



## **HOW EFFECTIVE IS YOUR ELECTION SYSTEM?**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Election position/office** [city/town council, county /board/commission, school board, state house of representatives, state senate]

\_\_\_\_\_  
What is the current system being used? [at-large with posts, pure at-large, districts, mixed system (at-large and districts), multi-seat districts (more than one individual elected within a district.)]

*Please provide a yes or no response to each question.*

### **Yes / No**

- |       |     |   |
|-------|-----|---|
| _____ | 1.  | Is the minority community adequately represented in this system.                                    |
| _____ | 2.  | Do minority candidates find it difficult to win elections?  |
| _____ | 3.  | Is race a predominate factor in election outcomes?  |
| _____ | 4.  | Do minorities in these elections tend not to vote?  |
| _____ | 5.  | Do minorities in your community basically live in the same areas?                                   |
| _____ | 6.  | Are most of your officials elected from districts where only one candidate can win?                 |
| _____ | 7.  | Does this election require a run-off?   |
| _____ | 8.  | Is there effective voter education in your area?  |
| _____ | 9.  | If every eligible minority voted for the same candidate, would that candidate probably get elected? |
| _____ | 10. | Is there a history of bi-racial or multi-racial coalitions in your community?                       |

*Once you have completed this survey review your responses. Pay particular attention to "No" responses to Questions 1, 4, and 9. If you answered "No" to these questions, "Is there a chance for a voting rights lawsuit?"*

Look at responses to questions 5, 8, and 10. If the minority population is dispersed throughout the community, **alternative election systems may be the answer to your current voting rights problem.** Or, if the minority population basically lives in the same areas and still cannot elect a representative of their own choosing, then an alternative election system can still provide a remedy. Alternative election systems have been found to promote coalition building among groups and are successful for minority candidates in areas where race is still a predominate factor in election outcomes. Additionally, we provide community workshops on a broad range of election systems as well as issues surrounding voting rights. **Please call or email for a thorough discussion of this survey and an analysis of the election system in your community.**