

THE CALLAIS DECISION:

*The impact on voting rights in
America's Multiracial Democracy*

Tuesday, May 12th
7:00 pm



*AINSLEE
JOHNSON-BROWN*



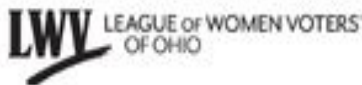
*ANDREW
WALCHUK*



*LISA
GRAVES*



*APRIL
ENGLAND-ALBRIGHT*



2026

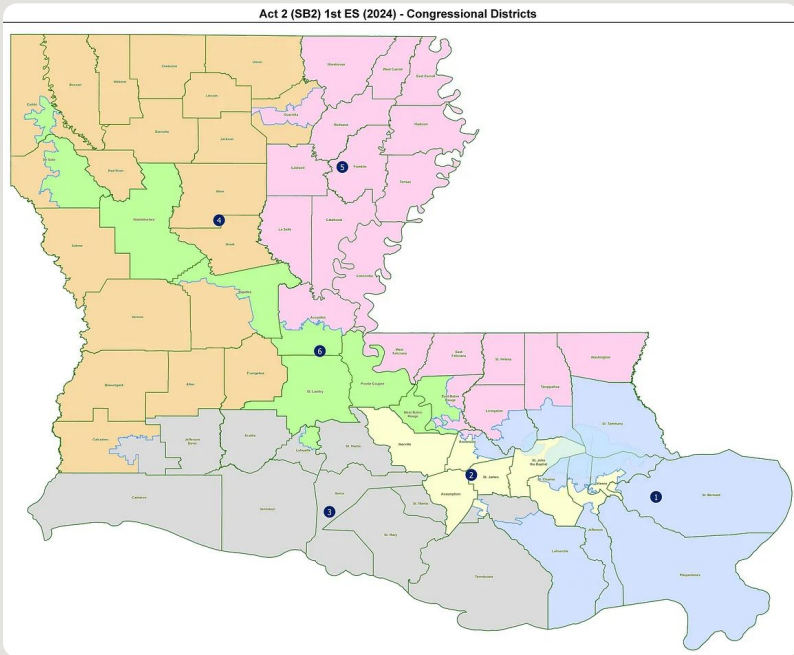
Callais Response



WHAT THE RULING MEANS
AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

PRESENTED BY
COMMON CAUSE

The Case



MAP

Louisiana with two Black opportunity districts

- **2020 Census:** Louisiana got six House seats, population is $\frac{1}{3}$ Black
- **2021 maps:** only one Black opportunity district
- **2023:** Fifth Circuit Court ordered Louisiana to draw new map with two Black opportunity districts
- **Jan. 2024:** Louisiana legislature approved map pictured at left
- **Feb. 2024:** “Non-African-American voters” sued, claiming new districts were racially gerrymandered in violation of the 14th & 15th Amendments

The Case

- **Supreme Court heard the case twice**
 - Oral argument March 24, 2025
 - Reargument October 15, 2025
- Rearguments often signal that SCOTUS is going to make a big change to existing law
- Justices' questioning was not encouraging
 - Kavanaugh suggested time limits on VRA, He quoted earlier decisions saying any “race-based districting” embarks on a “most dangerous course”



OCT. 15, 2025 SCOTUS Argument Day

The Decision

Louisiana v. Callais makes it nearly impossible to use Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act to prove racial gerrymandering.

Alito's majority opinion closes the courthouse door to communities of color seeking protection under the VRA.



The Decision

OLD LAW

Courts determine whether a map has the **effect** of diluting the voting power of voters of color

Courts **examine factors** like if voters of color are geographically concentrated and if a community of color has tended to support a particular candidate or party

Courts look at a **history of discrimination** against voters of color

NEW LAW

Courts must ask if a map **intended** to dilute the voting power of voters of color

States can claim that racial gerrymandering is simply **partisan gerrymandering**, and those maps will be legal under *Callais*

It is now **practically impossible** to prove racial gerrymandering

National Impact



An analysis by Black Voters Matter and Fair Fight Action found that at least **19 majority-minority districts in the U.S. House of Representatives** and nearly **150 majority-minority districts in state legislatures** may be at risk.

National Impact



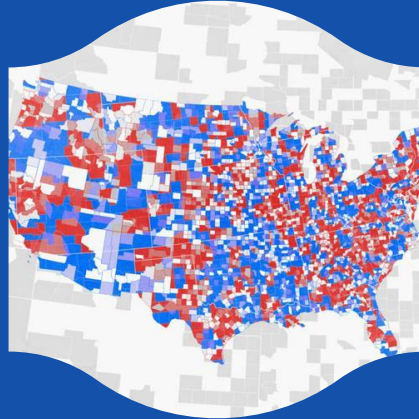
FLORIDA REDISTRICTING

Florida has already redistricted in response to *Callais*. Common Cause is challenging these illegal maps in state court.



MORE 2026 REDISTRICTING

Louisiana, Alabama, and Tennessee are all set to draw new districts under *Callais*. Other states may join them.



POSSIBLE 2027 REDISTRICTING

States that can't gerrymander in time for 2026 may try to do so before 2028.



LOUISIANA ELECTION PAUSE

Governor Jeff Landry suspended an active election to redraw based on *Callais*. Other states may attempt to do the same.

PETITION

Tell Congress: Ban partisan gerrymandering

The Supreme Court has gutted another major piece of the Voting Rights Act – opening the door for politicians to gerrymander people of color into silence.

This is a crisis for our democracy, but also an opportunity. 2 in 3 voters – including a majority of Republicans and Independents – support a nationwide ban on gerrymandering and mid-decade redistricting.

Congress must listen to the people and take redistricting out of politicians' hands.



**TELL CONGRESS TO PASS THE
JOHN LEWIS
VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

Red Wine & Blue



Upcoming Events

1. **Fair Districts-Fair Democracy Huddle, Attacks on Direct Democracy:** Wednesday, 5/13, 6pm. [Register](#).
2. **Coffee with Common Cause:** Thursday, 5/14, 8:30am. [Register](#).
3. **Ohio Voter Rights Coalition call:** Friday, 5/15, noon. [Register](#).

1



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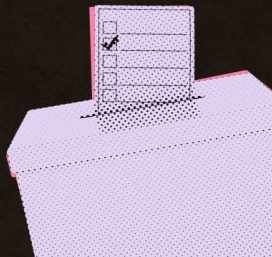
VIRTUAL EVENT



SOCIAL BANK TO PROTECT OUR VOTING RIGHTS



THURSDAY | MAY 14 | 7:30 PM ET



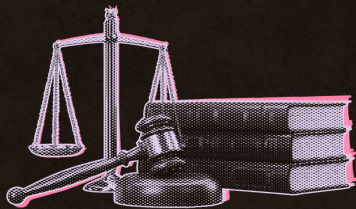
VIRTUAL EVENT



SOCIAL BANK FOR CIVIL RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY



MONDAY MAY 18 | 7:30 PM ET



Saturday, May 16th Montgomery, Alabama.

Mass Amplification Call:

In light of the Supreme Court's gutting of the Voting Rights Act, civil and voting rights groups are organizing a grassroots National Day of Action on Saturday, May 16th in Alabama.

We can not all go to Montgomery, Alabama. We can show support and solidarity by hosting our own protests and vigils. Use this social toolkit from the rally's organizers: allroadsleadtothesouth.com

AMPLIFICATION BEST PRACTICES:

- A) Produce your own posts or content. Immediately post it to your stories.
- B) If IG video, between 30-90 secs is best. On Tik Tok, videos between :61 and 90 seconds get pushed the most.
- C) If a static asset/graphic, add music.
- D) REPLY to comments within the first day or two *with at least 4 words* to boost engagement.

#Be the drip

