

# Recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Selection of Special Voting Rights Act (VRA) Counsel

September 30, 2021

Item 3

# PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF SPECIAL VRA COUNSEL

- At our September 9 meeting, the IRC voted to engage a Special VRA Counsel based on a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) developed by IRC General Counsel, presented to the Commission first on August 18, revised and presented to the Commission again and approved by the Commission on September 9.
- The IRC also voted to contract acquisition of this Special Counsel through our General Counsel with a recommendation made by an IRC Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) and final selection by the full IRC
- General Counsel released the RFQ to approximately 28 potential bidders (individuals, firms, and academic institutions) and to a listserv of election law experts and attorneys maintained at the University of California, Irvine.
- Two RFQ responses were received by the due date of September 20th:
  - Best, Best & Kreiger (BB&K), Irvine, CA
  - Federal Compliance Consulting (FCC), Potomac, MD
- The AHC reviewed these responses and on September 24 conducted interviews with both firms.

# AHC RECOMMENDATION FOR SPECIAL VRA COUNSEL

- Based on a response scoring rubric and the personnel interviews, the AHC unanimously recommends selection of Federal Compliance Consulting (FCC)
- The lead attorney is Bruce Adelson, who is nationally recognized and has not previously worked for or in the County of San Diego
- BB&K has a number of active matters in San Diego and as such presented the appearance of a possible conflict of interest
- Further, FCC proposed a single point of contact rather than a multi-member project team