Atlanta, GA, September 19, 2017 — As part of an ongoing effort to address improper voter list maintenance practices being employed across the state of Georgia, the ACLU of Georgia and Asian Americans Advancing-Atlanta (“Advancing Justice-Atlanta”) sent a letter to Secretary of State Brian Kemp on September 18, 2017, urging Secretary Kemp to take several steps to cure any confusion among voters in advance of the November 7, 2017 local elections. Specifically, Advancing Justice-Atlanta and other voting rights organizations previously asked Secretary Kemp and Fulton County to address the mailing of notices threatening “inactive” voter status to 159,930 registered voters who had recently moved within the same county (“intra-county” movers). Under both state and federal law, these notices should have allowed intra-county movers to verify or correct their new addresses but not threaten any punitive measures if they did not respond.

The Secretary of State’s office responded with a letter indicating that they had taken steps to ensure that all intra-county movers who received the notices would remain in “active” status. They further promised to update their process so that the addresses of intra-county movers are automatically updated in the future. However, concerns remain regarding the Secretary of State’s compliance with state and federal law, particularly as it relates to correcting any confusion or intimidation caused by the improper notices to intra-county voters.

"While we appreciate that the Secretary of State’s office is willing to work with our organizations to, at least partially, correct their errors, we find their response to be vague and inadequate to ensure that all Georgians can exercise their fundamental right to vote,” said Phi Nguyen, litigation director of Advancing Justice-Atlanta. “When our state continues to employ tactics that make voting more difficult, confusing, or intimidating for our community, we must fight back. That is why we will continue to push Secretary Kemp to take all necessary corrective measures to address the improper notices that were sent to thousands of Georgians and ask him to fully comply with state and federal law.”

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.