



## **Supreme Court Orders Re-Argument of Louisiana Redistricting Case for Next Term**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 27, 2025

**CONTACT:**

Legal Defense Fund, [media@naacpldf.org](mailto:media@naacpldf.org)

ACLU, [media@aclu.org](mailto:media@aclu.org)

ACLU-LA, [media@laaclu.org](mailto:media@laaclu.org)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an [order](#) to reargue the case of *Louisiana v. Callais* and will issue an order scheduling the argument and specifying any additional questions that will need to be addressed in the case.

Louisiana's current map with two majority-Black districts remains in effect. The re-argument of the case will likely occur during the fall.

Louisiana's current congressional map, known as SB8, was drawn in response to a separate lawsuit, *Robinson v. Ardoin* (later *Robinson v. Landry*). In that earlier case, brought by the NAACP Louisiana State Conference, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, and nine individual Black voters, a federal court in Baton Rouge found that Louisiana's 2022 map likely violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) by packing Black voters into a single majority-Black district and diluting the voting strength of Black voters in other districts. That part of the decision was upheld by two separate panels of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Presented with these decisions, the State faced a choice between drawing a new map itself or accepting a court-imposed map, over which lawmakers would have little or no control.

Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry and legislative leaders determined it was in the State's best interest to develop their own map that could satisfy the VRA and the courts. In January 2024, SB8 became law, but it did not follow the plan that had been presented to the court in *Robinson*. Most notably, it was drawn to protect powerful incumbents in Louisiana's congressional delegation, including U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, and unite communities with shared interests along the Red River and I-49 corridor.

Shortly after SB8's enactment, a group of self-described "non-African American voters" challenged the map as a racial gerrymander in violation of the 14th Amendment in *Callais v. Landry*. They claimed the map violated the Equal Protection Clause's prohibition against the use of race as the predominant motivating factor in map drawing, absent a compelling reason. The plaintiffs from *Robinson* intervened as defendants in the case to protect the new voting opportunities SB8 provided to Black Louisianians and decades of precedent, in which the Supreme Court has repeatedly reaffirmed that it is not an unconstitutional racial gerrymander for states to remedy Voting Rights Act violations with new maps that also consider other factors like incumbency protection. After a divided three-judge district court panel struck down SB8, the *Robinson* clients and state defendants appealed to the Supreme Court.

Pending its resolution of the appeal, the Supreme Court stayed the lower court's ruling, leaving SB8 in place for the time being. As a result, the 2024 election went forward under SB8, allowing Black Louisianians to elect their preferred candidate in two congressional districts.

**The *Robinson* clients and counsel provided the following statements in response to the Supreme Court's decision today:**

"Black voters in Louisiana continue to face persistent and documented discrimination. A map with two districts where Black voters have an opportunity to elect candidates of choice, as SB8 has, is critical to ensuring Black voters can have their voices heard," said **Stuart Naifeh, Supreme Court oralist in *Callais* and redistricting manager for the Legal Defense Fund (LDF)**. "That is the promise of the Voting Rights Act, and we will continue to fight on behalf of our clients and Black voters across the State of Louisiana to achieve a fair congressional map."

"Before this case ever began, we had already won a hard-fought legal battle, proving that the legislature's initial map, like Louisiana's maps for generations before, illegally diluted Black voters' political power," said **Cecillia Wang, National Legal Director for the ACLU**. "Thanks to the Supreme Court's order from May 2024, which put the district court's injunction on hold, the fair and legal map the Louisiana legislature enacted in response to our litigation remains in place while the case continues. We will be back next term to once again defend the new map and the representation Black voters deserve."

"A fair and equitable congressional map has always been our North Star," said **Ashley Shelton, President/CEO of Power Coalition for Equity and Justice**. "Today's decision deferring the case does not shake our focus on that goal. We will continue to advocate for a map that reflects our communities and upholds the hope of true and substantive political representation, and we look forward to using this opportunity to

continue to build Black political power for our beloved communities across Louisiana and the nation.”

“Now we have another chance to make sure that the promise of equal representation for Louisiana’s Black population is fulfilled,” said **Alanah Odoms, ACLU of Louisiana Executive Director**. “Make no mistake: Black Louisianans are entitled to the same fair and representative maps as voters anywhere in this country. We remain steadfast in our commitment to that pursuit — until equality is not just promised, but realized.”

“Our fight continues,” said **Michael McClanahan, President of the NAACP Louisiana State Conference**. “We know that justice must be served. From the beginning of this process, we have shown it is not only possible but essential to have fair representation for Black communities. We will continue to advocate for fair maps and to ensure the promise of the Voting Rights Act is upheld. We won’t stop until victory is won.”

“Today is not the end of our journey. The fight for an equitable democracy continues,” said **Alora Thomas-Lundborg of the Harvard Election Law Clinic**. “Voters in Louisiana took a stand for their rights and we will work to ensure that the Court hears them and everyone who believes in the continued dream of an equitable American democracy.”

“This case is critically important not just for our clients, but for every Black voter in Louisiana and across this country who believes in the promise of equal representation, and today’s order calling for re-argument does nothing to change that,” said **Tracie Washington of the Louisiana Justice Institute**. “We remain committed to fighting for fair maps and a democracy where every vote counts. I want to thank our courageous clients, who put their faith in this process, and my remarkable co-counsel, who have poured their hearts into this case. Our work continues and our resolve is unwavering.”

The *Robinson* appellants — the NAACP Louisiana State Conference, the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, and nine individual Black voters — are represented by the Legal Defense Fund, American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Louisiana, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, and Louisiana attorneys John Adcock and Tracie Washington.

# # #

*Founded in 1940, the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is the nation’s first civil rights law organization. LDF’s Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative hub within LDF that launches targeted campaigns and undertakes*

*innovative research to shape the civil rights narrative. In media attributions, please refer to us as the Legal Defense Fund or LDF. Please note that LDF has been separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1957 — although LDF was originally founded by the NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights.*