



House of Representatives

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STANDING COMMITTEES:
CREATIVE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
DEFENSE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
HUMAN RELATIONS AND AGING
PUBLIC HEALTH

August 3, 2023

Dear Clayton County Commissioners
112 Smith Street
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236:

My Dear Clayton County Commissioners,

I greet you not only as commissioners but as fellow stewards of justice, equality, and the American dream. In the spirit of unity that binds us all, I humbly address you with a request that echoes the harmonious chorus of progress and inclusivity.

We stand on the shoulders of giants, on the sacred ground of a nation built on diversity and the pursuit of freedom. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was an anthem of hope, an instrument that sang the melody of enfranchisement and the symphony of equality. Section 203 of this landmark legislation resonates with particular significance as it reminds us that language barriers should never be the walls that divide our citizens.

I implore you to consider the heartfelt plea to include Spanish-language ballots in Clayton County elections. Our beloved county, a tapestry of cultures and stories, holds within its arms a population where 12.2% of its members confront language barriers. Approximately 33,000 souls are affected, their voices yearning to be heard through the act of casting a vote.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech he spoke of the "fierce urgency of now." The urgency lies within our duty to uphold the principles of Section 203, not just as words etched into parchment, but as actions imprinted on our collective consciousness. By offering Spanish-language ballots, we breathe life into those words and bind the hearts of our diverse community.

Let us be the symphony of unity, echoing Dr. King's, John Lewis's, and those before and after them vision. Let us rise above the pragmatic and reach for the profound, reminding ourselves that the strength of our nation lies in the embrace of all its people.

I humbly submit this plea, resonating with the cadence of history, in the hopes that our actions today will echo through generations to come. May our legacy be one of equality, understanding, and unity.



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With steadfast hope,

Eric Bell

Representative Eric Bell
Georgia House of Representatives District 75

Representative El-Mahdi Holly, Secretary of Clayton County Delegation
Georgia House of Representatives, District 116

Representative Sandra Scott
Georgia House of Representatives, District 76