



NY BIPOC Democracy Table

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NY BIPOC Democracy Table Responds to Supreme Court Decision Gutting the Voting Rights Act and Undermining Democracy

(New York, NY) – The New York Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (“BIPOC”) Democracy Table released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais*.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court, on a 6-3 vote, further eroded the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The decision limits how Section 2 of the law can be used to challenge racially discriminatory voting maps. The Voting Rights Act was born in response to a near century long Jim Crow era policies that systematically disenfranchised Black voters. The VRA prohibited racial discrimination in voting practices, making it one of the most consequential statutes in our country’s history in advancing basic political representation and equality for Black, Latino, Asian, and other historically marginalized voters. For over a decade, the Roberts Court has steadily and systematically dismantled key protections of the VRA including Section 5 (*Shelby County v. Holder*), weakening section 2 (*Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*), and now demolishing section 2 (*Louisiana v. Callais*).

Wednesday’s decision has serious consequences for the future of our inclusive democracy—purposefully making it less representative by diluting the voices of Black and Brown voters. We have come too far on voting rights and democratic access to slow down. While the Roberts Court has failed to uphold its responsibility to protect equal access to the ballot for historically underrepresented communities, we are here to say: **We are not going back.**

We urge the New York State Legislature to pass critical legislation that will strengthen our democracy by prohibiting voter intimidation at the polls, limiting foreign-influence multinational

corporations and billionaires from buying our local and state elections, and passing a redistricting amendment to protect all of us from what is clearly a power grab. We also urge Congress to act swiftly and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore the full promise and protection of the VRA before it is too late.

In response, members of the New York BIPOC Democracy Table said:

“From Reconstruction to Jim Crow. From Bloody Sunday to the Voting Rights Act. From Shelby County to Callais. This is not a new fight — it is the same fight, and we know exactly who our opponents are. The Supreme Court did not stumble into this decision. This was a deliberate, coordinated effort to restore the political conditions of the pre-civil rights era — when Black people voted at the pleasure of white power, not by right. They are betting we will get overwhelmed and pull back. They have always bet that. They have always been wrong. The Black Institute will not let this generation be the one that loses what leaders like Fannie Lou Hamer, John Lewis, and Medgar Evers gave their lives to build. We are organizing. We are litigating. We are not pulling back,” said **Tuulikki Robertson, Executive Director, The Black Institute.**

“For generations, the Asian American community fought to move from the margins to the ballot box. Our right to vote was a victory over a long history of exclusion, discrimination, and silence. This ruling rolls back the clock, handing politicians the tools to carve up our neighborhoods and dilute our collective power behind closed doors. We aren't going anywhere—we will organize, we will vote, and we will continue to fight for equal participation and access in this democracy,” said **Yoon Ji Kim, Interim Executive Director, MinKwon Center for Community Action, convener of APA VOICE.**

“The Supreme Court just made our work harder. They have not made it impossible. I organize with people who have every reason to give up but refuse to back down. That is the tradition we carry on from the shoulders of giants — not despair, but defiance. Callais took a federal tool. It did not take our neighbors, our relationships, or our determination to build a democracy that actually works for everyone. Now is the time for us to use every tool at our disposal to fight back with the power of community, love, and justice! The people still have power. Our votes still matter even more than they did yesterday. And every door we knock between now and November 2026 is our answer to a Court that thinks it can claw back our hard-fought and earned rights. They think this will force us back into submission. It will not and we will not ever go back,” said **Isaiah Fenichel, Lead Campaign Coordinator - Hudson Valley, Citizen Action of New York.**

The New York BIPOC Democracy Table is a statewide coalition of Black, Indigenous, Latino, and Asian-led organizations working to advance an inclusive, multiracial democracy.

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