

This cached image accompanies the opinion published at 2024 NY Slip Op 24163

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Lisa M. Vance-Ayers, Newburgh Town Clerk
1496 Route 300
Newburgh, NY 12550

Re: Violation of the New York State Voting Rights Act

Dear Town Clerk Vance-Ayers:

We are writing on behalf of our clients Oral Clarke, Romance Reed, Grace Perez, Peter Ramos, Ernest Tirado, and Dorothy Flournoy, who are Hispanic and African American voters in the Town of Newburgh, to advise you that the Town's current method of electing Town Council Members, by at-large elections, violates the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York, also known as the New York State Voting Rights Act ("NYVRA"). If the Town does not cure that violation, we intend to commence an action under NYVRA to compel the Town to elect Council Members by district, cumulative voting, ranked choice voting, or other alternative voting systems.

The New York State Voting Rights Act

NYVRA specifically forbids the use of at-large methods of election where the voting patterns of members of a protected class or classes within the political subdivision are racially polarized or