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DEMOCRATIC SENIOR WHIP

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

We are writing to respectfully request an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice into the distribution of voting machines and polling stations for the March 1, 2016 Primary Election in Harris County, Texas.

On March 1, we witnessed excessively long lines in predominately Hispanic and African-American precincts in Harris County due to the lack of voting machines and polling locations. The failure to distribute sufficient voting machines in predominately Hispanic and African-American precincts in Harris County, in comparison to the resources made available in more affluent, predominately Anglo precincts in the county, had a discriminatory impact on our constituents' ability to participate in the political process. The largest news outlets in the Houston media market, including the *Houston Chronicle*¹, KHOU², and KTRK³, reported on excessively long lines at polling locations in historically Hispanic and African-American neighborhoods in Harris County, which deterred a large number of Americans of color from exercising their right to vote that day.

In light of the recent enactment of Texas's Voter Identification Law, which has created new barriers for historically underrepresented communities from voting, it is imperative that the

¹ "Tuesday anything but super for some Texas Voters," *Houston Chronicle*, March 2, 2016, <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/politics/houston/article/Tuesday-anything-but-super-for-some-Texas-voters-6866932.php>

² "Long lines, short tempers at some polling places," *KHOU*, March 1, 2016, <http://www.khou.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/01/long-lines-short-tempers-some-polling-places/81184192/>

³ "Long Lines of Voters Waited Outside Poll Location in East Houston," *KTRK*, March 1, 2016, <http://abc13.com/news/long-lines-of-voters-waited-outside-poll/1226401/>

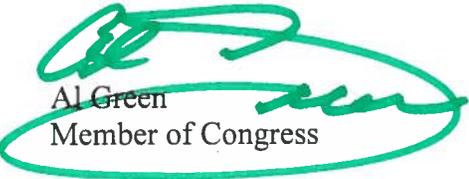
U.S. Department of Justice investigate the unequal distribution of voting machines and polling stations in Harris County to ensure that all voters, regarding of race, color, or language, have access to the ballot box.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt response on this important matter. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance.



Gene Green
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Al Green
Member of Congress