

Bond Case Briefs

Municipal Finance Law Since 1971

VOTING - GEORGIA

Wright v. Sumter County Board of Elections and Registration

United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit - October 27, 2020 - F.3d - 2020 WL 6277718

Voter brought action challenging county's re-drawn school board district map, alleging that the electoral mechanism created by the new map would violate section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by diluting the strength of Black voters in county.

The United States District Court granted summary judgment in favor of county board of elections and registration. Voter appealed. The United States Court of Appeals reversed and remanded. Following bench trial on remand, the District Court found a section 2 violation, enjoined upcoming school board elections, and drew a new district map for county's school board. Board appealed.

The Court of Appeals held that:

- Court of Appeals would review the entire record, both what voter's expert on redistricting demographic analysis and the analysis of racial voting patterns presented at trial and the findings, report, and maps presented by special master in subsequent remedial proceedings, and
- District court did not clearly err in finding that county's re-drawn school board district map violated section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.