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Fair Districts GA Joins Dissent with Supreme Court Decision on Voting Rights Act



Yesterday's Supreme Court decision in *Louisiana v. Chavis* essentially guts Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, wiping out 60 years of established jurisprudence. Although the Court's opinion claims to have simply revised its interpretation of the law, it has now made it nearly impossible for plaintiffs to prove racial gerrymandering. It requires plaintiffs to show a strong inference that racial discrimination was the purpose of drawing a map.

Worse yet, the decision explicitly elevates partisan interest above race. It declares that states' political interest may supersede voters' interest in drawing maps that give equal voice to minority voters.

Fair Districts GA believes that maps should fairly reflect Georgia voters in all respects. Politically, maps should reflect Georgians' desire for competitive elections. And maps should continue to reflect Georgia's communities in all respects, including demographic diversity.

Given that Georgia still has cases pending in Federal court about our maps, calls for a special legislative session are premature, and are nothing more than a partisan power grab in the middle of the decade. Georgia is already plagued with mid-decade partisan redistricting.

This decision reinforces the need to reform redistricting to eliminate partisan bias and ban mid-decade redistricting, positions that are supported by a majority of Georgians.

We concur with Justice Kagan, who wrote: "The consequences are likely to be far-reaching and grave. Today's decision renders Section 2 all but a dead letter.... I dissent because the Court's decision will set back the foundational right Congress granted of racial equality in electoral opportunity."