the districts to achieve substantially equal populations.

This is in reference to the plan for the re-districting of the Supervisor's Districts of Grenada County, Mississippi submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We note that this plan was ordered submitted to the Attorney General by the District Court in the pending case of Grenada County Board of Supervisors v. United States v. Grenada County Board of Supervisors, No. 74-42-L, 74-44-L (U.S.D. Miss.). That submission was received on January 30, 1976.

Mr. William J. Barnes
 Attorney for the Grenada County
 Board of Supervisors
 Post Office Box 567
 Grenada, Mississippi 38901

Dear Mr. Barnes:

JSMHC:avp
 DJ 166-012-3
 X2024
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In reviewing this submitted plan we have considered, as we have on previous occasions, relevant judicial decisions (e.g., White v. Regester, 412 U.S. 755 (1973), Whitcomb v. Chavis, 403 U.S. 124 (1971)) as well as the availability of realistic alternatives. On the basis of our analysis, however, we cannot conclude, as we must under the Voting Rights Act, that this redistricting plan does not have a racially discriminatory effect on voting. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General, I must interpose an objection to this plan to reapportion the Grenada County supervisor districts.

As provided in Paragraph 5 of the November 5, 1975 Supplemental Order of Judge William C. Keady, this Department will prepare and submit to the District Court a proposed plan for the redistricting of the Grenada County supervisor districts. A copy of that plan will be forwarded to you as attorney for the Board of Supervisors for your comments and objections as provided for in the Order of the Court.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Judge Keady and to attorneys for the private plaintiffs.

Sincerely,

J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division