



***Louisiana v. Callais* SCOTUS Decision Toolkit**

POINT OF CONTACT: Questions & support:

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OVERVIEW

On April 29, 2026, in *Louisiana v. Callais*, the **U.S. Supreme Court**, in a 6–3 panel decision, struck down Louisiana’s congressional map and narrowed Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The ruling eliminates the state’s second majority–Black district and restricts federal protections against racial discrimination in redistricting.

The Court’s ruling narrows how Section 2 provisions can be used to prove racial discrimination. Previously, plaintiffs could claim a violation of Section 2 by showing that a congressional map had discriminatory effects on voters, even without proof of discriminatory intent. Now, however, plaintiffs must demonstrate that the state *intentionally* drew its map to discriminate against a racial group—a significantly higher standard that is often difficult to meet.

Section 2 has long served as a critical safeguard against discrimination in our electoral system. It exists because of an undeniable history of exclusion. Gutting Section 2 is a profound setback for American democracy and a direct blow to the voting power of Black communities in Louisiana and across the nation. While this decision is deeply disappointing, it does not deter our resolve. The National Urban League will continue to stand with communities, advocates, and partners nationwide to defend the fundamental right to vote and to ensure that our democracy serves all Americans, not just a powerful few.

WHAT’S AT STAKE

When racial discrimination in drawing congressional maps occurs, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) mandates the creation of minority opportunity districts — districts where racial minorities make up enough of the population to have a fair chance of electing their preferred representatives and policies. With the Supreme Court decision deeming Louisiana’s second majority–Black district unconstitutional, it will be more challenging to remedy racially discriminatory congressional maps nationwide.

Additionally, other majority–Black or minority districts like Louisiana’s risk being overturned. State legislatures could redistrict congressional maps in ways that eliminate fair representation for Black and Hispanic voters, dilute the political power of communities of



color, and reshape electoral outcomes for an entire generation. Redistricting could reduce the number of majority-Black and Latino districts by spreading those voters across more districts, weakening their voting power.

Fair Fight Action reports that legislatures across the South could redraw districts to eliminate:

- 140 (2 out of 5) Black- or Hispanic-majority districts
- 127 (nearly half) of all Black-majority districts
- 13 (1 out of 5) Latino-majority districts

With Section 2 significantly weakened, the following states are highly likely to redraw congressional maps and eliminate the indicated number of majority-minority districts:

Alabama (22)	Mississippi (28)
Arkansas (18)	North Carolina (13)
Florida (9)	South Carolina (28)
Georgia (20)	Texas (25),
Louisiana (21)	Tennessee (7)

These are not abstract numbers—they represent real communities losing their voice in government.

CASE TIMELINE

2020–2022

- 2020 Census revealed that Louisiana’s Black population reached one-third of the state.
- Black voters and advocacy groups pushed lawmakers to establish two majority-Black congressional districts out of six.

2022

- Louisiana legislature adopted a congressional map with only one majority-Black district, prompting legal challenges.
- Black voters and advocacy groups sue, arguing the map violates Section 2 of the VRA by diluting Black voting power.



- March 30, 2022 – lawsuit filed in Middle District of Louisiana (federal district court): *Robinson v. Landry*

2023

- Federal courts (district court and 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals) side with *Robinson* plaintiffs.
- Courts indicate Louisiana’s map likely violates the VRA and requires a new, fairer map.

January 2024

- Jan. 19, 2024 – Louisiana legislature passed a map with two majority-Black districts to address VRA concerns.
- A group of non-Black voters challenge the new map, claiming it is an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.
 - January 31, 2024 – New lawsuit filed in the Western District of Louisiana (federal district court): *Callais v. Landry*

April 30, 2024

- A divided panel of the Louisiana federal district court rules the new map with two majority-Black districts unconstitutional, saying race was overly prioritized.

May 15, 2024

- U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) issues emergency stay, pausing the lower federal district court ruling, allowing the 2024 elections to proceed using the new map with two majority-Black districts.

March 24, 2025

- SCOTUS hears arguments on whether the map violates the U.S. Constitution or complies with the VRA.

June 27, 2025

- Instead of issuing a decision, SCOTUS schedules the *Callais* case for re-argument and asks for more briefing.

October 15, 2025

- SCOTUS re-argument, focusing narrowly on whether Louisiana’s second majority-Black district complies with Section 2 of the VRA.



April 29, 2026

- SCOTUS panel rules in 6–3 decision to strike down Louisiana’s congressional map and narrow Section 2.

CALL TO ACTION

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **SHARE** this information and social media assets on your platforms and within your networks. Get the word out!
- **VOTE**. With the outcome of this case, your vote matters now more than ever! Our opponents wouldn’t be pushing so hard to limit our right to vote if it didn’t. Ensure you and your community members are **registered** and **ready** to vote!
- **ENGAGE** your elected officials in the fight for fair maps. Many state legislatures are in session. Continue to show up and voice your strong support for fair maps and voter protection laws. [States must enact their own state Voting Rights Acts](#), and Congress must pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

KEY MESSAGING

- The *Callias* decision is a devastating setback for our multiracial democracy. By weakening Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court has debased critical tools that protect voters from racial discrimination in redistricting.
- The Supreme Court has abandoned its responsibility to uphold the most fundamental guarantees of our democracy. The Court has disregarded decades of precedent, dismissed the lived reality of discrimination faced by voters of color, and stripped away one of the last remaining protections against racially rigged maps.
- The Voting Rights Act (VRA) is widely hailed as the “crown jewel” of the Civil Rights Movement and has been foundational in the creation of a multiracial democracy. Today’s decision puts that vision at risk.
 - People fought, bled, and died for these protections, and the Supreme Court has whisked those sacrifices away with the wave of a hand.
 - The Court has once again chosen to encroach on Congress’ authority to enact laws that address racial discrimination by gutting the VRA.



- Your vote still matters! Our opponents wouldn't be pushing so hard to limit your right to vote if they didn't think your vote had the ability to shake up the power dynamics that are designed to silence our voices.
- The Court's decision threatens to further divide our nation and entrench power in the hands of the few. It puts the diversity of our elected bodies and representation of all communities at risk.
 - We will see fair districts across the nation vanish as legislatures aim to gut representation for voters of color without checkpoints from the courts.
- Fair representation for many communities of color has been compromised. For decades, Section 2 of the VRA ensured that Black, Latino, Native American, and marginalized groups retained equal opportunity to elect candidates who represent them and their interests. With today's ruling, the future of that promise is at risk.
- The SCOTUS decision jeopardizes political power, resources, and opportunities for real communities. Many communities will face greater challenges securing better schools, safer infrastructure, health care access, environmental protections, and economic opportunities.
- There is still more work ahead. With this decision, discriminatory redistricting and voter suppression will persist across the country. We will remain vigilant and continue fighting for fair maps everywhere.

For more information on talking points see LDF's guide [HERE](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- National Urban League Press Releases, Articles, Media Clips, etc.:
 - National Urban League (NUL) Press Statement – 04/29/2026:
<https://nul.org/news/national-urban-league-scotus-ruling-louisiana-congressional-map-setback-american-democracy>
 - Urban League of Louisiana (ULLA) Press Statement – 04/29/2026:
<https://urbanleaguela.org/statement-from-urban-league-of-louisiana->



[condemns-the-united-states-supreme-courts-decision-in-louisiana-v-callais-and-renews-call-for-congressional-map-including-a-second-majority-district/](#)

- Civil Rights Leaders Respond to Louisiana v. Callais Decision – 04/29/2026: [Civil Rights Leaders Respond to Supreme Court Decision in Louisiana v. Callais](#)
- NUL + ULLA Joint Press Statement (coming soon)

- NUL Social Media Posts:
 - **Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/p/DXuN5MyEXc6/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
 - **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1C4Hsw6jRP/>
 - **Threads:** <https://www.threads.com/@naturbanleague/post/DXuOryZAHw4>
- National Civil Rights Leaders LIVE Media Event – 04/30/2026
 - **Website:** <https://nul.org/event/scotus-vra-ruling>
 - **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/yUfvwMaZZg4?si=a1itm06ctUxFmaO>
 - **Facebook** (available for 30 days): <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17Yqr9HoCB/>

- Partner Statements and Press:
 - LDF: <https://www.naacpldf.org/press-release/supreme-court-strikes-down-louisiana-map-and-destroys-key-voting-rights-act-provision/>
 - ACLU: <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/supreme-court-strikes-down-louisiana-map-and-destroys-key-voting-rights-act-provision>
 - Congressional Black Caucus: [NEWS: Congressional Black Caucus Statement on Supreme Court Decision on Louisiana v. Callais](#)
 - [Congressional Black Caucus Press Conference \(Live Event\)](#)
 - Democracy Forward: [Supreme Court Guts Key Protections of the Voting Rights Act, Deals Blow to American Democracy - Democracy Forward](#)
 - House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries: [LEADER JEFFRIES STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT DECISION EVISCERATING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT | Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries](#)
 - Constitutional Accountability Center: <https://www.theconstitution.org/news/cac-release-supreme-courts->



[conservative-supermajority-once-again-guts-the-voting-rights-act-and-further-enables-racial-discrimination-in-voting/](#)

- National Voting Rights Guides and Talking Points:
 - [Louisiana v. Callais Post-Decision Explainer Slide Deck](#) (National Journal)
 - [SCOTUS POST-DECISION TALKING POINTS](#) (LDF)
 - [Southern Legislature Seat Analysis](#) (Fair Fight Action | Black Voters Matter)
 - [What Happens in the South...](#) (Fair Fight Action | Black Voters Matter)
 - [Louisiana v. Callais: The Fight for Fair Maps Continues](#) (LDF)
 - [Louisiana v. Callais: Background and Talking Points](#) (LDF)
 - [Callais Pre-Decision Talking Points](#) (LDF)
 - [2026 Voting Resources](#) (National Urban League)

- Stay up to date with **Southern state organizers** on the front lines of redistricting battles
 - Florida:
 - [Stop the Partisan Power Grab: No New Maps Action Toolkit](#) (Equal Ground Florida)
 - Louisiana:
 - [Louisiana Needs its Own Voting Rights Act \(LDF\)](#)
 - [PETITION: Sign On To Show Your Support for the Louisiana State Voting Rights Act! · Power Coalition for Equity and Justice](#) (Power Coalition)
 - Alabama:
 - [Fight for Fair MAPS RESOURCE HUB](#) (SOLVE Network)

GRAPHICS

LINK TO DOWNLOAD SOCIAL GRAPHICS: [HERE](#)

