

Hello, my name is Ernest Montgomery, and I am a city council member in the City of Calera located in Shelby, Alabama. In 2004, I was elected to represent district two (2), one of five districts in the city. Also, this district was one of the only minority, majority district in the city of Calera with a percentage ratio of 69 to 70. In 2007, our mayor informed us that our districting line had to be redrawn because of our population growth. After redrawing the line, my district was changed to about 29 percentage district.

After the submittal for pre-clearance, it was denied by the DOJ because they said those changes disenfranchise the minority community. Our mayor had the city attorney to resubmit and choose to go forward without clearance. In that election, I lost my re-election by a minimal number but learned that a lawsuit had been filed by DOJ disqualifying the election.

After the City of Calera followed the requirements under pre-clearance, a new election was held in 2009 in which I was able to win and regain that seat. The people which I represented was so happy and thankful for the oversight. I believe that without this protection, it will only be a matter of time before many will be eliminated from the voting process.

Respectfully Submitted

Ernest Montgomery