U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is a temporary, independent, bipartisan agency established by Congress in 1957 and directed to:

- Investigate complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote by reason of their race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, or by reason of fraudulent practices;
- Study and collect information concerning legal developments constituting discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, or in the administration of justice;
- Appraise Federal laws and policies with respect to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, or in the administration of justice;
- Serve as a national clearinghouse for information in respect to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin;
- Submit reports, findings, and recommendations to the President and the Congress.

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John Hope III, Acting Staff Director
The Voting Rights Act: Unfulfilled Goals

A Report of the United States Commission on Civil Rights

September 1981
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
Washington, D.C.
September 1981

THE PRESIDENT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sirs:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights presents this report to you pursuant to Public Law 85–315, as amended.

This document presents the Commission's evaluation of the current status of minority voting rights in jurisdictions covered by the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. The information contained in this report was obtained by the Commission from staff interviews, court decisions, U.S. Department of Justice objection letters, and individual complainants.

Despite increased political participation by minorities in many jurisdictions covered by the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act, minorities continue to face a variety of problems which the act was designed to overcome. This report documents resistance and hostility on the part of many citizens to increased minority participation in virtually every aspect of the electoral process. It also documents the resistance of numerous local jurisdictions to following either the letter or spirit of the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act. We, therefore, conclude that the special protections of the Voting Rights Act, as amended, should be extended for an additional 10 years.

We urge your consideration of the facts presented and the Commission's recommendations for corrective action.

Respectfully,

Arthur S. Flemming, Chairman
Mary F. Berry, Vice Chairman
Stephen Horn
Blandina Cardenas Ramirez
Jill S. Ruckelshaus
Murray Saltzman

John Hope III, Acting Staff Director
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