

Purpose of the Resistance to the Special Session: Anticipating the U.S. Supreme Court's upcoming decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* by ensuring Louisiana's congressional maps remain fair and just.

Key Dates

October 15, 2025

Listen: Louisiana v. Callais reargument in the U.S. Supreme Court

Before Proposed Special Session

To Do: Flood legislators' switch board with our voices. **Find your legislator: pcej.org/ FindMyLegislator**

October 23, 2025

To Do: Special session begins* - legislature may try and introduce new map bills, change the election code, and/or change election dates. please sign up to attend and/testify for each day of legislative session now through the end of session.

bit.ly/FairMapsSession2025

October 27, 2025

To Do: Join the Fair Maps Mobilization: **bit.ly/FairMaps2025**

November 13, 2025

Watch: Latest scheduled adjournment - maps may be passed before this date

Core Narrative

- This fight is not about politics. It is about **citizenship, fairness, and representation**, right now.
- A special session has been set from October 23-November 13 to decide whether Black voters will continue to have the **power to elect candidates** who represent their communities or whether decades of hard-won progress will be rolled back.
- If Black communities cannot elect their preferred representation, they are denied full citizenship.
- Sixty years after the **Voting Rights Act**, we are again fighting to ensure that Black Louisianans are seen, heard, and counted. The **14th and 15th Amendments** were written to protect Black citizens from racial discrimination — not to be twisted to protect privilege and power.
- Fair maps are not symbolic. They are the foundation of racial justice, citizenship and democracy itself.

Why This Session Matters

- This special session was called as the **U.S. Supreme Court reconsiders Louisiana v. Callais** (Oct 15), a case that questions whether protecting Black voters under the Voting Rights Act violates the Constitution.
- **The Governor's proclamation** calls lawmakers to "legislate relative to the election code, election dates, election deadlines, and election plans for the 2026 election cycle." While legislative leaders have said they do not plan to redraw maps, **they may use this session to change election dates or other laws to lay the foundation for implementing an unfair map in 2026**—potentially threatening one, if not both, districts where Black voters have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
- If the legislature moves to weaken or dismantle these opportunity districts, it will **silence hundreds of thousands of Black voters and set a dangerous national precedent** for dismantling racial equity in redistricting.
- The question before our State Legislators is simple: **Will our Legislature honor Black voters — or erase them again?**

Join the Movement

Power Coalition for Equity and Justice is working to ensure that **every vote counts, every voice is heard, and every community is represented.**

Follow the fight at
pcej.org/Redistricting



Join the Mobilization:
bit.ly/FairMaps2025



Download the Graphic:
bit.ly/FairMaps2025Graphic



Call to Action (During Session)

- ➔ **Show up** in Baton Rouge — at the Capitol, in hearings, show legislators the public is watching.
- ➔ **Hold lawmakers accountable** — demand public map transparency and reject any proposal that weakens Black voters access to fair maps.
- ➔ **Mobilize your networks** — Black power is collective power.
- ➔ **Push back against harmful proposals** — especially any that reduce or dismantle opportunity districts.
- ➔ **Defend the promise of the Voting Rights Act (VRA)** — insist that no map change weakens communities' ability to elect preferred representation.
- ➔ **Speak out** — uplift stories of how Black communities are impacted by unfair representation.

Message 2: Representation Is Racial Justice

- ➔ Louisiana has the second-largest Black population in the South — we will not accept any maps less than **two congressional districts** that give Black voters a fair opportunity to elect their preferred candidates.
- ➔ Diluting Black voting power is racial discrimination.
- ➔ Fair maps ensure that **Black political power is visible, valued, and protected.**

Message 3: What Happens Here Sets a National Precedent

- ➔ If Louisiana uses this session to roll back Black representation, other states will follow.
- ➔ This isn't just about Louisiana — it's about the **future of the Voting Rights Act** and racial equity in redistricting across the country.
- ➔ The entire nation is watching how Louisiana handles this moment.

Message 1: Don't Turn Back the Clock

- ➔ The special session must not reverse protections that allow **Black communities** to elect candidates of their choice.
- ➔ Any attempt to redraw maps or change election laws to **dilute Black voting power** would be a betrayal of democracy and of the sacrifices made by those who fought for the right to vote.
- ➔ Legislators have a **moral and constitutional duty to protect fair representation.**
- ➔ We cannot allow Louisiana to undo **what communities have fought to secure and courts have affirmed is required: two districts where Black voters have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice** that reflect the true makeup of our state.

Audience Specific Messaging

Black Voters:

Our ancestors fought, marched, and bled for the right to vote and for that vote to count. This session is about protecting that legacy. We cannot sit this one out. Our power, our representation, and our future are on the line.

Allies / General Public:

This is a moment of moral clarity. A blow to Black representation is a blow to democracy itself. Stand with us to ensure that Louisiana does not go backwards on civil rights.

Youth / First-Time Voters:

This is your generation's civil rights fight. Fair maps determine whether you'll inherit a democracy that values every voice — or one that silences you before you ever get started.