



Dear Friends,

Amplify Fund exists to resource building people power in the most politically contentious places in the country, as we believe the people closest to the problems are the ones closest to the solutions.

On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, gutting Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act — the last federal tool communities of color had to challenge racially discriminatory electoral maps. Within days, Republican legislatures in four states moved to redraw congressional maps, targeting majority-Black districts for elimination. The political voice of the communities we fund is being legislated away in real time.

"This is not just about maps. It is about power, representation, and the ongoing effort to dilute Black political power across the South."

– The Equity Alliance

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN TENNESSEE

In Tennessee, where Amplify supports organizations working on multiracial base building and cross-issue organizing, the general assembly eliminated the majority-Black district of Memphis, leaving the state with no districts where Black people have a fair opportunity to elect their chosen representatives. Our grantees protested at the state Capitol, and Cassandra Stafford, Amplify Fund's Program Officer was with them. [Read Cassandra's LinkedIn post here](#) for a vivid account of her time there.

The repercussion of the Supreme Court decision is not an abstraction. Representation in electoral maps shapes what gets funded, what policies pass, and who gets heard. When Black voters are gerrymandered out, the work of our grantees gets harder — and their communities pay the price.

WHAT AMPLIFY FUND IS CALLING ON OUR FUNDER COMMUNITY TO DO

This is a moment that requires philanthropy to act with urgency and clarity. We are calling on our funder partners to:

- **Resource the organizers already in the fight across the South.**
The groups on the ground in Tennessee are mobilizing right now — in the streets, in the courts, in state capitols. They need flexible, multi-year dollars because this will be a long-term fight. This is not the moment for restricted project grants and lengthy due diligence timelines.
Shift more dollars to places philanthropy has historically overlooked.
- Amplify's model is built on this premise. The communities most affected by this ruling are often the ones with the least access to philanthropic capital because they are often written off as “a lost cause.” Now is the time to correct that imbalance — not incrementally, but decisively.
Stay in relationship with grantee communities.
- Ask your grantees what they need. Listen to local advisors. Resist the impulse to impose external timelines on communities that have been leading this fight long before this ruling — and will be leading it long after.
- **Use your voice.**
Philanthropy has been too quiet about attacks on democratic participation. Call this what it is: a coordinated, court-sanctioned effort to reduce Black political power. Silence from funders in this moment signals complicity.

“This fight is long from over and we’ll be right here fighting back with everything we got until we win!”

– Stand Up Nashville

A CLOSING WORD

Amplify Fund was built on the conviction that historically marginalized people must have the conditions — resources, relationships, power — to make decisions about their own lives and communities. The *Callais* ruling and the redistricting wave it has unleashed are direct attacks on those conditions.

The organizing community has not stopped moving. Neither should we.

If you have been following [our LinkedIn](#), you’ve probably seen that we officially launched our updated grantmaking strategy in Tennessee. Last year, we interviewed our grantees, movement leaders, and values-aligned funders to help us understand the most pressing issues in the region, the kinds of solutions Amplify Fund should be supporting, and the capacities organizers need to have a greater impact. If you would like to learn more about the Tennessee strategy, we have a virtual event coming up. Look out for details in the coming week, and stay tuned for more updates from our partners working on these issues day-to-day through Tennessee, North and South Carolina.

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For questions or to discuss how your foundation can respond, contact Leticia@nfg.org

Click here to read the Tennessee strategy



Tennessee Context

Local Strategy Design

11 initiatives

5 solutions

Grantmaking Priorities

Affordable Housing

Public Lands

Mental Health

Commonly Safety

Public Schools

Local Strategy Action

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