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U.S. Supreme Court Reinstates Louisiana’s Discriminatory Congressional Map

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the U.S. Supreme Court granted Louisiana’s bid to temporarily halt a district court ruling that had required the state to redraw its new congressional map to comply with the Voting Rights Act. Justices Sotomayor, Breyer, and Kagan dissented from the stay. During a week-long hearing last month, Judge Dick of the Middle District of Louisiana heard from Black Louisianans who testified that the state had ignored the needs of their communities and their demands for fair representation, and from political scientists and demographic experts who explained how the map reduced the influence of Black voters in congressional elections. Judge Dick [ruled](#) that the map was racially discriminatory and likely violated the Voting Rights Act, and a panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans agreed. Today’s Supreme Court decision means the map will be used for upcoming elections, overriding the decisions of the two lower courts.

The [lawsuit](#) challenging the map was brought by the Louisiana State Conference of the NAACP, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, and nine individual voters, who are represented by the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ACLU of Louisiana, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, and Louisiana Lawyers John Adcock and Tracie Washington. The lawsuit was filed immediately after the Louisiana Legislature voted on March 30, 2022, to overturn Governor John Bel Edwards’ veto of the congressional plan passed by the Legislature in February.

The following are reactions to today’s Supreme Court ruling:

“Right now, we are deferred but not defeated,” said **Power Coalition President and Founder Ashley Shelton**. “This moment is disheartening. It’s not what we were hoping for, but we will continue to fight for equity and justice in Louisiana. The people in our state need a map that will provide fair representation, so we will wait. While we wait, we will continue to fight to mobilize our communities so all Black voters can be heard.”

“The Supreme Court’s unwarranted decision is a blow to justice and fair representation that Black Louisianans have long fought for,” said **Stuart Naifeh, Manager of LDF’s Redistricting Project**. “Two courts have looked at the facts and agree that Louisiana’s congressional map violates the Voting Rights Act, and that using it in the upcoming election will rob Black voters their right to participate in the political process on an equal footing. The Voting Rights Act was created precisely to prevent the kind of manipulation of district lines to undermine the voices and power of Black people that we see in Louisiana. But let us be clear: the fight for racial justice and equality in Louisiana is far from over. Black Louisianans deserve congressional representatives who hear and understand their needs and concerns. Anything less is simply unacceptable.”

“To live up to the tenets of a representative democracy, the Louisiana congressional map must reflect the richly diverse population it serves,” said **Alora Thomas, Senior Staff Attorney of the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project**. “We won’t stop fighting in court until Louisiana has a fair congressional map.”

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