



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4333

May 26, 2021

Office of the Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

As members of the Texas Congressional Delegation, we write to request information regarding the Department of Justice's efforts to protect the voting rights of Texas citizens, amid partisan efforts by Texas Republicans to pass dangerous legislation that will restrict the right to vote and make it harder for communities of color across Texas to cast their ballots.

During the 2020 election, Texans across our state risked their lives to vote during a deadly pandemic to ensure their voices were heard at the ballot box. The 2020 election has repeatedly been shown to be secure and accurate and in Texas brought the highest voter turnout in nearly 30 years.¹ Despite this success however, Texas leaders are participating in the dangerous trend occurring in numerous states across the country pushing discriminatory Jim Crow-style voter suppression laws on our constituents.

These bills will suppress minority voter turnout and silence the voices of Black, Hispanic, people of color, and those with disabilities into law while making voting harder for the general public in the state of Texas. These bills will roll back local efforts meant to widen access by curbing extended early voting hours, prohibiting drive-thru voting and making it illegal for local election officials to proactively send applications to vote by mail to voters, even if they qualify.²

1 <https://www.chron.com/news/election2020/article/texas-election-2020-voter-turnout-15704851.php>

2 <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/04/01/texas-voting-restrictions-legislature/>



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In light of this attack on voting rights and our extreme concern about the impact on our constituents, we respectfully request a written response to the following questions by July 1st, 2021:

1. What action, if any, will be taken by the Department of Justice to review/challenge Texas Senate Bill 7 if passed? This bill, amongst other provisions, contains provisions that would forcibly redistribute polling places away from communities of color.³
2. Will the Justice Department commit to setting aside funds to challenge this bill or other discriminatory laws that violate section 2 of the Voting Rights Act?
3. Please describe any other current measures the Justice Department is taking to prevent voter suppression efforts the State of Texas.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions about this request, please contact Luke Dube at 202-225-9897 or luke.dube@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

³ <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/05/23/texas-voting-polling-restrictions/>



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