



Fighting for Voting Rights and Fair Representation in Alabama

In Alabama, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has fought to protect the voting rights of marginalized people in the courts, at the state Capitol, and in communities across the state. SPLC's legal and policy work in Alabama has countered threats to voting rights in redistricting and restrictive and discriminatory voting legislation while also advancing an affirmative vision for an inclusive multiracial democracy through improvements to rights restoration, accessibility in voting for people with disabilities, and voter education and engagement.

Legal Challenges & Community Engagement

- In *Stone v. Allen*, SPLC, along with co-counsel, is challenging the racially discriminatory district maps for the Alabama Senate on behalf of Black voters in the state.
- Through legal and policy advocacy, SPLC played a critical role in the establishment of the newly configured Second Congressional District in Alabama's Black Belt. SPLC's efforts, ranging from the submission of an amicus brief on behalf of Black plaintiffs in the landmark *Allen v. Milligan* case to providing talking points and data to key state legislators on the redistricting committee, helped ensure that Black voters in Alabama, for the first time in state history, will have a meaningful opportunity to elect a second Congressional candidate of their choosing this November.
- In *AL NAACP v. Marshall*, SPLC, along with co-counsel, is challenging SB1, the anti-voter legislation passed in the 2024 Regular Session that criminalizes any form of compensation for absentee ballot application assistance.

Legislative Advocacy

- Working in collaboration with community partners through the Alabama Voting Rights Coalition (AVRC), SPLC took the lead in drafting and pre-filing the first-ever Alabama Voting Rights Act, which would provide for noexcuse absentee voting, allow same-day registration, establish preclearance provisions, and enable automatic voting rights restoration.
- SPLC, alongside AVRC partners, mobilized against the wave of anti-voter laws brought during the 2024 legislative session. Two such bills were the aforementioned SB1 and HB100, which expands the list of Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude – a particular designation of criminal offenses that temporarily strips individuals of the right to vote. Though both bills passed, SPLC's committee testimony, statehouse rallies and dissemination of legislative education guides laid the groundwork for greater public awareness and engagement and also laid the foundation for the current litigation.

For more information contact Jerome Dees, SPLC Alabama Policy Director, at jerome.dees@splcenter.org or visit splcenter.org

Federal Recommendations

As ground zero for the historic and contemporary voting rights struggles, the voices and experiences of Alabamians are critical to the push to protect the right to vote nationally.

- Congress should advance federal legislation that restores and modernizes the Voting Rights Act of 1965, setting national minimum standards for election administration and increasing federal funding for state and local election administration. Specifically, we urge members of Congress to support the swift passage of the John R Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act and significant funding increases for election administration in the FY25 federal budget and beyond.