



STEVEN L. REED
PROBATE JUDGE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

MEMORANDUM

To: Brad King, Chairman Executive Board
Commissioner Christy McCormick, DFO Standards Board

From: Steven L. Reed, Probate Judge 

Subject: Citizenship addition to the Federal Voter Registration Form

Date: April 11, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Commissioner:

I correspond with you today in opposition of adding the citizenship requirement to the Alabama Federal Voter Registration form. This citizenship requirement, like recent voter identification laws, places yet another obstacle in the path of potential voters from participating in the electoral process. As the Chief Election official in Montgomery County, AL I know this will further disenfranchise young, poor, elderly, and minority voters.

I believe that the rash and impetuous decision made by Executive Director Brian Newby was unwarranted and unnecessary. Attempts to require proof of citizenship for voter registration have been pushed by some in an effort to further undermine the 1965 Voting Rights Act. There is little evidence in Alabama of voting by noncitizens or by people pretending to be someone else. The EAC, which was created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), as a clearinghouse for election information should not be in the business of prohibiting voter participation.

In closing, I support previous measures taken by the EAC and the courts to prevent this action. I also agree with the United States Department of Justice's opinion that "the proof of citizenship requirement violates federal voting law, Newby's decision was not consistent with the statute and contrary to governing law." I trust that after additional research on the impact of non-citizenship voting and the manner in which the decision was implemented you will find that this issue was moot at its inception. Therefore, it is my belief that the action to impose this requirement on the state of Alabama's Federal Voter Registration form should be withdrawn.