

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES PRECLEARANCE FOR CONGRESSIONAL, BOE DISTRICTS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the U.S. Department of Justice has precleared the new Congressional and State Board of Education districts drawn by the Alabama Legislature.

Attorney General Strange’s Office submitted these redistricting plans for review to the U.S. Attorney General and to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act. Section 5 requires such review of any change in voting practices in certain states, including Alabama.

The Alabama Attorney General’s Office received a letter dated today from the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, stating that the U.S. Attorney General does not object to Act No. 2011-518 and Act No. 2011-677, the legislation that set the new Congressional and State Board of Education districts. The preclearance was based on information submitted on September 21 and additional information submitted through October 25. USDOJ’s action moots the lawsuit.

“We are pleased by the Department of Justice’s determination that the redistricting plans passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor comply with the Voting Rights Act. We have believed from the beginning of this process that Alabama complied with all legal and constitutional requirements in adopting the new district lines,” said Attorney General Strange. He commended his Constitutional Defense Division, as well as former Assistant Attorneys General Jack Park and Charles Campbell who provided their expertise and leadership in guiding these matters through the preclearance process.

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