PPG’s mission is to use legal, legislative, public education, and advocacy strategies to promote the full, equal, and active participation of Black people in America’s democracy.

We are committed to aggressively fighting and defending against the attack on our voting rights.

We invite you to stand with us.

Fight back.

And reach out.

NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

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POLITICAL PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

STANDING IN THE GAP FOLLOWING
SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA V. HOLDER

CALL TO ACTION!
WE NEED YOUR HELP IN TWO CRITICAL WAYS.

1. Without the key provision of the Voting Rights Act that required certain states to report all voting changes before their implementation, you now become our eyes and ears on the ground.

Within hours of the Supreme Court’s Shelby County decision, the State of Texas, where in 2012 alone Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act blocked the state’s discriminatory photo ID law and intentionally discriminatory redistricting plans, announced its intention to implement those measures immediately. This is only one of many examples of formerly-covered states taking advantage of the gap in Section 5 protection by reverting back to laws that the Voting Rights Act previously blocked.

We encourage you to let us know of any voting changes that are planned in your community, which you believe may have a negative impact on your community.

These changes might include: moving polling places to locations that are difficult for your community to access; switching to at-large voting or appointing officials who were formerly elected; redrawing district lines in a manner that reduces the number of majority-Black or Latino (or other minority-minority) districts; reducing the early voting period; curtailing opportunities to register to vote; or implementing new voter ID requirements.

We need you to collect stories about such voting changes in your community, and to tell us about them at vote@naacpldf.org.

You also can call the Election Protection hotline, maintained by LDF and a coalition of civil rights groups, at 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

We are all in this fight together.

2. Fewer than seven months after the Supreme Court’s devastating decision, members of Congress on January 16, 2014 introduced bipartisan legislation to restore the promise and protections provided by the Voting Rights Act.

The bill, known as the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (VRAA), reflects Congress’s recognition of the urgent need to protect the millions of voters of color made vulnerable by the Shelby County decision. The VRAA, however, is just a first step.

Now is the time for you to help us urge Congress to make strengthening and passing the VRAA a top priority.

The Voting Rights Act had been reauthorized four times—always with bipartisan support, and even in times of great national division. We can and must urge passage of bipartisan legislation like the VRAA.

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