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**GEORGE STEGALL
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
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November 17, 2010

Chris Herren, Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 – NWB
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Abuse of Section 11 of the Voting Rights Acts of 1965

My name is George A. Stegall and I have been the Elections Administrator for Bowie County, Texas for a little over 5 years. For the last few months our County Clerk, our Central Counting Presiding Judge, I, my staff, and others have been under constant harassment, pressure, bullying & various intimidation tactics including threats from the Right Wing of our local Tea Party/Patriot Group.

Mr. Borden Bell, a great man, will no longer be our Presiding Judge of Central Counting because of the continuous pressure & bullying tactics used by this group. The Republican Chair, Mr. Ken Autrey, stated that he was going to resign due to these individuals & the contentious behavior. I have had Election Judges resign. Our County Clerk and her staff have endured multiply fear and harassment tactics. [Ms Velma Moore, Bowie County Clerk, will not discuss any of those individuals who were intimidated by the Tea Party/Patriot Group. Why? Because she has been so attacked and is now filled with FEAR due to this group.] I, my staff and others continue to be attacked.

Shortly after I took office I was introduced to the Right Wing of the Republican Party – Mr. Rusty Hicks, Ms Kathy Hicks & a few others. Mr. Hicks is noted for his continuous attacks on Texarkana Councilwomen, Ms Willie Ray. He and his wife have filed numerous reports against me with the Texas Secretary of State & the Attorney General's office, without any success.

Mr. & Mrs. Hicks have been empowered and they have joined with Ms Natalie Nichols, County Clerk Elect, and Mr. Jeff Akin, Leader of the Bowie County Tea Party/Patriot Group. The attacks have been multiplied and voter intimidation has gone berserk as Mr. Jeff Akin has led the charge.

During the last few months my staff, office & I have been attacked:

- (1) Ms Natalie Nichols has daily posted on her website countless derogatory, insulting, critical & harmful comments about the election office & staff.
- (2) Ms Nichols, from nearly the first day in our office, has demanded that we give her instantly whatever Public Information that she request. She has grown very angry if we did not meet her demands. If she couldn't get it immediately then we were hiding the truth and obviously we were assisting with voter fraud.
- (3) Ms Nichols, for the final 6 weeks, before the November 2, 2010 election came into our office nearly every day. She always had numerous questions for us to answer, but would nearly always end up stating various comments concerning our lack of intelligence, work, trustworthiness and basically we are a poor excuse for elections.
- (4) Ms Nichols grew very upset over a number of issues:
 - (a) we should be the 'police' and report Ethics violations, and check signatures on applications.
 - (b) since we were not going to be the police then she would be the police. (She has proving that she is just that.)
 - (c) we shouldn't charge for public information and public information should always be readily available.
 - (d) and many more

On Friday, October 15, Ms Nichols and Ms Kathy Hicks came into my office to pick up copies of application by mail. While I was downstairs mailing ballots Ms Hicks came over to ask Ms Donna Moreland, Assistant EA, some basic questions (*These were very simple questions for one who has declared that they are an expert of election law?*) while Ms Nichols began to question my other staff member, Ms Lacy Golden. Ms Nichols followed Ms Golden around our office asking various questions about Mail procedures when suddenly Ms Nichols grabbed Ms Golden's arm and threatened her in a whisper, heard by one of Temporary Employees, Ms Desiree. Ms Nichols clearly stated that what Ms Golden was doing was incorrect and she should report herself to the Secretary of State because she was committing voter fraud and she would be brought up on charges and needed to protect herself. This attack totally offended and greatly disturbed Ms Golden and all the rest of us.

The County Judge had asked us to keep things as quietly as possible so Ms Nichols would not have reason to use the local papers for her election. (The above incident was reported to the Bowie County District Attorney's Office the following Monday.) This incident, as well as the intimidation on Bowie County voters, was reported to the Justice Department on October 29, 2010.

As Elections Administrator for Bowie County I am responsible for all election workers & voters and take that task very seriously. I felt alone, overwhelmed, and greatly limited as I faced these constant attacks. It appeared that I was helpless to defend my staff, my workers and my voters. I have faced numerous challenges & pressure & stress during my 63 years, but none truly prepared me for these attacks. I have come close to a mental breakdown!

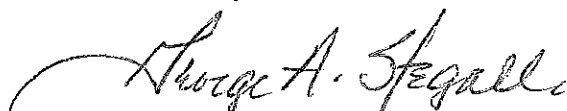
Intimidated? Absolutely! I wonder how my election workers, county clerk and her staff have felt as the Tea Party/Patriot Group have bullied them? Fearful? Intimidated? Absolutely! I wonder how Minority voters who were approached by those presenting themselves as Officials, and questioned, and recorded, by these Tea Party/Patriot Group individuals felt? Scared? Fearful? Intimidated? Absolutely!

I'm writing this now for I do not know how much longer I will be working in this position. I don't think I can remain in this position much longer. Every attack, for the last month or so, is aimed at removing the current election staff and moving Voting Registration, etc., to the County Clerk's office. (That was part of her last minute election platform.)

I have enclosed a copy of the Bowie County Tribune that quotes Mr. Jeff Akin. *"Bowie County Patriot representative Jeff Akin said that he was aware of the incident, which happened in Dekalb. Akin told the Tribune on Thursday that there was a group of citizens doing inquiries into complaints of possible attempted voter fraud and voter fraud. According to Akin they were simply asking if the persons had actually sent in their ballots. --- There is NO VOTER intimidation involved at all, he continued. These citizens are not attempting to have any effect on the voting habits of anyone who wishes to vote."* NOTE: Yes, they are striving to have an effect on the voting habits of anyone who wishes!!

At one time I thought I understood a little of the 'Voting Right Acts of 1965.' If I was correct I understood that the above was 'voter intimidation', but today I truly don't understand what would be classified as 'voter intimidation.' I can only imagine what tomorrow may hold for minority voters in America.

Sincerely,



George A. Stegall
Elections Administrator