



## **Department of Justice request on South Carolina Voter photo ID law shows that state has not proved it will not discriminate against minority voters**

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**CONTACT: Victoria Middleton, ACLU of South Carolina, (843) 720 1424;  
vmiddleton@aclusouthcarolina.org**

CHARLESTON - The American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina today welcomed the Department of Justice's request for more information from the state of South Carolina about Act R54. The state has not provided sufficient proof that the new Voter photo ID requirement does not unfairly impact minority voters.

The following can be attributed to Victoria Middleton, Executive Director of the ACLU of South Carolina:

"As we have repeatedly said, there is no evidence of voter impersonation in SC elections, the only kind of fraud or irregularity that a photo ID could remedy. The new ID requirement represents an unnecessary burden on voters, as well as a complex challenge to state and local election officials who have to implement it. The law remains problematic, and we will watch to see how the state responds to the questions raised by the Department of Justice."

The Voting Rights Act requires that any changes to election laws in nine states, including South Carolina, as well as portions of seven others, receive clearance from federal officials before going into effect.

In numerous formal letters sent to the Department of Justice in recent weeks, dozens of civil rights and advocacy groups, including prominent experts in voting law, had urged the Department of Justice to block implementation of the measure citing various data that they say shows the racially discriminatory impact of Act R54. Copies of this correspondence can be found at: <http://www.aclusouthcarolina.org>.