



Four Directions

Advancing equality at the
ballot box across Indian Country
fourdirectionsvote.com

February 8, 2016

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State for Montana
State Capitol
1301 East 6th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

RE: Greetings from the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Four Directions of which I am the Executive Director and Indian People's Action who have worked beside us in our struggle for equality for our brothers and sisters in Montana.

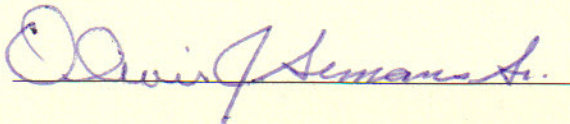
In the MT SOS October 2015 voting directive it states " Under the directive, counties will be required to conduct an analysis as to whether a satellite office is needed to provide the required access that Tribes are entitled to under the Voting Rights Act." I find it disturbing that you are asking the Counties to determine if they meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act rather than determining their compliance yourself. You do state that you are the chief election official in Montana. That being said, I did review analysis by Pondera, Chouteau, Blaine, and Rosebud counties. It is apparent that these counties were incapable of conducting a substantive or accurate analysis.

After reviewing your October, 2015 directive, Four Directions and Indian People's Action commissioned our own analysis. Attached for your review is the analysis completed by Moana J. Vercoe, MBA, PhD. It is our hope that you and your staff will read this report and compare and contrast the information and conclusions in this report with the amateur efforts of the above named Montana counties. We are certain that if you do, you will conclude that it is your duty to mandate equal access to in-person late registration and

absentee balloting on Montana Indian Reservations in order for elections in Montana to be in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

We strongly urge and encourage you to order the Counties to provide satellite voting offices that mirror the Counties' services, and hours and days of operation on Montana's Indian Reservations. If you choose to leave this important matter to the option of Montana counties, your words as stated in your directive "I will continue to fight for access for American Indians and all eligible voters, as I have done for my entire career," will be meaningless.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David J. Seman, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.