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Funding Source: Kinder Institute for Constitutional Democracy

Electoral Rights & Wrongs-the Effect of *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) on Georgia Voters

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After the Supreme Court decision for *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013), there was the subsequent removal of Section 4b from the Voting Rights Act of 1964 (VRA), making Section 5 unenforceable. Preclearance now ceased to exist. This prompted numerous changes to election laws not only in Alabama, where the case originated, but across the South East, and especially within the state of Georgia. Many argue that there was no reason to keep preclearance requirements in place, as Georgia had maintained a large number of minority voters over many years and was seemingly unaffected by this piece of the VRA. Others saw this maintenance of minority voters as proof that preclearance requirements were fulfilling their intended purpose. As both viewpoints seemingly contradict and support one another simultaneously, we decided to study these disparities ourselves. By cataloging changes in election legislation and regulation, including the resulting impact on minority voters, from 2013 to present, in correlation with voter registration data from the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. By matching dates of the passage of these laws with the (a) demographics of Georgia voters, (b) registration dates of voters, and the (c) date of the last election voted in, allowed us to analyze whether or not *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) negatively affected minority voters in the State of Georgia. My theory is that through the removal of preclearance requirements, there has been an intensified struggle for electoral power in this historically conservative state because of its increasing population of minority constituents. It is because of this population increase that many of these state representatives of Georgia have attempted to suppress minority voters for fear of losing their majority. However, I feel that they have been unsuccessful in their attempts to do so. The ultimate findings are to be presented at the 2021 Spring Research & Creative Achievements Forum.