

SUPREME COURT DECISION: LOUISIANA V. CALLAIS

On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court ruled in Louisiana v. Callais that states are not required to draw congressional districts where race is a factor in the creation of the district, so long as there is no evidence of intentional racial discrimination in the district design.

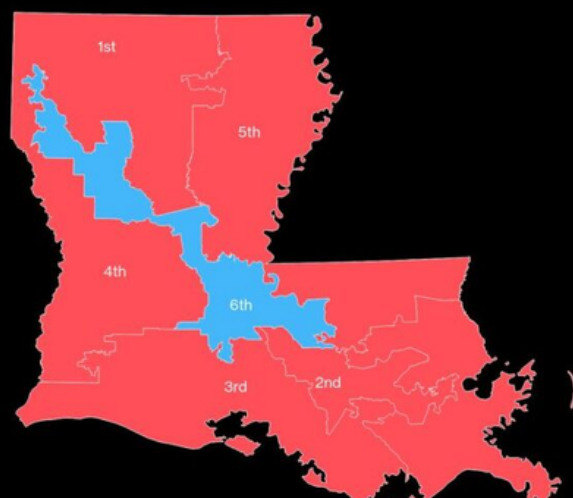
Did you know?...

- After the 2020 census, the state of Louisiana redrew its six congressional districts with one majority African American district. This map was challenged as violating Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), which prohibits voting practices that discriminate by race.
- Due to this legal challenge, Louisiana was ordered to create a second majority-Black district and complied. That new map was then challenged in Louisiana v. Callais as a map gerrymandered with race too predominant a factor in its design. Louisiana v. Callais was then referred to the Supreme Court to consider.
- On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court ruled on Louisiana v. Callais in a 6-3 opinion that Louisiana's second majority African American district was an unconstitutional racial gerrymander as race was too predominant a factor in drawing it.

Showdown Over Louisiana's Majority-Black 6th District

Supreme Court to weigh diluting Voting Rights Act protections

■ 6th District



On October 2025, activists from Fair Fight Action, a voter activist group founded by Stacey Abrams, warned that Democrats could lose as many as 19 congressional seats if the Supreme Court ruled on Louisiana v. Callais against the creation of racially motivated gerrymandered districts.

These seats could possibly include Alabama's 2nd, Alabama's 7th, Mississippi's 2nd, and Georgia's 2nd congressional districts.

Supreme Court's Decision: Louisiana v. Callais

Executive Summary

On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court ruled in *Louisiana v. Callais* that states are **not required to draw congressional districts where race is a factor in the creation of the district**, so long as there is no evidence of intentional racial discrimination in the district design.

The ruling could impact as many as 27 currently drawn congressional districts, 19 of which could flip from Democrat to Republican control if they are not drawn based on racially motivated boundaries. However, it is not yet clear how many of these districts will be affected prior to the 2026 midterm elections.

Case Facts

- After the 2020 census, the state of Louisiana [redrew](#) its six congressional districts with one majority African American district. This map was challenged as violating Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), which prohibits voting practices that discriminate by race.
- Due to this legal challenge, Louisiana was [ordered](#) to create a second majority-Black district and complied. That new map was then challenged in *Louisiana v. Callais* as a map gerrymandered with race too predominant a factor in its design. *Louisiana v. Callais* was then referred to the Supreme Court to consider.

Ruling

- On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court [ruled](#) on *Louisiana v. Callais* in a 6-3 opinion that Louisiana's second majority African American district was an unconstitutional racial gerrymander as race was too predominant a factor in drawing it.
- In this opinion, Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the majority, [found](#) Section 2 of the VRA did not require states to create majority-minority districts and that "because the Voting Rights Act did not require Louisiana to create an additional majority-minority district, no compelling interest justified the State's use of race" and "that map is an unconstitutional gerrymander, and its use would violate the plaintiffs' constitutional rights."
- In this opinion, the Court [extended](#) a "colorblindness" principle across redistricting law, meaning that there must be [evidence](#) of intentional racial discrimination to show that district lines discriminate against voters of color.
- The ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais*, when [combined](#) with the 2019 decision in *Common Cause v. Rucho* which held that courts cannot block partisan gerrymandering, means that most forms of gerrymandering districts are legal as long as there is no evidence of intentional racial discrimination.

Impact

- In October 2025, activists from Fair Fight Action, a voter activist group [founded](#) by Stacey Abrams, [warned](#) that Democrats could lose as many as 19 congressional seats if the Supreme Court ruled on *Louisiana v. Callais* against the creation of racially motivated gerrymandered districts.
 - These seats [could](#) possibly include Alabama's 2nd, Alabama's 7th, Mississippi's 2nd, and Georgia's 2nd congressional districts.
- Fair Fight Action [identified](#) 27 congressional districts across that currently are drawn based on majority-minority racial details. Under this interpretation of Section 2 of the VRA, the Supreme Court's ruling means that these districts could be redrawn before the 2026 midterms.
- Of these 27 congressional districts, it is [estimated](#) that 19 of these current Democratic seats could flip to Republican based on the new requirements that states are prevented from drawing maps that discriminate based on race.
 - Additionally, there are at least 12 districts [identified](#) as drawn specifically to favor African American representation, which could be redrawn due to this case.
- However, given the condensed timeline leading up to the 2026 midterm elections, [analysts](#) believe that this ruling will more deeply impact the 2028 and 2030 elections.