

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King (R-IA), a member of the House Judiciary Committee, today responded to a recent Department of Justice decision overruling a 2008 ballot initiative in Kinston, NC that eliminated party affiliation of candidates in local elections and was supported overwhelmingly by local voters. According to the Washington Times, “The Justice Department’s ruling, which affects races for City Council and mayor, went so far as to say partisan elections are needed so that black voters can elect their ‘candidates of choice’ - identified by the department as those who are Democrats and almost exclusively black.” King’s statement follows:

“Martin Luther King Jr. longed for a day ‘when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.’ King and centuries of abolitionists dreamed of a time when men and women of all races could vote and equally participate in society irrespective of skin color or ethnicity. This DOJ decision sets in reverse everything these heroes worked for.

“The DOJ has no business overruling a local election and should not be putting an emphasis on race. The DOJ is essentially insulting African-American voters by saying that they are not smart enough to vote for candidates that do not have a D by their names. Attorney General Holder has again politicized the Department of Justice by prohibiting Kinston, NC from holding nonpartisan elections. We saw the same racial bias in the dismissal of the New Black Panther case of voter intimidation.

“Elections in the United States should be about policy and ideas, not about the race of the candidates or voters.”