



## Insight Panel Exclusive: Your *Callais* Questions Answered

The Supreme Court's April ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais* gutted the Voting Rights Act. We were disheartened but prepared for this potential outcome, and our fight to defend voting rights for all goes on.

In our June 2026 Insight Panel survey, we asked, **"If you could ask the ACLU's legal team one question about our post-*Callais* strategy, what question would you ask?"**

We brought three of your questions to our Voting Rights Project staff and they provided the following answers:

1. **"Even if lower courts find in the ACLU's favor, it seems SCOTUS will just override lower courts. Alabama is a recent example. Can the ACLU still ultimately prevail under this corrupt Supreme Court?" – Martha L.**

Although *Callais* severely weakened Section 2's protections against vote dilution, it did not eliminate all legal tools available to protect voters. Claims of intentional racial discrimination remain actionable under both the Constitution and the VRA. State constitutions and state voting rights laws provide an independent basis for challenges.

Despite *Callais*'s severe narrowing of Section 2, the ACLU is pursuing every available legal avenue. Where federal VRA protections have been narrowed, we are pursuing claims under the Equal Protection Clause and state constitutional provisions. Notably, the district court in *Milligan v. Allen* found Alabama's map unconstitutional even after *Callais*, a critically important holding that demonstrates constitutional claims remain viable.

States like New York have enacted their own state-based Voting Rights Acts, creating voting rights protections that are not affected by *Callais*. We will continue to use these state-law tools where available. In separately funded work, we are pushing for new federal legislation to restore the protections the Court has stripped away.

The Civil Rights Movement leaders who fought for the VRA did not stop when the path got harder. Neither will we. The ACLU will continue defending communities in redistricting litigation where *Callais* has direct consequences.

We will pursue federal and state constitutional claims and every other legal avenue that remains available.

**2. “It isn't just about the courts. How are we fighting the information war? We need an organized movement, visible momentum.” – Dustin T.**

We agree that this fight extends far beyond the courts. We must take a page from those who came before us and demand what we are due at the polls and in our communities.

In addition to litigation, we will continue our on-the-ground organizing in Louisiana and beyond, where our teams remain committed to protecting every voter's right to participate. States are rushing to dismantle minority representation before voters can stop them, but we are clear-eyed and ready. We will use every legal and advocacy tool to ensure that lawmakers do not get away with blatant attempts for political control.

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and efforts to tamper with our right to fair elections and representation will not go unchallenged. We will continue defending communities, pursuing every available legal avenue, and pushing for new federal legislation to restore protections that have been stripped away.

**3. “How can I best participate as an individual citizen to support voting rights (and other ACLU causes)?” – Teresa M.**

The Civil Rights Movement leaders who fought for voting rights bled, marched, and mobilized to secure these protections. During the Jim Crow era, millions risked their lives to protect the right to vote for people of color. We must follow the example of those leaders and fight to ensure each and every person is represented and counted.

The most important thing individuals can do is stay engaged in their communities, make their voices heard, and continue demanding fair representation and equal access to the ballot. Voters should choose their leaders, not the other way around.

The ACLU will continue defending communities in court, pursuing federal and state constitutional claims and every other legal avenue that remains available, pushing for new federal legislation, and organizing on the ground. Public engagement and community action remain essential to protecting our democracy.

**Thank you for your thoughtful submissions!**