

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 260602)

RESOLUTION

Condemning the U.S. Supreme Court majority's further gutting of key Voting Rights Act protections in *Louisiana v. Callais*, thereby making it more difficult to establish majority-minority districts, weakening minority voting power, and undermining our democracy.

WHEREAS, Generations of American have fought, marched, organized, and sacrificed their lives to secure and protect the fundamental right to vote and ensure equal participation in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of race or color by the federal or state governments and empowering Congress to enforce that guarantee; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any voting qualification, standard, practice, or procedure that results in the denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, and has historically allowed plaintiffs to challenge voting practices based on discriminatory effect without requiring proof of discriminatory intent; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 has long served as a critical tool for ensuring that communities of color have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice, including through the creation of majority-minority voting districts when legally warranted; and

WHEREAS, In *Louisiana v. Callais*, non-Black voters challenged Louisiana's congressional redistricting plan, arguing that the creation of a second majority-Black congressional district constituted a n unconstitutional racial gerrymander in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and

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WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, ruled against Louisiana’s redistricting plan, restricting the ability of states to consider race in the creation of districts even when attempting to comply with the Voting Rights Act, but explicitly inviting them to consider “partisan advantage”; and

WHEREAS, In dissent, Justice Elena Kagan, joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson, warned that the Court’s decision “renders Section 2 all but a dead letter” and could prevent minority voters in many states from having an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice; and

WHEREAS, The Court’s decision undermines decades of progress toward achieving equitable political representation for historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities, threatening to silence minority voices in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, Several states across the South have responded by immediately considering new maps that would undermine or eliminate Black representation, sometimes interrupting ongoing balloting, to secure districts that provide even more advantage to Republican candidates; and

WHEREAS, Weakening protections against racial vote dilution risks encouraging aggressive partisan and racial gerrymandering while reducing fair representation for minority voters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby condemns the U.S. Supreme Court majority’s further gutting of key Voting Rights Act protections in *Louisiana v. Callais*, thereby making it more difficult to establish majority-minority districts, weakening minority voting power, and undermining our democracy.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the fourth of June, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Landau for Council President Johnson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Landau, Gauthier, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke and Ahmad