



Office of the New York State
Attorney General

Letitia James
Attorney General

April 15, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Andrew Spong
Compliance Counsel
Monroe County Board of Elections
435 Smith Street
Rochester NY 14608

Re: NYVRA Preclearance – Monroe County BOE Submission ID # 1162

Dear Compliance Counsel Spong:

This letter is in reference to the proposed Election Day poll site changes and election district reassignments (the “proposed change”) submitted by the Monroe County Board of Elections (Monroe BOE) to the Civil Rights Bureau (CRB) of the Office of the New York State Attorney General for administrative preclearance pursuant to the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York (NYVRA). See N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-210. **Based on the information provided, preclearance of the proposed change is granted.** See N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-210(4)(e).

The proposed change concerns changes to Monroe County’s Election Day poll sites. In summary, first, Monroe BOE proposes to stop using seven poll sites (St. Theodore’s Church, Spencerport Firemen’s Banquet Hall, Perinton Square Mall, Greece Post 468, Lakeview Highrise apartments, 75 Stutson Street Recreation Center, and Riverview Manor) and permanently replace them with alternatives, either existing poll sites or newly established ones (City Hope Wesleyan Church, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, St. John the Evangelist Church, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, and Charlotte Branch Library). Second, voters in select election districts previously assigned to the Cornerstone Presbyterian, Aldersgate Methodist, and St. Charles Borromeo Churches would be reassigned to a poll site at Episcopal Senior Life Beatrice Place. Third, voters at the Humboldt St. Recreation Center poll site and voters from EDs 21-11 and 21-12 previously assigned to Greater Rochester Community Place would return to their prior poll site, the Thomas P. Ryan Recreation Center, which was under construction. Fourth, certain voters would be reassigned from one of five existing poll sites (Ark of Jesus Ministries, Church of the Transfiguration, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, East High School, and St. John The Evangelist Church) to another existing poll site. Fifth, two other poll sites (Cunningham House and St. John’s Chestnut

Court) would continue to serve as poll sites, but different spaces within those sites would be used for voting, and the sites would be known as Eisenhardt Auditorium and St. John's Briarwood, respectively. These five changes would be in effect for the 2026 primary election and all future elections. Finally, Monroe BOE proposes to temporarily, for the 2026 primary election only, stop using the St. Lawrence Church poll site and reassign the voters previously assigned there to three other existing poll sites (Greece United Methodist Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and North Greece Church of Christ). In future elections, including the 2026 general election, these voters would return to the prior site.

Pursuant to the NYVRA, "the enactment or implementation of a covered policy by a covered entity . . . shall be subject to preclearance by the civil rights bureau or by a designated court as set forth in [the NYVRA]." N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-210(1). Monroe County and Monroe BOE are covered entities under sections 17-210(3)(c), (d), (e), and (f) of the NYVRA, and the proposed change pertains to a covered policy under sections 17-210(2)(g) and (j).

The CRB may grant preclearance to a submitted covered policy "only if it determines that the covered policy will not diminish the ability of protected class members to participate in the political process and to elect their preferred candidates to office." N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-210(4)(e)(i). A covered policy will not diminish the ability of members of a protected class to participate in the political process and to elect their preferred candidates to office if it will not lead to retrogression in the position of protected class members (*i.e.*, it will not make protected class members worse off than they had been before the change) with respect to their ability to participate in the political process and to elect their preferred candidates to office. 13 N.Y.C.R.R. § 501.2(c).

The proposed change was submitted on March 16, 2026. A public comment period on this submission was held through March 24, 2026. *See* N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-210(4)(f). The CRB received public comments on the submission, which were considered in the course of the CRB's review.

The CRB has carefully considered the information provided by Monroe BOE, as well as from other relevant sources. Based on an analysis of this information, the CRB finds that the proposed change does not diminish the ability of protected class members to participate in the electoral process or elect their preferred candidates to office. The CRB grants preclearance of the proposed change, and it may be enacted and implemented. *See* N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-210(4).

Please be aware that this grant of preclearance by the CRB does not bar subsequent litigation by other parties to enjoin the enactment or implementation of the covered policy. *See* 13 N.Y.C.R.R. § 501.1(c)(5)(iii).

This letter constitutes the CRB's written report and determination concerning the preclearance submission. *See* N.Y. Elec. Law § 17-210(4)(e); 13 N.Y.C.R.R. § 501.1(c)(5)(ii).

If you have any questions, please reach out to the CRB's Voting Rights Section at votingcompliance@ag.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bethany Perskie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Bethany Perskie
Special Counsel, Voting Rights Section
Civil Rights Bureau
Office of the New York State Attorney General

cc: Commissioners Peter D. Elder and Jackie Ortiz
Monroe County Board of Elections
435 Smith Street
Rochester NY 14608