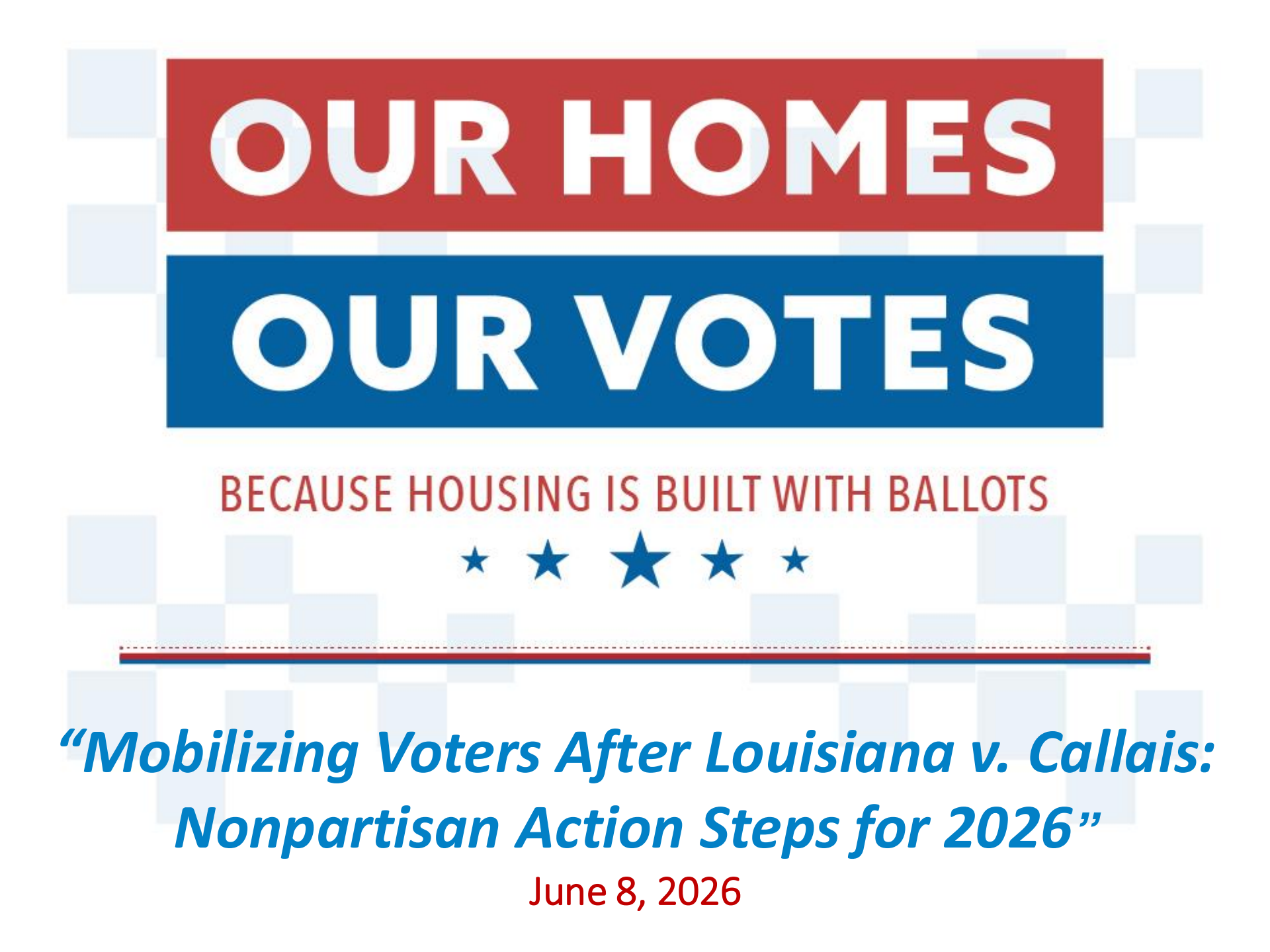




OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



***“Mobilizing Voters After Louisiana v. Callais:
Nonpartisan Action Steps for 2026”***

June 8, 2026

Housekeeping Items



- This webinar is being recorded.
- Recording and slides will be distributed in our Friday email newsletter, “The Connection,” and recording will be posted on NLIHC YouTube channel
- Closed captioning is enabled
- Use the Q&A feature to ask questions throughout the webinar
- Ensure respectful dialogue in the chat
- *Our Homes, Our Votes* is 100% nonpartisan

Agenda

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



- **Welcome**
 - Chantelle Wilkinson, NLIHC's VP of Strategic Partnerships and Campaigns
- **Growing Movement Behind State Voting Rights Act**
 - Christina Das, Policy Counsel, NAACP LDF
- **State-level Strategies and Sustaining Engagement Beyond Election Cycles**
 - Waikinya Clanton, MS State Director, Southern Poverty Law Center
- **National Strategies for Sustaining Civic Engagement**
 - Fenika Miller, National Field Co-Director, Black Voters Matter
- **Q&A**
- **Our Homes, Our Votes opportunities and resources**

A decorative graphic in the top left corner consisting of several light blue squares of varying sizes arranged in a staggered, grid-like pattern.

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Welcome

A decorative graphic in the bottom half of the slide, consisting of several light blue squares of varying sizes arranged in a staggered, grid-like pattern, mirroring the one in the top left.

Chantelle Wilkinson, NLIHC's VP of
Strategic Partnerships and Campaigns



OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Growing Movement Behind State Voting Rights Act

Christina Das, Policy
Counsel, NAACP Legal
Defense Fund

A PATH FORWARD FOR ADVOCATES IN THE AFTERMATH OF LOUISIANA V. CALLAIS

CHRISTINA DAS
JULY 13, 2026



What is the Federal VRA?

For over 60 years, the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) has been a critical tool in the fight against discriminatory voting laws and voter suppression practices – ensuring that voters of all backgrounds have equal opportunity to participate in our country’s democratic process.

However, over the past 15 years, the VRA has been attacked and undermined, leaving what was often described as the “crown jewel” of the civil rights era a shell of its former self.

Erosion of the Federal VRA

In recent years, the Supreme Court's decisions to upend key protections of the federal VRA have led to dire consequences for voters of color.

2013 Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder	2021 Brnovich v. DNC	April 29, 2026 Louisiana v. Callais
The Supreme Court guts the preclearance program, opening the door for a wave of suppressive voting laws and racial gerrymandering tactics.	The Supreme Court weakens VRA protections, making it difficult — if not impossible — to challenge discriminatory voter suppression.	The Supreme Court permits states to use partisan gerrymandering as a wholesale excuse to deny Black voters a voice in their government.

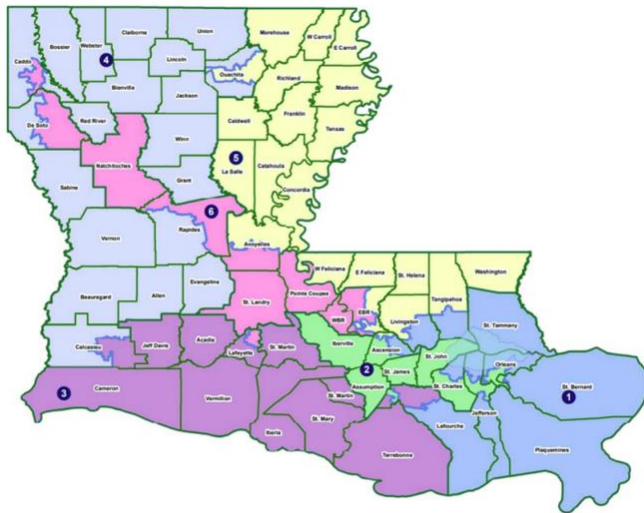
What is Section 2?

Section 2 provides that:

“No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color...”

Section 2 has long served as the primary nationwide protection against discriminatory voting systems following the Supreme Court’s 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which eliminated the Act’s preclearance system.

What happened in *Louisiana v. Callais*?



SCOTUS considered whether Louisiana's creation of a second majority-Black district as likely required by the VRA was a violation of the 14th & 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The Court struck down Louisiana's 2024 congressional map that provided two majority-Black districts. That map had been created following years of litigation under Section 2 of the VRA.

The Court also made it much harder, if not impossible, to use Section 2 to combat voting maps that silence Black voters.

What is the fallout?

The *Callais* decision is a devastating blow to critical civil rights protections by permitting states to use partisan gerrymandering as a wholesale excuse to deny Black voters a voice in their government.

Fair districts across the nation will vanish as legislatures aim to gut representation for voters of color without checkpoints from the courts.

The decision will further divide our nation, entrench power in the hands of the few, and put the diversity of our elected bodies and representation of all communities at risk.

As Justice Kagan states in the dissent, “[t]oday’s decision renders Section 2 all but a dead letter” in the vast majority of cases.

The screenshot shows a news article from the Tampa Bay Times, dated May 11, 2026. The article is titled "Louisiana Senate committee approves GOP-backed 5-1 Congressional map amid redistricting battle" and is categorized under "LOCAL POLITICS". Below this, there is a sub-headline "Florida's new congressional map splits up Black voters in Tampa Bay" with a subtext "Black leaders worry the new districts further dilute voting power." and social media sharing icons. A photograph shows a man in a blue shirt and cap standing next to a red "VOTE" sign. The CBS News logo is visible at the bottom of the article. Below the article, there is a section for "Politics" with the headline "Supreme Court clears path for Alabama to redraw congressional map" by Melissa Quinn, updated on May 11, 2026, at 8:53 PM EDT. A button to "Add CBS News on Google" is also present.

4WWL News Weather Sports 4WWL+

← ADVERTISE WITH US WWL+ RADAR APP MORNINGS LINKS LOUISIANA

LOCAL POLITICS

Louisiana Senate committee approves GOP-backed 5-1 Congressional map amid redistricting battle

Tampa Bay Times NEWS SPORTS VIEWPOINTS CULTURE FOOD Obituaries Classifieds Today's Paper Newsletters

NEWS / FLORIDA POLITICS

Florida's new congressional map splits up Black voters in Tampa Bay

Black leaders worry the new districts further dilute voting power.

f in e s

Local News Live Shows

CBS NEWS

Iran War Guthrie Case World Politics HealthWatch MoneyWatch Entertainment Crime

Politics

Supreme Court clears path for Alabama to redraw congressional map

By [Melissa Quinn](#)

Updated on: May 11, 2026 / 8:53 PM EDT / CBS News

Add CBS News on Google

THE IMMINENT NEED FOR STATE VOTING RIGHTS ACTS



The Need for State VRAs

We can no longer rely on the federal VRA alone to uphold voting protections.

Federal law cannot fully address the particular needs and threats in each state.

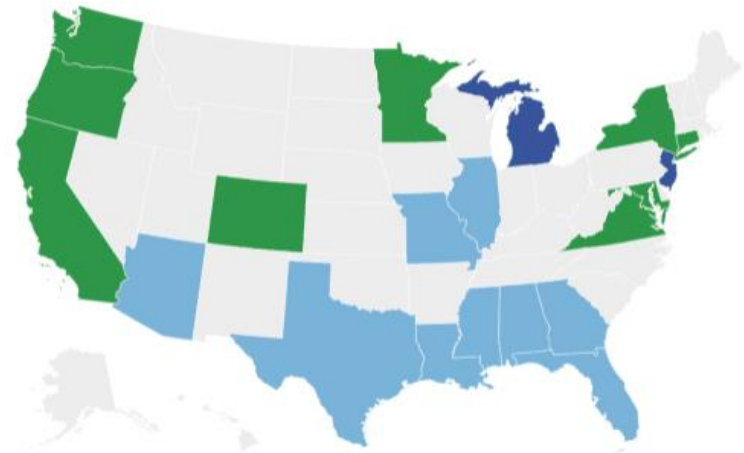
A state VRA is an important legal tool for pushing back against national attacks on voting rights.

That's why state VRA's will always be crucial – even if the full protections of the federal VRA are restored.

State Voting Rights Acts

LDF

- State VRA introduced
- State VRA (or part) passed out of at least one committee or chamber
- State VRA enacted



Source: Data and Bill Information Compiled by the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), Updated Jan. 2026

Key Provisions in enacted State VRAs

New Jersey (2026)

- **Novel expansion of preclearance program**
- **Providing new legal tools to fight vote suppression and vote dilution**
- **Expanding language assistance for voters with limited English proficiency**
- **Protections against voter intimidation, deception, or obstruction.**
- **Democracy Canon**
- **Creating a central hub for election data and demographic information that will empower officials and community members to ensure accessible elections.**

Delaware (2026)

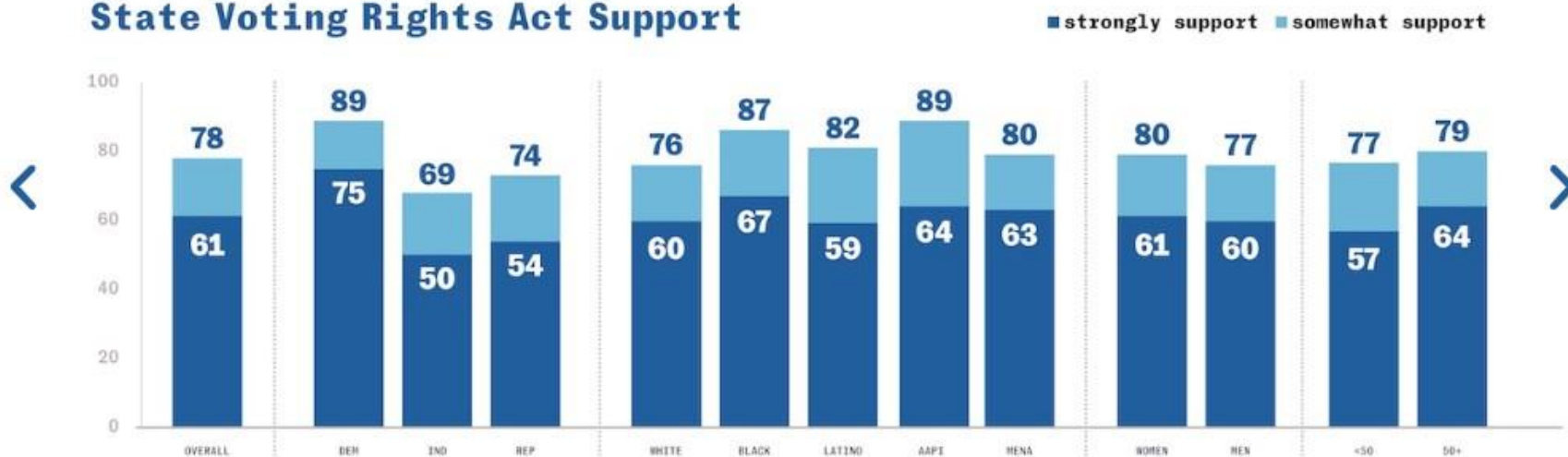
- **Prohibition on Voter Suppression and Vote Dilution**
- **Protections against Voter Intimidation, Obstruction & Deception**
- **Expanded Language Access**
- **Democracy Canon**

Maryland (2025 & 2026)

- **Language Access enacted in 2025**
- **Vote Dilution Provisions enacted in 2026**

STRONG SUPPORT FOR A STATE VOTING RIGHTS ACT TRANSCENDS PARTISANSHIP AND DEMOGRAPHICS

State Voting Rights Act Support



STATE VOTING RIGHTS ACTS: POLLING DATA

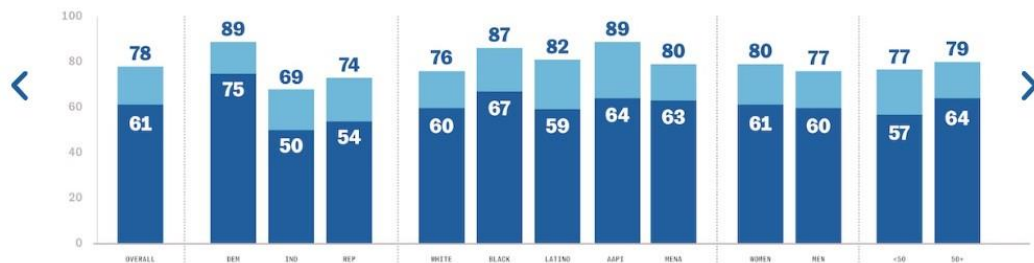
STATE VRA POLL: KEY FINDINGS →

STATE VRA POLL: GRAPHICS →

STRONG SUPPORT FOR A STATE VOTING RIGHTS ACT TRANSCENDS PARTISANSHIP AND DEMOGRAPHICS

State Voting Rights Act Support

■ strongly support ■ somewhat support



LDF Legal Defense Fund

IMPACT RESEARCH

STATE VRA KEY FINDINGS

naacpldf.org / impactresearch.com

78%

of voters support the
passage of a state-level
Voting Rights Act.

The Impact of *Callais* on State VRAs

- *Callais* has elevated State VRAs as one of the only remaining tools to remedy racial discrimination in voting at the local level.
- Although the *Callais* ruling rendered federal VRA protections against racial vote dilution functionally inoperable, State VRA vote dilution protections were not at issue in the case.
- In practice, claims brought in state court under State VRAs will be more effective than claims brought in federal courts under Section 2 given that Section 2 has been effectively eliminated.
- *Callais* has no direct relevance to State VRA provisions unrelated to redistricting.
- Recent State VRAs have broad and comprehensive components, including protections against voter suppression and voter intimidation, language access expansions, and more.



QUESTIONS? FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT

Christina Das, Policy Counsel,
Legal Defense Fund
cdas@naacpldf.org



OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



State-level Strategies and Sustaining Engagement Beyond Election Cycles

Waikinya Clanton, MS State
Director, Southern Poverty Law
Center



OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



National Strategies for Sustaining Civic Engagement

Fenika Miller, National Field Co-Director, Black Voters Matter

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Questions?



Affiliates Network



- Open to all nonpartisan organizations that share campaign's goals
- Regular office hours, email listserv, and post-election virtual gathering
- Enhanced access to *Our Homes, Our Votes* tools and resources
- Sign up: www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/affiliates



Housing Providers Council

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



- Nonpartisan group of housing developers, property managers, and resident services staff committed to boosting voter turnout among their residents
- Regular virtual meetings (quarterly in 2026) to exchange ideas and receive trainings on best practices in nonpartisan voter engagement
- More info and application link:
<https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/housing-providers-council>



OurHomes.TurboVote.Org

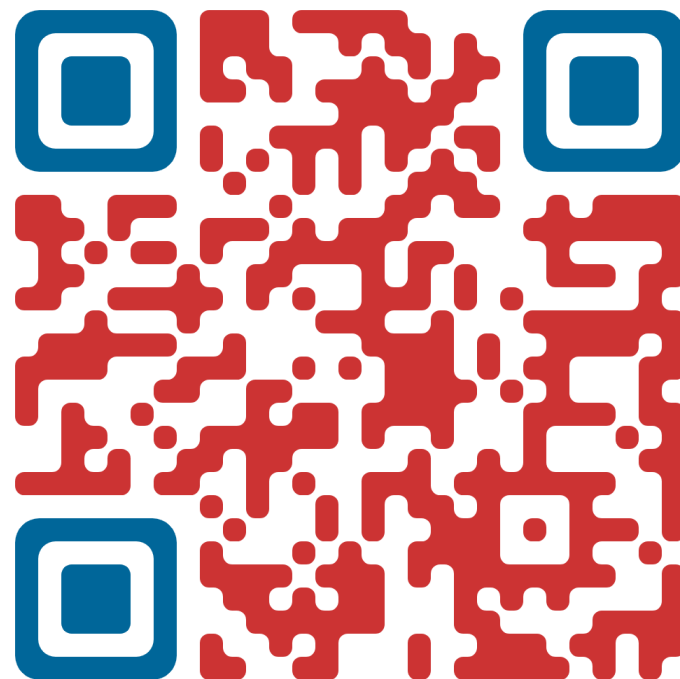
OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Register to vote and update
your voter registration,
check your voter
registration status, find
election information for
your community, and sign
up for election reminders!

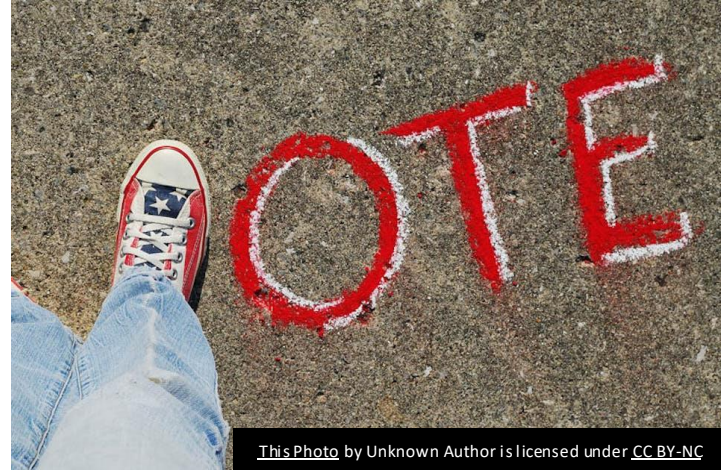


Our Homes, Our Votes Educational Resources

- Comprehensive online resource library
 - Visit: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/resources>
 - Turning Renters into Voters: Lessons in Engaging Low-Income Communities - <https://nlihc.org/resource/now-available-our-homes-our-votes-2025-best-practices-report>



Register for our Next Webinar:
“Voter Registration 2026: Tools, Rules &
Strategies for Low-Income Renters”
(Monday, 8/10)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Join the movement for housing justice!



Annual dues ensure all members have a stake in the coalition's collective success. Dues are **suggested** amounts, so you can pay **any amount that is affordable** to you or your organization.

Suggested dues rates

Individuals = \$5-\$110

Organizations = \$15-\$3,000

Reach out to membership@nlihc.org to learn more or call 202-662-1530 x 206



www.nlihc.org/membership

www.nlihc.org

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Want to Connect?



Email: tturner@nlihc.org