

September 26, 2018
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Senator Harris:

I am concerned about minority voting rights. Universal suffrage is the core of democracy but voting rights for women were hard won while for blacks the struggle continues. The DOJ has called the 1965 Voting Rights Act the most effective civil rights bill ever passed but in 2013 the court eliminated its main enforcement tool. One of the arguments at the time was that the country had moved past overt racism but this administration has very clearly demonstrated otherwise. The US Commission on Civil Rights has just issued a scathing report of the many ways in which minorities are again being prevented from voting: ID laws, selective polling place closures, gerrymandering, purging voter rolls, cutting early voting, convict restrictions and ICE intimidation. While several of these attacks have not held up in court, absent the VRA, many have been put in effect during litigation resulting in broad disenfranchisement.

Please assure me that you will propose another voting rights act.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our democracy.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson