2026 POWER 101 POWER COALITION For Equity & Justice

POWER to the PEOPLE Roadshow

SPRING 2026

IMPACT REPORT

Engaged more than **1000 participants** across **12 roadshow events** statewide.

Hosted **9 In-Person Roadshow Stops**

Organized **3 Statewide Virtual Trainings & Webinars**

Collaborated with more than **30 Coalition & Community Partners**

Mobilized **Thousands of Residents** to the State Capitol **in support of fair congressional redistricting.**

Over **3400 Opposition Cards** submitted in Louisiana House and Senate Committees **against unfair congressional maps.**

All Five Consitutional Amendments were rejected by voters statewide.

Black voter turnout exceeded white voter turnout by 3% Statewide

Voter turnout surpassed the statewide average by 5% in New Orleans and 7% in Baton Rouge

Reached every corner in Louisiana with stops in Monroe, Shreveport, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette,and the River Parishes

ACLU Louisiana

Concerned Citizens of St. John

healthy gulf

Invest in Louisiana

Liberty & Dignity Coalition

LDF Legal Defense Fund

Alliance for Affordable Energy

Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children FFLIC

LWV League of Women Voters

United Ballot — A voteless people is a hopeless people.

VOTE

People's Promise YD

ASAP All Streets All People

Urban League of Louisiana

Lead Louisiana

NAACP Louisiana State Conference

LORI Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants

Housing Louisiana

Black Voters Matter

SPLC

Women with a Vision

Refined Community Empowerment, Inc.

Equality Grass Root Movement

Pulse — People United to Lead St. George Engagement

RISE St. James

Vera Institute of Justice

Step Up Louisiana

Vessel Project

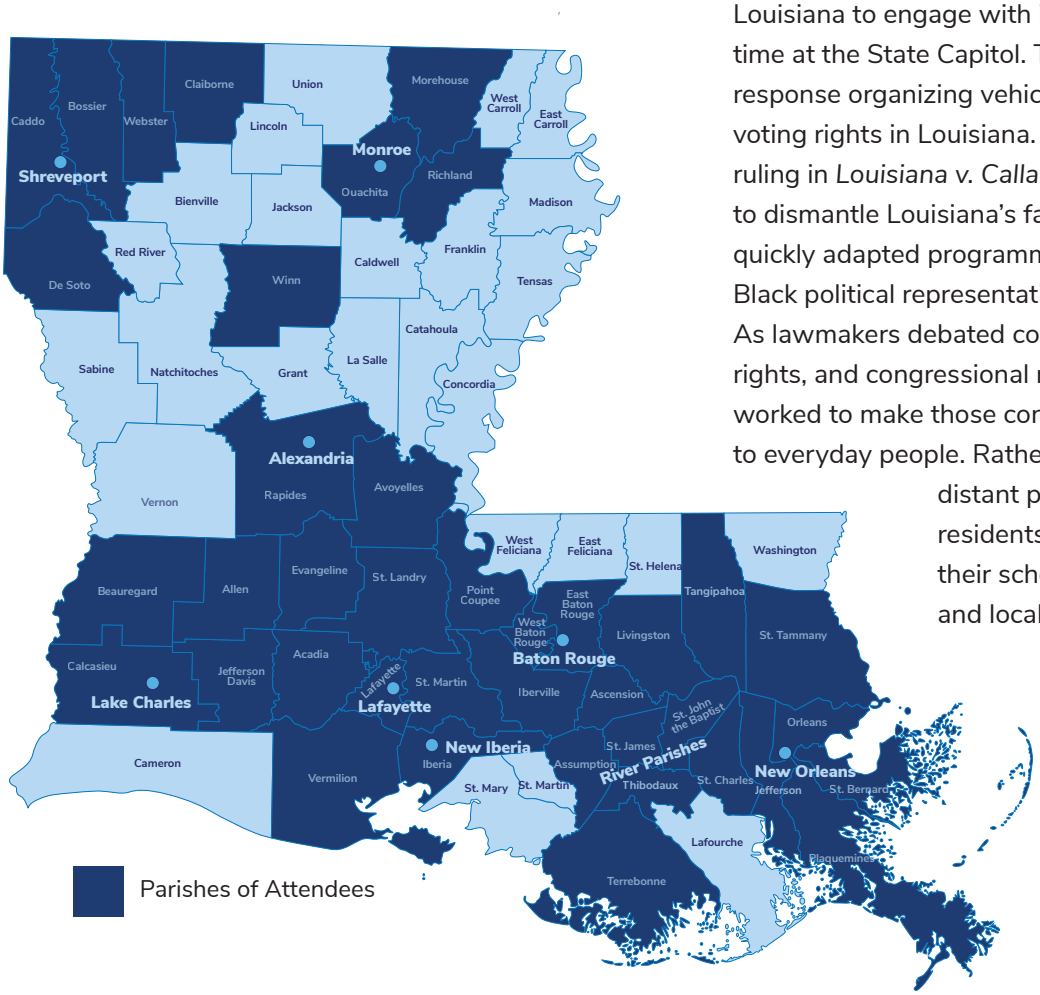
Good Trouble 337

POWER 101 Power Coalition For Equity & Justice

OVERVIEW

The Power to the People Roadshow Series was a statewide organizing and civic education tour held across Louisiana in April and May of 2026. The series was organized in coordination with over 30 partner organizations. It included nine in-person stops and three virtual webinars, reaching over 1000 participants across the state. Stops included Alexandria (two visits), New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Shreveport, Monroe, the River Parishes, and Lafayette.

The roadshow was designed to educate communities on recent changes to voting rights, the May 16th election, and developments from the current legislative session. Additionally, in alignment with our mission, we intended to move participants into deeper civic engagement, coalition building, and direct action.



The May 16th elections, which was set to include closed party primaries for Congressional, State Supreme Court, BESE, and Public Service Commission races, as well as a series of constitutional amendments on the ballot, were filled with confusion for voters. This was supposed to be Louisiana's first closed party primary for Congressional races since 1978. The change was confusing and roundly unpopular. A recent poll of Louisiana voters conducted by Ragnar Research Partners found that "Voters of all parties overwhelmingly support the current primary system. **A clear majority (56%) of LA voters oppose the new election system that would only allow registered members of a political party and unaffiliated voters to vote in the primary election."** In response to the confusion and unpopularity of the new system, programming was built around preparing communities to navigate those new elections with accurate information and to encourage voters to reject the constitutional amendments that were on the ballot. **These amendments threatened civil service protections, undermined racial equity in East Baton Rouge's school system, and endangered local funding for schools, teachers, and other municipal services.**

The roadshow created space for communities across Louisiana to engage with issues that were unfolding in real time at the State Capitol. The series also served as a rapid-response organizing vehicle during a pivotal moment for voting rights in Louisiana. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais* and subsequent legislative efforts to dismantle Louisiana's fair congressional map, the Coalition quickly adapted programming to include real time threats to Black political representation and voting rights protections. As lawmakers debated constitutional amendments, voting rights, and congressional maps, Coalition staff and partners worked to make those conversations accessible and relevant to everyday people. Rather than treating these issues as distant policy debates, the roadshow helped residents understand what was at stake for their schools, neighborhoods, voting rights, and local communities.

PCEJ responded by integrating legal education into the remaining roadshow stops, ensuring participants understood the ruling's implications for voting rights and Black political representation in the state. The roadshow also served as a mobilization vehicle in response to the ruling. Concurrent with the in-person stops, the Coalition organized hundreds of community members to travel to the state capitol and participate in multiple days of public testimony surrounding the new maps.

PROGRAMMING

Each stop was uniquely tailored for the audience and customized with collaboration from our partner organizations. They each included components of (1) political education, (2) a panel or speaker presentation, (3) Questions from the audience for the assembled panel and (4) a training or organizing activity. Each stop offered a unique experience shaped by the local community, with different formats, activities, and conversations tailored to the audience and region.

- **In Baton Rouge,** intensive community feedback sessions were held to discuss the constitutional amendments on the ballot and collect community input on local priorities. A few teachers questioned the merits of the amendments and had a healthy dialogue with panelists and participants as to how they thought others should vote.
- **In New Orleans,** an election protection training was conducted in partnership with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, in response to increased efforts to challenge and suppress voter participation. Attendees left with hands-on experience and tools to participate in election protection work.

- **In the River Parishes,** we partnered with environmental justice organizations to bring the community together as it is a prevalent issue in this region. The diminishing affordability of electric bills was used as an education tool to help residents understand the connection between Public Service Commission races and utility costs in their communities. Additionally, we offered various forms of mutual aid to those in need as a form of community resourcing.
- **In Alexandria,** we hosted a second roadshow stop on the first day of early voting. This stop took place days after the *Louisiana v Callais* decision where State Representative Ed Larvadain joined us to brief the community and take questions on what was to come. This stop was organized with the City Council President Cynthia Perry who asked us to host a Get Out the Vote event on the first day of early voting. With over 50 participants, after our programming, attendees left the roadshow equipped with sample ballots and went directly to cast their votes.

OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

The roadshow produced measurable electoral, organizing, and civic engagement outcomes across the state. **Most notably, all five of the constitutional amendments the Coalition publicly opposed were rejected by voters statewide, each by decisive margins.**

The election also saw notable turnout increases in several communities where the Coalition concentrated significant education and mobilization efforts. While statewide turnout reached approximately 27%, turnout climbed to 32% in New Orleans and 34% in Baton Rouge, suggesting strong voter participation in communities directly engaged through the roadshow and related organizing efforts.

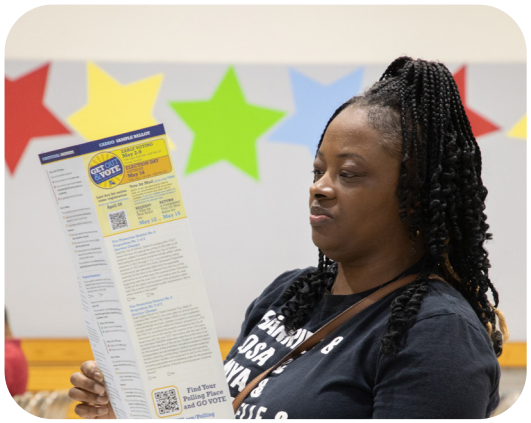
Beyond electoral outcomes, **the roadshow strengthened civic infrastructure and expanded the Coalition's statewide organizing footprint.** Across nine in-person stops and three virtual trainings, more than 1000 Louisianians participated in roadshows, organizing conversations, election trainings, and issue-based discussions. Staff and partner organizations served as featured speakers throughout the series, providing participants with timely updates, critical information, and opportunities for civic engagement ahead of the elections. Presentations and discussions included updates from the legislative session, environmental policy and advocacy efforts, changes to election laws and voting procedures, and concrete ways for community members to get involved in voter engagement and mobilization efforts leading up to Election Day. We were able to have successful events, and built bridges in communities where we have less full time presence.

Additionally, the roadshow directly contributed to public mobilization around the congressional redistricting fight. **Thousands of community members participated in advocacy efforts at the Louisiana State Capitol,** including attending committee hearings, submitting testimony, contacting legislators, and participating in multiple days of public comment regarding proposed congressional maps.

These gatherings also deepened relationships between partner organizations, faith based organizations, local elected officials, and local communities. Stops created opportunities for coalition partners to identify new volunteers, strengthen regional partnerships, and gather community feedback that will shape future organizing campaigns. Every roadshow stop had tabling opportunities, where our partners were showcase their work to a wider audience.

Importantly, the series demonstrated that voters are eager for accessible, community-centered civic engagement spaces that connect policy decisions to everyday life and break down the barriers in the political process. Participants consistently responded to programming that made complex political issues tangible, local, and actionable.

The Power to the People Roadshow ultimately became more than an election education effort. It grew into a statewide organizing and community-building initiative that equipped residents with critical information, strengthened civic participation, expanded coalition relationships, and mobilized communities during one of the most consequential voting rights moments Louisiana has faced in recent years.



Communities across Louisiana demonstrated what is possible when people are informed, engaged, and willing to take action. Together, we navigated a confusing election cycle, responded to ongoing attacks on voting rights, and helped ensure voters had the information they needed to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

We also witnessed the power of collective action. Despite significant challenges, Louisiana voters rejected all five constitutional amendments on the ballot. Communities across the state made their voices heard and helped protect public resources, public education, civil service protections, and local decision-making authority. These victories served as a reminder that when people have access to clear information and meaningful opportunities to engage, they can shape the future of their communities.

While we celebrate these victories, we also recognize they are not permanent.

The progress made this year will only endure if we continue to show up and continue to educate, organize, mobilize, and turn people out in every election. The challenges facing our communities did not end on Election Day, and neither does our responsibility to remain engaged.

More elections are coming. More decisions will be made that affect our schools, neighborhoods, voting rights, environment, and economic future. That is why we remain committed to continuing the Power to the People Roadshow and bringing voter education, civic engagement, and organizing opportunities directly into communities across Louisiana.

We need you with us.

Share what you learned with your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Bring someone new to the next training. Invite us into your church, community center, school, or neighborhood. Help us ensure more people have the information, resources, and tools they need to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

Together, we held the line. Together, we built power. And together, we can continue building a Louisiana where communities are informed, organized, engaged, and ready for the fights ahead.

PARTNERS

The Power to the People Roadshow Series was made possible through a broad coalition of partners committed to civic engagement and community empowerment across Louisiana. The series brought together nonprofit organizations, coalition partners, elected officials, fraternity and sorority organizations, faith leaders, and grassroots advocates who each played a unique role in helping connect communities with critical information, resources, and opportunities for action.

Coalition Partners and Advocacy Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union
Alliance for Affordable Energy
All Streets All People Shreveport
Black Voters Matter
Concerned Citizens of St. John
Equality Grassroots Movement
Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
Good Trouble 337
Healthy Gulf
Housing Louisiana
Invest in Louisiana
LEAD Louisiana
League of Women Voters
Liberty and Dignity Coalition
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants (LORI)
NAACP
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
People's Promise Initiative
PULSE
Refined Community Development
RISE St. James
Southern Poverty Law Center
Step Up Louisiana
Unite the Ballot
Urban League
Vera Louisiana
Vessel Project of Louisiana
Voice of the Experienced
Women With a Vision

Elected and Community Leaders

Public Service Commissioner Devante Lewis
State Representative Ed Larvadain
State Representative Terry Landry
Monroe School Board Member Betty Ward Cooper
Lake Charles City Councilman Craig Marks
Alexandria City Council President Cynthia Perry.

Fraternity and Sorority Partners

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
National Pan-Hellenic Council of Central Louisiana.

Faith Community Partners

Zion Hill Church (Alexandria)
Greater St. Lawrence Church (Alexandria)
Morning Star Baptist Church (Shreveport)
Shiloh Baptist Church (Baton Rouge)
Christian Baptist Church (Lake Charles)
Broadmoor Community Church (New Orleans).