

## A Blow to Voting Rights: What to Know About *Louisiana v. Callais* (2026)

**The Supreme Court just handed politicians a blank check to silence Black and Brown voters.** For decades, Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act guaranteed Black and Latine voters the right to elect representatives who actually speak for them. It's how majority-Black and majority-Latine districts were created across the South — giving communities that had long been shut out of power a voice in Congress and state legislatures.

On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court's [6-3 ruling](#) in *Louisiana v. Callais* effectively [dismantled Section 2's guarantee of fair representation](#).

**The Legal Question:** Can states draw voting districts to make sure minority voters have a fair chance to elect someone who represents them?

**The Supreme Court's Answer? No.**

**The background:** In 2024 Louisiana redrew their Congressional map in response to a federal court order under the 1965 Voting Rights Act, adding a second majority-Black district. A [group of white voters](#) then [challenged that map](#), arguing that it violated their rights by sorting voters based on race. The Supreme Court agreed with them, undoing decades of Civil Rights progress.

**This decision...**

- **Eviscerates the Voting Rights Act**, Section 2, which since 1965 [has protected](#) against racially discriminatory legislative districts and election systems.
- **Slams the door on voters trying to prove discrimination** because they must now prove that legislative maps discriminated against them [on purpose](#).
- **Empowers Republican-led states to eliminate majority-Black and Latine districts**, which tend to favor Democrats. Democrats could [lose 12 to 19 congressional seats](#) in the South. An [estimated 70 House districts](#) and [191 state legislative districts](#) were protected under Section 2 and are at risk of elimination over the next few years.
- **Strips Black and Latine voters of the ability to choose their representatives.** Black and Latine voters gained representation across the South through [Section 2 claims](#).

**The GOP is already using the ruling to grab power**

- Florida [immediately approved](#) four new GOP-leaning seats.
- Louisiana [paused](#) their House primaries to redraw the map, potentially eliminating both Democratic-leaning districts.
- [Alabama](#), [Tennessee](#), and [South Carolina](#) are all calling special sessions to redistrict.

**Key Messaging Frame**

- This ruling shrinks the political rights the 14th Amendment was meant to expand.
- Attacks on voting rights follow a long historical pattern: when Black communities gain power, the rules get changed to silence them.
- Black and Latine voters have a right to elect representatives of their choice.

**How we fight back**

- Pass the federal [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement](#) and the [Freedom to Vote Acts](#)
- Pursue [defensive redistricting](#) in Democratic-controlled states
- Intensify voter registration and turnout efforts
- Mobilize against unfair maps in state special redistricting sessions
- Push for [state-level Voting Rights Acts](#)
- Continue litigation through the courts

**For further information**

- [How We Fight: Callais Decision Toolkit](#) - messaging, social media content, CTAs.
- [Messaging guidance](#) from LDF and ACLU, the organizations who litigated *Callais*.