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MS VRA RAPID RESPONSE COALITION CONDEMNS SUPREME COURT'S LAWLESS ORDER VACATING MISSISSIPPI SECTION 2 DECISION

Jackson, Mississippi — The Mississippi Voting Rights Act Rapid Response Coalition today condemned the U.S. Supreme Court's unprecedented and lawless order vacating the judgment in the ongoing Section 2 challenge to Mississippi's state legislative districts.

"Today's order is a deeply troubling abuse of judicial power," said the Coalition. The only issue before the Court was whether private plaintiffs may bring claims under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act; not whether the Court's decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* had any bearing on this case. "The implications of *Callais* on Mississippi's legislative maps were never before the Court. The parties never briefed that issue. Yet the Court vacated the judgment anyway. That is not principled jurisprudence. It is judicial activism in service of dismantling the Voting Rights Act, weakening Black political power across the South, and trying to take us back to Jim Crow."

The Coalition emphasized that the order does not give Mississippi "a green light to racially gerrymander legislative or congressional districts," and warned state officials against using it as a justification for a rushed or discriminatory redistricting process ahead of the 2027 elections.

"Mississippi officials should not misread this moment. The people of this state are watching closely. Any attempt to redraw maps to weaken Black voting strength will be met with fierce resistance: in the courts, in the legislature, and in communities across Mississippi."

The Coalition called on Mississippians to mobilize for the May 20 Day of Action in Jackson, describing the moment as a critical inflection point for democracy and civil rights in the state.

"This is precisely why the May 20 Day of Action matters," the Coalition said. "We cannot afford silence or complacency while attacks on Black political representation accelerate in the courts and in state legislatures across the South. The people of Mississippi must show that we are organized, vigilant, and prepared to strive for our freedom to vote and our right to fair representation."

The Coalition also renewed its call for a state-level Mississippi Voting Rights Act.

"This moment also demonstrates why Mississippi urgently needs its own state-level Voting Rights Act," the Coalition added. "As federal courts continue weakening the protections of the federal Voting Rights Act, Mississippi cannot leave the fundamental rights of Black voters and marginalized communities at the mercy of an increasingly hostile judiciary.."

"The struggle for voting rights in Mississippi has never depended solely on the courts," the Coalition concluded. "We will continue organizing, litigating, mobilizing, and striving for fair representation and a multiracial democracy."

About the MS VRA Rapid Response Coalition

The Mississippi Voting Rights Act Rapid Response Coalition is a statewide coalition of civil rights organizations, community leaders, advocates, attorneys, and grassroots organizers working to protect voting rights, defend Black political power, and ensure fair representation for all Mississippians.