



Monday, June 1, 2026

**To the Leaders of Corporate America:**

As mayors of cities across the United States, and as members of the African American Mayors Association, we write to express our deep concern regarding the systematic erosion of voting rights and fair representation in the communities we serve. In lending AAMA's voice to the growing calls for action, including the recent letter issued by members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we recognize the urgency of this moment and the need for leaders across sectors to respond with clarity and purpose. What is unfolding at the federal and state levels does not remain confined to those arenas. It reaches directly into the neighborhoods, schools, public safety systems, and local economies that mayors are accountable for every day.

More than a decade of decisions weakening the Voting Rights Act, from *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013 to the recent 6-3 ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais* in 2026, has severely weakened protections against racial discrimination in redistricting and emboldened aggressive efforts to dilute Black voting strength in cities across this country. As Baltimore Mayor Brandon M. Scott, President of the African American Mayors Association, stated, "We are witnessing a targeted, systematic effort to roll back rights and freedoms that our ancestors fought and died to secure." That effort did not begin with this case, and as Mayor Scott made clear, "make no mistake, it will not end here. But just as our ancestors did we have a responsibility to fight back against any attack on our hard won freedoms. Many times people wonder what they would have been doing if alive during the civil rights movement. Their action or inaction today is the simple answer."

This decision impacts Black voters most immediately, as it effectively has returned the country to Jim Crow era voting rights. However, it also weakens the foundation of our democracy and threatens the rights and freedoms of every American. With key protections under the Voting Rights Act now effectively diminished, state legislatures have moved quickly to redraw congressional maps and reduce the political voice of the very communities our cities depend on for their vitality.

Cities are where democracy meets daily life. When the residents we serve lose meaningful representation in Congress and state legislatures, our communities lose far more than a political voice. They lose federal and state partners on affordable housing production, public safety investment, infrastructure modernization, workforce development, maternal health, youth opportunity, and small business growth. The mayors signing this letter understand this connection with particular clarity, because we spend every day translating policy decisions made elsewhere into outcomes on the ground: paving streets, opening clinics, funding violence intervention programs, expanding housing supply, and strengthening the institutions that hold communities together.

The African American Mayors Association represents leaders responsible for the safety, prosperity, and wellbeing of millions of Americans. Our agenda spans public safety, affordable housing, economic mobility, infrastructure, public health, and youth development. None of this work succeeds in isolation from the broader political environment. When the political power of Black communities is diminished at the federal and state levels, every locally driven initiative we lead, from housing trust funds to community policing reform to workforce pipelines, is weakened in turn.

We are urging Corporate America to publicly reaffirm its commitment to voting rights and equal representation. The strength of American democracy is not measured in Washington alone. It is measured in the cities where policy becomes lived experience, where federal commitments either translate into community benefit or fail to materialize at all. History will remember the leaders who stood with cities, strengthened communities, and upheld the principle that every citizen deserves fair representation and a voice in the democratic process.

Sincerely,

*Mayor Brandon M. Scott  
City of Baltimore, MD  
President, AAMA*

*Mayor Errick D. Simmons  
City of Greenville, MS  
Second Vice President, AAMA*

*Mayor Van R. Johnson, II  
City of Savannah, GA  
President Emeritus, AAMA*

*Mayor Shawyn Patterson- Howard  
City of Mount Vernon, NY  
President Emeritus, AAMA*

*Mayor Katrina R. Thompson  
Village of Broadview, IL*

*Mayor Ken Welch  
City of St. Petersburg, FL*

*Mayor Rachel L. Proctor.  
City of DeSoto, TX.*

*Mayor Keith Sydnor  
City of Laurel, MD*

*Mayor Gwen Ellison  
City of Forest Park, GA*

*Mayor Michael Owens  
City of Mableton, GA*

*Mayor Leighton Aldridge  
City of Mound Bayou, MS*

*Mayor Kim A. Thomas  
City of Richmond Heights, OH*

*Mayor Annette M. Blackwell  
City of Maple Heights, OH*

*Mayor Chardale Murray  
Town of Hollywood, SC*

*Mayor Ora Stevens  
Marianna, AR*

*Mayor Phillip Jones  
City of Newport News, VA  
First Vice President, AAMA*

*Mayor Vince R. Williams  
City of Union City, GA  
President Emeritus, AAMA*

*Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.  
City of Little Rock, AR  
President Emeritus, AAMA*

*Mayor Steven L. Reed  
City of Montgomery, AL  
President Emeritus, AAMA*

*Mayor Joelisa L. McDonald  
City of Rankin, PA*

*Mayor Keith James  
City of West Palm Beach, FL*

*Mayor Jayden L. Williams  
City of Stockbridge, GA*

*Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
Orange County, FL*

*Mayor Michael Joseph  
City of North Miami Beach, FL*

*Mayor Alyia Gaskins  
City of Alexandria, VA*

*Mayor Dr. Kenya Johns  
City of Beaver Falls, PA*

*Mayor Joseph L. Barnes Sr.,  
Village of Urbancrest, OH*

*Mayor Rex Richardson  
City of Long Beach, CA*

*Mayor Stephen T. Jones  
City of Columbus, MS*

*Mayor Brian K. Jackson  
City of Beverly Hills, MO*

*Mayor Dr. Dorcey L. Applyrs  
City of Albany, NY*

*Mayor Keisha Chapman  
City East Point, GA*

*Mayor Leonardo Williams  
City of Durham, NC*

*Former Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorris  
Culver City, CA*

*Mayor Kayla Portis  
Borough of Sharpsburg, PA*

*Mayor Petrella Robinson  
Town of North Brentwood, MD*

*Mayor Sharon F. Owens  
City of Syracuse, NY*

*Mayor Paul Young  
City of Memphis, TN*

*Mayor Justin Bibb  
Cleveland, OH*

*Mayor Stephanie Terry  
City of Evansville, IN*

*Former Mayor Victoria Woodards  
City of Tacoma, WA*

*Mayor Dr. Donya L. Sartor  
City of Jonesboro, GA*

*Mayor DeShawn Williams  
City of Urbana, IL*

*Mayor Kelly Porter  
City of Seat Pleasant, MD*

*Mayor Katrina Evans  
Town of Campti, LA*

*Mayor Jason Q. Ward  
Town of Lisman, AL*

*Mayor Eddie D. Melton  
Gary, IN*

*Mayor Catrina Robinson  
City of Hayti Heights, MO*

*Mayor Andre Dickens  
Atlanta, GA*

*Mayor Adrian O. Mapp  
Plainfield, NJ*

*Mayor Stanley B. Stallworth, Esq.  
Evergreen, AL*