

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Rob Teilhet

770-514-010

There is No If About It, 48 Hours Later Hodges Still Doesn't Understand Voting Rights Act of 1965 or Preclearance

Marietta, GA- Nearly 48 hours ago, my primary opponent, Ken Hodges, said that he wasn't sure that there was a need for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. From the forum:

Q: Should Georgia be required to continue to seek preclearance from the US Justice Department on election matters?

Hodges A: [hesitation] That is a good question. You know, certainly there was a need for it originally, [] and[] if the evidence is there that there still is discrimination going on then we should, [] candidly I have not looked at that, [] with enough to give an opinion on that now. [] But, [] anytime there is evidence of discrimination then we should make sure that we follow through and make sure that it's not, [] not tolerated.

[\(http://multimedia.dailyreportonline.com/2010/05/ken-hodges-at-the-ag-forum-question-5/\)](http://multimedia.dailyreportonline.com/2010/05/ken-hodges-at-the-ag-forum-question-5/)

More than 24 hours later Ken Hodges released a statement showing he still doesn't understand what the Voting Rights Act of 1965 or the process of Preclearance by the Justice Department is.

The Voting Rights Act is not a prosecutorial tool, it is a preventative tool.

Across the Deep South, there were places where barriers were put up to prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote--literacy tests, poll taxes and other forms of discrimination that were the laws and practices of the State of Georgia at that time. The Voting Rights Act set up the process of preclearance specifically to prevent states from passing discriminatory laws that disenfranchised voters.

Mr. Hodges response falls woefully short of understanding that. Hodges indicates that he would prosecute if discrimination takes place but fails to comprehend that the whole point of the Voting Rights Act is to prevent that discrimination in the first place. Once Mr. Hodges waits to gather evidence that someone has been discriminated against it would be too late: voters would have already been turned away from their polling place, votes would already have been counted, and legislative maps would already have been drawn. The damage to our communities and the cause of equality would have already been done before Mr. Hodges takes his first action.

"The ability to vote is a fundamental right for all Americans. For almost 200 years African American voters were prevented from voting by law. That right was finally won because courageous Georgians like John Lewis, Andy Young, and Martin Luther King led the fight to overturn segregation," said Rep. Teilhet. "Their sacrifices and the sacrifices of countless others are embodied in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. To treat the this historic piece of legislation as nothing more than a mundane legal matter, shows a true

lack of understanding about Georgia history, American history, and the damage that segregation and discrimination did to both this state and our country.”

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