

DOCUMENTING DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING

List of Successful Section 2 Lawsuits Reported Since 1982¹

Locations where a federal court held Section 2 was violated are listed at the top, by state and year. Other “successful outcomes” for the plaintiff are italicized below the list of Section 2 violations. Successful outcomes include lawsuits for which the only electronically published case did not state that Section 2 was violated. In these cases the court awarded plaintiffs a preliminary injunction, settlement, remedy or attorneys’ fees.

For more information, please contact University of Michigan Law School Professor Ellen Katz, of the Michigan Voting Rights Initiative at votingrights@umich.edu.

Alabama

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1996 State of Ala.: challenging appellate judicial elections statewide
- 1989 Chilton County Board of Education, County Commission
- 1989 Town of North Johns: Town Council
- 1988 Baldwin County: Board of Elections
- 1988 State of Alabama: Poll Officials
- 1986 Dallas County Commission
- 1985 Marengo County Commission; Marengo County School Board
- 1983 City of Montgomery: Mayor and City Council
- 1983 Mobile County School Commissioners

Other Successful Outcomes:

- 1994 *Autauga County: Board of Education*
- 1992 *State of Alabama: challenging congressional districting*
- 1986 *County Board of Commissioner (Calhoun County, Coffee County, Etowah County, Lawrence County, Pickens County, and Talladega County; these 3 counties settled before this decision: Crenshaw County, Escambia County, and Lee County)*

¹ Please cite as: Ellen Katz and the Voting Rights Initiative, *Documenting Discrimination in Voting Under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act*, Voting Rights Initiative Database (2005), www.votingreport.org, 39 UNIV. OF MICH. J. LAW REFORM (forthcoming 2006). For more information, contact: Professor Ellen Katz, University of Michigan Law School, (734) 647-6241, votingrights@umich.edu.

Arkansas

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1995 Blytheville School Board
- 1992 City of Texarkana Board of Directors
- 1989 Legislative districts for these counties successfully challenged and overturned:
Ashley, Chicot, Columbia, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Phillips, Jefferson, Lee,
Lincoln, Mississippi, Monroe, Nevada, Ouachita, St. Francis.
- 1988 Crittenden County's state legislative district

California

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1990 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- 1988 City of Watsonville mayor and city council

Other Successful Outcome:

- 2002 *Counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino, Sacramento, Alameda, Mendocino, Santa Clara, Shasta, and Solano (due to their use of punch-card systems in 2000)*

Colorado

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1998 Montezuma-Cortez School District, Montezuma County (including Ute Mountain reservation)
- 1996 South Central Colorado affected by District H.D. 60 (including Counties of Saguache, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral and Rio Grande in the San Luis Valley)

Connecticut

Successful Outcome:

- 1984 City of Waterbury (challenging registrar procedures)

Delaware

Successful Outcome:

- 1988 City Council of Dover, City Election Commission, Mayor

Florida

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1993 Dade County Board of Commissioners
- 1989 City of Starke commissioners
- 1986 Washington County commissioners and county school board.
- 1985 City of Sarasota commissioners
- 1984 Escambia County Commissioners

Other Successful Outcome:

- 1988 *Tampa City Council, Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners*

Georgia

Sec. 2 Violation:

- 1997 City of LaGrange - mayor and city council

Other Successful Outcomes:

- 2005 *State law requiring voter identification preliminary injunction granted, suit in progress.*
- 1995 *Butler City Council, mayor*
- 1992 Bulloch County Board of Commissioners

Hawaii

Sec. 2 Violation:

- 2002 State of Hawaii: Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Illinois

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1998 Aldermanic wards, City of Chicago
- 1997 City of Chicago Heights, Chicago Heights Park District
- 1987 Springfield city government
- 1984 Chicago City Council
- 1983 State assembly districts in Chicago

Other Successful Outcomes:

- 2000 *Town of Cicero*
- 1995 *Calumet City Council*
- 1991 *Rockford School board*

Indiana

Other Successful Outcomes:

1992 *State house districts in Marion County*

Louisiana

Sec. 2 Violations:

2002 St. Bernard Parish School Board (New Orleans)

1991 Jefferson Parish Council

1991 City of Westwego Board of Aldermen

1990 Parishes where Sec. 2 Violation found: Caddo, Ouachita, Morehouse, Rapides, Acadia, Lafayette, Calcasieu, Vermillion, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, East Baton Rouge, St. John the Baptist, Jefferson (District, family court and court of appeal judges)

1987 City of Gretna Board of Aldermen

1983 New Orleans - U.S. House districts 1 and 2

Other Successful Outcomes:

2004 *Tangipahoa Parish Council*

1998 *St. Francisville Board of Aldermen*

1992 *Judicial elections for New Orleans parishes*

1989 *Jefferson Parish School Board*

Maryland

Sec. 2 Violations:

1994 Maryland General Assembly, specifically Legislative Districts 37 and 38, including all or part of Dorchester, Caroline, Talbot Counties, Wicomico County, Somerset and Worcester Counties.

1994 Worcester County Board of Commissioners

Massachusetts

Sec. 2 Violation:

2004 Massachusetts State House of Representatives, Suffolk County

Mississippi

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1998 City Council of Quitman
- 1998 Lafayette County Board of Supervisors
- 1997 Chickasaw County Justice Court Judge and Constable
- 1996 Attala County Board of Supervisors, Attala County Constables
- 1996 Calhoun County supervisors, election commissioners, board of education
- 1993 Lawrence County Board of Supervisors, Election Commissioners, and Justice Courts
- 1991 State of Mississippi
- 1990 Monroe County Board of Supervisors, Board of County Election Commissioners, Monroe County Constables and Monroe County Justice Court
- 1989 Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors and Board of Election Commissioners
- 1987 Mississippi circuit, chancery, and county judiciary. Violations found in 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th Chancery Court Districts, the 4th, 7th, and 11th Circuit Court Districts, and Hinds County Court District.
- 1986 Houston, MS City Council
- 1985 Madison County Board of Election Commissioners
- 1984 City Council (Mayor and Commissioners) of the City of Greenwood
- 1984 U.S. House of Representatives, Mississippi Delta region consisting of the following counties: Bolivar, Carroll, Coahoma, DeSoto, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo.

Other Successful Outcomes:

- 1998 Greenville City Council
- 1994 Walthall Board of Supervisors and Justice County Court Judges
- 1989 Grenada County Board of Supervisors
- 1986 Crystal Springs Board of Alderman

Missouri

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 2002 St. Louis County Council

Montana

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 2004 Blaine County Board of Commissioners
- 1986 Big Horn County Board of Commissioners, County School Board

Nebraska

Sec. 2 Violation:

1997 Stabler County Board of Supervisors

New Jersey

Successful Outcome:

1991 Hudson County Board of Elections, Superintendent of Elections

New York

Sec. 2 Violations:

2003 Albany County Legislature

2003 New Rochelle City Council

1999 Town Board of the Town of Hempstead, NY

Other Successful Outcomes:

1993 Niagara County Legislature

1986 New York City Board of Elections (Bronx Borough)

North Carolina

Sec. 2 Violations:

2004 Beaufort County Board of Commissioners

1993 Ahoskie Town Council

1991 Columbus County Board of Commissioners

1988 Granville County Board of Commissioners

1986 State legislative district Sec. 2 Violations found were: S.D. 2 (all of Northampton, Hertford, Gates, Bertie, and Chowan Counties, and parts of Washington, Martin, Halifax, and Edgecombe Counties); S.D. 22 (Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties); H.D. 36 (Mecklenburg County), H.D. 39 (part of Forsyth County), H.D. 21 (Wake County), and H.D. 8 (Wilson, Nash, and Edgecombe Counties).

1985 Statesville City Council

Other Successful Outcomes:

1991 Cumberland County Commission

1989 Bladen County Commission

1984 Halifax County Board of Commissioners

Ohio

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1991 52nd and 53rd Districts of the Ohio House of Representatives, Mahoning County
- 1991 Hamilton County Municipal Court judges

Pennsylvania

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 2003 Berks County Election Commission
- 1994 Second Senatorial District, Pennsylvania State Senate, Philadelphia County

Other Successful Outcomes:

- 1988 *City Council of Pittsburgh*

Rhode Island

Successful Outcome:

- 1982 *Board of Canvassers, City of Providence*

South Carolina

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 2004 Charleston County Council
- 1993 Kershaw County Council
- 1986 Edgefield County school board of trustees

South Dakota

Sec. 2 Violation:

- 2004 South Dakota House of Representatives and Senate, legislative district 26, Todd County

Other Successful Outcome – In Progress

- 2006 *City of Martin ward districting lines – racial bloc voting found, suit in progress.*

Tennessee

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 2000 State House districts in rural west Tennessee, which includes Madison, Haywood, Hardeman, Tipton, Fayette, and Lauderdale counties
- 1989 Chattanooga Board of Commissioners
- 1988 City of Jackson Board of Commissioners
- 1982 Board of Highway Commissioners in Haywood County

Texas

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1995 Board of Trustees of the North East Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas
- 1990 Dallas City Council
- 1988 Baytown City Council
- 1986 School Trustees of Midland Independent School District
- 1984 School Board Trustees, El Paso Independent School District
- 1984 Lubbock City Council

Other Successful Outcome:

- 1986 *Commissioners Court of Jefferson County*

Virginia

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1998 Richmond County Board of Supervisors
- 1989 Norfolk City Council
- 1988 Board of Supervisors of Henrico County, the members of the Electoral Board of Henrico County and the Registrar of voters for Henrico County.

- 1988 Board of Supervisors of Nottoway County, Virginia

Wisconsin

Sec. 2 Violations:

- 1992 Statewide legislative districts, due to effects on Milwaukee County