

The Endless War at Home: A Response to the Supreme Court Ruling on the Voting Rights Act of 1965

The following is a short excerpt from a statement by the organization “Sisters Lead Sisters Vote,” about the impact of the most recent Supreme Court decision which essentially destroys the hard-fought Voting Rights Act of 1965, with proposed steps to take to save it. For the full text, go to: <https://sistersleadsistersvote.org/scotus-just-gutted-the-voting-rights-act-what-happened-and-what-we-do-next/>.

Sisters,

Today, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that will reshape the landscape of Black political power in this country. The decision in Louisiana v. Callais arrived in the language of legal frameworks and statutory interpretations. But do not let the language fool you. What happened today was a direct attack on our ability to elect leaders who represent us.

The Court Changed the Rules.

For forty years, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act gave communities like ours a legal tool to challenge redistricting maps that diluted our votes — that packed us into one district or cracked us across five so our voices would count for nothing. You did not have to prove that legislators sat in a back room and said, “let’s harm Black voters.” You only had to show that the result was a system that gave us less opportunity than our white neighbors to elect the people we chose.

Today’s 6-3 majority effectively ended that protection. Under the Court’s new rules, a state can now draw maps designed to weaken Black political representation — and walk away clean — simply by saying the goal was partisan, not racial. And in states where Black voters and Democratic voters are largely the same people, that defense is almost always available.

“Participation is not the same as power. Black women vote at extraordinary rates not because the system works for us — but because we know exactly what is at stake when it doesn’t.” — Holli Holliday, President, Sisters Lead Sisters Vote

The Court has now invited state legislatures to use partisan gerrymandering as cover for racial vote dilution. Our organizing terrain just got harder — and more important.

We Have Been Here Before. We Know What to Do.

In 1980, the Supreme Court made a nearly identical move — limiting the Voting Rights Act to only cases of intentional discrimination. Civil rights advocates organized. They lobbied. They built coalitions. **And in 1982, Congress reversed the Court’s decision and restored the law.** It has been done before. It will be done again.

1. Stay informed and inform others. Share this update. Talk to your community about what this means in real terms, not legal ones.
2. Focus on your state. Federal law has been weakened, but state-level voting rights laws and state courts can still offer protection. Know who controls your state legislature and redistricting process.
3. Be a circle leader. More registered voters. More engaged voters. One Million Black Voters Rising. More candidates from our communities. The answer to dilution is depth. The Court cannot gerrymander a movement.
4. **Demand congressional action. Congress has the authority to restore Section 2. Contact your members of Congress — this week, not eventually.**

Our voices are not done. And neither are we.

--Hollye Weekes, April 29, 2026

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Silence is not an option!

Resist this endless war.

Resist fascism now (before it’s too late.)

ABOLISH ICE

END U.S. Wars and Occupations

REMOVE the Trump Regime

New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice:

<https://newhavensundayvigil.org>

May 3, 2026