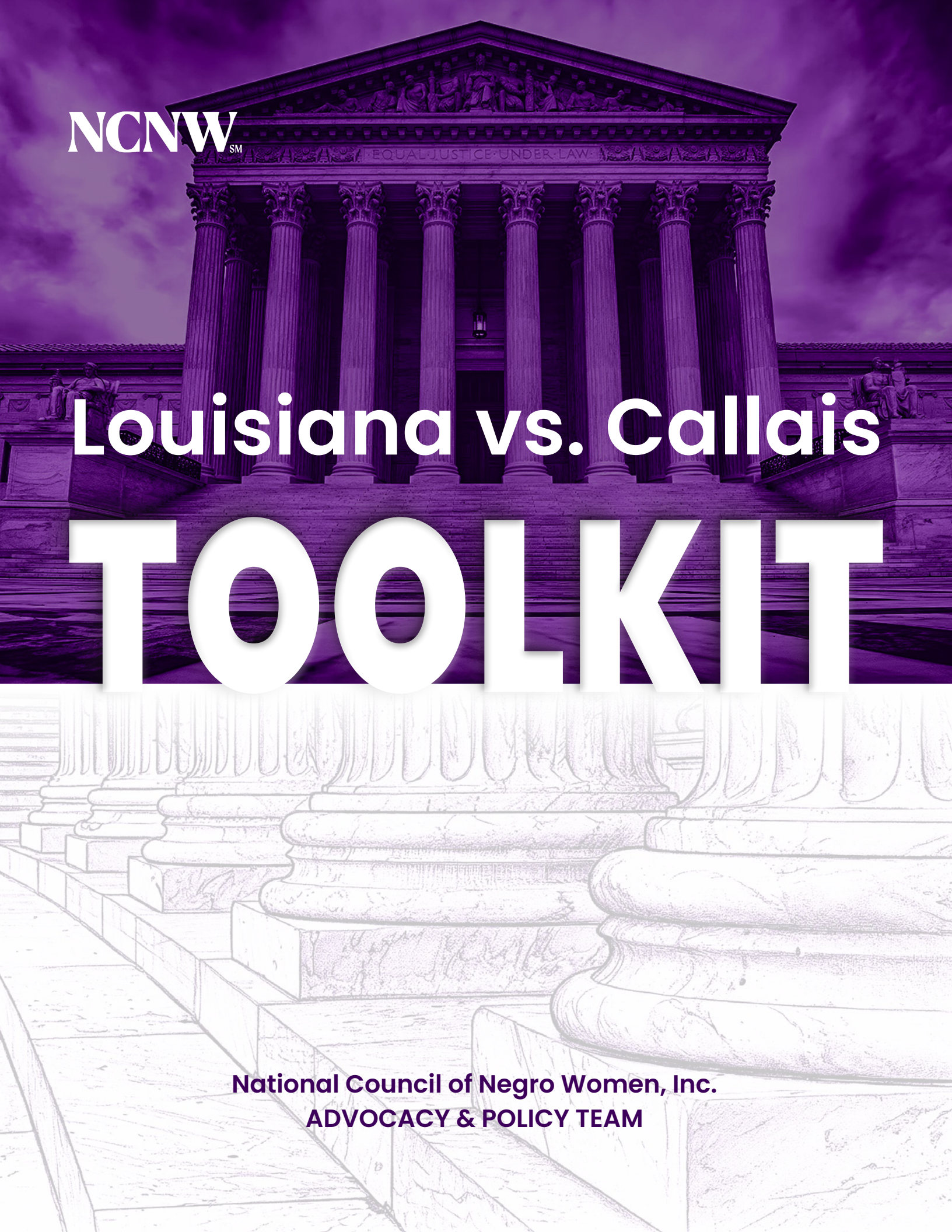




NCNWSM

Louisiana vs. Callais **TOOLKIT**

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
ADVOCACY & POLICY TEAM

The Issue

The Supreme Court in a 6-3 decision, the court narrowed the interpretation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, ruling that Louisiana's map, which created Black-majority voting districts, is an "unconstitutional racial gerrymander." The case claims the state of Louisiana violated the Constitution when it enacted a Congressional map last year that created a second majority-Black district. The decision will have a major impact on Black voters not just in Louisiana but nationwide. The argument that was made about the maps state was that they are violations of the 14th Amendment. (View full court ruling [here](#))

Now there are multiple states redrawing their maps in order to eliminate Black Voting Power. These states include:

- Alabama
- Florida
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- South Carolina
- Tennessee

Despite opposition from voters on the ground these states have already begun carrying out special sessions to redraw their maps. This decision is a major setback in the protection of voter rights and the democratic process.

The Ask:

Our voting rights are facing an unprecedented attack and we want you to make your voices heard. We are asking you to mobilize on the ground in your state capitals. Work with local Sections, Affiliates, and partners to organize.

We are also asking you to continue to elevate this message ahead of our elections. As we go into the Midterms we must continue to ramp up our efforts to protect voting rights. Make your voices heard!



How to Support:

What Else Can You Do?:

- ✓ Educate - Section [Louisiana vs Callais Impact Presentation](#)

Questions:

- ✓ Please email the NCNW Advocacy & Policy Team at policy@ncnw.org. We will assist you!

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act:

NCNW also supports the passage of the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act restores the parts of the Voting Rights Act that were dismantled in the Shelby v. Holder decision. As well as, creates new protections and guidelines around voting giving more power to the Department of Justice to enforce voting protection. The John Lewis VRAA will not only protect voting rights, but expand voting rights for those eligible to vote. Ensuring more security for our democratic process and that discriminatory anti-voter practices cannot continue.



Southern Strategy:

OVERVIEW

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) launches the POWER UP: Southern State Strategy as a coordinated response to the continued attacks on Black voting power throughout Southern states following the recent Louisiana v. Callais Supreme Court Decision.

As Southern states move to redraw congressional and legislative district maps in ways that dilute Black voting strength and weaken Black political representation, NCNW is mobilizing its Sections, Collegiate Sections, state coalitions, and national partners to protect democracy through civic education, organizing, voter engagement, and leadership development.

The Southern State Strategy incorporates NCNW's existing POWER UP 6 Pillars into a unified Southern organizing framework focused on education, mobilization, protection, and long-term political power building.

This strategy is designed not only to respond to the current moment, but to build permanent organizing infrastructure throughout the South.

SOUTHERN STATE STRATEGY GOALS

- Educate Black communities about the recent voting rights rulings and redistricting efforts
- Increase voter registration across Southern states
- Recruit and train poll workers and election support volunteers
- Protect Black voters from suppression and misinformation
- Mobilize communities into civic action
- Develop and support future Black candidates and leaders
- Build sustainable grassroots organizing structures within NCNW Sections and Collegiate Sections
- Defend Black political representation and voting access

4 Main Actions for Members

Step 1: Educate the Community

Teach our people what is happening.

Every NCNW Section should:

- ✓ Host at least two community briefings
- ✓ Explain the impact of the Supreme Court decision
- ✓ Teach communities how redistricting impacts Black voting power
- ✓ Hold town halls, webinars, and community discussions
- ✓ Work with Collegiate Sections and HBCUs to educate young voters

This is our Voter Education work.



Step 2: Register and Mobilize Voters



Every eligible person must be registered and ready to vote.

Every NCNW Section should:

- ✓ Hold voter registration drives
- ✓ Register voters at churches, campuses, and community events
- ✓ Conduct phone banking and text banking
- ✓ Organize transportation to the polls
- ✓ Mobilize communities during early voting and Election Day

This is our Voter Registration and Voter Mobility work.

Step 3: Protect the Vote

Defend our communities against voter suppression.

Every NCNW Section should:

- ✓ Recruit poll workers
- ✓ Recruit election volunteers and poll watchers
- ✓ Educate voters on their rights
- ✓ Share election protection resources
- ✓ Monitor voter suppression concerns
- ✓ Work with advocacy and legal partners

This is our Voter Protection and Voter Support work.



Step 4: Build Black Political Power

Recruit | Train | Support | Elect Leaders

Every NCNW Section should:

- ✓ Identify qualified Black candidates
- ✓ Encourage Black women and young leaders to run for office
- ✓ Help recruit volunteers for campaigns
- ✓ Support civic leadership development
- ✓ Build long-term organizing infrastructure

This strategy connects to all 6 POWER UP pillars and strengthens Black political power across the South.

TARGET STATES

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| ■ Georgia | ■ Tennessee |
| ■ Louisiana | ■ Florida |
| ■ Alabama | ■ South Carolina |
| ■ Mississippi | ■ North Carolina |

The 6 **POWER^{UP}** Pillars

Pillar 1: Voter Education

Educating communities on what is happening and why it matters.

Each NCNW Section should host at least two voter education briefings, town halls, fireside chats, or civic education sessions that explain:

- ✓ The history of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- ✓ The purpose of Section 2 protections
- ✓ State-specific map changes
- ✓ The impact on Black communities
- ✓ The importance of civic participation

Collegiate Sections should host campus briefings, fireside chats, webinars, and democracy discussions focused on youth engagement and first-time voters.

NCNW National will create toolkits, social media graphics, FAQ documents, webinar guides, and state-specific educational materials.

Pillar 2: Voter Registration

Registering and reengaging Black voters across the South.

Each Section should:

- ✓ Conduct monthly voter registration drives
- ✓ Register voters at churches, HBCUs, community events, salons, and barbershops
- ✓ Conduct digital registration campaigns
- ✓ Focus on underrepresented Black communities

Collegiate Sections should lead first-time voter campaigns and student voter ambassador programs.

Pillar 3: Voter Protection

Protecting Black voters and defending fair elections.

NCNW Sections will:

- ✓ Educate communities on voting rights
- ✓ Monitor voter suppression efforts
- ✓ Train volunteers to identify voter intimidation
- ✓ Coordinate with legal and civil rights partners
- ✓ Share election protection resources

NCNW National will monitor redistricting developments, voting law changes, and election-related litigation.

Pillar 4: Voter Support

Supporting voters through the entire election process.



NCNW Sections will recruit:

- ✓ Poll workers
- ✓ Poll watchers
- ✓ Election volunteers
- ✓ Community voting ambassadors

NCNW will also recruit, train, and support qualified Black candidates and emerging leaders through leadership development programs and campaign readiness trainings.

Pillar 5: Voter Mobility

Moving voters into civic action and the ballot box.

Sections will organize:

- ✓ State Capitol mobilizations
- ✓ Community canvassing
- ✓ Phone banking
- ✓ Text banking
- ✓ Door knocking
- ✓ Souls to the Polls efforts
- ✓ Transportation to the polls
- ✓ Democracy rallies and candidate forums



Pillar 6: Voter Communication

Controlling the narrative and keeping communities informed.

NCNW will utilize:



- ✓ Social media campaigns
- ✓ Weekly updates
- ✓ Livestreams
- ✓ Community newsletters
- ✓ Text messaging systems
- ✓ Digital toolkits
- ✓ Regional communication groups

NCNW will also conduct press conferences, media briefings, and storytelling campaigns that elevate Black voices and community experiences.

Conclusion

The POWER UP Southern State Strategy is a direct response to the growing attacks on Black political power across the South.

NCNW refuses to stand on the sidelines while voting rights protections are weakened and Black communities are targeted through redistricting and voter suppression efforts.

Through the POWER UP pillars of Voter Education, Voter Registration, Voter Protection, Voter Support, Voter Mobility, and Voter Communication, NCNW Sections across the South will educate, organize, mobilize, and protect our communities.

This is more than a campaign. This is a coordinated Southern movement to defend democracy, protect Black political representation, and build lasting civic power for generations to come.

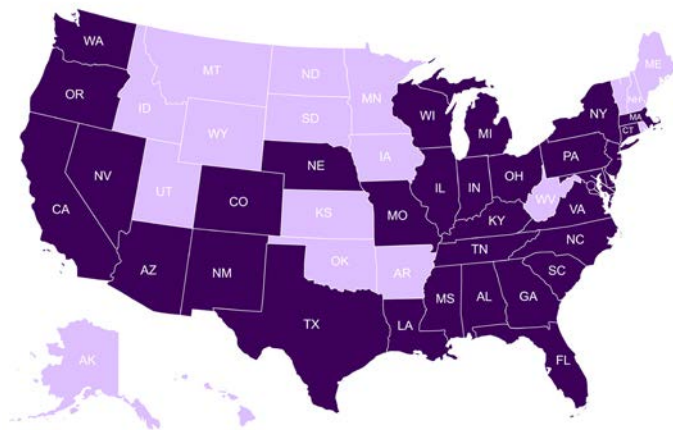
States with upcoming elections in 2026.

The following are the congressional, state legislatures, and gubernatorial elections in the states/districts where NCNW sections are located.



State / District	U.S. House Seats Up	U.S. Senate Seat Up	Gubernatorial Race	State Legislature Seats Up (Senate / House)
Alabama	7	Yes	Yes	35 / 105
Arizona	9	No	Yes	30 / 60
California	52	No	Yes	20 / 80
Colorado	8	Yes	Yes	35 / 65
Connecticut	5	No	Yes	36 / 151
District of Columbia	1 (non-voting)	No	N/A	N/A
Delaware	1	Yes	No	11 / 41
Florida	28	Yes (includes a special)	Yes	40 / 120
Georgia	14	Yes	Yes	56 / 180
Illinois	17	Yes	Yes	39 / 118
Indiana	9	No	No	50 / 100

Kentucky	6	Yes	No	38 / 100
Louisiana	6	Yes	No	39 / 105
Massachusetts	9	No	Yes	40 / 160
Maryland	8	No	Yes	47 / 141
Michigan	13	Yes (Peters retiring)	Yes	38 / 110
Missouri	8	No	Yes	34 / 163
Mississippi	4	No	No	52 / 122
North Carolina	14	Yes	Yes	50 / 120
Nebraska	3	Yes	Yes	49 / ~49 (unicameral)
New Jersey	12	Yes	No	40 / 80
New Mexico	3	No	Yes	42 / 70
Nevada	4	No	Yes	11 / 42
New York	26	No	Yes	63 / 150
Ohio	15	Yes (special included)	Yes	17 / 99
Oklahoma	5	No	Yes	24 / 101
Pennsylvania	17	No	Yes	25 / 203
South Carolina	7	Yes	Yes	— / 124
Tennessee	9	No	Yes	17 / 99
Texas	38	Yes	Yes	16 / 150
Virginia	11	Yes	No	0 / 100
Washington	10	No	No	24 / 98
Wisconsin	8	No	Yes	17 / 100



***Letter Template for Contacting your Public Officials**

Subject: Protection of Voting Rights

Dear [Senator's or Representative's Name],

As your constituent, I am writing to urge your support for the protection of voting rights and fair voting maps. We ask that you vote "NO" to any redrawn maps that do not accurately reflect the population of [Insert State Name]. We also ask that measures are taken to protect election integrity by ensuring that voters are not unjustly purged, misinformed, and/or hindered in any other manner from exercising their right to vote. Regardless of which party you support, no American should have their voting rights infringed upon.

[Personalize with a brief story about your experience with voting and how this act will help your community. For example - share that "Voting has allowed me to ensure I was fairly represented by someone who understands the needs of my family and community" or "Voter suppression puts my community at risk of not being represented by someone who does not accurately reflect the community I am in."]

This is not just about voting rights; it's about ensuring our community is fairly represented and that we are not being discriminated against.

Sincerely

[Your Name]

[Your address]

[Your Contact Information]

Phone Script for Contacting Members:

Purpose of the call

Hello! My name is (First Name, Last Name) and I am a constituent of Representative _____ (or Senator _____). I'm calling today to urge (Member of Legislature) to vote against the redrawing of voter maps that could infringe upon the voting rights of [insert state] residents.

Expression of Concern

"With voting rights constantly being under attack, it's urgent that we ensure integrity and fairness that accurately reflects the community is protected. These voter maps are an attempt to take away the voices of [insert state] residents."

Request This Specific Action:

"Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:"

- "Voting 'No' to any new maps being proposed that would unfairly neglect the voting rights of American citizens."

Personal or Community Impact (if applicable):

"In my community, many people feel underrepresented and feel as though their voting process has been made difficult by discriminatory voting laws. Especially for people whose communities have not gotten the fair representation they need. [Share a personal story on how voting has and being fairly represented impacts your voice, as well as your community (Stories make a big impact).]

Closing: Reiterate the Request:

"Please pass this message on to [Legislator's Name] and let them know that their constituents are counting on them to protect their rights by preventing the passage of unfair voting maps. I am a proud member of the National Council of Negro Women... [and Name the Affiliate you belong to] and we strongly oppose the passage of gerrymandered voting maps. Thank you for your time."

End Call



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