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Connor Vs. Waller

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Court : US Supreme Court

Decided On : Jun-05-1975

Appeal No. : 421 U.S. 656

Appellant : Connor

Respondent : Waller

Judgement :

Connor v. Waller - 421 U.S. 656 (1975)
U.S. Supreme Court Connor v. Waller, 421 U.S. 656 (1975)

Connor v. Waller

No. 74-1509

Decided June 5, 1975

421 U.S. 656

APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

SYLLABUS

The District Court's error in holding that certain Mississippi statutes do not have to be submitted for clearance pursuant to 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and its consequent error in deciding the constitutional challenges to the statutes based on racial discrimination claims, require reversal; but this is without prejudice to that court's authority to entertain an appropriate proceeding to require that the 1975 elections be conducted pursuant to a court-ordered reapportionment plan. 396 F.Supp. 1308, reversed.

PER CURIAM.

This is an appeal from a judgment entered May 22, 1975, by a three-judge court for the Southern District of Mississippi. The judgment is reversed. The District Court erred in holding that House Bill No. 1290 and Senate Bill No. 2976, Mississippi Laws, 1975, Regular Session, are not legislative enactments required to be submitted pursuant to 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 79 Stat. 439, as amended, 84 Stat. 315, 42 U.S.C. 1973c. *Georgia v. United States,* 411 U. S. 526 (1973). Those Acts are not now and will not be effective as laws until and unless cleared pursuant to 5. The District Court accordingly also erred in deciding the constitutional challenges to the Acts based upon claims of racial discrimination. *Perkins v. Matthews,* 400 U. S. 379 (1971); *Allen v. State Board of Elections,* 393 U. S. 544 (1969). This reversal is, however, without prejudice to the authority of the District Court, if it should become appropriate,

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to entertain a proceeding to require the conduct of the 1975 elections pursuant to a court-ordered reapportionment plan that complies with this Court's decisions in *Mahan v. Howell,* 410 U. S. 315 (1973); *Connor v. Williams,* 404 U. S. 549 (1972); and *Chapman v. Meier,* 420 U. S. 1 (1975).

Reversed.

MR. JUSTICE MARSHALL, concurring.

I am of the opinion that the per curiam in this case should be made clear by adding a paragraph similar to the concluding paragraph of our opinion in *Georgia v. United States,* 411 U. S. 526 , 411 U. S. 541 (1973). Therefore, I would add the following paragraph in this case:

"The case is remanded with instructions that any future elections in Mississippi under House Bill No. 1290 and Senate Bill No. 2976, Mississippi Laws, 1975, Regular Session, be enjoined unless and until the State, pursuant to 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, tenders to the Attorney General a plan to which he does not object, or obtains a favorable declaratory judgment from the District Court for the District of Columbia."

MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS took no part in the consideration or decision of this appeal.

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