Voting Rights Advocates demands explanation for improper voter “purge notices”

Norcross, GA, July 12, 2017 — On July 11, the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia (ACLU) sent a letter to Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp and the Fulton County Board of Elections and Registration on behalf of Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (Advancing Justice-Atlanta), Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda, and the Georgia State Conference of the NAACP, requesting them to take actions to correct their error in sending voter purge notices to registered voters in Fulton County in violation of Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA).

According to the Atlanta Daily World, Fulton County appears to have admitted that they sent notices to over 45,000 registered voters “who have moved within the county over the past 2 years.” These notices suggest to voters that they will be purged from the rolls if they do not take steps to maintain their registration. Issuing these kinds of purge notices or requiring any affirmative action on the part of registered voters who move within the same county is improper under the NVRA.

The letter to Secretary Kemp and Fulton County calls on Fulton County to immediately update its voter roll to reflect the new addresses of voters who simply moved from one address to another within Fulton County. It further requests a follow up letter to be sent to all voters to whom a purge notice was improperly sent, explaining the error and clarifying to these voters that they do not need to take any affirmative steps to maintain their registration.

If Fulton County and Secretary Kemp refuse to comply with these requests, Advancing Justice-Atlanta is prepared to take legal action to redress the violation.

“Though political disengagement has long been a problem within AAPI communities, we are working daily to empower more and more AAPIs to exercise their right to vote. Despite our progress, we know that our communities are particularly vulnerable to election practices that make voting more difficult, more confusing, or more intimidating,” said Advancing Justice-Atlanta Litigation Director Phi Nguyen. “That is why we must protect our communities against any unlawful actions that threaten the right to vote.”

Advancing Justice-Atlanta is working with ACLU and other civil rights organizations to investigate these notices and encourages any voters who received an improper notice to contact us at 404-585-8446 or email us at info@advancingjustice-atlanta.org

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of
collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.