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STATE OF ALABAMA

AUG 29 1988

Senator Charles D. Langford
State Senator 26th District
918 East Grove Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Board of Registrars - Voter
Registration

A Board of Registrars Chairman does not, by himself, constitute a quorum and therefore cannot exercise the authority of the full board by unilaterally implementing policies and practices as though they were the action of a majority of the board.

Dear Senator Langford:

This opinion is issued in response to your request for an opinion from the Attorney General.

QUESTIONS I, II, and III

1. Does the chairman of the board of registrars have any more power or authority than any other board member under state law? If so, please define.
2. Can a board chairman implement policies, practices, or rules unilaterally without the input of the other board members meeting to constitute a quorum?
3. Are there any duties, responsibilities, or actions that a board chairman may take unilaterally without seeking the advice, input, vote, or consensus of a majority of the board members? If so, what might they be?

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FACTS AND ANALYSIS

In response to each of your questions, one two and three, under the laws of Alabama a Board of Registrars Chairman has no more authority than any other board member. Moreover, Section 17-4-155 provides that:

"The action of a majority of the board of registrars shall be the action of the board, and a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transactions of all business."

CONCLUSION

A Board of Registrars Chairman does not, by himself, constitute a quorum and therefore cannot exercise the authority of the full board by unilaterally implementing policies and practices as though they were the action of a majority of the board.

I hope this sufficiently answers your questions. If our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

DON SIEGELMAN
Attorney General
By-


GREGORY O. GRIFFIN
Assistant Attorney General

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