

**For Immediate Release**

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Media Contacts

media@naacpldf.org

media@aclu.org

LDF and Civil Rights Organizations Applaud Federal Court's Decision to Block Texas' Racially Discriminatory Congressional Map in the 2026 Elections

A three-judge federal panel [ruled](#) today that Texas' 2025 redrawn congressional map, which was enacted through a [sham](#) legislative process in August, cannot be used for the upcoming 2026 midterm elections. In the 2-1 decision, the panel preliminarily determined that Texas engaged in unconstitutional racial gerrymandering, thereby harming Black and Hispanic voters.

The ruling reaffirms that unnecessarily sorting voters predominantly based on race is unconstitutional even if done for professed partisan objectives. The order requires Texas to use its 2021 congressional map for upcoming elections. Texas has filed a notice of appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In September, led by the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), a group of nonpartisan civil rights and racial justice organizations [filed an amicus brief](#), otherwise known as a "friend of the court" brief, urging the federal court to block the 2025 map from going into effect before the 2026 elections because the map is racially discriminatory. Texas is home to the [largest total number of eligible Black voters](#) in the country, and it is possible — and necessary — for a fairly drawn congressional map to protect the electoral opportunities for both Black and Hispanic Texas voters.

The amicus brief filed by LDF was on behalf of organizations that include LDF, Black Voters Matter, the Houston Area Urban League, Friendship-West Baptist Church, American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Texas, League of Women Voters, and League of Women Voters of Texas. These organizations issued the following statement in response to the court's ruling:

"The ruling is an incredible win, not only for Black and Hispanic voters in Texas, but for all voters in Texas and our democracy. The decision reaffirms the constitutional protections in place to guard against efforts that harm the voices of Black voters and other communities of color through unlawful maneuvering. Texas, like other states, must be held accountable when they evade their constitutional duties. We applaud this federal court's ruling, and hope this is the first of many steps taken to finally provide

Black and Hispanic voters with the long overdue fair congressional representation that they deserve. We will continue to remain steadfast in this pursuit of equal and fair representation in Texas and for communities throughout our country.”

###

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 completely 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.