

# CALL TO ACTION

ADVANCING RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

NO HATE  
IN MY STATE

In an important voting rights victory for the Mississippi Center for Justice and its partners, a federal appeals court late Friday afternoon ordered Mississippi officials to redraw district lines for a state senate district in the Mississippi Delta, leaving undisturbed the finding by federal district judge Carlton Reeves that the boundaries diluted the African-American vote in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals denied a request from state officials to conduct this fall's election under the existing district lines and instead held that the legislature should draw new lines for State Senate District 22 to comply with the Act or allow the election to proceed under an alternative plan adopted by Judge Reeves. You can read the order by [clicking here](#).

"This is an important step in the ongoing struggle to achieve racial fairness in political life in Mississippi and it was appropriate for the federal court to intervene and enforce the Voting Rights Act," said Rob McDuff, who represented the plaintiffs as part of MCJ's George Riley Impact Litigation Initiative. "The old plan diluted African-American voting strength by adding wealthy majority-white suburbs in Madison County to an otherwise largely African-American rural district in the Delta."

The plaintiffs were represented by MCJ along with our national affiliate, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Waters Kraus firm, and attorney Ellis Turnage of Cleveland, MS. The plaintiffs' case was presented in court by McDuff on behalf of MCJ and by Jon Greenbaum, Pooja Chaudhuri, and Arusha Gordon of the Lawyers' Committee.

By bringing this case, MCJ seeks to remedy the dilution in this particular district and also to plant the flag for MCJ's involvement in the extensive rounds of redistricting that will occur at the state and local level after the 2020 census. MCJ is preparing a database that will allow it to monitor the redistricting of the state legislature, the county boards of supervisors, and many of the city councils in Mississippi to prevent racial vote dilution and to challenge it in court when it happens.

We need your support to continue this critical work. Please let us count on you to give as generously as you can. [Click here to give online](#), or mail a check to Mississippi Center for Justice, P.O. Box 1023, Jackson, MS 39215.

We are deeply grateful for your support and your commitment to racial and economic justice for all Mississippians.

